

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN Morning Daily (Founded 1887) President, Lieut.-Col. W. Chester S. McLure Vice President, J. R. Burnett, F.J.I. Secretary, Lieut.-Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D.S.O. Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett, F.J.I. Associate Editor, Frank Walker

That "Sinking Fund" Alibi Our local Liberal apologists are making frantic efforts to account for their failure to implement their "balanced budget" pledges. Their chief alibi seems to be that they had to provide interest and sinking funds on the debt which the Conservatives left on going out of office.

The same argument, of course, applies to every government. The Conservatives were confronted with the same responsibility when the Leas Government was defeated.

This fact was completely ignored by Liberal campaigners in 1935. This is how the issue was presented to the electors in the Patriot newspaper of July 10 of that year:— "The revenue last year on ordinary account amounted to \$1,385,777.31 and for this year and subsequent years will have an additional payment from Ottawa of \$150,000 so that without counting federal contributions under the Relief Act or for other services, there will be available over one and a half million dollars for all purposes.

As the Heburn Government through its Premier has announced it will not support the King Government on its next appeal, but Heburn will vote for Manion, and though he has not said so openly, Duplessis Government adopts the same attitude, the Liberals have slim chances in Ontario and Quebec.

There are just two men we know to be habitual umbrella carries—Prime Minister Chamberlain and one of our Deputy Ministers. But from now on the "brella" is likely to gain in popularity. The first to make full and adequate use of such a protection from the elements was Queen Victoria's uncle, H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge, Commander-in-Chief, who used to review the troops, in inclement weather from under cover of a huge family umbrella—one capable of sheltering two or three at the same time.

Production of cheese by provinces in 1938 with figures for 1937 in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 446,317 pounds (455,986); New Brunswick, 549,392 (597,162); Quebec, 27,308,202 (29,785,199); Ontario, 85,643,767 (92,255,834); Manitoba, 3,301,754 (2,923,873); Saskatchewan, 423,292 (343,449); Alberta, 2,452,904 (1,838,589); and British Columbia, 609,377 (244,245). Consumption of cheese in Canada is less than 3 1-2 pounds per capita but butter consumption is nearly 3 1-4 pounds. That is why most of the Canadian cheddar cheese is marketed overseas while butter is chiefly consumed at home.

Forty per cent of Nova Scotia's revenue is required to pay borrowed money. Yet additional burdens are laid upon the taxpayers as the result of capital estimates totalling \$12,082,098 just tabled in the Nova Scotia Legislature last week. The province will use \$8,584,000 of the sum to retire bond issues maturing this year. Besides that for retirement of bonds, largest single item of expenditure will be \$3,055,097 for highways. Included in this item is \$464,022 for relief. Capital estimates brought down last year totalled \$6,625,427. The province's funded debt at present stands at \$102,666,380, which includes \$14,181,151 borrowed on behalf of the Nova Scotia Power Commission, a self-supporting arm of the government. Subsidies to steamships, motor vessels, ferries and landing services were estimated at \$41,155 for 1939 as compared with \$41,280 in the previous year.

Why All The Secrecy? In the course of discussion in the Legislature last week Hon. Mr. Allen defended the Government's action in withholding right of appeal to the courts in expropriating the National Park area on the ground that it appointed an "independent" commission, whose report had been used "as a guide" in making settlement with the landowners. When Mr. J. V. F. A. Stewart pointed out that the landowners were not represented on this Commission, Mr. Allen argued that the Government had "done better than that" by appointing two farmers to the Commission.

This is a typical example of the specious arguments with which the speeches of Government apologists are embellished. Let us see how much it amounts to. In the first place, the Higgs Commission could scarcely be described as "independent" since it was composed entirely of Government appointees, and Mr. Stewart's objection that the property owners should have been allowed their own representative was perfectly valid. In the second place, the Commission's report has never been published, and the public has no means of ascertaining how far it corresponds with the settlements finally made, which also have been kept secret. There is no legitimate reason why, at the present session, both the settlements and the recommendations of the Commission should not be tabled in the House. The supporters of the Government have a right to demand this information, and their failure to do so can only be ascribed to connivance in the Star Chamber methods which have characterized the whole procedure in this matter.

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Similarly with regard to the land expropriations under the Road Act. The Government appointed Commission "may" fix valuations, but the Government decides whether or not it shall do so, and the public has no information as to how far it has gone in this direction. Here again the only way for the Campbell administration to refute the charge of political favoritism and dictatorship is to table a full report of its land settlements under the Act. Since it has not done so, the obvious conclusion is that the charge is justified.

Editorial Notes Judge Jeffreys died this date, 1689. From now on the voice of the politicians will be heard in the land. Dr. Alan Roy Dafeo of Calender, Ont., is now a "D. L." having had the honorary degree of "Doctor of Letters" conferred upon him by the Dexter Fellows Tent of the Circus Saints and Sinners Club of America, with headquarters at New York.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Musical gloats over the conquest of a nation of 1,008,124 persons taking up only 10,829 square miles of the world and guarded by an army of 812 officers and 13,305 men. What a conquest!—North Bay Nugget.

Gordon Sinclair, back from four months in the Orient, asserts confidently that China has been completely and utterly beaten by Japan, and is very contemptible for the suggestion that there may be a revival of Chinese strength.—Vancouver Province.

The people would be shocked with delight if clean-looking trains again rolled over the right of way of our splendid railroads. Why should the great bus line gratify the craving for attractive passenger vehicles? Who knows, maybe one great reason why so many people do not patronize railroads is the dreary aspect of the passenger coaches. We yearn to have our fine aesthetic taste satisfied by the sight of clean, bright Pullman cars and coaches drawn by shiny locomotives.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The Port Huron Post of the American Legion wishes to join with veterans of Canada in paying honor to the King and Queen. A communication has been received by the Baronia branch of the Canadian Legion to that effect. Whether it will be possible to make such arrangements is not immediately known. It is to be hoped, however, that the method of the Legion is a suggestion and is indicative of the high regard held by the people of the United States for Their Majesties.—Windsor Star.

A few weeks ago we commented on the fact that in a considerable number of instances complaints of fire from houses which are rarely opened, and which, indeed, have no steps leading to them, and wonder was expressed why they were ever built. A rural correspondent now tells us of a farmhouse of ample proportions in the Soperston section which is not only without front steps, but without a door. The reason: The farmer who built it was the father of several attractive daughters, and he wished to keep his eye on them. As he had a kitchen in the kitchen, he could not do so if there was a front door through which the daughters could walk. In the commission, however, he could see with whom the various daughters were "walking out," and, if necessary, question them about it.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

In India and Persia, grow real rose trees, tall enough to shade people. In America grow fine apples. The two belong to the same botanical family, and in Santa Barbara the reverend, cultivist Father Schoener, whose avenue of giant rose trees there is famous, expects that his hybridization of Spangenberg with the "pouter" pear tree seed will presently give the world a fair fruit, that in years to come we shall harvest apples from rose trees. Father Schoener's apples are so reminiscent of roses that even jelly made from them retains that scent—and undoubtedly this is why the roses are so popular in future poetical ages, will spread upon a rice water, at the hour of birdsong and dew; the faint suggestion of just the taste of roses, as they are, New York Herald Tribune.

There may be time—everybody will doubtfully hope to bring the Australian Navy to the high point of strength and efficiency which it is planned to reach in 1941. One of the serious points of the sea; and the fact that we must rely on the Royal Navy to provide the heavier battle fleet required to meet an enemy in strength at sea does not diminish our ability to contribute the maximum force necessary to play our part in those operations, even—though the Government does not provide one battleship, as well as cruisers and lighter craft. Today our cruiser strength is numerically below the standard of 1928, and the number of cruisers in commission; now we have three. There were 12 destroyers then; now there are three. Of course, the comparison must not only be in point of number, but in the building and modernizing program now in progress will place the Navy two or three years hence in a far stronger position than it has been before. Sydney Herald.

Pale blue light proves a fatal lure to the grape vineyard pests in vineyards, as reported by J. K. Ellsworth of the University of California. Females of the species responded most readily to the light, and in large sample catches showed 88 percent, female insects.—Science.

But one Canadian and one English newspaper will be aboard H. M. S. Repulse when the King and Queen sail for Canada. The Canadian might say in the time despatching the Englishman's mind the idea that this is a land of Indians and buffalo—and the Englishman could interrupt now and then to make some observations on what would happen to us without the British Navy.—Windsor Star.

Here is an ingenious little thing to play with in an odd five minutes: Write down your telephone number, double it, add five, multiply by fifty, add this year (1938), add the number of days in a year (365), subtract the year of your birth, subtract the number of M.P.'s (815), and you will find the answer gives you five, your five phone number, and then your age this year.—London New Statesman and Nation.

In the British Isles a car retains the same license plates that are first affixed to it, no matter how old it is or how often it changes hands. The background is black and the letters and numbers white; never different. The plates are longer and the letters and figures much broader so that they are legible a long way. The letters are of durable material, made to last and not to fade. That system may not find approval here, but the plates could well be seen in the notes and numbers and figures larger.—Stratford Beacon Herald.

Public Forum

THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE LEGISLATURE

Sir,—Some regrettable mis-statements have been made in the Legislature about the Law Society which I am glad to see corrected. I would tend to place the Law Society and its Council in a most unfair position before the public. 1. The statement has been made that the Law Society and the legal profession is a close corporation. One member is quoted as having stated: "The Law Society is regarded as a closed corporation."

"It is very strict in admitting members." Another member stated: "Certain young men have applied for admission to the bar, and the attitude of the Law Society looks like an attempt to keep them out in order to prevent more men entering the profession and to keep in the narrow circle of the Society the limited law businesses in this Province." Nothing could be farther from the truth than these statements. The legal profession is open to every member of the public who possesses the proper qualifications to practise law. The Law Society requires of membership an individual person having the necessary qualification who applies for admission to the Bar and is admitted by the Council.

It was the legislature, not the Law Society, which insisted upon such educational requirements, and it was the legislature, not the Law Society, which made the method of which the possession of such qualifications should be ascertained. The method so prescribed will be referred to. The statement has been made that the Law Society improperly precludes from admission to the Bar persons who are qualified to be admitted. One member is quoted as having stated: "Certainly young men of good character and who come of good family, having completed their requirements of the law and who wish to practise in this Province should have a perfect right to do so."

Statements such as these are being made with their implications or express charges against the Law Society, and the claim is made that a Judge of the Supreme Court and not the legislature ought to be the proper tribunal to pass upon the qualifications of persons applying for admission, or that such Judge should at least be constituted a Court of Appeal from the Law Society. It may not be known to members of the Legislature who voted for the Bill that not for well over 20 years ago, indeed, they ever did so—having Judges in this Province conducted the examination of persons who have applied to become members of the Bar. Such examinations have recently been conducted by members of the Bar, not by the Bench. That task and the duty of examining and passing upon the qualifications of applicants for admission, is delegated by the Legislature to a Committee of Barristers. Not within the memory of any person now living, if indeed it was ever done, was an appeal from any action conducted by a Judge.

Never within memory has any complaint been made of the conduct or finding of such Board of Examiners whose lands were taken for a National Park, had their natural and common-law rights invaded. Their property was taken from them. They had a right to justice and to compensation for their lands. They were denied any right of access to a Court of Justice where the Court would hear the evidence on both sides and award such compensation as the evidence showed was proper to be paid. The dispossessed owners were required to take whatever arbitrary amount the dispossessors, the Legislature, or the Government, might allow.

The persons who have applied to the Council of the Law Society for examination as to their fitness to practise, or for exemption from such examination, have never had the right to practise under any law of this Province. No rights have been taken away from them by any action of the Law Society. They had no rights which were invaded, as had the landowners of the National Park. When the Law Society saw fit to adopt regulations prescribing the standard of educational fitness and professional qualifications of those persons who should be admitted to the Bar, they adopted rules which are binding upon every member of the Law Society. They did not, as did the Legislature in the case of the National Park, prescribe rules for others and not for themselves. Every member of the Law Society, every member of the Bar, be he practising or on the Bench, had to submit to these Rules and show his qualifications before being admitted. What the members of the Society have imposed upon themselves, should they waive, when it comes to others? Should others be admitted who may not be qualified

between the two cases. Owners, whose lands were taken for a National Park, had their natural and common-law rights invaded. Their property was taken from them. They had a right to justice and to compensation for their lands. They were denied any right of access to a Court of Justice where the Court would hear the evidence on both sides and award such compensation as the evidence showed was proper to be paid. The dispossessed owners were required to take whatever arbitrary amount the dispossessors, the Legislature, or the Government, might allow.

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THOSE CHANGING LAWS Sir,—The citizen is compelled, by law, to obey all laws, whether he knows them or not. Mr. Bentley pointed to hasty, immature, consolidations. A bill is passed to "repeal certain Acts therein mentioned". Apparently some hundreds of changes have been amended and consolidated. What does the great mass of the people, those compelled to obey, know of these statutes? No synopsis of changes has been published in the press, presumably too extensive, and probably too complicated for the limits of our press. But how about the citizen who is liable to get a rip when he least expects it? In taxation acts he will likely learn when the increased tax bill reaches him, for it is a safe game that where revenue is concerned the amendments will be scheduled to dip nearer the bottom of the taxpayer's pocket. Then, what a stupendous task is being imposed upon the Income Tax Commission! Government to wade through those stacks of jumbled-up chaos of laws to restore them to their original shape and to make them usable and recognizable shape and what a harvest of fines the treasury may reap from convictions for violations of laws, the secrets of

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