

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded 1887)
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1939

Falconwood Costs

The Campbell Government's record of waste and extravagance is nowhere better seen than in their mismanagement of Falconwood Hospital, where in three short years they incurred increased maintenance costs of \$99,064 over the corresponding years of the MacMillan Government.

But, says the Liberal press, "Falconwood burned down in 1931 and started again in 1935, so in their three full years they had no Falconwood to run at all."

Such a ridiculous misstatement is disproved by the annual reports of the Superintendent. The necessity of providing for the patients' needs under the emergency conditions caused by the fire tended to increase, rather than diminish, the maintenance costs. Nevertheless, the Public Accounts show the following results:

Conservative years: 1932, \$82,975; 1933, \$81,972; 1934, \$96,355. Total \$261,302.

Liberal years: 1936, \$114,794; 1937, \$122,913; 1938, \$122,659. Total \$360,366.

These expenditures have nothing whatever to do with the capital costs incurred in rebuilding the institution. The capital costs included construction of the East Wing, salvage, boiler repairs, etc., purchase of Sims building, Newsom block, installation of new boiler in the old P. E. I. Hospital which was taken over as emergency accommodation, repairs to infirmary, new water lines, etc., in all totalling upwards of \$260,000. And it is the bulk of these capital expense items that the Liberal press charges up to Conservative maintenance costs in order to show a fictitious "Liberal saving under the present Government of \$50,886."

This alibi is so flimsy that it has to be buttressed by other misstatements; as for example, that there was a considerable increase in the number of patients under Liberal administration. Premier Campbell is quoted as giving the number in 1938 as 399. According to the report of the Medical Superintendent, the total cases last year numbered only 366, and the average number during the year was 259. The average number in 1934, the last Conservative year, was 260.

Here we have the record clarified on the basis of patients as well as maintenance costs, for the corresponding last year of each administration:

260 patients maintained by the MacMillan Government at a cost of \$96,355.

259 patients maintained by the Campbell Government at a cost of \$122,659.

With an average of one patient less than the Conservatives to provide for, the Campbell Government so successfully provided for themselves that they boosted the maintenance cost in one year alone by \$26,304!

Exploiting Old Age Pensioners

The conspiracy of secrecy with which the Campbell Government surrounds its administration of the Old Age Pensions Act—refusing the request of the Conservative Party leader for the list of pensioners—does not extend to its own party supporters. The Liberal organ, in its issue of Saturday, admitted that each of the Liberal representatives in the last Legislature had been supplied with a list of all the old age pensioners in his constituency. These men are now in the field as candidates soliciting votes. They are not representatives any longer; the House has been dissolved and it is questionable whether a corporal's guard of them will ever have the chance of sitting again. Yet they, and they alone, are in possession of the lists of old age pensioners, information to which every taxpayer is as much entitled as the disbanded and discredited Thriftless Thirty.

Bank Of Nova Scotia And Trade

In their Monthly Review the Bank of Nova Scotia has the following comments on the Maritimes:

"With logging operations on a small scale this Winter, coal and iron and steel output curtailed, port activity restricted and farm income generally lower than last year, business in the Maritime Provinces appears to have suffered more than elsewhere in Canada. Employment averaged 7 per cent to 8 per cent smaller in the first quarter of the year than in the same period of 1938. Both urban and rural retail sales have shown substantial declines below last year's levels, with the notable exception of the apple growing districts of Nova Scotia where farm income was larger than in the previous year."

"The outlook, however, is now less gloomy. Enquiries for lumber from both the United Kingdom and the United States markets have recently improved. The steel mills at Sydney expect to increase activity shortly, while a recent order for freight cars has given employment to the car plant at New Glasgow. In addition, the back-log of coal orders for the Cape Breton shipping season is stated to be considerably larger than at this time last year."

"The farmers' buying power is limited and rural trade is correspondingly slow. Prices for potatoes continue much better than a year ago and stocks in dealers' hands are being well

liquidated; but farmers, particularly in the Saint John Valley where yields were poor, have little left for sale. Feed is running low in many parts of the Maritimes and March output of dairy products was smaller than last year in all three Provinces. Nevertheless, livestock generally wintered well and with the advent of open pasturage the flow of milk will increase.

"A successful marketing season for apples has just been concluded in Great Britain. Shipments were substantially larger than in the previous year and were well absorbed at higher prices."

"Fox farmers have been confronted with lower prices—the January London sales brought prices about 20% below last year—but they are making strenuous efforts to increase the profitability of their operations by culling poor breeding stock."

"Hogging The Patronage"

At the last session of the Legislature, one of the supporters of the Campbell Government vigorously denounced the Government members—who are also trustees of Falconwood—for hogging the patronage at that institution. He cited the pledge in the Liberal Platform, 1935, regarding "purchase of supplies and letting of contracts on a proper competitive basis by the Executive Council or Falconwood trustees," and asked how this could be reconciled with these same trustees selling supplies to their own business firms, a practice which he declared was "unethical, and would not be tolerated in any other Parliament."

As Dr. MacMillan pointed out in a recent speech, this pledge is repeated in the 1939 Liberal platform, and means that if reelected the Campbell Government intends continuing this practice of administering Falconwood in their own selfish interests.

The Liberal press offers the excuse that firms represented by private members under the Conservatives sold supplies to Falconwood. But this was on a proper competitive basis as shown by the fact that their expenditure at Falconwood was NEARLY A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS LESS than under the Liberals.

The present case is on a different footing, where Government members, as trustees of Falconwood, are themselves the purchasers of the supplies they are selling through their firms.

Moreover, one member of the Falconwood Trustee Board whose firm in the past three years has sold over \$2,500 in boots and shoes to Falconwood, has been drawing an additional \$200 for his onerous services as "purchasing agent". His duties consist chiefly in purchasing Falconwood supplies!

More Liberal Alibis

"Dr. MacMillan had charged that the report of the Public Accounts Committee, of which Hon. Mr. Allen was chairman, did not show the unpaid bills at the end of 1938."—Patriot report of speech delivered by Premier Campbell at Summerside Liberal convention.

Every day the electors are confronted with a fresh crop of Liberal misrepresentations. Here we have a brand new one, in the reference to Hon. Mr. Allen—who is not a candidate for re-election—as being "chairman" of the discredited Liberal Public Accounts Committee. The chairman of this committee was not Mr. Allen but Hon. B. W. LePage, President of the Executive Council and chairman of the Fisheries Loan Board, whose activities it was part of the duty of the Public Accounts Committee to investigate, and who, as chairman of that Committee, tabled its report in the Legislature.

Why does Premier Campbell now refer to Mr. Allen as the chairman?

Editorial Notes

Jamaica discovered this date, 1495.

When our fiscal need is required to be impressed upon the Powers-that-be at Ottawa, it takes the Conservatives to apply the necessary pressure.

The Montreal Gazette backed Tachereau against Duplessis in Quebec and lost out; as a political prophet it has been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

Afraid to face the electors in public meeting, the Campbell Government are assuming the appearance of bravery behind the "mike." That other dictator, Hitler, it will be recalled addresses his audience from behind bullet proof glass.

Our long continued fight for existence as a Province has been successful so far only because the respective Conservative governments have enlisted the sympathy and support of the Federal Governments.

Coming events—the retirement of Prime Minister King are casting their shadows before. He has employed Mr. Felix Weiss to sculptor his bust. Mr. Weiss are told impressively is imprisoning a likeness of Mr. King in bronze in the congenial atmosphere of Laurier House. He believes setting to work in surroundings that are natural to his sitters and there is perhaps no place in the world where the Prime Minister is more likely to unbend than the beautiful home which is part of his Laurier heritage. Incidentally, Mr. Weiss has completed fine bas-reliefs of the mother and father of Mr. King and these are to be found in the rooms which are most frequents in his few hours of relaxation. Time is precious to the laisze faire Liberal leader we are told, and as the sculptor works with his tireless hands Mr. King dictates to a secretary. In this economy of time he resembles Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George. Mr. Weiss relates that while the Welsh statesman sat for him he dictated to three secretaries. But surely a similar political end is not predicted for Mr. King!

NOTES BY THE WAY

We will never get anything in the direction of reducing taxation until we acquire the habit of scanning the expenditures of Federal and provincial governments as carefully as we scan the expenditures of our smaller units of administration and until we condemn extravagance on the one hand as heartily as we condemn it on the other. The peculiar inconsistency exhibited by many people in this regard is one of the chief reasons why our government members continue to add to debt and taxation at a time when many of the smaller units of administration are reducing both and, in spite of it, balancing their budgets and on the whole doing very well, thank you. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

Does the new Earl of Huntingdon (Francis John Clarence Westenra Plantagenet Hastings) become the first Communist member of the House of Lords on the occasion of the Budget? That would place last week? That depends on whether he does, in fact, describe himself as a Communist, as I am told he did in any case, he studied an artist under the Mexican Communist painter Rivera, and is responsible for the mural paintings at Marx House, London. He is reported to be on whether the claim is disputed by Viscount Churchill, who succeeded to his title in 1934. Lord Churchill stands well to the Left politically, but I am not sure whether he can be rightly termed Communist. — London Spectator.

There is painful justice in Stalin's libel that the abandonment of collective security and collective resistance for nonintervention and neutrality has led to a "certain amount of assurance with the aggressors." That has at least been the result, if not the intention, of Munich and of our Spanish policy. But Stalin does not seem to suggest that this is because the members of the democracies are pro-Fascist (which is one Communist argument); their object is the more Machiavellian one of hoping to see the aggressor rather than themselves at the expense of somebody else. Russia for preference. Again, there is the uncomfortable grain of truth that this is what a number of people have said in France would like to see. These are, however, polemics; what is more important is to know where Russia now stands. — Manchester Guardian.

The immediate tasks do not in any case await a national verdict upon the ethics of conscription. The first is to determine the number of men who can be equipped and trained within a given period, and the measures which can be taken forthwith to increase the supply of equipment and instructors. The second is to make permanent provision for the universal training of the nation's youth. This will require an elaboration of long-term policy, social rather than military in its purpose and effect. Anyone who studies the array of equipment with which a miniature army is to travel during the summer can arrive at a certain definition of the first task. It proclaims how much there is yet to do before it could be practicable to raise an army on the scale which some authorities are at the present military machine were suddenly called upon to digest recruits in the numbers which would be produced by conscription on the continent. The result in the first instance could only be complete dislocation and the reduction, rather than the reinforcement, of our military strength. — The Times, London.

The Vatican City authorities have considered the provision of all-raid shelters. Among them, building walls and bastions which were built to protect the Vatican against assault and siege in past centuries there still remains at least one edifice which could serve as an excellent refuge against danger from the air. This is the great round tower of Pope Nicholas V, built nearly five centuries ago by the architect Antonio Michelozzi Sangallo, which rises from the bastions surrounding the Vatican towards the Belvedere, and it is here that the Pope and his immediate collaborators would find the safest refuge were hostile aircraft to raid Rome. The tower, a massive stone structure, seems ideally suited to resist any bombardment. Not only are its walls very thick—16 ft. at the base and 10 ft. at the top—but above the great round chamber which forms its base is a heavy iron roof formed by the strong-room, where the deposits of the Vatican administration are kept. — London Times.

The fortunate escape of Mr. Geoffrey De Havilland, senior test pilot of De Havilland Aircraft, and his passenger, Mr. John Cunningham, again demonstrated the value of parachutes to pilots and observers. Mr. De Havilland was testing a new machine which was being developed by the company. Both pilot and observer landed unhurt but the machine crashed and burst into flames. This episode is one of the few that have occurred with British test pilots. Only in three instances have test pilots had to resort to parachutes to save themselves. In the Royal Air Force every member of the crew of an airplane has to wear his parachute or have it within easy reach. No official figures are available as to the number of lives that are saved each year but a rough estimate for last year is 15 or 16. This, of course, includes members of the crew as well as pilots. The standard parachute supplied to Army Force crews and pupils of civil flying training schools requires three or four hundred feet to operate, and the only cases in which parachutes have failed to open are when they have been when the machine was below five hundred feet before the occupants had to jump. — Manchester Guardian.

Though their mother has died, twin corks born on the farm of councillor Ernest Ferguson, Enniskillen, seem likely to live. The bottle, it is to be hoped that they do, for twin corks are something of a rarity, especially bottle-fed animals. — Windsor Star.

Toy manufacturers of Japan have received police circulars from Tokyo enjoining them against emphasizing German friendship by making toys bearing the image of the Reichsfuhrer, who is to be regarded as sacred as the Emperor himself. The pending day when Prince Konoyo, the former premier, attended as a caricature of the Nazi leader. — Moncton Transcript.

King Government's Swan Song

The Federal Government Expect Defeat On Eve Of Election

OTTAWA May 2—The budget statement delivered in the House of Commons this week may be regarded as the economic swan song of the Mackenzie King Administration. It bears evidence on the face of it of having been dictated by the spirit of defeatism which pervades government circles on the eve of a general election. Delivered by Hon. Chas Dunning, Minister of Finance, it was not a Dunning budget. In past years Mr. Dunning endeavored to cope with conditions confronting him. Even his political opponents admitted that he had made an effort to face prevailing conditions. In last week's budget no such effort was made. Even the most loyal friends of the Administration see in it a surrender by Mr. Dunning to ministerial impotence and the pre-election pork-barrelling impulses of its members and followers. The resourcefulness with which, in previous budgets, Mr. Dunning attempted to meet difficult situations is almost entirely lacking in his current effort. The general impression in parliamentary circles is that a good fighter has at last thrown up his hands.

Mr. Dunning's effort to relieve the darkness of the fiscal picture he was compelled to present to parliament was obviously half-hearted. In computing the budget deficit for the fiscal year, ended March 31, last, at \$55,000,000, he placed the loss under Wheat Board operations at \$25,000,000, although it is generally conceded that it will be much greater. In estimating the deficit for the present fiscal year at \$60,000,000 he made no allowance at all for Wheat Board loss, which may easily bring the overdraft to \$100,000,000. Even this deficit figure is predicted upon an improvement in business during the year.

Financial appropriations presented in advance of the budget precluded any attempt to cope with the deficit through economy measures; and, with an election in the offing, it was out of the question that it should be met by additional taxation. No provision is made for financing the pre-election agricultural measures recently introduced by the Government.

To the demand of business for taxation relief Mr. Dunning has responded with an amendment to the Income Tax Act providing that, where company profits are used for plant expansion, a percentage may be deducted from Income Tax assessment. In view of the complaint of business that government policy, or lack of policy, renders its operations unprofitable, this will not be regarded as much of a relief measure. The grievance of industry and business is that under existing policies there is no inducement to expansion. Mr. Dunning's answer to this grievance was an attempt to shift the blame from the Government to business itself. Notwithstanding the discouragements imposed on business enterprise by the Government he accused business men and investors of timidity.

The only important tariff changes, apart from those necessitated by the Washington trade treaty, were the removal of the three per-cent import excise tax on all entries except those under the general tariff and the increase from 27 cents to 60 cents a gallon on spirits used in the manufacture of vinegar. The first of these will cost the federal treasury \$14,000,000 a year in revenue and will deprive a number of Canadian industries of the margin of protection which enabled them to compete in the home market with foreign products.

The sacrifice of this excise tax was made necessary by the terms accepted by Canada in the trade bargain with the United States. The large increase in the customs duty on spirits for the manufacture of vinegar is to encourage the use of Canadian cider in vinegar making and is intended as a measure of compensation to apple growers for the loss imposed on them by the Government's sacrifice of a third of the British preference on Canadian apples in connection with the United States treaty.

The campaign waged by Conservative members of the House of Commons during the last two or three sessions against the loss inflicted on Canadian farmers, dairymen and livestock raisers by the competition of vegetable oils imported free of duty may result in a small measure of redress. In his budget statement Mr. Dunning reported that the Tariff Board had recommended a re-arrangement of the tariff in this connection and the imposition of an excise tax of three cents a pound on the vegetable oil content of shortenings and lard compounds and of two cents a pound on the similar content of soaps. Before these recommendations can be adopted, however, it is necessary to secure the consent of the British Government to modification of the Empire agreements. The Conservatives had urged a processing tax on important vegetable oils for the protection of Canadian producers of animal fats, which tax could have been imposed without consultation with any other government.

When the new trade treaty was under discussion during the early days of the session Liberal members discussed at considerable length the supposed benefit accruing to Canadian farmers and dairymen from the concessions secured from the United States on milk and cream. Now it develops that in January and February, the first two months of the treaty's operations, Canada sold to the United States exactly 248 gallons of milk and no cream at all. This trade treaty results, acknowledged in the House of Commons by the Government, speaks for itself.

Grave alarm is felt in Government and other quarters over this week's report from London that the United States is seeking to negotiate a barter deal with Great Britain providing for the exchange of over one hundred million bushels of American wheat and quantities of cotton for supplies of rubber and tin. The United States sold some 30,000,000 bushels of wheat to Great Britain immediately after the signing of the Washington trade agreement under which the six cents a bushel British preference enjoyed by Canadian wheat was voluntarily abandoned by Canada. The sale by the United States of an additional hundred million bushels of wheat to Great Britain would virtually shut Canadian wheat out of the British market. Total British imports of wheat from all countries last year amounted to only about 190,000,000 bushels. After Mackenzie King signed the new trade agreement at Washington the Government here issued statements to the effect that the British preference on wheat had been of no benefit to Canada and that no sacrifice was involved in its abandonment. The Washington Government, on the other hand, issued statements claiming that the removal of the preference from Canadian wheat would restore American wheat to its former

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SUITS \$10.00 15 last year Suits worth up to \$19.50 on Sale May Days at \$10.00. Either plain or pleated backs

SUITS \$11.95—Young Men's D. B. new stock. Regular \$15 value May Day Sale \$11.95

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SOX 5 PAIRS FOR \$1.00—At this May Day Sale. We are offering 5 pairs Sox in smart colors at ————— \$1.00

FANCY CASHMERE SOX 3 PAIRS FOR \$1.00—Pure Botany Wool, regular 50c value good patterns. May Day Sale 3 pairs for — \$1.00

GOOD HATS \$1.95—We have selected a number of hats \$2.95, \$3.95 etc., one or two of a kind to clear at May Day Sale ————— \$1.95

BROADCLOTH SHORTS 39—Regular 50c Striped Shorts. May Day Sale price — 39c

MERINO UNDERWEAR SHIRTS OR DRAWERS 79c—May Day Sale prices on Merino Shirts or drawers. Regular \$1.00 value. May Day Sale ————— 79c

SLEEVELESS SWEATERS 95c—New style Striped Sleeveless Sweaters all wool. May Day Sale price ————— 95c

BOYS FELT HATS \$1.75—Boys Felt hats new styles a great fad with the boys May Day Sale price ————— \$1.75

CABERDINE JACKETS \$1.95—Regular value Gaberdine Jackets \$2.50. May Day Sale price ————— \$1.95

DUNGAREES \$1.19—Dungaree Pants best quality regular \$1.50 May Day Sale Price \$1.19

TIES 39c—A wonderful assortment of 75c ties on Sale May Days at ————— 39c

FLANNELETTE PYJAMAS \$1.69—Extra Good Quality Flannelette Pyjamas go on Sale May Days at ————— \$1.69

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