

THE GUARDIAN

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Frank Walker.

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1948

St. George's Day

St. George is the "happy warrior" whom old
England has embroidered upon her national
standards, and to whom memorials are found in
many other lands, including Russia, Italy, Greece,
Sicily, France and Spain.

St. George is the legendary warrior who
fought the dragon, symbol of evil the world over.
Historically, however, he merits equal attention.

St. George also is the patron saint of Boy
Scouts throughout the world, and in this
connection another illustrious warrior, Viscount
Alexander of Tunis, Governor-General of Canada,

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connection another illustrious warrior, Viscount
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Education And Autonomy

The Canadian Teachers' Federation are ad-
vocating Federal aid for Provincial educational
purposes, and the once valid objection is being
raised that under the British North America Act

As far back as 1940 the Sirs Commission
noted that the expansion in the concept of edu-
cation since Confederation "has been as unex-
pected as the expansion in social services gener-
ally."

"The imperative need for a new basis for
educational finance," says the Federation's cur-
rent newsletter, "is the culmination of two
tendencies which through the years have become
more and more obvious, and which will, if disre-
garded, continue to undermine the existing basis

"The other, less obvious but more insidious,
is the fact that the base on which educational
finance has rested—the real property tax—is be-
coming relatively less and less accountable for a
major proportion of taxes collected. The new
sources of revenue—corporation, personal in-
come, sales, excise, automobile, liquor, tobacco
and luxury taxes—have made up an ever in-
creasing part of the national revenue. The com-
paratively inflexible taxes on real property, how-
ever, although far from expanding at a similar
rate, have had to attempt to bear the needs of
public education and even further assume the
burden of the increasing cost of expanding social
services that the local authorities are expected to
provide."

In this, as in other matters, we have gotten
far away from the conditions under which the B.
N. A. Act was drafted, and the emphasis placed
in that statute on provincial autonomy has come
to mean less and less in terms of real value to
the smaller Provinces, which are being milked of
huge tax revenues annually by reason of the
concentration of wealth and corporation head
offices in the big industrial Provinces. How
John Bracken, then Premier of Manitoba, made
this point strongly at the Dominion-Provincial
Conference of January, 1941, when he said:
"It is axiomatic that provincial autonomy
in the practical and substantial sense means not
only the constitutional power to discharge pro-

vincial government functions but also the finan-
cial capacity to discharge them. If the peo-
ple and the Government of a Province are desir-
ous of following a certain policy which is with-
in their legal powers as determined by the B. N.
A. Act, but are prevented from doing so by lack
of finances, arising through no fault of their
own, the fact that their legal autonomy is unim-
paired is of little consolation to them."

As in the case of education, it could be argued
that the right to impose income and corporation
taxes is a provincial function, and a part of
provincial autonomy. But the less wealthy Pro-
vinces have been forced to make agreements with
Ottawa withdrawing from these fields, in order
to obtain a more equal distribution of revenue
for necessary expenditures.

If evidence were lacking as to the worth-
lessness of our statutory autonomy it is furnished
by the recently imposed freight rates increase,
designed deliberately, it would seem, to penalize
the less fortunately situated Provinces. It is a
poor partnership indeed which squeezes the
smaller partners to the wall, and that is what is
happening under Confederation today. It is far
more important that we realize this fact, and
seek to do something about it, than that we should
worry unduly about losing any more of the shadow
of our provincial autonomy, when the substance
has become so attenuated.

Storm In A Teapot

The storm in the teapot at Ottawa over the
attitude of the Maritime Liberal members on
freight rates shows that the Party must have been
greatly concerned over the risk of losing the
confidence vote. There was really nothing in
what the Hon. Cyrus MacMillan said that would
justify any effective quotation in the course of
the debate. As a member of the Duncan Com-
mission he took an active part in bringing about
a fairer distribution of rates in the Maritimes,
and all that he says now is that the railways are
entitled to increased revenue, but at the same
time compensation should be allowed the Maritimes
in some other respect. That is, that the
Maritime Provinces, individually and collectively,
would have to start and petition the Government
and the railways to make concessions which the
Maritimes contend they were justly entitled to,
but which the Transport Commission, recently
reporting, did not see their way clear to concede.

What difference such an opinion would have had
on the course of the debate in the House of Com-
mons is difficult to imagine.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. George's Day.
It is a safe bet that midnight Saturday will
pass without Daylight Saving Time being pro-
claimed.

Tomorrow the seven provincial Premiers con-
fer on future action on freight rates. The re-
maining two, of course, hope to retain the status
quo.

An early task for the new Industrial Defence
Board is the development of adequate protective
clothing. In that category furs are in a class by
themselves.

Dr. Grant, M.P., must have something of
Rob Roy in him, only in reverse—rob the poor
farmer to enrich the railways and railway em-
ployees.

Palestine is peculiarly an American prob-
lem as it was once a British one. The United
States must make the major contribution to the
carrying out of U.N. policy and she consequently
must make the decision.

Ottawa is raising its aldermanic salaries, so
civil servants are inquiring whether the Govern-
ment is repealing the regulation which pre-
vents them holding public office paying more
than \$500 per year.

Shakespeare born this date 1564: "He was a
scholar and a ripe and good one; Exceeding
wise, fair-spoken, and persuading; Lofty and
sour to them that loved him not; But to those
men who sought him, sweet as summer. And, to
add greater honour to his age than man could
give him, he died feeling God."

A 49th American state is in the offing.
Hawaii has long been willing and unless Con-
gress becomes too involved in other matters the
necessary action will soon be taken. Incidental-
ly the move will permit bilateral free trade which
otherwise would have been barred by the terms
of world trade agreements.

Canada admitted 12,457 immigrants during
January and February, compared with 5,337 dur-
ing the same months of 1947. The immigration
branch said the greatest boost was in the number
of persons from continental Europe. The
steamship Kota Inten is scheduled to arrive at
Halifax this week with 740 Dutch immigrants.

An ex-Canadian will be making academic
history when Sir William Hamilton Fyfe retires
from the post of Principal and Vice-Chancellor
of Aberdeen University on September 30. He is
the first Aberdeen Principal to come under the
arrangement—now common to the Scottish Uni-
versities—for a fixed retiring age. In the case of
Aberdeen it is 70. Among many outstanding
contributions to Education, Sir William will be
perhaps best remembered by the present gen-
eration of Scots for his chairmanship of the
Scottish Advisory Committee on Education, whose
recommendations may lead to far-reaching
changes in the country's educational system.

When he retires, Sir William intends to return
to live in London, where he was born. Educated
at Edinburgh and Oxford, he came to Canada,
where he became Principal and Vice-Chancellor
of Kingston University, Ontario. He was ap-
pointed to Aberdeen as successor to the late Sir
George Adam Smith twelve years ago.

Notes By The Way

Stalin says the treaty of Russia
and Finland is "between equals"—
one bear and one rabbit. — Ottawa
Journal.

"Every dog has its day", a novel-
ist reminds us. This doesn't trouble
us nearly so much as the fact
that cats insist on having the
nights. — Montreal Star.

British Columbia will grade and
classify its auto routes and tourist
camping for the promotion of visit
to Hon. Leslie H. Eyles, minister
of trade and industry, announces.
The initial classification will be
on a basis of one, two or three
stars to denote the type of ac-
commodation offered. — Vancou-
ver News-Herald.

The United States as a whole is
one of the least densely settled
countries of the world, and will
continue to be so for many years
to come. According to forecasts
based on assumptions of medium
fertility and medium mortality, the
population will be about 166,000,000
in 1975; this would mean a density
of 56 per square mile. Even on
the most favourable assumptions
our population in 1975 will be a
bout 185,000,000, which is still only
82 persons per square mile.—Metro
politan Life Bulletin.

This is tree-planting time. Ev-
ery rural resident of Norfolk Coun-
ty should be planning to set out
trees for windbreaks and for wood-
lots at this season of year. The
terrible floods of a fortnight ago
in Southern Ontario demonstrate
that tree life must be restored in
order to conserve moisture and to
prevent water from running away
too rapidly. In Norfolk the need
is even greater to protect the light
topsoil from blowing away. We
have the Reformatory Station at St.
Williams to furnish trees in abun-
dant, so that there can be no ex-
cuse for failure to take part in
this vital restorative and protective
program. — Simcoe Reformer.

Back again to the
Miramichi River — and so have
the sportsmen. Daily, scores of
them are arriving from the Uni-
ted States for the fishing in the
earliest season through in the
earliest salmon fishing, but the
toughest — a hard, dan-
gerous game. On most streams,
salmon can't be caught before May.
But special angling permits are
issued for the Miramichi as soon
as the ice cracks up. The reason
is that the salmon, which winter
in the Miramichi come through in
much better condition than in the
case with salmon in most rivers. By
April, the even regain some of
the silvery color they lose in the
late fall. In former years the daily
bag limit per rod has been ten
Spring salmon. All have to be
caught on barbless hooks, and
only one may be killed. The others
have to be released unharmed.

When Dr. Charles Cammell states
that the future of this country's
mineral industry depends upon
scientific methods, he is stating a
fact recognized by most mining
men. The old time prospectors and
their methods are slowly dying out.
The best modern prospector does
not rely on the old "hike and
hunt" system. He is a student of
rock formations and other perti-
nent facts of the earth which
is unlikely to contain minerals. The
geiger machine which rattles when
it catches over uranium ore is an ex-
ample of up-to-date devices. In a
country as large as Canada there
will continue to be some strikes
made through sheer luck. The
percentages, however, more and
more favor the scientific prospec-
tor. No man has a better idea of
the potentials of Canada's mineral
wealth than Dr. Cammell. Born in
the Hudson's Bay factor, he has
had much to do with the mapping
of the north. When deputy minis-
ter of mines and resources, he
was one official who preferred to
be out in the field, rather than
prop up a desk in Ottawa. — Wind-
star Star.

As the days grow longer and
warmer and the evenings lighter,
the symptoms of that pesky and
current malady known as Spring
Fever begin to appear again. We
are attacked by an odd combina-
tion of languor and restlessness
which is prevalent at no other time
of the year. With the slightest ex-
cuse or none we find ourselves
drifting into daydreams. We pic-
ture the house as it would look
with a new coat of paint and
the delusions of a man who has
tried it. It is the idea that gives
hammer and nails any male can
work miracles. We fall an easy
prey to that bright infectious rash
of seed packets that break out all
over the shop counters at this
season of the year. (The second com-
monest delusion known to man is
the belief that you can just put a
seed into a hole in the ground it
will grow. Well, and in this favor-
able part of the world it usually
does.) During the next few weeks
we can expect nearly any mani-
festation of Spring Fever. The man
who gets on a downtown streetcar
clapping a pot containing a swo-
fled hydrangea in full bloom or
juggling a full-length spade wrapped
in a paper, will get merely a passing
glance from us. How can we spare
him more. In our own minds we
are already at home oiling the
lawnmower and excavating the
wheelbarrow from what remains of
the winter's supply of wood? —
Vancouver News-Herald.

Sir Stafford Cripp's
Budget Statement

(United Kingdom Information
III)

"When we come to consider the
degree of inflationary pressure ex-
isting in our economy we enter the
most difficult field of economic
analysis. Inflationary pressure can
not be removed entirely by Gov-
ernmental action unless we are to
envisage a degree of economic con-
trol too rigid to be operated in a
democracy and which would de-
feat our aim of getting away from
detailed controls as rapidly as pos-
sible. During the last year many
signs of inflationary pressure were
to be observed. The demand for
labouring materials was excessive
throughout industry; costs, profits
and wages rose all through the
year, the pressure of the black
market continued in certain spheres
and we experienced great difficul-
ties in devoting sufficient resources
to those types of production most
urgent for the country."

Since the letters were written,
Dr. MacNeill has visited Ottawa,
and I feel that many people would
like to know whether he called at
the Indian Affairs Department
while there and if he obtained any
further information on this prob-
lem.
I am, Sir, etc.
ONE INTERESTED.
Bedeque, P. E. I.

"The problem of removing infla-
tionary pressure is not the only
one affecting the Budget, though
certainly the most immediately im-
portant. There are two ways that
inflationary pressure can be re-
duced — voluntary withholding of
expenditures and Government tax-
ation. Much of the Government's
capital investments of the highest
priority should properly be met
from savings. But in the present
inflationary conditions a different
more stringent test is required.
Inflationary pressure has not yet
decreased to a marked extent. In
view of these factors we must ac-
cure a Budget surplus big enough
to yield a balance after all the
forms of Government expenditure
have been met."

The Budget must have two main
objectives "first, to obtain, with
equitable distribution of the load
of taxation, a real substantial sur-
plus which more than provides for
all Government expenditure, capital
and current, and leaves a bal-
ance to be used to counter infla-
tionary pressure, and second, so
to adjust taxation as to encourage
production by providing a better
incentive to producers."

Reviewing the year's results Sir
Stafford Cripp said "The size of
the realized surplus — \$2,544 mil-
lions — is to some extent a
measure of the inflationary situa-
tion." The total revenue for 1947-
48 was \$15,380 million. The re-
venue from the purchase tax fell
short of the amount expected by
\$140 million. But Sir Stafford
said that inland revenue exceeded the
estimate by \$856 million. After
deducting the total saving a bal-
ance of not less than \$1,500
million, but against this must be
set increased expenditure on edu-
cation, housing and the National
Health Service. The total increas-
e was nearly half the total sav-
ings. He said that the Government had
done everything possible to make
large a contribution as possible
in economy on Government expendi-
ture, but they did not propose to
cut the social services as they were
proud of their record in social ser-
vices and anxious to improve upon
it. And he proposed to provide
\$2,000 millions for the servicing
and management of the National
Debt.

Giving the figures, he added "We
have decided to continue subsidies
because we are convinced that al-
though in theory they may be in-
flationary, in practice they have
an opposite effect since they re-
strain the demand for increased
personal incomes to meet the in-
creased cost of living." They were
providing annually out of taxation
the equivalent to twelve or four-
teen shillings (£2.40 or \$2.80) a
week to every family in the coun-
try in addition to a like sum by
way of social services. There was
to be added the cost of tax collec-
tion and the Post Office and this
left \$2,076 millions of the total
Budget expenditure still to be ex-
plained.

Sir Stafford said that during
1948-9 Customs and Excise re-
ceipts would show the full effect
of the changes in taxation intro-
duced since last April. Alcohol was
expected to bring in \$1600 million,
of tobacco \$2240. Purchase tax
would bring in \$1200 million,
bringing the total estimated re-
venue from this branch to \$6,000
million.

In inland revenue they could
look for a further expansion. There
had been a considerable expansion
of profits which would come under
charge this year. There was also
a considerable rise in wages and
salaries last autumn, with the re-
sult that total earnings would be
running at a higher level. He esti-
mated \$360 million in surtax. This
plus a full year's yield of the re-
newed profits tax he estimated
would yield \$1,000 million. To this
would be added \$4 million for
miscellaneous duties, and inland
revenue would yield an increase of
last year of \$606 million. Since the
present Government took office
they had reduced the income tax
by one shilling in the pound \$0.20
in the dollar) and substantially in-
creased personal allowances and

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to
discussion by corre-
spondents of questions of
interest. The Charlottetown
Guardian does not neces-
sarily endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

EXPRESS RATES
Sir—A few days ago I called up
the agent at one of our railway
stations and inquired what the
cost would be to send a parcel
from the Island to Sackville. He
said the minimum was 75 cents.
That is higher than usual I pointed
out. Yes, he admitted. The rate
for a short time ago was only 40 cents.
Where is a jump of nearly 100%?
Where are we heading for? Why
such an increase? Can anybody
explain this matter?
I am, Sir, etc.
OBSERVER.

INDIAN WELFARE
Sir—At this late date I would
like to express appreciation of the
interest Dr. John P. MacNeill of
Summerside is taking in the wel-
fare of the Indian population of
the Province, as evidenced by his
letters in these columns some
weeks ago. I believe that, due to
Dr. MacNeill's efforts, consider-
able interest in this matter has
been aroused.
Since the letters were written,
Dr. MacNeill has visited Ottawa,
and I feel that many people would
like to know whether he called at
the Indian Affairs Department
while there and if he obtained any
further information on this prob-
lem.
I am, Sir, etc.
ONE INTERESTED.
Bedeque, P. E. I.

CORRESPONDENT WANTED
Sir—I hope you will excuse the
liberty I am taking in writing to
you regarding a letter reader of L.
Montgomery's P. E. I. stories. I
would very much like to corre-
spond with someone from Prince
Edward Island.
Do you think you could help
me? My age is twenty-six years.
I write short stories, etc., and live
on a farm. My interests are read-
ing, gardening and animals.
If anyone would care to write
to me I would be only too pleased
to send them Australian mag-
azines, stamps, etc.
Hopling that you can help me—
and if you can will you please
accept my sincere thanks.
I am, Sir, etc.
(Miss) YVONNE M. HELBERG
c/o Mrs. A. M. Helberg
No. 7, Eighth Avenue
St. Peters,
South Australia.

Notes From
Another Island
By "Anson"
LONDON, England:—Somebody
once remarked that if you stand
long enough in Piccadilly Circus
in the heart of London, you will
see the whole world pass by. It
is, they say, "the hub of the Em-
pire."

Well, of course, the whole world
doesn't pass through Piccadilly
Circus, but observation for an hour
or so in the heart of London, the
underground railway station there
is as good a way as any of real-
izing how many sorts it takes to
make a world. I tried it, the other
evening.

London has always been a very
cosmopolitan place, and never more
so than now, with so many refugees
and displaced persons from Cen-
tral Europe here. No wonder a
radio comedian in the London
when, upon hearing someone speak
in a Cockney accent, he says in a
surprised tone: "Good Lord, a
foreigner!"
However, one gets used to the
variety of languages and accents.
After all, it is just part of the Lon-
don scene, and it was not the
variety which stood out in my
mind after I left Piccadilly this
evening. There were two other
things—rather contradictory things,
too—a sort of contrast between old
and new.

And the "new" was, of course,
the "New Look", that much dis-
cussed turn of fashion that is
really only the old look brought
back out of grandmother's photo-
graph album. Quite a number of
the ladies are to be seen nowadays
in long skirts, upswep hair-dos,
flowery hats and veils and even
bustles. Some look quite elegant,
though somehow not exactly in
relief and abolished excess profits
tax, yet inland revenue was not
far short of the all time peak of
1946-6.

Sir Stafford said that he put the
net total at \$1892 million — \$360
million for war damage, \$80 mil-
lion for postwar credits, \$80 mil-
lion for Excess Profits Tax re-
funds, \$336 million for Exchequer
advances for new capital develop-
ment and \$686 million for loans
to local authorities.
What was really important in
the long run was that they should
study whether there was sufficient
money available in the Budget sur-
plus with savings to finance the
nation's investment programme. In
1947-8 the Government put back
into circulation all the money it
withdrew by taxation. It paid its
total capital expenditure but there
was no surplus to help stem the
inflationary tendency in the rest
of the economic system. He de-
clared that they should aim at a
true overall surplus of about \$120
million. In the special critical sit-
uation shown by the White Paper
they must take exceptional mea-
sures to counter inflation.
(To be continued.)

The Poet's Corner

A CYPRIAN WOMAN
Greek Folk Song
Under dusky laurel leaf,
Scarlet leaf of rose,
I lie prone, who have known
All a woman knows.

Love and grief and motherhood,
Fame and mirth and scorn—
These are all shall befall
Any woman born.
Jewel-laden are my hands
'Till my stone above,
Do not weep that I sleep
Who was wise in love.
Where I walk, a shadow gray
Through gray asphodel,
I am glad, who have had
All that life can tell.
—Margaret Widdemer.

harmony with the ultra-modern
layout of their environment in an
electric-railway station, when I
saw them in Piccadilly. I might
perhaps have wondered if they
had strayed off the set of a film
studio that was shooting a period
piece.
Well, that was new, and on view
with it was evidence of an old
custom dying hard, as the saying
goes. The old custom of "dressing
for dinner."
During the war much of that
formality was lost. Most of the
men who were in the habit of din-
ing out were in uniform, and for
those who weren't, well, convention
had relaxed anyway. Now, how-
ever, the custom is creeping back
again into fashion. Slowly, may-
be, because of the obstacles of
austerity times, such as the need
for spending clothing coupons on
lounge suits, with none of the rat-
ion left over for dinner jackets,
and the absence of petrol (or
should I say "gasolene") for
pleasure driving. Anyone driving
a car these days is liable to be
stopped by a policeman who wants
to know where the gas came from!

The folk who used to dress and
drive into town for dinner and a
show are forced to make at least
that concession to the times. With
the car laid up until better days,
they have to come to town on the
Underground railway or by bus.
But the cartoon figure of the
blue-blooded Englishman dressing
for dinner in the middle of the
jungle in darkest Africa is still
the example for the society-mind-
ed Londoners to follow. The law
makes them leave the car in the
garage but it can't order their
tire, so crowded train or bus en-
counter, lion or not, it is still a
black box (ie and a dinner set)
for the man, and a long, for-
mal gown for his lady.
Dinner suits and the New Look
—if they were part of the ordinary
scene they wouldn't be worth a
mention. They only come to mind
as relief against the normal back-
ground—the ordinary young chap
and his girl. For them the fabu-
lous haunts of the West End
are just places that SOME people
are just for them, Saturday night
hasn't changed much, it is still
the flicks and a bite to eat.

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

SAILING CRAFT

The largest vessel to be built in
the Maritime Provinces in 1883 was
the "Ethel", of 1,750 tons, by An-
drew Duncan, at Charlottetown.
She had three decks, was iron-
fastened, and measured 240 x 38
x 23 feet draught. She was regis-
tered in Liverpool, and claimed the
distinction of being the largest ever
constructed in the Island Province.
Small ships were mostly small
craft of under 1,000 tons, but dur-
ing the seventies many P. E. Is-
land ships and barques were en-
gaged in foreign trades, command-
ed by native masters. A few ex-
amples are here given:
A trim Island-built vessel was
the "Gondolier", 1049 tons, built in
1877, at the west end of Sumner-
side for the Hon. Angus McMillan,
and commanded by Capt. John
McMillan in 1878. According to a report
in the New York Maritime Regis-
ter of that year she made the
trip from New South Wales to
Yokohama in 33 days—"fastest of
record."

Other Island vessels of note in
the seventies were the ship "James
Duncan" (1871) 699 tons, built at
Bay Fortune for James Duncan,
Charlottetown; in 1878, the barque
"James Peake", 640 tons, built at
Mount Stewart for Peake Bros.,
Charlottetown; also the barque
"Gulnare", 549 tons, built at Car-
digan for L. C. Owen, Charlottetown.
The year 1874 was quite a brisk
one in Island shipbuilding, nine
vessels of between 500 and 1000
tons having been launched in that
year for local owners. On all, in
1874, there were one ship and 11
barques.
From Tales of Abergweilt by the
late Mr. Benj. Bremner.

makes them leave the car in the
garage but it can't order their
tire, so crowded train or bus en-
counter, lion or not, it is still a
black box (ie and a dinner set)
for the man, and a long, for-
mal gown for his lady.
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