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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, FEB. 16, 1950

Federal Budgeting

When Finance Minister Abbott brought
down his budget for the year 1949-50, he
estimated that the expenditure of Canada
for the twelve months would be \$2460 mil-
lion. Now, with less than two months of
the fiscal year to go, it is expected there will
be a surplus of \$90 millions or so.

Ninety millions is not much of a sur-
plus to come and go on in a budget which
approaches two and a half billions. Next
year the demands on the government are
likely to be greater. More money will be
needed for defence and more for social ser-
vices and there seems little prospect of
economies in other departments sufficiently
large to meet the excess.

Next year, then, Mr. Abbott will prob-
ably have to find more revenue or budget
for a deficit. Budgeting for a deficit is re-
garded as good finance in wartime or in
times of emergency. But it is poor busi-
ness in times of prosperity. If a govern-
ment can't meet its bills when production
is high and times good, when can it be ex-
pected to meet them?

If not a deficit, then there must be a
change in the tax structure—either higher
taxes or new taxes. Higher taxes would
not be popular. The income tax, though
the fairest tax we have, because it is based
on ability to pay, is distinctly unpopular
and Mr. Abbott won a lot of kudos, not long
ago, by adjusting it so as to throw some
750,000 names off the tax rolls. He is
said to have no present intention of bring-
ing any of these back. He will, therefore,
have to look about for new taxes.

Nuisance taxes would not be popular,
just because they are nuisances and in any
case we have too many of them, now. But
a tax well hidden might not raise a storm.
The trouble with hidden taxes, however, is
that they are not likely to be equitable.
They do not take account of ability to pay.

It has been noted in recent reports
from Ottawa that 75 per cent of Canada's
expenditure is now practically uncontroll-
able. This, in a democracy, shows an un-
happy trend. It is through its hold on the
purse strings that Parliament, and through
Parliament the public, exercises control
over the government. Gradually, it is ap-
parent, we have been losing that control.

Teaching Citizenship

A leading article in the Toronto Globe
and Mail discusses the problem of teaching
citizenship in our schools and, in particular,
deplores the fact that we in Canada are
very weak in "motives which arise from
deep inner impulse of patriotism." Nothing
could be further from the truth. There is
no doubt that Canadians do not concentrate
their patriotic emotions on one focus, as
Americans do on "Old Glory" and English-
men, to a lesser degree on the person of the
King. We do, however, have our own more
complex patriotism, as befits a federal state,
two great peoples, members of a far-flung
commonwealth of free and sovereign states
and link between the Old World and the
New. Canadian loyalties are not simple but
they produce good citizens, not merely of
Canada but of the world.

Immigration Action Needed

The Australian Government has just
announced a minimum goal of 100,000 British
immigrants for 1950. At the same
time the United States, under a bill before
Congress, is preparing to step up its absorp-
tion of Displaced Persons. But while Aus-
tralia's immigration figures are going up,
Canada's have gone down, after entering the
postwar period under favorable auspices.
For the more than 51,000 British immi-
grants in 1946, including a large number
of wives and families of returned servicemen,
we fell to around 24,000 last year,
about half the 1948 figure. For 1950, no
goal whatever has been announced.

Again, if we compare total postwar im-
migration from all sources with the past,
Canada has slipped badly in proportion.
The four corresponding years following the
First World War were about 40,000 ahead
of the 1946-49 influx. The later years of
the 1920's mostly ran over 100,000 immi-
grants annually, and as high as 166,000.
Yet those were not our best years. If we
go back a little further, we find 400,000
immigrants in 1913 alone—more than our
total for the last four years. Compared with
current showings, those were truly fabulous
times. Yet then this country had not nearly
the facilities for successful absorption of
newcomers that it now has. Nor, in those
times, did Western World security rely to
nearly such an extent on the productive
ability of Canada as it does today.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Opening of the second session of the 21st
Parliament. Unlike Britain which is in the
midst of electioneering smoke, Canada will
hear discussed the issues which immediately
and vitally affect her at home and abroad.

If the City Council undertakes a revision
of civic voting qualifications, an important
group who should receive the franchise is
the wives of taxpayers who do not happen
to own property.

Agriculture Minister Gardiner's criticism
of unidentified "people who are making it
difficult for Canada to distribute food sur-
pluses to areas where they are needed" is
a far cry from his earlier claims to all the
credit for insatiable markets.

Judge brother squashes Senator brother.
In Vancouver Supreme Court Chief Justice
Wendell Farris told his brother, Senator J.
W. Farris, K.C., that if he disobeyed his rul-
ing in a case he was trying "I will commit
you for contempt." The Senator then sub-
mitted to the Chief Justice's ruling.

Britain's Director of Naval Intelligence
was not shot at from a passing car, but
small stones were thrown through his car
window by its speeding wheels. The fact
that he, and almost everyone else, believed
they were shots is a sad commentary on the
mental state of once peaceful England.

The Charlottetown Community Concert
Association begins its 1950-51 Membership
Campaign next Monday. It is through these
membership fees that the Association is able
to bring to Charlottetown musical concerts
comparable to the best presented in larger
musical centres.

The Fall of Singapore this date 1942,
after a week's fierce fighting. Terms were
signed by the British and Jap leaders. A
considerable part of the British and Aus-
tralian garrison got away in transports
which were constantly bombed by the
enemy. The enemy claimed to have taken
60,000 Imperial troops prisoners, many of
whom died in Jap prison camps.

Premier Jones may have shown consid-
erable prudence in not proclaiming the
financial responsibility provisions of the Motor
Vehicle Act. Manitoba introduced somewhat
similar legislation Dec. 1, 1945, and there
have been 80 per cent more accidents, 90
per cent more vehicles involved, 30 per cent
more people killed and 23 per cent more in-
jured in 1949 than in 1946. The ratios would
be even higher compared with previous
years.

It is interesting and instructive to note
that George Bernard Shaw, F.J.L., at over
ninety-three is still actively interested in
journalism. The London District of the In-
stitute of Journalists at its annual meeting
recommended that the fellowship of the In-
stitute of Journalists should be offered to
Mr. Bernard Shaw. In answer Mr. Shaw
wrote:—"At 93½ I shall be pleased to ac-
cept—providing it does not entail any extra
duties."

The great expansion of Canadian indus-
try in the last quarter century, and not-
ably in the last decade, says Mr. S. W.
Wedd, President of the Canadian Bank of
Commerce, is a tribute to the enterprise
of Canadian citizens. It is estimated that
in the last ten years manufacturing capacity
in Canada has increased by about 60 per
cent while the gross value of Canadian
manufacturing production per head of popu-
lation has risen from about 250 dollars per
head in the 1926-29 period to the present
value of about 750 dollars. In all, there now
are approximately 33,000 manufacturing
establishments operating in Canada produc-
ing goods to a value of over 10 billion dollars
yearly.

Decline in McGill University enrolment
this year is attributed to the exodus of war-
veteran students. Enrolment dropped by
333 from last year and totals 7,907 for
1949-50. In its announcement of student
registration the university noted its loss of
students was almost wholly in the degree
courses. Arts faculty divisions remain at
the same level as last year. Science lost
202 students and its first year entry was
almost cut in half. This was accountable
in part to the fact that 128 pre-engineering
students who would formerly have entered
first year science had enrolled under new
regulations in first year engineering. Total
enrolment in engineering was only 32 stu-
dents less than last year. Commerce took
a severe drop in enrolment from 799 to
636. Medicine accepted 11 fewer applic-
ants. Law enrolment dropped from 219
to 181. Agriculture dropped by 47. Gradu-
ate studies rose by 124 to an all-time high
of 746. This was considered to reflect the
desire of veterans to continue their stud-
ies on the higher levels under DVA as-
sistance.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the
discussion by correspondents
of questions of interest. The
Guardian does not necessar-
ily endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

THE FERRY ROAD

Sir, — At present considerable
part of the passenger car and
light truck traffic on the Borden
Road via Bonshaw is travelling
the direct route from Cornwall by
the Ferry Road and Nature's
Bridge at Bognion.

I would suggest that others do
likewise and thus fully realize
the mistake the Government will
perpetrate against this and many
future generations if they per-
sist in having the new bridge
built at the Beach Grove location,
causing the Trans-Canada High-
way to go by that indirect route
instead of by the Ferry Road and
a bridge in the Brighton vicinity.

I am, Sir, etc.,
WEST RIVER

EGG FLOOR PRICES

Sir, — In a recent issue of The
Guardian I read: "The Cabinet,
after a month's consideration, has
approved the principle of a guar-
anteed floor price for eggs." Those
men in the Cabinet are exception-
ally able, or they would not be
there; but it took them a whole
month to decide to put a floor
price under eggs. I am sure, if the
roosters of this Province hear of
this new move up in Ottawa, they
will do more crowing than they
daily do at 5 o'clock in the morn-
ing. It would have been most in-
teresting to have listened in on
the discussions of those able men,
unless, indeed, the sessions were
held behind closed doors.

I remember when eggs sold at
eight cents a dozen, but, of course,
in those (far off) days every cent
counted. Today a cent isn't any
good except to buy a sucker and
all those years till now the price
of eggs has been jumping back and
forth between eight cents and 50.
The farmer knew what he had to
pay for his "lay" and he knew,
but better to face the difficulties
than allow the farmer to suffer as
he and his family have so often
suffered for many years past.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. I. GREEN
Murray Harbour.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MENDACIOUS SCRIBES

"We were disposed to censure
the banqueting committee and
the Government of this Island for
want of courtesy to the repre-
sentatives of the British and For-
eign Press on the occasion of the
recent visit of His Royal High-
ness the Prince of Wales; but
when we find that some of those
persons — representing the most
influential journals on both sides
of the Atlantic — are the veriest
scoundrels and the most ignorant
blockheads that ever went un-
whipped, we are not at all sorry
that they were treated to the full-
est measure of contempt.

"We have shown, in our last
two numbers, how utterly false
was the testimony given of the
celebration in this place by the
correspondent of the New York
Tribune. The travelling artist of
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Times—
a New York paper — gave some
outrageously absurd caricatures of
the Prince's visit to Halifax, and
equally absurd accounts of it ap-
peared from the pen of an in-
dividual who resides in the name
of Dr. Rawlings, who, it appears,
had been very properly dismiss-
ed for incapacity from his situa-
tion as correspondent.

"But it was reserved for the
correspondent of the London
Times — who, one would sup-
pose, ought to be a well-informed
gentleman — to give such proofs
of intense ignorance, incorrigible
stupidity and mendacity, as to
eclipse all Yankee penny-aliners
that ever visited the Province. We
believe this fellow was in Char-
lottetown, but we have not yet
seen his account of his visit to this
place. It is likely, however, that
it will show about as much intel-
ligence and capacity as the lying
scribbler displayed in his ac-
count of Halifax."

"Hon. Edward Whelan, in The
Examiner, Sept. 11, 1860.
Let Mr. Whelan's paper quote
the following excerpt from the
Times correspondent's account of
the Royal visit to Charlottetown:
"On the whole, Quebec managed
to maintain as high an average
of intoxication as any place of
its size I have ever seen, always
saving and excepting Charlot-
tewtown, the capital of Prince Ed-
ward Island. Sailors, as a class,
possess a secret of intoxication
peculiar to themselves and some-
how manage to get drunk when
no one else can get any liquor,
so that it has been said that if
you locked up twenty of them in
an empty room, and visited them
the following morning, you would
find them all intoxicated."
Prince Edward Islanders appear
to enjoy this attribute of mysteri-
ous inebriety; for though nearly
all their hotels (miserable back-
wood shanties) are conducted on
temperance principles, and sell
neither wine nor spirits, yet
somehow during the Prince's visit
intoxication seemed to be the
normal condition of half the in-
habitants."

The inconnu, a member of the
whitish family, was named by
early French explorers from the
French word for "unknown."

As Parliament Re-Convenes



'Soldiers of the Queen'

(Ottawa Journal)
Who cares about Paardeberg
now? The battle in South Africa
is 50 years away and it wasn't
a very important war judged by
the terrifying standards of later
struggles. On February 27, 1900,
after costly fighting, 4,000 Boers
surrendered to Canadian and Im-
perial forces at Paardeberg. At
the same moment word came in
that Ladysmith had been reliev-
ed. The circle of mad rejoicing
spread from the London streets
to every corner of the Empire
with the hope that the dismal
lot of Mauter bullets and dis-
ease in South Africa soon would
end.

The rights and wrongs of the
Boer War have been debated ten
thousand times and, according to
the new standards of interna-
tional conduct, there may have been
injustice, foolish stubbornness
and blundering. The errors of
others do not dim the individual
heroism and devotion to duty of
the warriors—on both sides. One
of the charming features of Boer
War reunions is the readiness of
Boer fighters, such as Field Mar-
shal Smuts, to forget old quarrels
and greet former enemies as
friends.

Today there are 1,500 Boer War
veterans in Canada and at re-
unions during coming months all
their memories—of Mafeking,
Mudder River, Ladysmith, Pre-
toria, of General "Bobs" Roberts,
Baden Powell, Kruger, De Wet
and Botha, of the starlight vol-
ley of the long marches, the rattle
of fire in hot skirmishes—will come
flooding back. Once again, with-
out doubt, they will sing Kip-
ling's "Soldiers of the Queen",
and lift their hands in salute to
those for whom The Last Post
has sounded. Far-off, half-forget-
table tales to be remembered by
aging men. Paardeberg is an
echo of another era, toned sweet
by the peaceful endeavors that
came in the wake of combat.

The Bluenose Bell

(Moncton Transcript)
The last chapter was written
this week in the fabulous story of
a trim little ship which brought re-
nown to the Maritime Provinces
and her home port of Lunenburg,
N. S. A news dispatch from Edmon-
ton, Alta., revealed that the ship's
bell of the world-famous fishing
schooner Bluenose will have its
last resting place in Alberta's
capital city, a gift of the ship's
master, Captain Angus Walters, to
the Maritime Provinces' Associa-
tion of Edmonton.

The exploits of the Bluenose and
her equally famous skipper are
still clear to Maritimers whose
memory goes back to the early
thirties when the sleek craft suc-
cessfully defied her claim to the
championship of North Atlantic
fishermen's class boats against
several challenges. The Bluenose
and Captain Walters did much to
publicize Nova Scotia and the har-
dy breed of fishermen from her
South Shore. It was a cruel quirk
of fate which sent her to her doom
on a reef off Haiti in 1946, instead
of into the immortality of a mus-
eum piece which she so richly de-
served.

Nova Scotia lost a valuable
monument to one of its most im-
portant industries when it failed
to enshrine the Bluenose, and it is
to be regretted that the last link
with the vessel's colorful career
should not have found a last rest-
ing place nearer its home port.
However, there is some measure
of consolation in the fact that it
will be in custody of Maritimers who
share the pride felt by all sons of
these provinces—by the sea in the
exploits of one of the most colorful
little ships that ever sailed the seas.

The Poet's Corner

THE WINTER EVENING

(From "The Task")

Now stir the fire, and close the
shutters fast.
Let fall the curtains, wheel the sofa
round.
And, while the bubbling and loud-
hissing urn
Throws up a steaming column and
squeezes
That cheer but not inebriate, wait
on each,
So let us welcome peaceful evening,
In.
Not such his evening who, with
dancing face
Sweats in the crowded theatre, and
That cheer but not inebriate, wait
on each.
And bored with elbow-points
through both his sides,
Outsolds the ranting actor on the
stage:
Nor his, who patient stands till his
feet throb,
And his head thumps, to feed upon
the breath
Of patriots, bursting with heroic
rage.
Or placemen, all tranquility and
smiles.
—William Cowper, (1731-1800).

The Age-Old Story

I will make all My goodness
pass before thee, and I will pro-
claim the name of the Lord be-
fore thee; and I will be gracious,
and will show mercy on whom I
will show mercy.

EDITOR RESIGNS

QUEBEC, Feb. 15 —(CP)—The
resignation of A. G. Penny as
editor-in-chief of the Chronicle
Telegraph, Quebec City's only
English-language daily newspaper,
was announced today. The
announcement was made by Maj. C.
G. Dunn, president of Quebec
Newspapers Ltd., publishers of the
Chronicle Telegraph. Maj. Dunn
said the resignation had been ac-
cepted and is effective Feb. 25.
Mr. Penny, has been editor since
amalgamation of the Morning
Chronicle and the Evening Tele-
graph in 1925, and said he resigned
to take a position outside of news-
paper work. No successor for Mr.
Penny has been named.

EARLY BARBARIANS
In the days of Julius Caesar the
territory that is now Germany was
inhabited by barbarous tribes that
came originally from Asia.

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Notes By The Way

Susan, I read, was the most
popular name for female infants
in 1949 as in 1948. This surprises
me. There is nothing to be said
against Susan, and nothing very
much for it. But why choose it?
The name never seems to have in-
terested the poets much. There
is, I believe a ditty about a Susan
who was interested (according to
Wordsworth) in a thrush accus-
tomed to sing at the corner of Wood
Street when daylight appears.
What is more relevant, few film-
stars are called Susan, or if they
they are called the fact. How
does the name get its vogue? —
London Spectator.

To broadcast first tremors of
some weather-vanes in food prices
and seasonal unemployment, as
proof that we are about to have
an economic collapse is a sure
way of encouraging a setback.
Some people want the depression
for obvious reasons; others have
a curious quirk in calamity howl-
ing for its own sake. The major-
ity of Canadians will feel that
our economy is healthy enough to
take a few adjustment punches
without going down for the count.
And they don't expect the numbo
jumbo of state planners to do the
job. It is common sense and initia-
tive of individuals that will
achieve a greater stability and in-
crease in real wealth. —Hamilton
Spectator.

The soundness of our course in
regard to Formosa will be, and
can only be, measured in the end
against the soundness of our course
in Southeast Asia as a whole —
Journal.

This Winter's fluctuating weath-
er — prolonged thaws, punctuated
by brief cold spells and gales —
has worked hardships on the fish-
ermen of the North Shore who
ordinarily reap a heavy harvest
of smelt in late January. Their
nets are expensive, and being
them under the frozen Mersey
River surface, is a tricky business
because the nets have to be poled
along with long poles from one
hole to another. Each net has
a wing hundreds of feet long
which halts the smelt, trying to
find their way past it, the fish
travel along the length of the bar-
rier and are trapped in a big
box-shaped net at the end. When
the river ice form only thin,
then breaks up and reforms once
more, the fishermen have little
chance to operate. This difficul-
ties this Winter are reflected by
the size of the catch for Decem-
ber — 163,000 pounds, compared
with 400,200 pounds in December,
1948. — Saint John Telegraph-
Journal.

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