THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1946

The Ottawa Conference

The recent budgets of the Ontario and British Columbia Governments are a fair indication that the difficulties of achieving a satisfactory financial settlement between the Dominion and the richer of the provinces are by no means at an end. Both these provinces have budgeted in their new fiscal year for substantial deficits and certainly in the case of British Columbia, although less so with Ontario, the intention is that the Dominion shall increase its already generous terms to the end that the deficits shall be made good.

The fourth, and it is to be hoped the final session of the conference will open on April 25. The present negotiations began last August when the Dominion proposed to the provinces that for a period of three years they retire from the fields of income, corporation and inheritance taxes in return for increased subsidies from Ottawa. There were, of course, additional considerations in the offer of the Dominion such as health grants, health insurance, responsibility for unemployed and so forth. But, as might have been foreseen, these additional inducements were promptly brushed aside by the provinces. The provinces dealt with the Dominion proposal purely on the basis of how much they were to be paid. At the present time they are in possession of succession duties and receive their normal subsidies and special subsidies under the 1941 agreements whereby they turned over to Ottawa their income and corporation taxes. All told they are receiving under these headings $124.9 millions per year. The Dominion proposed to increase this sum to $138 millions.

By a series of surrenders to pressure from the richer provinces, the Dominion raised the purchase price from $138 millions to $180.4 millions and finally to $197.2 millions. The conference became an auction sale with the Dominion raising the bid and these richer provinces holding out for more. The offer stood at $197.2 when the conference adjourned last February but as the provincial budgets indicate the end may not yet have been reached.

"From the standpoint of principle," says the *Winnipeg Free Press*, "the important fact about the proposals of the Dominion last August was that the main recommendation of the Rowell-Sirois commission was ignored. This is the principle of fiscal need. The Rowell-Sirois solution was that a national minimum of provincial services be recognized and that the Dominion undertake, through an independent financial grants commission, to pay "fiscal need" subsidies based upon this minimum standard in exchange for the surrender by the provinces of the income, corporation and inheritance taxes. For reasons not yet disclosed by the Dominion, the commission's recommendation was set aside. The Dominion preferred to proceed on a straight bargaining basis, using a formula of per capita grants, related to national income, as the base for bargaining. Equal per capita subsidies to the provinces, is of course, the system adopted at Confederation. It failed because the rigidity of such a system prevented the unequal needs of the various provinces from being adequately met. And while it is true that by relating per capita subsidies to national income, a degree of flexibility is achieved, the basic weakness remains.

"As the present negotiations have proceeded, it has become ever clearer that the net result will be not to bring about equality but to make the rich provinces richer while doing no more than to rescue the less fortunate provinces from their difficulties."

That "Canada Day" Bill

The Senate, suggests the *Ottawa Journal*, ought not to pass, at least at this session, the private member's bill which goes to it from the Commons to abolish Dominion Day and to substitute "Canada Day" for it. It is a case, apparently, for the familiar device of "the six-months hoist", thus giving to both Parliament and the country time for careful consideration of a proposal which is more important than it sounds and which certainly is not urgent.

The bill had three or four hours of debate in the Commons before it was passed, and no debate at all in the country which never had heard of the scheme until the House had approved of it. Since then very strong objection has been expressed by many English-language newspapers, and the Senate cannot pass the bill in ignorance of rising public feeling in the matter.

The celebration of Dominion Day on July 1 is one of our oldest customs, and it seems little short of outrageous that 123 out of 245 members of the Commons should take it upon themselves to throw the name overboard. If the Senate defers the bill it can be brought up again next session by its sponsor, if he wishes, but the delay will have given an opportunity for opinion in the country to form and to express itself. Parliament has taken plenty of time in the controversy about a national flag. It should not show indecent haste in the matter of abolishing Dominion Day.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Wilbur Wright, American airman, who with his brother Orville, was the first to fly with a heavier than air machine, born this date 1867.

* * * *

It is a matter of satisfaction to find the younger generation taking an active part in the development of the trade and commerce of the Province, as exemplified by the directorate of the new Inter-Island Steamship Company.

* * * *

There are good prospects of the steamship tourist trade between here and Montreal being resumed, provided the wharf help do not impose impractical conditions. The Guardian is informed that the sole and only reason why Montreal steamers ceased was that the then union imposed such conditions that made trading here not worth while.

* * * *

Second reading has been given to bills in Parliament, which will give the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps and R. C. A. F. cadets a permanent status, comparable with army cadets. Previous legislation for the sea and air cadets was under order-in-council but it now is proposed to incorporate the legislation in the Naval Service Act and the Air Force Act.

* * * *

Air mail service is not all that it is presumed to be in the matter of quick despatch. A letter posted in Montreal at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9, was received here on Friday, April 13 after the arrival of the ordinary mail train. The writer had reached Charlottetown by train the previous day.

* * * *

So far as hours of sunshine per day is concerned, Prince Edward Island more than holds her own with other parts of the Dominion, as the following across-Canada totals for the four months ended April 30 indicates:

Saint John, N. B.	579 hours
Wolfville, N. S.	472 "
Montreal, Que.	472 "
Winnipeg, Man.	461 "
Charlottetown, P. E. I.	456 "
Toronto, Ont.	455 "
Calgary, Alta.	449 "
Vancouver, B.C.	208 "
Prince Albert, Sask.	201 "

* * * *

With the exception of silk manufacturing, the textile industry in France, one of the most important factors in that country's economic life, will be re-established to its pre-war importance by 1947, Francois Clement, president of le Cercle des Jeunes Patrons du Dauphinee, the French equivalent of the Junior Board of Trade, declared in an interview given at La Chambre de Commerce des Jeunes. Mr. Clement is directing a group of young French businessmen, all associated with the textile industry, who are visiting Canada, the United States and Argentina to acquaint themselves with the latest developments in the industry and to renew contact with American business associates.

* * * *

Justice Minister St. Laurent's reported statement to a delegation that cessation of family allowance payments and defaulted interest payments on Victory Loan bonds might be the consequences of a Canadian decision not to grant the $1,250,000,000 loan to Britain, came under fire in the House of Commons recently. A comment of that kind, Mr. Diefenbaker declared, was "very dangerous" potentially. If it were true, then it was plain that the finances of the nation were in an extremely grave condition. He, along with others, had issued many warnings of the dangers inherent in government extravagance in spending, but he had had no idea that matters had gone as far as the minister's assertion indicated to him. Many people were demanding reduced taxation and he was convinced that a reduction was essential to place industry in a position to furnish employment, if for no other reason. "Yet," Mr. Diefenbaker declared, "we have today expenditures to an extent of $5,000,000 on propaganda agencies; and one of the estimates to come before the committee will be for a sum of $300,000 to renew the national registration — something which is totally unnecessary in peacetime; justifiable as it was in time of war."

* * * *

It follows as the night the day that an increase in the price of farm produce is followed by an increase in the cost of farm implements, etc. Price ceilings for Canadian-made farm machinery have been increased 12 1-2 per cent, effective today, the Prices Board announces. The board said a survey had shown that, with the swing-over from war production, unavoidable cost increases had arisen which no longer could be met without an upward revision in the retail price. Officials said the companies had done their best to maintain production of the greatest possible quantity and variety of farm equipment. The increase should mean that the supply of vitally needed farm implements would be produced "to the maximum that materials and labor supplies permit." The new price should be competitive with prices for similar products imported from the United States which have been free of war exchange tax and customs duties since July 1, 1944. Following are the general categories of machines affected by the order: Planting, seeding and fertilizing machinery; plows; tillage implements and cultivators; haying machinery; harvesting machinery; machines for preparing crops for market or use; farm power machinery; farm wagons, trucks and sleighs; dairy machines and equipment; spraying equipment and dusters; domestic water system and pumps; barn and barnyard equipment and miscellaneous equipment.

Notes By The Way

Noting that a grandson of the late German Kaiser has expressed a willingness to take over the throne of the Reich, a contemporary sagely suggests that the announcement be filed under the heading of useless information. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Official disclosures that German U-boats operated 250 miles up the St. Lawrence River may cause some embarrassment on the part of some Canadians who figured there was no danger from that direction. But the revelation is not likely to teach them an effective lesson, because such folk rarely reflect. —Brantford Expositor.

Tying a knot in the tail of the Russian bear, as suggested by some, wouldn't be easy. And if you think it would, you don't know bears. Neither did we, but an old b'ar hunter put us right on this. "Their tail is so short," said he, "that even a Boy Scouting expert couldn't tie a knot in one." And you know very well that any knot a Boy Scout cannot knot is not knotable. —New Glasgow Chronicle.

President Truman's auditors have informed him, after a check of White House accounts, that his net income at the end of his first year as President will be approximately $4,200—out of a gross salary of $75,000— after paying taxes, insurance and items of White House expense not covered by Government voucher. Congressional leaders have been informed of the auditor's report and a move may be made to provide more liberal presidential compensation. —Newsweek.

Our new liquor law has not been designed to make more liquor available to visitors, though it will naturally have that effect. The avowed aim of the Government is to put the dispensation of alcoholic beverages on a more solid basis and to make control more effective. That can be achieved only by proceeding with due deliberation during this important base period. If the choice is between a little waiting and wrecking the whole system, we can afford to possess our souls in patience. —Windsor Star.

The cabled order from Moscow which transferred $1,728,000 to the credit of the United Nations in the New York Federal Reserve Bank is regarded by many observers as virtually proof that Russia has no intention of bolting the United Nations. These observers couple the latest Russian action with Prime Minister Stalin's statements regarding his country's attitude toward U. N. O. and find the outlook more reassuring than it has been at any time since the troublesome Iranian incident was first handed to U. N. O. for solution, over Russian protest. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

Life in this new and strange country can be desperately lonely for an overseas girl who suddenly finds herself removed from her accustomed environment and established in an entirely new one. As these "war brides" are destined, in the great majority of cases, to spend the remainder of their lives in Canada and to be the mothers of Canadian citizens of the future, it ought to be our part to extend to them as warm a welcome as we can give them and to stand beside them during the days of difficulty and trial which probably lie ahead of many of them before they become wholly assimilated. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

Seventeen of the nineteen ministers in the MacKenzie King Cabinet graced the front benches on the opening day of parliament. Each wore a red flower in his lapel. A Press Gallery wag suggested that the reason for the flower was in order that cabinet members could more readily recognize their fellows. The United States still gets along with a cabinet of ten. On the other hand many great banks in that country have more vice-presidents than Mr. King has cabinet colleagues. That fact gave rise to the story of the two strangers who met on the golf course and learned that they were high officers of the same institution. —The Printed Word.

A small-holder of whom I have cognizance has made his neighbor envious by his rare success in egg-production; and has confessed to his secret. It is to keep the hens in a loft over the pigs. The ascending warmth seems to be an irresistible influence! Another farmer has a view of the pig's utility which is capable of a rather wider application. His pigs escaped into an old stackyard that was solid with nettles. The pigs at once proceeded to ruttle up the weeds and to eat the roots with voracity. These tough yellow rots that tend to strain the back of the human excavator were not only completely cleared but fattened the pigs. —London Spectator.

On a less amusing side of Parliamentary proceedings it is evident that the Board of Trade has firmly decided to fasten "downpointing" on us as a new example of official English. Its Parliamentary Secretary replied very sternly, when some rash member had used "depointing." "I cannot be responsible for words used by honorable members in questions. Obviously the word should be downpointing." It does not seem so obvious as all that—except, perhaps, on the principle that anything the Board of Trade says, as well as all the things that it does, must inevitably be right. However, now we know. In the case of clothing coupons, "downpointing" is the only official version; "depointing is a vile and licentious vagary only used by ill-informed private members. As sheer jargon there does not seem to be much to choose between them—except that "downpointing" is longer and looks a shade more uncouth than "depointing."— Manchester Guardian.

We should always remember that the building of the Alaska Highway opened up a vast area of country previously inaccessible and almost unexplored. The resources of this region are still largely unsurveyed, but they may prove to be very substantial. With a good road available, and wartime controls relaxed, we may expect an influx of prospectors, timber-cruisers, and others anxious to "spy out the land." What discoveries they may make no one can now predict. The possibilities of the prairies and of southern British Columbia were not appreciated until the railways opened them to travel and settlement. The Alaska Highway may be destined to play a similar role in the northland.—Edmonton Journal.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

APPRECIATION

Sir,—I should like to express to the teaching staff and students of Prince of Wales College, also to the citizens of Charlottetown, my sincere appreciation of the splendid hospitality shown the girls of Amherst Senior High School, and myself, during our recent visit to your city.

It was a great pleasure to make this trip to Prince of Wales College and I am confident that the Amherst girls will long have enthusiastic memories of Charlottetown and its friendly citizens.

I am, Sir, etc.,
GRAHAM P. HENNESSEY,
Principal
Amherst Senior High School.
Amherst, N.S. April 15.

SEEKS P. E. I. CORRESPONDENTS

Sir,—For a long time I have been wondering how I could get some pen friends in Prince Edward Island. I would like pen-pals of about 19 years, especially in the country, but I would be pleased to hear from anyone. My name is Joan Gifford, and I live on a farm, five miles from our nearest town which is Blenheim. This town is in the north eastern corner of the South Island, situated in the Marlborough Province, and is the centre of a fertile agricultural and pastoral area. The crops we grow are wheat, oats, barley, peas, linen flax and clover. A few miles from here there are a number of apple orchards. I pack apples during the apple season which is in full swing now. When I'm not doing that I'm helping dad with the work, driving the tractor and helping with the sheep. If anyone cares to write to me I will be able to send them pictures of my country and tell them of my life.

Hoping for letters from your Island.

I am, Sir, etc.
JOAN GIFFORD,
P. O. Box 11
Rapaura, Marlborough,
New Zealand.

"T. T.'s" DISCOVERY

Sir,—It is claimed that because of the impetus given to research, by war, many discoveries which might otherwise have remained unknown for centuries have been made available for the benefit of humanity. Many men have become famous by these discoveries, but your correspondent who modestly signs "T. T." may be regarded by posterity as one of the greatest benefactors of mankind.

Medical science has long known that excessive worry is a major factor in the cause and aggravation of many of our current physical and mental diseases. London doctors recorded a tremendous increase in cases of stomach ulcers during the big blitz. Cause: frayed nerves, mental strain, excessive worry.

Now along comes "T. T." with a cure both simple and revolutionary, yet 100 per cent effective. To the layman it may seem a bit unorthodox. But why should that worry him, if it cures his ulcers? "T. T." claims that, "in these times of trials and tribulations" he sees great beauty in, and gets a soothing comfort from gazing into a "can of worms".

It is very difficult at this time to estimate what a far-reaching effect this discovery may have on the future history of nations. Indeed we can well picture "T. T." in the morning when his vitality is at a low ebb, and perhaps the cup of coffee is too hot or too cold and a battle on the home front is impending—hurrying to the refrigerator, seizing his can of worms, and poring over them until the crisis is past. Again when he gets a notice from the income tax inspector, I can see "T. T." taking refuge in his can of worms, just as others might resort to a stamp album. (Indeed this worm hobby may become a national pastime.)

As I said, Sir, there's no telling just what effect this wormy episode may have on the future course of world history. For example: Would the Russian delegate have walked out of the U.N.O. conference had he had a can of worms beside him? Would Premier Jones and Mr. Peter Clark be still at loggerheads had they discussed their differences over a can of worms? Or would Dr. Grant have made that unbecoming outburst in Parliament if he had on his desk his can of worms? Besides the beauty in a can of worms, to soothe frayed nerves, they should of course be a solemn reminder of our frailty and mortality.

Beside preventing stomach ulcers, divorces and wars—worms no doubt will play a large part in the $100,000 beautification scheme in P. E. I. Therefore, to this end I suggest a society be formed with "T. T." as president—its name and purpose to be "Worms Unlimited."

I am, Sir, etc.,
THE EARLY BIRD.

RECONSTRUCTION AND P.E.I.

Sir:—From time to time over the past months letters have been appearing in the press which lay before us, plans for what is termed "reconstruction" in Prince Edward Island. At the outset I wish to make it plain that I am in the greatest possible sympathy with constructive thinking of a reasonable nature. I am not a dyed-in-the-wool conservative for whom all things are as they should be. I, too, see changes which might, and indeed must be made. I, too, want to clear our slums and improve our educational facilities. This point, without further elaboration, should now be clear.

What has got my dander up is the vapourizing about grandiose schemes for mass production of reforms. If there is one thing which needs to be kept in mind, always and constantly in mind, it is this: reforms cost money, the people's—not the Government's—money. It is very simple. It is so simple that it is airily overlooked in far too many cases. By all means let's clean up the slums. But let us ask first: who will pay for the job? The answer is always the same—you and I, brother, you and I. For such a purpose money might be raised by a variety of means. Well and good if it is. So too for education money might be forthcoming if the public is convinced of honest need. But allow me to ask who is going to pay for Brighton Bridge? Can the people of Rocky Point pay for it? You and I, dear reader, both know to our regret that the good people of Rocky Point couldn't pay for the paint to keep it from rusting. Are the citizens of Charlottetown to pay for it? We'll all do exceeding well if we can keep the wolf away for a few years until prices again become reasonable and the Income Tax comes down. Is the Dominion Government to pay for it? Well, suppose it does. Where, once more I ask, does that wonderful body "the Gover'ment" procure its funds? Does anyone seriously think that we are not the Government, and that the Government's money is not our money? Can the Government go to the mint and whip up a batch of currency at will? Ah no, it's a bit more complicated than that.

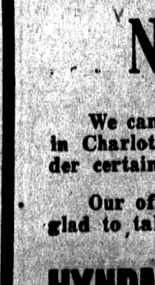
Now I ask you, to cast a candid glance at us here in Prince Edward Island. We think the Island beautiful, and so it is. We like it here, and many of us have done very well indeed here. But what, precisely, is there to justify our claims for bridges, wharves, ferries, and improved railroads? Have we a teeming population which is so vital to the nation that these things must be provided without question? I hate to say it, believe me I do, but I'm afraid we'll have to face the fact that Prince Edward Island is only a very tiny dot on the vast Canadian map. It's no wonder it is now and then left out of that map. Back some 79 years ago an agreement was signed to create an infant nation. Time passed and the nation matured until now she is a long way past infancy. Prince Edward Island has had a part in the growth, but—and here once again I must ask you to face facts—this province's part has been small, very, very small. Whatever the causes of this may be I cannot here discuss them. The fact remains that except for an occasional sack of potatoes or can of lobster or bag of oysters the great Central Provinces where almost all Canadian heavy industry lies simply never hear of us down here. I am not proposing cures. I do not preach or draw morals. I am not attempting to explain. I merely point out that the whole of Prince Edward Island hasn't got the population of the small city of Halifax and that our presumption is something to wonder at when we demand bridges, ferries, and highways. If we can get them, more power to us for having the face to make the demands. But let's not push our luck too far and complain if we can't.

There is much distress over the fact unemployment is becoming acute. It's distressing alright, nobody denies that. Let's hope it ends soon. Here too, however, a question needs asking. Why is it that farms remain vacant because of help shortage when so many young men are in need of jobs? I know—who doesn't—that there's no fortune to be made on a farm. But it's work, honest and decent work, with some things in it that money can't buy. And it's also vital—but that's only by the way, since I as much as anyone else am sick to death of pious sentimentalizing about farm work as the backbone of the nation. I've already asked several questions. Let me ask one more. Isn't even farm work better than idleness? Who knows, the man who tries it might even get to like it. Then too, every day one reads of great need for men in the woods. Sure, this is hard work. Sure, it's rough work. It takes a man away from home, too. But once again, it's a job, and it's an honest, decent job. It could be the making of many a soft Joe being demoralized by idleness.

Charlottetown and the Island as a whole need reforms. Nobody for a moment denies this. But let's not go off the deep end with clay-pipe dreams involving millions. We have to reckon in terms of smaller units, thousands not millions, and we have to spend our reckoning with caution. Let's not take Major Hoople for a model, much as we may like the old loafer. Prince Edward Island is home to us, and we want the best we can get for it. But if we don't take things more easily we may get nothing and lose a lot of money in the bargain. Our famed canniness is something which grew from real need for penny-counting. It is not a native virtue, but a native necessity. Real results can only be achieved in this city and in this province if we make haste slowly with a constantly solicitous eye on the now-strained pocketbook of Mr. John Ordinary Citizen.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JOHN MacEWEN
Charlottetown,
April 14.

When You Feel DULL-HEADED and Down-hearted



—when your head feels heavy and you haven't the heart for work or play—your kidneys may be out of order. An upset kidney condition may result in backache, headaches, rheumatic pains, or disturbed rest—ailments that can make life seem miserable. To help get your kidneys working properly again use Dodd's Kidney Pills. When kidney action improves—your system is cleared of poisons and excess acids. You'll feel better—and work better. Get Dodd's Kidney Pills today. 146

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PERUVIAN PINNACLE

The Andes mountains reach their highest altitude in Peru.

BELFAST —(CP) — Samuel C. Porter, senior crown prosecutor for Belfast, has been appointed lord justice of appeal for Northern Ireland, in succession to the late Lord Justice Murphy.

HENDON, Middlesex, England —(CP)— Two-year-old Martin Brooks was saved by his pet terrier recently when a cockerel attacked and pecked him in the garden of his home.

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