

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1946

Taxation Forecast

Hon. J. J. McCann, Minister of National Revenue, has made the heartening prophecy that Federal taxation and expenditure will be radically slashed when the next budget is presented to the House of Commons. Addressing a meeting in his own constituency of Renfrew, Ontario, Dr. McCann is reported to have forecast reductions in income, corporation, and excess profits taxes, as well as a scaling down of national expenditure so drastic that it may approximate 50 per cent.

During last session of Parliament, the first to be held after the 1945 general election, demands were voiced from all corners of the House of Commons for reduced expenditure and taxation relief, as measures urgently needed for Canada's economic salvation. But the Government did next to nothing about it, with the exception of a certain amount of gingerly cheese-paring on the outer fringe of our ponderous wartime taxation structure. As for what is called economic reconversion, it went entirely by the board, with the logical result that the processes of national production have almost ceased to function for the past three months. Government controls remain as the paralyzing hangover of the war, and have deteriorated into little more or less than deadening obstructions of free enterprise and useful production.

While Dr. McCann's optimistic speech suggests that life is reawakening in Federal administrative circles, says the Sydney Post-Record, "there is one passage of his knowledge of what he is talking about. We refer to his suggestion that last year's budget, which provided for expenditures on revenue account of about two and a half billion dollars, may be cut this year by 50 per cent. For this would bring the total down to about \$1,200,000,000, whereas the interest and service charges on the national debt now absorb \$600,000,000 a year, while the Government's "social security" programme calls for another \$1,100,000,000, to say nothing of the national administrative services, which amount to another half billion. All of which adds up to \$2,200,000,000 per year, about 10 per cent less than last year's budgeted outlay. The only possible cut is in the "social security" programme, which most people hope, rather than expect, to see reduced. But some relief evidently is in sight. Let it be hoped that it will be even half of Dr. McCann's enthusiastic forecast."

Sugar In Ontario

An effort is being made to relieve the pressing sugar shortage in Canada by growing more sugar beets in Ontario. Between 1943 and 1945 the amount produced increased from 19 to 44 million pounds and a further increase is hoped for this year as a result of better prices to beet growers. The sugar beet industry centres mainly in Southwestern Ontario, in the vicinity of Chatham and Wallaceburg, where the only two factories are located. Quebec also has sent out a call for larger beet production and has promised better prices to growers. Quebec has a very expensive factory which has never operated at anything like capacity.

Labor is a big factor in sugar-beet production and loss of German prisoners-of-war is expected to be a severe blow to beet growers who have depended on this type of help for some years. Now they are endeavoring to obtain permission to bring out trained Belgian workers who are accustomed to this sort of labor. It is back-breaking work and Canadians do not relish it.

While there is not the slightest doubt that all the sugar which can be produced from home grown beets is badly needed at present, the future of this industry in Canada is highly uncertain and, in the past, has been subject to violent fluctuations. Whether domestic beet sugar, in normal times at least, can compete with imported cane on a price basis is a highly debatable point.

Conquest of Malaria

Out of secret Australian archives has come the story of one of the great scientific victories of the war, the defeat of malaria which at one time endangered all operations in the South Pacific. When the Allies started back on the road which took them again to Manila, and ultimately to Tokyo, the anopheles mosquito presented a greater menace than Japanese jungle fighters. In early operations in New Guinea, 90 per cent of the men in Army and Navy hospitals were there because of malaria and only 10 per cent because of enemy action. To meet this emergency the Allies created a personal advisory committee of Allied experts headed by Brigadier Neil Hamilton Fairley, director of medicine for the Australian Military Forces. It

organized General Hospital and established a research laboratory at Cairns, Queensland.

In the first six months after the campaign against malaria was launched, the rate of the disease in New Guinea had been cut to 74 per cent. By the end of 1944 it had fallen to 2.4 per cent. In 1945 similar results were achieved in New Britain, the Solomons and Borneo. And while the battle in the field was going on, such strong defence lines were set up in Australia that not only was there no malarial epidemic there but not a single case of the transmission of malaria to a civilian. The development of such drugs as atabrin, paludrine and other medicine still under test at Cairns, as well as of new insecticides to kill mosquitoes and their larvae, turned the trick. These were a major factor in the Pacific victory. They will continue a major factor in the economic advancement of all tropical lands.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Islanders "hold the fort" at Ottawa these stirring times.

The Irishmen made a brave show yesterday on resuming their Saint Patrick's Day parade.

The recent "X"-ray examinations in the city uncovered quite a number of cases of incipient T.B.

The P. E. I. Hospital campaign enters upon the provincial field this week, having concluded the city canvass.

The UNO must be pleased they did not select California as the location of their world headquarters, seeing it is subject to earthquake shocks. UNO itself has been giving world shocks recently, due to internal combustion.

The list of names revealed in the spy scandal indicate the underground Soviet movement in Canada included all sorts and conditions of men and women, from chauffeurs and stenographers to professors and Members of Parliament. One can hardly distinguish between friend and foe these treacherous days.

The suggestion that a plebiscite be taken on certain civic questions has its merits, but to act upon it would relieve the councillors of the onus of their office. We are a democracy with representative government. When we elect representatives, the responsibility is on their shoulders, and if they have not the courage of their convictions, it is not the part of the electors, who put them in power, to relieve them so that they may continue "to make good fellows of themselves." The remedy is to hold them to strict account at a subsequent election.

Are we going to obtain newsworld from British Guiana? Two eminent research scientists, who have recently visited that colony, Professor Simonsen and Sir Robert Robinson, have reported to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that, if cheap electric power could be provided they could see no reason why British Guiana should not become the industrial centre of the Caribbean, with its huge potentialities in lumber and wood pulp. Investigations with regard to hydro-electric power are now being made by the Government, which may result in starting a huge pulp and paper mill.

A new type of "catalyst" lighter developed by a United Kingdom firm is attracting much attention. It is of average size with a smaller tube attached to the side. To work it one lifts the top and rests a metal frame from a small tube inside the larger tube. In about two seconds the alcohol vapour bursts into flame. A pellet of cobalt composition is held by a fine wire in the frame. Alcohol and air oxidise on the surface of the pellet so rapidly that the temperature rises and the vapour is ignited. The lighter in its present form needs two hands as with a box of matches but an automatic press button model is on the way.

One of the few firms in Britain where spiders are welcome guests is that of F. Barker and Son, "Sun-Dial" House, Clerkenwell Road, London. Complying with the necessity for assisting the peoples of many lands to grow more food, this firm is responding to orders for extremely fine instruments needed for immediate land surveying. In order to provide the necessary materials for some of these instruments, spiders' webs have to be spun to measure. Spiders are taken to the firm by a member of the staff and placed in special, long, narrow boxes. These are handled in such a way that the spiders are coaxed to provide webs of the correct strength. Horses' hair is also used in another land-surveying instrument that is in great demand. During World War II, this firm has been employed in providing fine military instruments and the workshops at the back of the premises are as busy as they were during the war years.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Neville Chamberlain, British statesman, born this date, 1869; was the second son of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, and devoted the earlier part of his public life to municipal politics, becoming Lord Mayor of Birmingham; during Great War I he was appointed Director-General of National Service, which began a political career that landed him in the office of Prime Minister at the time of the Hitler aggression; he did his utmost to prevent a European conflict involving Britain and the Empire, and went the length of going to Munich to interview Hitler on the issue; he succeeded in obtaining delay, that was all; in the subsequent outbreak of hostilities he resigned on May 10, 1940, and was succeeded by Mr. Winston Churchill; he was by then broken in health, and died on Nov. 9; he was known as a Pacifist, and though his policy proved ineffective in the long run, at least it enabled Britain to have a year in which to prepare for Hitler's invasion of Britain.

Notes By The Way

There are still 20,000 live mines floating about the Mediterranean. And the babies to go bathing with.

Experienced maple syrup operators say the first milking is just an "alert," then comes another freeze-up, and after that is the right time to tap, says The Farmer's Advocate. Last year there was no warning. The old formula didn't work.

A Chicago department store has conducted a survey among over a thousand U. S. college men, most of them returned veterans. The question: What clothes do you like to see women wear? The answers, of course, are highly interesting. Sixty-five per cent of the men like sweater girls, in the day time. Ninety-six per cent cast their votes for long evening dresses. Half of these want to see the slinky type. The opposition goes for the swirly variety. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

The young mother was shocked to learn that little Sammie had told a lie. Taking the lead on her knees she graphically explained the consequences of falsehood: "A tall, black man with red, fiery eyes and two long, thin, pointed ears, who tells tall falsehoods and carries them off at night. He takes them to Mrs. M., where they have work done on them. You can tell Sammie ones!" —Capper's Weekly.

Francis C. Chichester, who keeps bees on the roof of his house in London's West End, has sent the King a pot of honey. Mr. Chichester thinks it is only fair. His bees annually turn in a good stock of excellently-flavoured flower honey, despite the fact that their hive is only twenty miles or more from the open country. The reason: They spend most of their time among rare flowers of the magnificent Buckingham Palace gardens, only a few hundred yards from Mr. Chichester's house. —Hamilton Spectator.

In playing the role of bully, Russia has disillusioned millions of people in the world who are not Communists but had nothing but admiration for the magnificent effort of her masses, and were generous in acknowledging it. Stalin may not care; but no nation, however large, can afford to sacrifice the world's good will, which is precisely what Moscow is doing. —Hamilton Spectator.

Britain, according to Sir Ben Smith, has been called upon to join in a world campaign to save the mine. She has responded with an immediate cut in an already meagre fat ration and a change in the quality of her food. The mine is not down her pig and poultry population. It is a gesture which the rest of the world may not yet appreciate. But it inflicts new and heavy hardship on the housewives and mothers of this country, not to mention the country farmers and pig breeders, whose livings are menaced. The people of Britain are entitled to ask: What is this world campaign? How is it to be waged? They must be told what precautions are being taken to see that the food which British tables lose goes to other tables in greater need. —London Express.

Two months ago the Daily Express Centre of Public Opinion asked: Should Britain stop importing from America and spend on food the money so saved? Sixty-three per cent of the public said "yes." And 52 per cent were in favor of cutting films first. —Daily Express, London.

The U. S. War Department has just released a batch of figures. The greatest number of uniformed tail-waggers at one time was 19,460, says The New York Herald Tribune. We are told 10,838 received assignments, not all overseas, for there was plenty of guard work to do here at home. 4,072 were sent to live in the service of their country and 870 others were listed as missing. There are 3,381 such men to former owners. 644 have been declared surplus as of February 1, and 3,332 are still in active service doing garter duty but are slated for demobilization.

Osmon Welles tells this story of how the artist Eleonora Duse was an unassuming, unambitious actress in a theatre in a small Italian city, when she was 19. The next day when she returned to her dressing room and discovered that it was all white-washed for Bernhardt. Duse at last realized what it meant to be a star. She went to Milan, worked hard and became one. —New York Post.

Less fanaticism on the part of the opponents of smoking more effectively. There is nothing wrong in a drink; there is plenty wrong in too much. The problem is a question of degree not of inherent wrong. If there is too much drinking, it is for lack of education. It is a grim vice to be indulged in with conscience looking over the shoulder and the penalty of sin in every sip. —Winnipeg Free Press.

A recurrent report from England says the brook made famous by Tennyson's poem of that name is in danger of disappearing. The Bradford Expositor reports. The Rural Council of Spillbury, Lincolnshire, is said to be considering a plan to remedy the water shortage by diverting the River Lynn at Partney Mill, the spot which inspired the poet. To the extent where the stream is represented as saying:

"I chatter, chatter as I flow To join the brimming river, For men may come and men may go, But I go on forever."

This literary and historical tragedy may be averted by public outcry, of course, but, off hand, with modern engineering science taking so strong a hand, one would not give much for the brook's babbling chances. The moral, if any, seems to be that even brooks should not boast. The only things likely to go on forever are taxes and bureaucratic controls.

A neutral friend well placed to follow the trend of opinion in Germany gives me a depressing picture of the general frame of mind. Even what may be termed an international point of view

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

WARBLE FLY MENACE

Sir,—In most farm papers at this time of year our attention is called to the warble fly menace. I wonder how many cattle owners in this Province take it seriously, or do anything about it. The warble fly is a menace to production, causes extensive damage to the carcass as well as the flesh, untold worry and discomfort to the cattle with resulting losses in both milk and beef gains. We would not wince our neighbors nor our own, to chase the cattle around the pasture for hours on a hot summer day; yet that is exactly what the warble fly has been doing in ever increasing numbers, and will be doing again this year, if we don't do something about it starting now. The remedy is quite simple, a few cents' worth of Derris powder as a wash at intervals from now through May. But treatment should begin at once. So I suggest that owners get together within their own school district, and make a complete canvass and follow it until the last warble grub is destroyed. I am, Sir, etc. JOS. A. MURPHY China Point, P. E. I.

P. E. I. Problems

(C.C. Avard in Sackville Tribune) Are aches and pains dependent upon the size of the individual? In other words does a small man have fewer things in the flesh — and mind — than the big man? We all realize, I think, that brains are found in small men as well as in large. I have seen big men who amounted to very little, and small men who were virtual dynamos of power and efficiency. Conversely, I have seen big men who were big men with this big heart, robust constitution and alert brain may out-distance his competitors. There are many factors and one can rarely predict in advance what is liable to happen under certain conditions and circumstances.

The foregoing thoughts were prompted by my visit last week to Prince Edward Island, Canada's smallest province and incidentally the only Island province. I am reminded of the old story of the owner of a branch line railway, twelve miles in length, who wanted a pass to the Pacific coast. The issuer of courtesy transportation remonstrated because the branch line was so short. Said the seeker of the pass: "Yes, I'll admit that my railway is not as long as yours, but it is just as wide."

The troubles of Prince Edward Island may not be as many, as complex or as varied as those of the big sister provinces, yet she has her problems just the same — a flock of sheep, the adjustment of Dominion-Provincial conference which will re-convene on April 25th things will likely begin to happen. It is like a boarding house in the first round or two the contestants try each other out, seeking for weak points in the other's defence. Then comes the preliminary round, the boxers get down to business.

For 1945 Prince Edward Island had a deficit of about half a million dollars, a tidy sum even in these days of big figures. I may be old-fashioned but I can't help feeling that balanced budgets for governments and individuals are desirable things, while surpluses are goods which give a feeling of prosperity, contentment and satisfaction. I wonder what Prince Edward Island would do if, by her own volition or by the will of the central power at Ottawa it was set adrift and had to go it alone. Agriculture and fishing are the Island's main industries — manufacturing industries are few, very few. Apart from the products of the farm and the sea, Prince Edward Island imports nearly all its uses. If the province was on its own resources would its people still send their money to wealthier provinces for clothing, furniture, motor cars, etc.

The big Germans are quite frankly expressing regret at the way they made the war but that they lost the war. So far from excreting their anger as the cause of their misery, they look back to the Hitler regime as the brightest period in German history, when the country was feared and therefore respected, when unemployment vanished and the average German lived in comfort. —London Spectator.

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books and shoes, etc? Possibly. Island tariffs could make possible more manufacturing at home. If Prince Edward Island is to remain within the alleged protection of Confederation, then necessarily it must have more assistance from Ottawa than ever before, that is, complete canvass and follow it until the last warble grub is destroyed. I am, Sir, etc. JOS. A. MURPHY China Point, P. E. I.

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NOTICE

Highways Closed to Motor Vehicles

Commencing Friday, March 15, 1946, and until further notice, all highways in this Province are closed for motor vehicle traffic, (including tractors and trailers), except in such cases where the total weight of vehicle and load does not exceed 5,000 pounds, and/or where the load on any wheel does not exceed 1,500 pounds.

Anyone driving on provincial highways contrary to this order shall be duly prosecuted.

DATED the 14th day of March, A. D. 1946, By Order,

C. J. STEWART, Acting Clerk of the Executive Council.

QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds

Illustration of a man in a suit and a woman in a dress, with text: "Are you sure, Stanley, we answered the right Guardian Want Ad — you said the apartment included a garden just your size!"

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