

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1947

The Chignecto Canal

It is disappointing to note, from the Canadian Press report of the Maritime Board of Trade convention at Kentville, that the best the Board could do in pressing for the Chignecto Canal was to pass a resolution calling for a committee "to join in surveying the feasibility of such a project."

There is no question as to the advantages which would accrue to Prince Edward Island from a waterway across the 19-mile isthmus which joins New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Years ago, the late Mr. Nelson Rattenbury—a shrewd business man—estimated that 15,000,000 bushels of Island root vegetables would move through the Chignecto Canal annually and that the saving to shippers in freight costs would run to \$640,000.

The Maritime Board of Trade has missed an opportunity in not coming out strongly on this issue. It is hoped that our own representatives at the convention were more outspoken.

Huge Tax Collections

More and more Federal tax officials are required to handle the business in Charlottetown and other centres across Canada, which is scarcely to be wondered at in view of figures recently released from Ottawa.

Since 1917, when income tax was first levied as a "war" tax, revenue from that source for all Canada, leaped from a paltry \$12,506,517, in that year, to an all time high of \$1,635,494,706, in the year 1944.

This huge sum, it is emphasized, does not include the millions received from excise and customs taxes.

The last fiscal year before the war, which was 1939-1940, income tax collections amounted to only about \$134,448,556.00. Four years later they had touched the staggering total of over one and one half billions.

Excess profits tax for 1947 amounted to \$27,652,448.00 on individual incomes. The excess profits tax on corporations, in that year, amounted to \$421,044,995.00 succession duties accounted for approximately \$24,000,000.

Wages And Productivity

The Cleveland Trust Company has just completed a study of productivity in relation to wages in the United States which is of interest to students of Canada's economic problem as well. The study shows, in brief, that the wage cost per unit of production—the amount of money spent in wages to produce articles for the consumer—has been rising rapidly since the beginning of the war.

It is noted that if production per man-hour had increased proportionately the worker obviously would be much better off than he was in 1939. Actually he is better off in the manufacturing industries of America, and in agriculture, despite the increased cost of living, though very large classes of people, particularly in the middle income groups and among the white collar workers, are much worse off because their money wages have not risen much while their living costs are up.

Unfortunately this has not occurred. The survey in question shows that production per man-hour increased by some ten per cent from 1939 to 1940, levelled off in 1941, declined through 1942 and 1943, rose slightly in 1944 to the middle of 1945 when it reached a peak some 15 per cent above pre war. Then it dropped sharply to the 1939 level at the end of 1945, and by the middle of 1947 was still below the 1945 high.

The net result of these figures is to show that while the wage cost of producing goods has risen by 75 per cent, productivity has risen some 15 per cent. That is, money paid to workers far exceeds the amount of extra goods they are producing and under these conditions,

in any society whether of capitalists, communists or in between those extremes, prices are bound to rise. This is inflation and it will not be cured unless productivity rises to keep pace with rising wages or alternatively wages are reduced.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 17th Sunday after Trinity.

It has been an unusually busy week in public life, and most people will appreciate the God-given day of rest tomorrow.

The formal inauguration of the United Church of South India takes place at Madras today.

St. Vincent de Paul, eminent philanthropist, died this date, 1660; his memory is kept everlastingly green by the good work of the Society bearing his name.

That grand old newspaper correspondent and public spirited citizen, Mr. H. K. S. Hemming celebrated his eighty-eighth birthday yesterday. "May his lum reek ten year longer!"

The Marquess of Milford Haven, who is to be best man at Princess Elizabeth's wedding, is a cousin of the groom, and a son of the first Marquess of the Mountbatten clan.

It is difficult to deny the modest demand of the Ontario branch of the Canadian Legion that veterans be able to have a roof over their heads. For some reason, however, that demand is a long way from fulfillment.

Premier Jones held out the prospect of a settlement of the Packers wages' dispute locally, but neither the local unionists nor local employers could accept it without directions from Toronto.

The many friends of Federal Resources Minister Glen, who visited here some years ago, will be pleased to learn he is back at his desk in his department after a four months' absence occasioned by a heart ailment.

Now it is the Lords who are in revolt. The House of Lords met on September 10th although the Commons was not in session and adjourned until the 30th. Such a meeting of one of the houses of parliament alone is unique in modern times.

The Good Roads Association took a severe verbal mauling at the convention here earlier in the week. Being an organization of politicians it probably earned the condemnation that it does nothing "but talk a lot of mumble-jumble."

Adelina Patti, Baroness Cederstrom, operatic singer, died this date 1919; a Spaniard by birth she enjoyed world-wide popularity, and was equally acclaimed in London, Paris and New York. She died and was buried in London, but the following year her remains were taken to Pere Lachaisi, Paris.

Reduction of luxury and income taxes in the next Federal budget is predicted in an Ottawa datteline story. The story said reduced income taxes would account "for about half the reduction in taxes that is coming. The remainder . . . will come from the taxes on jewelry, tobacco products, soft drinks and the like, often referred to as nuisance taxes."

A costly United Nations parliament. It is costing Canada approximately \$1,500 a day to keep a delegation in New York for the United Nations General Assembly. This figure, based on the amount required at the special session of the Assembly last May, does not include an estimated \$900,000 which constitutes Canada's share of the 1947 United Nations total budget of \$27,000,000.

Louis Pasteur, French chemist and discoverer, died tomorrow's date 1895; he studied crystallography, and showed the relation between optical activity and molecular asymmetry, thus laying the foundations of stereo-chemistry; is best known for his work on micro-organisms; showed that alcoholic and ascetic fermentation and putrefaction are caused by living organisms, and that when these are killed or excluded decay is prevented. Thus he opposed the idea of spontaneous generation, and introduced sterilization.

Radio inter-communication locally between Northumberland Ferries and the local offices and hotels is possible just as soon as the mechanical devices can be fitted up. This follows the example of the Canadian Electric Company of Amherst and associated companies at Moncton, and Sackville, who recently put into effect a radio communication system by which main offices can communicate with maintenance trucks and operating quarters. A similar communications system was established by the Pictou County Power Board some months ago.

A new anti-biotic (a substance produced by a living body which has a destructive or inhibitory effect on a micro-organism) discovered by research workers in Britain may prove a cure for whooping cough. Hitherto there has been no real cure for this complaint which causes more deaths among children than any other child's disease. The anti-biotic which is called Aerospirin is stated to have been used with great success on animals injected with the germ. It is also claimed to have proved very efficient in the treatment of animals infected with typhoid fever. One advantage of Aerospirin is that it is easily produced and does not deteriorate in storage. The organism which produces the new anti-biotic was first isolated from the soil of a garden in Surrey, England.

Notes By The Way

Dr. Aaron Weizer of Pittsburgh has produced the "coldest cold" ever attained—466 degrees below zero. Has he been testing some Russian delegate at an international conference? — Edmonton Journal.

A preacher was explaining to his Sunday school class the reward of being good. Seeing one little girl, who had on several occasions come late to class, he added: "Mary, what does your mother do for you when you've been good?" "She lets me stay home from Sunday school." — Magazine Digest.

Recently we had occasion to attempt the purchase of a piece of quarter equipment. Feeling that the seller's price was high, we investigated and found that he was asking just about twice what he had paid for the machine 11 years ago. He wasn't a man who needed money—he was just plain greedy. — Midway Gazette.

An American judge denied citizenship applications from people who have convicted themselves to bearing arms in warfare. After all, there is something to it. People can hardly expect the privileges of a security they are not willing to defend in the only possible way it can be defended. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

British Columbia home builders are understandably aghast at Ottawa's decision to remove price ceilings on lumber. A move that is expected to boost the price of an average home another \$500 or \$600. Apparently the idea is that if price ceilings are removed supplies will be greater and home building will flourish. But it isn't necessarily so. Today the average BC home builder wants to know what's the use of having more lumber available if he can't afford it. — Vancouver Province.

A wartime link between Ulster and Canada has been made permanent by a War Office decision concerning the wearing of the Maple Leaf by the North Irish Horse. The Maple Leaf was awarded to the regiment after it had been associated with the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade in breaking through the Adolf Hitler Line on the 23rd May, 1944. Soldiers of the North Irish Horse were awarded to the regiment after it had worn the Maple Leaf on their Italian Star. — Ulster Commentary.

We are glad to note that a delegate to a general synod of the Anglican Church meeting in Saskatoon, took exception to the use of the phrase "war brides" in a report. He pointed out it was both silly and insulting to refer to the mother of two or more children as a "bride." We have written editorials about this before, but the term still is in common use. We can only blame the general laxness of speech, which is all around these days, and which fastens on an ill-advised term like this like grim death. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

Possibly it would serve no useful purpose to include in the statistics of motor accidents passing on a hill or curve. Motorists know that this is a dangerous and reckless practice, yet too many of them take a chance. The cure, perhaps, is to deal strictly with motorists who fail to drive safely, without waiting for a tragedy to emphasize the necessity for care. Sympathy for those who endanger the lives of themselves and others is misplaced. — Toronto Telegram.

Alkaline lakes, shallow and narrow but often a mile or more in length, literally wander the flat wastelands of South Central Oregon during the season of electric storms. The air is filled with puddles are built up in a few hours and may last the same length of time as strong winds whip them out of their basins into new locations. These playful puddles, called "mirages" taken account for a lot of "mirages" seen by the weary motorist.

While the doing down of preserves is work for the housewife, it is a pleasant time for men members of the family. The pungent fragrance which comes from the kitchen is a delight to the nostrils. What pleasure there is in coming home after work to find the delightful odor of the pickling kettle pervading the air! How tantalizing the kitchen smells when chutney sauce is being made, with every member of the family hoping that Mother will put some of the new-made relish on the table for supper. There are dozens of recipes for pickling cucumbers and doing down tomatoes, but any way is good. — Essex County Reporter.

Why was the zero point on the thermometer put where it is? asks Dr. Gerald Wendt in Science Illustrated. About 240 years ago the inventor, Professor Gabriel Fahrenheit of Germany, wanted a fixed low point and fixed high point for his scale. Forcing the temperature of water below freezing by mixing snow and salt in equal proportions, he thought he reached the lowest temperature obtainable on earth and called that low point zero. He then established what he thought was the highest weather temperature and called that 100. Now we know that he was wrong on both counts. Weather falls far below zero in the Arctic and rises far above 100 in the deserts. In the laboratory, the coldest temperature we now reach is 450 degrees below Fahrenheit's zero. The centigrade scale, which is in common use throughout the world, with the exception of this country and the British Empire, fixes zero at the point at which water freezes and 100 degrees at which water boils, two natural constants.

The Poets Corner

LIVING LIFE OVER

Could we, all fresh and eager for the going, Stand once again at the dividing ways With every ambush—every pitfall showing, And all the love and laughter of our days; How could we choose?—Old wisdom heavy on us And young impatience straining to In bondage to the knowledge pressing on us, Yet free with all youth's courage in our heart. Ah, who would know that agony of choosing? Who would forgo the vision and the dreams? The zest of the adventuring or losing? The sweet belief that life is what it seems? Well that each day waits in a misty morrow, That all unknown our way across the years; Enough that strength is measured to our sorrow, And laughter is apportioned to our tears. —Lucy Gertrude Clarkin.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

TRANSPORTATION GRIEVANCES

A subject of continuous complaint by the Islanders against the Dominion authorities during the year (1946) was the absence of a steady winter service with the mainland—a matter pledged at Confederation but never carried out. On Dec. 11th, conditions were unusually bad and the Charlottetown Guardian was emphatic in its comments upon "the gross and injurious breaches of faith" by the Government of Canada; with no parallel in Canadian history for such callous and cruel neglect, breach of treaty compact and of solemn ministerial pledges." It was stated that the two principal ports of the Island were closed for four months at a time and "we give the Ministers fair warning."

In the House of Commons on Dec. 18th, Mr. Alex Martin, a local Conservative representative, declared that the Island was on the verge of secession and would not stand such treatment longer. Hon. Mr. Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, stated the situation to be exaggerated, the Island members to be at loggerheads and politics too much in evidence. He announced that in future the Department would not follow the advice of any of them but pursue a simple business course.

Another topic of discontented discussion was the service of the Island railway, a Dominion Government concern. The mail service in winter as well as the express service was said to be unsatisfactory and a public meeting was held in Charlottetown on Dec. 27th, to discuss a new winter timetable issued by the railway. It was most vigorously denounced by speakers from all parts of the Island and a long resolution of protest unanimously passed declaring that it would reduce the passenger and freight traffic, put the public to heavy loss and inconvenience, demoralize the mail service, discriminate against the outlying parts of the Province, and ruin the fresh fish industry. Fresh impetus was given by all these conditions to the advocacy of a tunnel project with the mainland under 9 miles of strait between Cape Traverse, P. E. I. and the coast of Westmoreland County, N. B. —From the Canadian Annual Review, 1906.



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