

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, JAN. 31, 1950

High Wool Prices

Highly encouraging is an announcement
from the Wool Bureau, Inc., Toronto, to the
effect that Dominion wool prices are showing
one of the most sensational rises in the
history of the industry and are within meas-
urable distance of the highest ever record-
ed. World buyers are reported as bidding
eagerly in all Dominion markets at prices
higher, than any which have been paid since
the boom year three decades ago.

The situation differs from that which
existed in 1920 when record high prices were
followed by a serious slump. On the
former occasion there were big stocks in
commercial hands on which heavy losses
were sustained, but it is officially reported
that commercial stocks today are for the
most part as low as is consistent with the
high rate of manufacturing activity in progress.

Caution induced by the general high
prices of recent months is causing firms to
function on smallest possible working stocks
of wool and the latest figure of wool stocks
in Britain, for example, is one of the lowest
since the war, when trade-held stocks were
at the lowest level yet recorded. Despite
this, Britain is consuming wool at the highest
rate since the war.

Similar conditions obtain in some Euro-
pean centres where, judging by the urgent
demand on supplies in Britain, there is
something approaching scarcity of immedi-
ately available wool.

Among the reasons for the present sharp
lift in wool prices is that world wool con-
sumption exceeds production at a rate esti-
mated at 27 per cent, although world wool
output is practically back to pre-war level.
To this must be added the fact that the
wartime surplus of wool held by the Joint
Organization is now in the final stages of
liquidation.

Smooth Ice

Such a winter as we have been experi-
encing offers at least one great advantage.
Little snow and occasional rain make possi-
ble the formation of a smooth, snow-free
surface on ponds, rivers and even harbours.
Charlottetown and Summerside took ad-
vantage of the condition over the week-end
to stage horse racing on the harbour ice,
and young people were skating at various
points including the sheltered area south of
the jetty at Tormentine within a short dis-
tance of the car ferry. Outdoor skating has
a special charm for young and old, perhaps
because of the very uncertainty of conditions
and the excitement of learning that the ice
is "just right". Apparently it takes some
rain after salt-water ice has formed to clear
it and provide a hard, even surface. Lucky
are the few who anticipate the brief oppor-
tunity and have provided ice-boats or skating
sails. Speeds many times exceeding that
of the wind are obtained with proportion-
ate thrills. It is claimed that a conven-
tional sailor can be scared into hanging
on with everything including his eye teeth,
by the skipper saying that he is going to
"jibe". Instead of a violent swing of the
boom there is a very gentle movement be-
cause of the craft exceeding wind velocity.

India's Constitution

India's provisions for constitutional gov-
ernment, which became effective last week,
are modelled somewhat along the lines of
Canada's B.N.A. Act, but are apparently
more flexible. Like the latter, the Indian
constitution assigns certain matters to the
Union, others to the states, and some—com-
paratively, a great many—it makes subject
to concurrent legislation, with the federal
will generally prevailing in cases of con-
flict. The Union government may legis-
late on matters ordinarily the concern of
the states if two-thirds of the federal Coun-
cil of States is in favor; or if an emergency
is proclaimed and the Union parliament en-
dorses the proclamation; or if two or more
states confer power on the Union act—a
provision similar to one Saskatchewan has
suggested for Canada.

Unlike Canada's federal parliament, In-
dia's parliament may make laws to imple-
ment treaties or international conventions
even if these laws enter the field of state
jurisdiction. On certain subjects, amend-
ment of the Indian constitution requires
ratification by not fewer than half the
state legislatures; on the rest, the Union
parliament has power to make changes.

India's President is elected by a college
of the elected members of the central legis-
lature and of the state assemblies. Corre-
sponding to the cabinet is a council of min-
isters responsible to the House of the Peo-

ple, or House of Commons. This body of
not more than 500 is elected by adult suff-
rage, a provision that sweeps away the
communal electorates based on religion and
abolishes qualifications of literacy or prop-
erty or class. The upper house is the
Council of States, composed of not more
than 250 persons, of whom 12 are appoint-
ed by the President to represent special
fields like the arts and sciences. The rest
represent the states, with one-third retiring
every two years, unlike Canada's lifetime
senators.

The constitution provides also for an in-
dependent judiciary with wider powers
than in other federations. It will hear ap-
peals, deal with constitutional disputes, and
enforce fundamental rights. These rights
include culture, education, property, re-
ligious freedom, and civil liberties. Un-
touchability, the social stigma placed upon
tens of millions, is abolished, together with
discrimination on the grounds only of race,
religion, caste, or sex. In addition, a unique
feature of the constitution is a section
on "directive principles" enjoining the state
to promote work for all, a fair distribution
of wealth, good health, and social security.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Premier Duplessis recently stated that
curling was an "eloquent" game, which
could serve as a pattern for democracy; he
instanced the voluntary discipline of the
skip's control over his rink and the neces-
sary teamwork involved.

Health and holiness are the same thing,
is the interesting etymological Health
Week pronouncement of the Health League
of Canada. There is probably scriptural as
well as dictionary authority for the propo-
sition.

The Canadian Federation of Agricul-
ture, which commenced sessions at Niagara
Falls yesterday, speaks, not for local or
sectional interests, or for a particular
branch of farming, but rather the 200 odd
delegates represent the nation-wide aspect
of the industry.

February will be a busy month political-
ly, with the British Columbia and Manitoba
Legislatures opening on the 14th, Quebec
and Newfoundland on the 15th, Parliament
and the Legislatures of Ontario and Sask-
atchewan on the 16th, Alberta on the 24th,
and our Island Legislature on the 27th.

One of the subjects which should be
dealt with at the forthcoming session of the
Legislature is the renaming of our courts.
The name "Supreme Court of Prince Ed-
ward Island" should be dropped in the in-
terest of simplicity and to avoid confusion
with the Supreme Court of Canada which
is now in fact supreme.

Ben Jonsor, English dramatist, born
this date 1573. A brick-layer by trade, but
abandoned it for the army and fought in the
Netherlands. On return to England he be-
came a play-actor and dramatist, as well
as a song writer. His best play is "The
Alchemist" the leading character, "Sir Epicure
Mammon," being a gem of character
portrayal. His best song "Drink To Me
Only With Thine Eyes" is still popular.

The rumor of a Provincial general elec-
tion in Prince Edward Island this year ap-
pears to have had its origin in a statement
by Premier Jones quoted in a special Ot-
tawa despatch in The Guardian on January
13. In inviting the delegates to the Domi-
nion-Provincial conference on constitutional
matters to reconvene in Charlottetown, the
Premier said that "perhaps in the Fall there
will be an election, and it would be a good
idea to finish this job before the personnel
of the present conference can be changed."
He explained this statement on his return
from Ottawa as having reference to an
election in any Province, adding that he
hadn't the faintest intention of implying
that his own government intended going to
the country.

An appropriate war memorial. The
fourth centenary of the Charter of Incor-
poration of the town of Boston, Lincolnshire,
is being celebrated in an unusual way. Con-
siderable thought was given by the town
elders to the most appropriate expression of
gratitude for 400 years of happiness and
safety in Boston, and victory in World War
II. They decided to make a gift towards
the restoration of a village church in Hol-
land—the county of Lincolnshire's nearest
neighbour. They chose the village of Arn-
heim—heavily damaged during the invasion
of Europe by the Allies. The rededication
of the village church was combined with the
formal presentation of Boston's gift—a pulp-
it—in memory of Britain's parachutists
who fell in the churchyard during the fight-
ing. The pulpit was designed and made in
Britain of finest oak. It has a handsome
canopy and double stairway, with a central
panel bearing an inscription to the people
of Arnheim.

The Poet's Corner

JANUARY

All life is large now, the sap con-
geals.
And, weighted with white armor,
the stream runs
Down sapphire channels of un-
lighted stone:
The hounds of cold and darkness
at her heels.
Yet spared the forest's bitter sob
and moan.
Month of wild visions!
Some see thy uplifted fingers crav-
ing alms.
But they are symbols of high faith
to me.
For not one doubt of spring is in
those palms.
Played on thy leafless harps of
brush and tree.

They know not beauty well who
have extolled
Only the days of fruited vines and
flowers.
And scented those brave, travelling
looms that wove
The first pale threads of summer's
cloth of gold.
Nor knew the depth of that great,
sorrowing love
Which braved the frozen hours
With courage to endure for beauty's
sake.

That the white wine of April might
be poured
And that the seeds which slum-
bered might awake
Until all sleeping loveliness was
restored.

Only the green of balsam spruce
and pine
Remains to flaunt thy frosted
trumpet's call.
Which robbed the trees their last
thin leaves of gold:
And whether fled these flames from
vine and vine
Who looks on winter sunsets shall
behold.

Warm is thine emine shawl
Thrown carelessly on bushes, lest
the frost
Should give to them a kiss so long
and deep
They could no more restore what
they had lost.
To autumn winds, so heavy was
their sleep.

Midway between the sad descent
of leaves,
And the red buds of April, lapping
rain.
In isolation's glory thou dost stand,
Complaining not, although thy
sun deceives
With wintry light, that mocks the
sea and land.

Which cries for warmth in vain,
And yet the leastest out these
days of we.
Through winter's long captivity, by
thy hand;
But thou, like Moses shalt not live
to know
The fruited vineyards of the Prom-
ised Land.

—Wilson MacDonald in the Can-
adian Geographical Journal.

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

CIVIC AFFAIRS

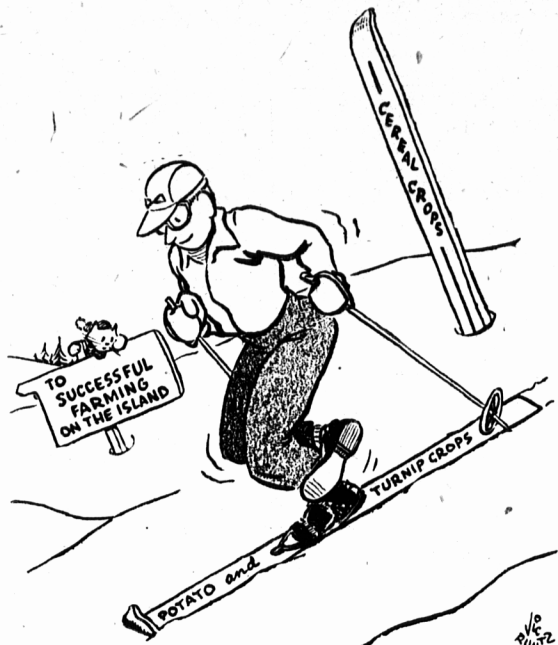
"No one seems to take any in-
terest in civic affairs — no one
speaks of the forthcoming elec-
tion — and no one seems to know
or care whether the present City
Fathers will be re-elected. Then,
wherefore should we trouble our
heads with speculation on the sub-
ject? We must take it for granted
that our fellow citizens are de-
lighted with the present Muni-
cipal Government, which have dis-
tinguished themselves by doing
nothing, but keeping up a little
Police Court which is not much
wanted, but which, no doubt, af-
fords substantial satisfaction to
the dignitaries and others con-
nected with it.

"We were very favourable to
the Act of Incorporation, and
were among the first to advocate
its adoption, knowing that similar
laws have conferred great advan-
tages upon other communities;
but we are not ashamed to con-
fess that we share the dissatis-
faction almost unanimously ex-
pressed at its operation. Our local
affairs, when under the control of
a Bench of Magistrates, were not
remarkably well administered,
but the administration, such as
it was, had the advantage of
being cheap. The people of Char-
lottetown are now compelled to
pay, in direct taxes, six times
more than they had to pay six
years ago; while their civic af-
fairs are not better administered
—and instead of having improved
streets and squares, good sewer-
age, secure sidewalks, healthy
and ornamental promenades, &c.,
we have nothing but heavy taxa-
tion and an expensive Police es-
tablishment, with many unneces-
sary harsh and oppressive by-
laws, enacted for no other pur-
pose than to create a revenue for
the Corporation, and support its
officers.

"We hope the Corporation will,
however, increase the number of
their restrictions — will pile on
the local taxes, and exact them
without mercy — will increase
their police force, and allow the
wharfs and city buildings to con-
tinue to go to ruin — will drone
out their official lives, as they
have done for the last two years
— will do nothing, in short, but
pocket their salaries, and strut in
all their civic importance, — and
we hope that by thus keeping the
noses of our fellow citizens to
the grinding stone for a year or
two longer, they will arouse them
to a sense of their condition, and
force them to give the incus-
sus a kick as will visit with
sudden death municipal oppres-
sion, and cover its memory with
destitution."

—From an editorial by the Hon.
Edward Whalen in The Examiner,
July 26, 1889.

It's A Rough Trip On One Ski



Notes By The Way

Then there was the bride who,
when asked what she was using
for stuffing in her first turkey,
replied: "Why, honey, it isn't
hollow." — Stratford Beacon-
Herald.

So far no one has picked the
missing man of the half-century.
Possible suggestions would be Hit-
ler, Kilroy, or that husband in a
U.S. divorce case who went down
to the corner to bowl in 1908 and
hasn't been heard from since.—
Edmonton Journal.

A New York doctor who is us-
ing tattooing to hide birth marks
might find a field for his talents
among those men who during
their indiscreet bachelorhood
have had "Sadie" tattooed on their
pelts and unfortunately end up
married to someone named
"Rosie."—Brockville Recorder and
Times.

By their prompt action and
teamwork, three Wolf Cubs saved
the life of 12-year-old Cherrill
Van Loon of Tillsonburg, Ont.,
recently when she fell through the
ice while skating. Working to-
gether the boys pulled the girl
to safety after much difficulty.
The Cubs are: David Payne, 10;
Art Partis, 11 and Ian Bushnell,
10.—By Scout News.

General MacArthur is asking
Russia to send back several hun-
dred thousand prisoners of war.
But that is a humane gesture. Ja-
pan doesn't need these people.
She has too many as it is and
her population is growing rapidly.
It was 73 million at the end of the
war. It is 83 million, now. By
1970, at the present rate, it will
be 100 million. And Japan is a
group of relatively small volcanic
islands poor in arable land and
poor in resources. — Vancouver
Province.

It is possible that Whitehall
and White House are in closer
vision on China than appears. It
is certainly not impossible that
British recognition and American
hostility could each have the ef-
fect of deterring Mao from being
too ambitious for expansion. To-
gether, these two seemingly di-
vergent policies might be ex-
pected to work for a common end.
In any case, it is essential for
Britain to get back into her
China trade quickly. For the
United States, trade with China
scarcely matters. — Vancouver
News-Herald.

Alberta has just signed a con-
tract with the Federal Govern-
ment for the policing of this pro-
vince by the RCMP for another
six years. It is for six years,
whereas the preceding one was
for five years and prior to that
the agreement was only made on
a year-to-year basis. The con-
tract requires Alberta to pay
\$357,000 per year — or \$102,000
more per year than during the
previous five years — yet pro-
vincial officials have revealed no
disposition to quibble over the
price. Similar agreements have
been entered into with the RC
MP by a number of Alberta towns,
especially during and since the

The Mayor On Civic Affairs

Sir,—I find it expedient at this
time to refute some of the many
erroneous statements made by
Councillor Johnstone in his
letter to your paper of the January
28th issue, and to cast some fur-
ther light on his activities, or lack
of them, while in the Council
during the term 1948-50.

Before doing this, however,
may I say I was not surprised to
see Councillor Johnstone's lengthy
letter in Saturday's paper, be-
cause he has resorted to such pub-
licity this way before. I per-
sonally always thought highly of
Councillor Johnstone's ideals and
ideas, and now when he tried to
tell our good citizens his opin-
ion of me and the other members
of their Council, I do not think
he is sticking to the principles as-
sumed in the history of democ-
racy.

There are many incidents in
any organization or Government
body that do not require its mem-
bers to be sticklers to statutes and
bylaws in order to make them
successful, not only in expediency
but for the welfare of the com-
munity they represent.

In my four years as Mayor, I
have always tried to do my best
to play fair with the members of
my Council, and no one can con-
tradict that I have always tried
to help the majority, never for-
getting the minority. If this is
not democracy I want to be called
a dictator.

To deal with the matters men-
tioned in Councillor Johnstone's
letter, may I start with the Mar-
ket.

The actual condition at the
time Councillor Johnstone was
appointed Chairman of Market
was not as bad as he would have
you believe. At the time negotia-
tions were under way with Is-
land Motor Transport, to take
over the basement of the Market
for a bus terminal. In the agree-
ment to be entered into with them
was a clause or clauses where
they were to provide and super-
vise rest rooms sufficient for the
City of Charlottetown in general.
These were to replace the ones in
the north side of the Market,
thereby saving the City the price
of upkeep and supervision. When
this deal with I.M.T. was made
realized, the present rest rooms
were renovated, the Council and
not the Chairman of Market being
responsible for the change.

Councillor Johnstone, not be-
ing consistent, next tells us what
a fine Councillor Chester Cox is,
and then he black-lists him along
with myself and the others of my
Council.

Councillor Johnstone next takes
exception to conditions in the
vicinity of the dump, the land and
ditch for drainage being the prop-
erty of the Provincial Govern-
ment. The land referred to had
been used as a dump, a certain
portion of it being left as a part
in which the Province was to lay
a culvert to connect with the
Green Bridge about one hundred
feet east of the A. E. Nelson Ser-
vice Station. At this particular
time, the Government engineer
had been discussing the problem
of drainage with us. The City
had at considerable expense laid
the surface drainage from Edward
Street to the Green Bridge along
the extension of Grafton Street,
and had left an opening to allow
the water to subvert across Govern-
ment property.

Your City was certainly not go-
ing to lay a culvert at a price of
some \$15 per foot through Govern-
ment owned land, especially
when in the words of our Health
Officer, nothing which could give
rise to a contagious disease nature
was present. It was possibly un-
sightly, but there was no danger
of disease.

To quote from Minute of Coun-
cil of April 12th, 1948: "Com-
plaints from the dump at East
end of City—upon investigation
found no reason for complaint."
What would you have done, Sir
—laid a 1,000 foot culvert at \$15
per foot? As I have not inspec-
ed all the dumps in Canada, sure-
ly Councillor Johnstone would
know that my reference to a
being the finest should not have
been taken literally.

Councillor Johnstone says I
"heckled" him. Many times he
addressed his remarks directly at
me so that I might answer him,
which I did. I believe, perhaps,
I interrupted his speech. Whether
or not my answer to his
question angered him, I
will always be at a loss to know.
A very important matter came
up before the Council shortly af-
ter Councillor Johnstone became
a member of the Council. It was
necessary in order to expedite the
building of the twenty-nine houses
in the Orlebar Street area, that
an agreement be entered into
with Central Mortgage and Hou-
sing Corporation. I asked my
Council to authorize this action.
Councillor Johnstone went on
record as refusing to vote one way
or the other, saying that he did
not understand what he was vot-
ing for and would not vote. Is

it any wonder that during the
two years when he would not
vote one way or the other, I
would ask him "Don't you know
what you are voting about?"
The matter of a raise for our
civic employees, to combat the
high cost of living, was brought
up before the Council. A stand-
ing vote on this matter was called
for. Councillor Johnstone
neither voted for nor against.

The appointment of a member
of the Appeal Court came before
the Council. Two names were
brought in, namely, Byron Brown
and Benjamin Gallant. Again
Councillor Johnstone refused to
vote either for or against. Mir-
acles of meeting records: "Ayes
and Nays. Refusing to vote Coun-
cillor Johnstone."

However we did manage to get
him to really vote once, which is
recorded, and as usual he was
against the Council, this case be-
ing the re-appointment of Mrs.
Lantz to the School Board. This
one and only time he recorded his
vote against the majority of the
Council.

Collection of Arrears: Coun-
cillor Johnstone was appointed
a member of a new Committee,
namely, the Committee on Tax
Arrears. I will just cite one in-
stance in reply to the statement
in his letter that "there should be
no discrimination, that we should
show to the line and let the chips
fall where they may." In Novem-
ber an execution had been pro-
ceeded with to the extent that
seizure was to be made on a
namesake of Councillor John-
stone, a defaulter in civic taxes
since 1933, amount owing over
\$300.00.

In the files in City Hall is a
letter signed by Edwin C. John-
stone, a defaulter in civic taxes,
withdrawing a ten per cent pay-
ment being promised. This was
most unconstitutional, as once the
tax bills are placed in the Court
for collection, no Councillor or
Committee has the right to inter-
fere. The effect of this high-
handed action could only mean
one thing — if proceedings were
stopped and against this default,
then in order that no discrimina-
tion be made against others, all
proceedings by seizure and sale
must be stopped. Who then saved
the hand in the collection of
tax arrears? The answer is quite
obvious.

By-election Ward I: I did give
considerable thought to the
value caused by the death of the
late Peter E. Holland. Council-
lor Ward One. When the late
Councillor J. E. Sterns passed
away late in the term of the 1942-
44 Council, no by-election was
held, due to the fact that a gen-
eral election was some two
months away. Consequently, since
the precedent had been establish-
ed, and since the cost was prohibi-
tive, and since the final Council
meetings of the year, and especial-
ly at the end of the term, are re-
stricted to the winding up of busi-
ness, and mandatory matters are
always left over to the incoming
Council, the Council requested me
by resolution that no by-election
be held in Ward I.

The Pension Scheme had been
hanging fire some eight or nine
years, and against this default,
then in order that no discrimina-
tion be made against others, all
proceedings by seizure and sale
must be stopped. Who then saved
the hand in the collection of
tax arrears? The answer is quite
obvious.

I know I should not reply to
Councillor Johnstone through the
press, as I believe that is what he
wants me to do, so that he can
keep it up—something I do not
intend to do, because I will not
ways believe that the good people
of Charlottetown appreciate a
man who willingly gives of his
service on their behalf without
monetary remuneration, and the
only way they have shown me that
this is true is by their votes at
the polls on Election Day during
the past five terms.

Thanking you for your valu-
able space.

I am, Sir, etc.,
B. EARLE MACDONALD
Mayor of the City of
Charlottetown,
January 30, 1950.

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