THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1940.

Deficit Financing

At the Souris meeting on Friday night Premier Campbell said that when the Public Accounts for 1939 were tabled it would be found that the Government had not exceeded its estimated deficit of about $80,000 "to any large extent."

Hon. Dr. MacMillan pointed out that this did not tally with the information in financial papers on the occasion of the last provincial loan. He was perfectly correct.

In its issue of Oct. 7, 1939, the *Financial Post*, Toronto, published details of a P. E. I., bond issue of $300,000, dated Oct. 1, which the Campbell Government floated through the Midland Securities Corporation and Dyment Anderson and Company. The purpose of the issue was to repay short-term indebtedness for highway expenditures. The bonds were for seven years, at 3 per cent. The cost to the Province was not revealed. But the *Post* stated, presumably on the authority of the bond houses which were in direct contact with the Government, that "additional funds may be required by the Province in the current year"; *also that the estimated deficit on ordinary account was* $107,000.

Premier Campbell's actual estimate at the last legislative session was $77,785. His estimate at the Souris meeting was "about $80,000." Even this is $27,000 short of the figure given by the Financial Post last October which was accompanied by the ominous warning that additional borrowing might be necessary.

It is all very confusing to the electors. If the Premier's figures are correct, why did he allow the Financial Post statement to go unchallenged? Or does he regard the difference between $80,000 and $107,000 as unimportant?

But for the Financial Post statement, the public would have been completely in the dark as to the Government's bond transactions last October. The issue was not advertised in this Province, and was only partly underwritten, the remainder being taken up on an option basis. It was necessary for the Government to furnish the bond buyers with accurate information as to the financial condition at that time, and it is reasonable to suppose that this was the source of the Post's figures.

But the year had still three months to go when the $107,000 estimated deficit was reported. Three months more of extravagance in the Public Works department would bring the total 1939 deficit up to an even higher figure; and this, of course, is only on ordinary account. What the total liabilities are, only the Premier and his cabinet colleagues and officials know; but it is safe to predict that they will be truly staggering. At the end of 1938 they amounted to $7,038,924. The debt increase in 1938 alone was $1,240,858,—and that was not an election year. The 1939 Public Accounts may well reveal a further debt increase in the vicinity of two million dollars. Where is it going to end if we continue at the same pace for another four or five years? Will not Dr. MacMillan's prediction be then realized, and we shall find practically all our provincial revenue being paid out in interest charges?

Do the electors of First King's want a continuance of this reckless extravagance, which can only mean more and still more taxation, or do they want a strong and vigilant Opposition to keep the already top-heavy Government majority in check?

Already the Dysart Government in New Brunswick, which also made a sorry financial showing last year, has intimated that it is planning higher taxation against which even its own part newspapers are protesting. *The Campbell Government may be preparing to follow suit.* A by-election victory at this time may be just the excuse it is looking for. It is up to the Conservative and prudent Liberal voters of First King's to see that it gets no such encouragement as a result of next Thursday's polling.

Mr. Gardiner's Innuendo

King Government members are proving as unscrupulous in their campaign statements as they have been biased in their war activities. A notable example is to be found in a statement made last week by Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Mr. Crerar stated that the resolution in the Ontario Legislature censuring the Government's war efforts had been used for propaganda purposes by Germany. He said further: "The supposed divisions in Canada were played up. Canada was represented as having been brought into the war by Britain against her will. It can readily be seen what effect this propaganda might have on neutral countries in Europe such as Rumania."

It is, of course, to be expected that Nazi broadcasters will distort facts to suit their purposes. But that is no reason why Mr. Gardiner should do so or even why he should exploit such misstatements for partisan purposes. The Ontario vote of censure, as Mr. Gardiner knows, was directed not against Canada's participation in the war but against the King Government's negligence in prosecuting Canada's war efforts. It was his duty, as a responsible Minister of the Crown, to have made that perfectly clear. If all that Mr. Gardiner meant was that the Ontario vote was being wilfully misinterpreted by Nazi propagandists, his statement, however properly worded, would have had no point because similar misstatements issue from German radio stations every day. What he evidently tried to do was leave the impression that there was something disloyal about the Ontario members' criticism, and inferentially about any criticism directed against the Government at this time. The stand taken by the Chamberlain Government in Great Britain, inviting frank and open criticism in Parliament, is the best answer to such an innuendo.

If indeed we must watch our step and say nothing that might be construed as indicating divided opinion in the eyes of Nazi propagandists, what is one to say of the unprecendented action taken by Prime Minister Mackenzie King in dissolving Parliament and going to the country at this time? What a sweet morsel that will be for enemy broadcasters!

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

The number and amount of Home Improvement loans in Charlottetown as at January 1st were 298, representing $90,949.69.

* * * *

King Charles II died this date 1685. While he was yet alive the Earl of Rochester pinned the following epitaph to his bedroom door:

"Here lies our mutton-eating King,
whose word no man relies on,
Who never said a foolish thing
Nor ever did a wise one."

To which Charles replied: "That is very true: for my words are my own, my actions are my ministers'."

* * * *

What sort of responsible Government have we when Revenue Minister Ilsley, commenting on a Victoria report stating B. C. copper was going to Russia via Tacoma, said: "This is the first I've heard of it and if it is brought to the attention of the Government it will be investigated." Yet the mine's officials themselves declare that the B. C. copper is being shipped in large quantities to Russia via Tacoma, Wash.

* * * *

Dr. Charles H. Herty ,the scientist who first discovered the practicability of converting second growth pine of the southern States into newsprint, at the time told the American Chemical Society that it was an essential part of his dream that the South's fast-growing forests should be cut on a "crop" basis so as to provide a continuous and permanent source of income to the region. To demonstrate how forests should be tended, Georgia has dedicated two model forests to Dr. Herty's memory. In addition, funds are being raised for a Herty Forest Institute that would contain a museum, a library and the headquarters for an educational program in forestry.

* * * *

A Liberal writing to the Montreal Gazette has this to say: "Irrespective of our party we should be big enough to admit if we do not feel that we have the right man in the right place. Our country needs the best brains it can muster to work in close co-operation for its ultimate security. A National Government is what we require—with partizan differences laid aside for the more important and most serious business at hand. The fate of Canada's administration is again in the hands of the people. Let us consider it wisely —we cannot afford to be bigoted—there is too much at stake to be blind supporters of the wrong leaders because they happen to belong to our party, and remember! to be forewarned is to be forearmed!" Straws show how the wind blows.

* * * *

Here is what the Ottawa Journal has to say about radio campaigning. "Mr. King, we fear greatly, puts too much trust in the 'coverage' of radio. It is a common mistake. Public men especially seem to believe that if they go on the radio people all over the country will sit at their receiving sets and listen to them eagerly. The actual truth—checked repeatedly—is that except in cases where some world figure has something vital to say about something of vast significance very few people listen to radio speeches. In election time people soon get very fed up with them. In any event, there is no such thing as appointments or 'dates' with radio programs. In other words, people will not remain at home, stay away from the theatre, or from the movies, or from a hockey match, just to hear a speaker on the radio, no matter how important he may be. Indeed, assuming that people do stay at home, there is no guarantee that they listen to any particular radio program, or even listen to the radio at all."

* * * *

The export movement of Canadian butter has followed a more or less erratic course through the years. The amounts exported from Canada were comparatively small until 1918 when shipments increased to nearly 11 million pounds as compared with 4 1-4 million pounds in the previous year. During the period 1915 to 1918, exports averaged a little over 6 1-2 million pounds per year, and the total for the four years represented 7.7 per cent of the factory output. After the war a more pronounced advance was recorded. In 1919 export shipments reached 16 1-2 million pounds; and while a low tide movement was revealed in the two subsequent years, there followed a four-year period (1922 to 1925) in which exports moved up to exceptionally high levels. The average was approximately 21 million pounds annually, and the total exports during these four years represented 12.6 per cent of the creamery butter make. The all-time high was reached in 1925 when 26 1-2 million pounds were shipped from Canadian ports. A sharp reduction occurred in the course of the next twelve months, and a definite slump developed in 1927. From 1927 to 1930 the yearly average was slightly over 1 3-4 million pounds; in the period 1931 to 1934 the average was 4 3-4 million pounds, and from 1935 to 1938 the yearly average was nearly 5 1-4 million pounds. In 1935, the exports of 7 3-4 million pounds were the highest since 1931 when nearly 11 million pounds of butter were shipped out of Canada. In 1938 they fell slightly below four million pounds, but rose in 1939 to 12.3 million pounds.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Irwin Bretz., head of the West Fairview, Pa., municipal council, resigned today because: "I didn't want the job in the first place; every night someone called and wanted a family argument settled or complained about ashes dumped in the street, or dogs fighting. I hadn't an enemy in the world before I took the job; now I must have at least fifty."— Baltimore Sun.

The city of Lethbridge owns in its sinking funds some $187,000 of Alberta bonds — worse luck. When Lethbridge bought these bonds with the taxpayers' money the province was paying $10,100 yearly interest on them. Mr. Aberhart without so much as a "by your leave" slashed the interest to $5,000 a year. Lethbridge citizens are being "gypped" to the tune of $5,000 a year. Yet the Aberhart Government demands the last cent on interest owing it on bonds of Alberta cities held in provincial funds. Yet Mr. Aberhart continues to hold himself up before Albertans as something special in the way of an example in fair dealing. — Lethbridge Herald.

A. E. W. J. writes: In the volume of Kipling's manuscripts that was given to Magdalene College, Cambridge, of which he was an Honorary Fellow, the followng inscription was written in Kipling's **own** hand:

He's the man that wrote The Jungle Books
—likewise The Seven Seas.
He's the man that knows the private soldier's life—
He's the man that gets the credit
—but he owns on bended knees,
He isn't any good without his Wife.

R.K.

The Master of Magdalane will be able to ascertain whether this tribute is still on the first page of the Volume of Manuscripts. It may have been expunged by Mrs. Kipling before the volume was handed over, but in that case there will probably be some evidence of the deletion. — London Times.

It may be perfectly legal to sell wheat to Russia, and it may be that Canadian wheat shipped to Vladivostok will never reach Germany, and it may be that we need to sell wheat badly All this may be so. Russia is a neutral country —at least so far as the law and the present state of affairs go — and it may be that Great Britain does not want to force Russia to declare war on her. In spite of all this, the fact remains that the predominant feeling in Canada today is that the money we get from Russia has blood on it, and we don't want any part of it. Most Canadians will feel that we ought at this moment, to do nothing that will help Russia and if the Government is wise it will take some discreet step which will guarantee that no more of our wheat goes to U.S.S.R. as long as that country behaves as she is doing now.—Winnipeg Free Press.

The same space that would have held 20 women 17 years ago would now hold 21. And if you ship your wife by freight, you should notice quite a little saving. These seemed about the only immediate results of a survey in which the Journal of the American Medical Association said American women have sustained a three-pound shrinkage since the buxom days of 1922-23. The surprising thing about it, the Journal commented, is that the decrease has been widespread, general and uniform. It extends through all types and age groups—old women, young women, tall women, short women, choice, prime, good-to-medium and culls. They all show the same trend and the same results—three to five pounds lighter. The Journal did not attempt to explain it except to say that it may be 17 years of dieting or it may be fashion or health education. — Chicago Daily News.

A traveller for a fancy goods firm walked into a local store the other day wearing a fancy necktie that for brilliance of color and flamboyance of design would be hard to equal elsewhere. The proprietor of the store was not in cheerful humor, but that flaring tie caught his eye and he had to grin. "I don't blame you" said the traveller cheerfully, "but if your wife buys you a Christmas tie, you wear it for love of her, eh?" Soon traveller and merchant were deep in a discussion of wives, Christmas and haberdashery and later on the traveller departed with a comfortable order for goods. A local man who noted the incident happened to meet the traveller that evening. "Excuse me," he said "but I'd like to see the wife that bought that tie." "Blazes!" replied the traveller, "I'm not married, and the only Christmas present I got was from the firm—a book on psychology." — Timmins Advance.

Good stories continue to circulate concerning the bravery, resources, and wit of our sailormen amid their hardships on the seas. But my favorite is still the old exploit of a Tyneside skipper, which the Duke of Windsor, when Prince of Wales, used to relate as it came to him from a friend on H.M.S. Collingwood. Leaving the Tyne on August 3, 1914, with a cargo of coal for Hamburg, the skipper arrived two days later at the mouth of the Elbe, where the German pilot, very pleased with himself, came on board smiling to break the news to the unsuspecting skipper. "Glad to see you, captain," he said, "your coal will come in useful for the High Seas Fleet. War was declared last night!" "You don't say?" replied the skipper. "Well take that, you sausage-eating swine," and down came his telescope with full force on the thick German skull. Round went the ship to the open sea, finding its way safely back to the Tyne, with a sadder and wiser pilot rubbing a sore pate in the charthouse, and regretting that he had so blithely counted the coal before it was unhatched. — Ottawa Journal.

When a G-man gets his man doubtless he likes him to be a really No. 1 specimen of public enemy, just as a hunter would rather shoot moose than rabbits, but J. Edgar Hoover impresses us as giving an exaggerated build-up to his Christian Front plotters. "It took only 23 men to overthrow Russia," said the chief of the F.B.I., ominously. And by the same logic, since 23 were enough for big Russia, then the 17 now in custody should have been an ample number for the United States. This wasn't a nice plot, and it had elements of mortal personal danger, elements inherent in its dumbness. We wouldn't discount it. But Mr. Hoover is using poor judgment to flatter these misguided human absurdities by suggesting the remotest possibility that their plot to overthrow the Government could have gotten to first base. — New York World Telegram.

"To Preserve Freedom And Liberty"

(Judith Robinson in the Globe and Mail)

Extract from Paragraph 21, Defense of Canada Regulations made by Order-in-Council of the Government of Right Hon. W. L. M. King:

"The Minister of Justice, if satisfied that, with a view to preventing any particular person from acting in any manner prejudicial to the public safety or the safety of the State, it is necessary to do so may notwithstanding anything in these regulations make an order:

"(b) Imposing upon him such restrictions as may be specified in respect of his . . . association or communication with other persons or in respect of his activities in relation to the dissemination of news or the propagation of opinions;

"(c) Directing that he be detained in such place and under such conditions as the Minister of Justice may from time to time determine; and any person shall while detained by virtue of an order made under this paragraph be deemed to be in legal custody."

From a news report of Right Hon. W. L. M. King's farewell to Canadian airmen:

"The Prime Minister, evincing emotion, said: 'You will be fighting to preserve the things we value most in life—freedom, liberty of thought, deed and word, all the cherished ideals we hold as dear as life itself. May God bless you and keep you, one and all.'"

All things and paragraph 21 considered, Mr. King should perhaps have left freedom out of the reference. Also God. It seems a little unfair to the Creator of the universe to drag Him into this election.

And another thing. Don't think the freedom that Mr. King, evincing emotion, said members of the Royal Canadian Air Force will be fighting to preserve includes freedom of the air.

True, Canada's gallant airmen can use the air freely for the purpose of fighting to preserve all the cherished ideals that Mr. King holds as dear as life itself. Count them. But the air cannot be used freely for the purpose of discussing any cherished ideals that everybody who is not Mr. King holds. Not in election time it can't. The Canadian Broadcasting Commission says so.

It has just finished saying so upon the subject of co-operation.

Though it is an ideal that many people hold as dear as, if not dearer than, Mr. King's life itself, co-operation cannot be talked on C. B. C. airwaves from now until after the election. An order from C. B. C. headquarters has cancelled the series of talks on cooperation that the Canadian Association for Adult Education was broadcasting weekly over C.B.C. stations throughout Canada.

The series was arranged and the talks started some weeks before Mr. King, evincing emotion, decided that he could best cherish the liberty of thought, deed and word that Canadian citizens are fighting to preserve by scuttling the Canadian Parliament. There were to have been eight talks in all, tracing the growth of co-operation and co-operative movements in Canada, in England, in the Scandinavian countries and in Belgium and France. Experts approved by the C.B.C. had been chosen to make the talks. Four hundred study groups scattered from coast to coast across Canada were following each talk and preparing for the next with study material supplied by the Association for Adult Education.

Rev. Dr. M. M. Coady of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, was to have given the talk next Wednesday. But it's all washed up now. The series is cancelled by the C.B.C. Co-operation is, it seems, too dangerous an ideal to be given the freedom of the air while Mr. King is holding an election.

Or else C.B.C. airwaves are going to be too crowded with important election orators by next Wednesday evening to leave room for any one so unimportant as the director of the Saint Francis Xavier experiment at Antigonish.

From all over the world, economists, agrarians, sociologists and statesmen, men with great names and great reputations, have come to Nova Scotia to hear from Dr. Coady's lips the story of the Antigonish experiment. The co-operative movement that Father Tompkins and Dr. Coady founded among the fishermen and farmers of a poverty-haunted coast is famous wherever, outside Canada, good men seek to build a good life for men and women in the strength of mutual help.

But there will be no room on Canada's air next week for Dr. Coady of Antigonish to talk to the people of his own country of the hope that was born of faith and fulfilled in the resolution and loyalty and commonsense of ordinary Canadians in an ordinary Canadian village.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has cancelled Dr. Coady's talk, together with the rest of the series. Co-operation is not the sort of ideal that the C.B.C. can afford to cherish on Government-controlled airways in election time.

Neither is freedom, it would seem. It's a nice thought for Canada's airmen to take with them, as they go out, one and all, to preserve the things Mr. King values most, and fight for the cherished ideals that Mr. King holds as dear as life itself.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

UNLAWFUL AUDITORS

Sir,—The Act of Incorporation enacts;—Section 30,—"At the first Council meeting in January of each year the Mayor and Members of the said Council SHALL elect, from persons qualified to be Councillors, one or more persons who shall be called Auditor or Auditors of the City of Charlottetown, whose duties shall be AS DEFINED BY THIS ACT, and otherwise as required by the by-laws of the said Corporation . . . Provided always that no member of the said Council, nor the Clerk, nor the Mayor of the said City shall be capable of being elected as Auditor as aforesaid."

This is plain reading, what does it mean? It means that no City official can audit his own accounts. It goes further to declare that he must have the qualification of a City Councillor, also enacts that the Council "Shall," (not may) elect such Auditors "in January of each year." Also it imperatively requires that his duties Shall be as defined by THIS ACT, and not as defined by the Finance Committee, as per "resolution of Council."

And what have we got? No legally appointed auditors for the greater and most important months of the year? Officials, without a Councillors qualification, or stake in the City, but officials appointed without sanction of Statute, to supervise civic accounts, and after compiling the results, one of them appointed as "Auditor" to audit his own accounts. Now who in all creation can doubt the correctness of those accounts which are so impressively "Audited and found correct" by their own creator?

And this is part of the farce, (costing about $15,000.) which electors will be asked to endorse at the Civic Election.

It now looks as if the main objective of the audit was to justify their own existence. The magnum of their report has the appearance of a struggle with bond issues in an effort to tangle a web of uncertainty which might discredit former Mayors under clouds of suspicion.

Amongst those Chief Magistrates a black sheep might have been a possibility, but none of our sensible people will cotton to the fallacy that not one but several of these had placed signatures upon debentures beyond those authorized by statute and votes of the City Council.

With $2,000,000. of these afloat it is not surprising that an odd one or more might not be presented for payment on exact date of maturity, so why when the remnant are shown as paid in subsequent dates, magnify this into "chicanry" or "irregularity?"

Why the "ado" over paid and cancelled coupons and checks, and retired vouchers "not available"? Of what use are they, except as mementoes, when payment is shown by cash books, bank entries and the admissions of those interested in receipt of the money?

Adroitly and timidly these phantom's of attack are placarded as "unrecorded." If unrecorded where did the auditors learn of their existence? Doesn't this fact belie their assumption? If not, then the fact that not 20 per cent of the alleged $69,000. default can be shown as proven, from the face of the report, to the writer it appears as an attempted excuse to give color to failure.

The alleged discounts or assessment reductions appear to have been too trifling in amount to call for tabulation. But to this is added the vague suspicions of further undiscovered amounts, which are no more important than graveyard shadows. Certainly not worth $10,000. on the market for evidence.

And if, by these few trifling discount concessions, it resulted in collection of as many thousands of otherwise uncollectable revenue, even if irregular, wasn't it the best of good business in the end?

I am, Sir etc.,
THIRD CITIZEN.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Sir,—We have been privileged recently, through the columns of your paper, to read various letters in connection with the situation at City Hall. On the street the subject is discussed quite freely.

It seems so easy sometimes, to sit on the spectators' bench and pick out the errors of those playing the game. We are very apt, most of us, when the old machine is not working right, to want to discard it and try a new one. Quite often we find that the new machine, after the glamour and gilt has worn off, has the same potential for trouble as had the old.

Such is the case at City Hall ... the old system, through lack of proper control and guidance, ran aground. Immediately someone shouts "Try something new." "Give us a City Manager".

Would we not be better advised to "hold our horses just a bit", until such time as we are sure that the present system with a proper chance and proper supervision will or will not, suit our needs?

There were some among our present day City Councillors, with sufficient acumen and strength of purpose to dig deep enough and hard enough to discover the canker eating at the heart of our old system, and these same councillors, to their everuasting credit, took immediate and proper steps to eliminate this trouble. Today we have one of the most up-to-date civic administration systems in Canada just beginning to function nicely.

Now the writer, positively, has no axe to grind, nothing whatever to sell. It matters not to him, from a personal point of view, who or what rums the city. But he feels that if we have an ounce of fairness in our makeup, we should recognize the splendid work these council members have done in cleaning up a dirty mess, and the length they have gone to improve and perfect our present system.

This system deserves a chance, and the councillors responsible for it should be given an opportunity, should they so desire, to carry to a successful conclusion the work so well begun.

I am, Sir, etc.,
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The Poets' Corner

THE HILLS OF HEAVEN

I saw the hills of Heaven tonight,
so dark and tender in the sky,
And straight my heart was like a
bird that eager to its home
would fly;
My heart was like a prisoned bird
a prisoned bird so wild and
strange,
Fain would it go by unknown ways
by lonely skyways would it
range—
Past teasing wood where Spring will
rest,
Ah! past all bounds of East, of
West.

And nought would hold it from its
quest or bind it to the dear
green earth—
No memory of wind-swept moor,
no happy dream of fire-warm
hearth,
No rippling-joyous song of lark, nor
salt wind from the sounding
sea.
No memory of what is gone, nor any
hope of what may be.

Tonight I saw the hills of Heaven,
so dark and tender in the sky,
And straight my heart was like a
bird that eager to its home
would fly.

—M. A. Richardson in "Chambers's."

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THE IMPROVED
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