

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1939

Mr. Jones' Resolution

It is significant that the Dairymen's Association has passed a resolution petitioning the Dominion Government to adopt some scheme by bonus or otherwise, that would stimulate greater production of cheese and thus relieve the surplus butter problem, and that one of our Liberal legislative members, Mr. J. Walter Jones, was sponsor and mover of the resolution.

It will be recalled that in 1935 his was the policy pursued by the Bennett Government, \$1,000,000 being placed in the Estimates for the year for the purpose of paying a bonus of 1-1-4 to 1-1-2 cents a pound, through the cheese factories direct to the farmers, from the 1st of July to the 1st of January, 1936.

The measure passed, but not without bitter opposition from Liberal members. Hon. W. D. Euler, present Minister of Trade and Commerce, argued: "In their ignorance the farmers are producing too much butter. By the temptation of a bonus you are going to get them to produce more cheese. What argument is there against the application of this principle to any other production, I do not care what it is?"

Hon. Fernand Rinfret, present Secretary of State, denounced the Government for spending money in this "very irresponsible manner," and said all that was needed to solve the problem was "good tariff conditions and good government." Mr. W. A. Fraser (Liberal, Northumberland) declared that "if there was ever an instance of pork barrel rolling, it is this vote of \$1,000,000." Mr. E. J. Young (Liberal, Weyburn) urged the Minister "to abandon this policy at once and get back to the point where all our prices will be based on the prices of export commodities."

Mr. J. F. Pouliot (Liberal, Temiscouata) suggested that the vote be reduced by \$775,000, as he believed all that was necessary was for the Government "to advise the people to eat more cheese."

The debate extended over some twenty-five pages of Hansard. Not one Liberal voice was raised in favor of the bonus, though its purpose and necessity were fully explained by Agricultural Minister Weir, and also by Mr. John H. Myers, who stressed the need of compensating the farmer for the loss of skim milk by-products, as a means of diverting production from butter to cheese, for which there was a good market in the Old Country.

The effect of the Conservative bonus proved beneficial but unfortunately it was discontinued after the change of government at Ottawa.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Jones, with the influence he has with our Federal Finance Minister and through him with the rest of the King Cabinet, will be able to persuade the powers that be at Ottawa that the Conservative policy which they opposed in 1935 is one which should be restored in the interests of our dairy producers. Last year's enormous butter surplus, added to the millions of pounds which were permitted to be imported from Australia and New Zealand, had a ruinous effect on prices, and unless something is done to relieve the situation, the backbone of our farm industry will receive a blow from which it may take years to recover.

An Expensive Minister

Agricultural Minister Gardiner's \$48,000,000 wheat pegging policy, which he admitted in Parliament to have been a "mistake," is much the largest, but by no means the only extravagance, this Saskatchewan member of the King Government incurred since taking office in 1936. Some of the political expenditures made in Mr. Gardiner's department are reviewed by the Ottawa correspondent of the Globe and Mail. They make interesting reading for our farmers in this section of Canada, who have received little or no benefits therefrom.

In 1935, it is pointed out, Federal Department of Agriculture expenditures amounted to \$7,106,534. In 1938 they amounted to \$33,204,291. Some \$20,000,000 of this was spent in "handouts," in the shape of drought relief and feed to the prairie provinces.

In addition, subdepartments have been built up creating new jobs to be filled by patronage appointments. Services that have been established duplicated work done by other departments. There has even been overlapping of existing services in the Agricultural department itself.

For example, a trained staff of Trade Commissioners under the Department of Trade and Commerce is stationed at posts throughout Great Britain. Their job is to direct the marketing of Canadian products, a job which they have done efficiently under both party governments.

Under Mr. Gardiner, the Department of Agriculture has been sending its own men into the field at an added cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Minister shows a marked partiality for Saskatchewan appointees. Salaries in his department in Ottawa alone have risen from \$716,313 in 1935 to \$926,339 in 1938. Travelling expenses are more than \$300,000 a year.

Before 1936, when Mr. Gardiner took office, the Department of Agriculture carried on internal marketing services attached to each branch. Their costs ran to approximately \$1,500,000 a year. Mr. Gardiner created a marketing sub-department and appointed Dean A. M. Shaw, Saskatchewan university professor, as director—at a salary of \$8,500 a year.

No centralization of other departments under the new service followed; no saving in the

former expenditure of \$1,500,000. Professor Shaw went to England, took a staff of fourteen men with him, and submitted a voluminous report. It recommended establishment of an extensive agricultural marketing service duplicating that of the Trade Department. The report (published of course at the taxpayers' expense) was later suppressed, and a garbled edition substituted. Today, it is claimed, Mr. Gardiner's officials in England are not only duplicating, but hampering the work of Canadian Trade Commissioners.

Professor Shaw was appointed in January, 1937. For the fiscal year ending March, 1937, his new sub-department cost \$111,128. During the next year the expenditure was \$305,021.

Total salaries of the unnecessary marketing assistance branch last year were \$25,521. Total travelling expenses amounted to \$29,447. Mr. Shaw's own travelling expenses for the year were \$3,110. His assistant, H. S. Arkell, receives a salary of \$6,000 a year. His travelling expenses in 1938 were \$5,148. Mr. Arkell was sent to South America, where the Trade and Commerce Department has Commissioners stationed who report periodically on marketing possibilities for all Canadian products.

Expenditures under Mr. Gardiner's Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act for 1938 amounted to \$1,857,425. So far Ottawa is depending chiefly on rumor for its information on the operation of this act. But the rumors are almost unanimous in speaking of patronage and political juggling.

If our farmers were getting the value of these huge expenditure increases, there would be no complaint. Indeed, there are many ways in which money could profitably be expended for development of agriculture. But duplication of services for partisan purposes is not one of them. These items must be added to the deficit side of the ledger, to be paid in sales and other taxes by our farmers, who themselves, it will be recalled, were unable to get any assistance whatever from Ottawa last year, to help them meet the serious seed grain shortage which occurred in this Island Province.

Editorial Notes

Thomas Moore, "Of in the stilly night," died this date 1852.

The farmers now return to their labours having "repaired" their organizations for another year.

There comes a time in Rugged when a player puts his heel in the ground. Chamberlain has now done that.

The latest danger in the world is the hidden or secret broadcaster which spreads false news and enemy propaganda. Who is going to invent an anti-broadcaster "gun"?

Liberal politicians are at sixes and sevens both provincially and federally throughout Canada. And it was Mr. Mackenzie King's declared policy to unify them.

Calm and peaceful here, both as regards weather and controversy, has been the week just concluded. Not so elsewhere, both man and the elements having been in eruption.

Pity the poor lot of Amherst! First Montreal envied and "stole" her prosperous car industry; and now Halifax, her own provincial capital, wants to "steal" her Winter Fair. When sister cities behave like that, what can be expected of competing European nations?

Speaker Casgrain of the House of Commons, is not a partisan, of course, oh, no, no! but he is Grit enough to stop another Grit who essays to proclaim the doom of the Government at next election.

The genial Minister of Agriculture, Hon. W. H. Dennis, is being welcomed back after his "picnic" to Ottawa. Unfortunately for him unlike that of his colleague, the Minister of Public Works the period was not spent in galivanting and sight seeing, but in Hospital, where he was laid up for repairs.

Discovery that excessive doses of vitamin B-1, the nerve tonic, change the instincts of rats, making them cannibals without mother-love is announced in Science. The experiments, indicate there is nothing dangerous in the vitamin itself, but reveal that it needs, at least in rats, to mix with some kind of metal in order to be beneficially useful. The report was made by Dr. David Perla, of the laboratory division, Montefiore Hospital, New York City. He fed rats 15 to 20 times more vitamin B-1 than they needed. They lost their mother-love instinct, failed to give milk and became cannibals on other rats. Perhaps that is as good a way as could be devised of getting rid of the obnoxious rodents. But the significance of the discovery is that some cases of seeming malnutrition among persons receiving normal B-1 in food may be explained by insufficient metals in the body to enable the vitamin to work. Manganese is available to human beings so widely that it is difficult to escape. Some water supplies are rich in manganese, others have none. But both plant and animal foods may contain the metal.

Evidently some one has been blowing the horn of the Minister of Defence in London, for this is a news item sent out from there: "One of the Canadian Ministers who will be in attendance upon the King during the Royal tour of Canada will be a North-east man and former officer in the Seaforth Highlanders. He is Captain Ian A. MacKinnon, Canadian Minister of Defence. He was born in Assynt, Sutherland, in 1890, and educated at Kingussie and at Edinburgh University, where he graduated in Law before emigrating to British Columbia. War-time Seaforths will probably recall Captain MacKinnon, for he took part in heavy fighting at Ypres, Kemmel, and the Somme, and was later Staff Captain to the Headquarters staff of General J. W. Stewart. In Canada he is the most popular of the younger politicians, and is freely spoken of as a likely future leader of the Liberal Party." Is it any wonder the Prime Minister persuaded the Minister of Justice to allow himself to be boosted as the "white hope" of the doomed Laissez faire party?

NOTES BY THE WAY

With all of our taxes, we still take in only half of what we spend. Anybody who can't see where that leads has no right to be loose. —Buffalo News.

News comes that Ireland has officially recognized Franco's government in Spain. Well, when the Irish say a fight's finished, the chances are it's finished. —Christian Science Monitor.

The claim is made that loyalists in Spain are going to keep on fighting until they are assured of "lasting peace," in that process we are certain many of them will find it. —Peterborough Examiner.

We are re-arming not because of any certainty that war is coming or that war is not coming, but because the reasons for fearing that war will come have visibly increased in the eyes of all intelligent men. —London Telegraph-Post.

Siegbells were once the symbolic sound of winter on this continent. They seem to be losing such distinction to another wintery sound which is taking their place: the sound of automobiles with broken chains. —Halifax Chronicle.

A business which, possibly, is very little known, in eastern Canada at any rate, is the sale of salted salmon eggs, for the most part to the markets of the Far East. British Columbia is the chief centre of operations where the eggs from the salmon are collected, salted and packed. —Eastern Chronicle.

The new navies have arisen from the graves of the old. Whether there is more likelihood of their ever being brought to a decisive action than there was with the old ones, the chance that they will find themselves at war means being delving too deep into the chills of 1914 joins hands with a 1939 or 1940, so much the same, only far worse. —New York Herald Tribune.

While we are at great and increasing pains to ship only quality produce to export markets, we overlook the fact that the equally important home market is just as much entitled to receive the best that we can grow or raise. There ought to be just as much emphasis on quality in the home market as in the foreign market. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

Celebrity Service, recently organized in New York City, panders to the desire of people to hobnob with the prominent. At a price, this strange service will send daily bulletins on the comings and doings of the great and near-great. True, it does not have the particular restaurant may be assured that somewhere in the same restaurant will be dining Robert Taylor or perhaps even Charlie McCarthy. —Kitchener Record.

Revision of the itinerary for the Royal tour to include a stop at Brandon—this is the suggestion of the Government to be under consideration—is an act of simple justice already overdue. It is to be hoped that the stop will be made long enough to permit the Majesties to drive through the streets of the Wheat City. How Western Manitoba could have been ignored in the original itinerary is a mystery. When deep-seated when the number of stops allotted other Provinces are considered, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island are the only two Provinces that were not paying their Majesties under the present itinerary. —Winnipeg Tribune.

The proposal that the federal government will share fifty-fifty with the provinces for the relief of transients, if adopted, will take care of a class of the unemployed who are in a most unfortunate position, and will relieve the municipalities of a problem with which they should never have been faced. The suggestion that the federal government should assume the total cost of caring for transients, since it is the failure of Ottawa policies which has sent the transients wandering from province to province in search either of work or of better relief than they can get at home, is even more so can be no logical device for charging any province for the relief of transients who are not ordinarily residents in it. —Toronto Telegram.

In Communist Russia those who get in the bad graces of the Soviet authorities are either shot or sent to Siberia. In Nazi Germany they are put in concentration camps. In Fascist Italy it is equally unhealthy to do anything but cheer the totalitarian state. And now we have General Franco, on the verge of complete victory in Spain, who has decided to follow these examples. The decree has an ominous tone. It not only indicates that the victor is not prepared to let bygones be bygones, but it indicates that the country by consent rather than by compulsion in post-war days, but that he will govern by the same tactics the communists have in Russia and the Nazis in Germany. If this is any criterion by which his future policies may be judged, it will be a "decree rule" for Spain, persons daring to oppose the authorities being persecuted, and the people having no voice in the administration. And some Spaniards will not be allowed to live in their own country, not even in detention camps. The picture is not a happy one. —Windsor Star.

An unsuspected accomplishment to Batchawana Bill's has just come to light. Bill can wiggle his ears. But the basis he only does it in cold weather to keep up circulation and to keep his ears from freezing. —Sault Ste. Marie Star.

Starely is getting notoriety because it has named a lady major, and a very competent lady she appears to be. It wouldn't be fair, however, if this unusual occurrence were allowed to overshadow the fine record of Alex Allan, who has just retired from the office. He took hold of the town when the obnoxious rum running over \$15,000 and he leaves it out of debt. That shows what a levelheaded business man can do when he takes hold of municipal affairs. The more we have of running things in Alberta, the higher will be the credit and reputation of the province. —Lethbridge Herald.

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.

MR. JAY'S REPLY

Sir—Allow me space in your valuable column to congratulate Mr. L. P. Parson on his wonderful and enlightening description of the word "Jay," wherein he has described it as a bird of a crow-like nature. I am pleased to note however that he has not associated it with a creature cursed with the mark of the beast.

I am, Sir, etc DANIEL R. JAY.

REPLY TO MR. TANTON

Sir—In perusing the Forum Columns of Feb. 23rd issue of your paper I note with disgust a conglomeration of words and thoughts your correspondent Mr. L. P. Tanton has tried to put together. Although I was aware Mr. Tanton was advanced in years I did not know that he was in such a state of mental derangement. His writings merit more pity than laughter. His attacks on Dr. Grant are as uncalculated for as his attacks on the milk vendors' bill, and I note with pleasure that a correspondent has seen fit to endorse the Doctor's suggestion of a cover front for the album, which our friend in his pipe dreams has proposed to pre-

pare. In his correspondence with Mr. Daniel R. Jay of Walsloe he brings to mind the words of the beloved poet, Oliver Goldsmith in his poem on the village teacher. He says: "In arguing to the Parson owned his skill, for e'en though vanquished he could argue still."

I would like to bring to his mind at this point: "Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones." So for his own benefit he should not delving too deep into the traits and derivations of names, etc, as he has done with Mr. Jay. He may as he was in his trip to Eden become bewildered. "A little comedy now and then," says our dotting scribe. "Is relished by the wisest men." I note he did not relish it.

As a writer his death knell has been rung. I am, Sir, etc. LEM MACKINNON, Highfield.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Sir—The Provincial Legislature will soon be in session and I think it would be well for the citizens of this Province to advise their respective representatives regarding compensation to injured workmen. The Act is operated with splendid results in all other provinces of the Dominion. These provinces would not under any circumstances consent to have the Act repealed. Why should our Province stand alone as being opposed to legislation that has proven to be the most successful access such a splendid assurance to the workers in every other province and in every other nation? Away over in Szechwan, China, Japan and all those European countries where the Workmen's Compensation Act has been operated for years and it has never been repealed.

The management of the new airport outside Charlottetown under the New Brunswick Act last summer and the injured employees received the medical and surgical attendance as well as prompt remittance of compensation payments. The different companies were building roads in our Province last year were paying large sums to insurance companies for the protection of the workers in case of accident. Several of our grand business firms have their employees covered with a blanket insurance. The Island branch of the C. N. R. pay thousands of dollars each year under the New Brunswick Act. The Dominion Government have all their employees under some form of compensation operated through the Act. Why should we not have our own act and have all this money in our own compensation treasury and every working man and woman to benefit under the Act.

The money that builds up the compensation fund comes from employers and their employees and none of those paying in are hard hit. The firms paying to insurance companies would not be assessed nearly as much by workmen's compensation and the benefits to the injured workmen would be much better. Several circulars were mailed to the different industries in this province last year and they responded generously by requesting the Government to have the Act put on the statutes of this province.

The Laborer's Protective Union of Charlottetown spent large sums of money last year and in other parts of the province in connection with this province. A committee from that organization had a modern Act drafted last year and presented it to the Government. All the members of the Legislature received a copy of the act as well as several business men and

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members of the Board of Trade. They now have had a full year to study the question and should be able to speak intelligently on the subject. We would be much pleased to hear of the institutes and study groups taking this subject before their meetings for consideration. The Act will not be any burden to the farmers of this province as it provides that the farmer is free to come under the Act or not as he thinks fit. A provision can be made to admit the farmer on his own application.

L. P. U Workmen's Compensation Committee. D. C. C. CHAIRMAN.

"WHY DO I VOTE?"

Sir—I wonder how many of your readers have ever honestly asked themselves the question suggested by the title of this letter. I feel that, if answers could be given they would be many and varied. However I am about to point out the reason—as I see it—why the ordinary citizen votes.

As most readers are aware, this system of voting is by no means a new one, but has been in existence for a long time. The chief purpose in the procedure is to express either openly or by a secret means one's wishes which will put into authority a certain individual or inaugurate a certain system. Of course it is generally assumed that when the votes are counted, the majority of the voters are represented, and consequently the best man or the best system has been elected.

In Canada today, those of voting age can be placed into four principal groups. They are as follows: First the "party voter," second the "job seeker," third the "bought voter," and fourth the "indifferent voter." It may be suggested by some that a great many other types could be found or that different classifications could be made. I shall attempt, however, to point out what I mean by each type referred to above.

The first is the man who votes for "his" party, and will continue to vote for it, just because his ancestors of the last two centuries have done so. He has no thought, particularly about the candidate for whom he is voting, or the general platform of the party. He votes for a name. It is plain to see that this individual, although I do not discredit his sincerity in doing so, is depriving himself of

the inheritance so dearly bought for him by his forefathers in the long hard struggle to gain Republican Government. Surely no man can say that he has "government of the people, for the people, and by the people" when he allows himself to be influenced by traditions of the past, rather than to weigh well his decision before making the step which eventually decides the destiny of his country.

The next class is becoming far too common for me to dwell with any length, but I would say in passing that he is, by his action, doing something which is detrimental, not only to his country but to the politician and himself as well. If he does not get the position he hoped to get before election he is a continual source of annoyance to the elected member who if left alone would be able to devote more of his time to worthwhile affairs; and is not that what he was elected for? If this voter gets the job, he is "riding high"

(Continued on page 13, Col B)

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