

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1946

Bureaucracy and Politics

Concerning the recent removal of wage and
salary controls while price ceilings remain, The
Toronto Telegram makes this apt observation:
"Creedence may be placed in the reports from
Ottawa that decisions on the decontrol of
the national economy are being made by
Cabinet Ministers with an eye to the further-
ance of the political fortunes of the Govern-
ment. It is known that Donald Gordon, Chair-
man of the Prices and Trade Board, holds the
opinion that prices cannot be controlled if there
are substantial increases in wages, and there
are good reasons for believing that he was op-
posed to the removal of wage and salary con-
trols until some time next year, but Prime Min-
ister King decided they should come off on De-
cember 1. It is not impossible that hopes for a
favorable influence on the coming by-elections
in Richelieu-Vercheres and Halifax may have
had something to do with the decision."

The net result is that, whereas we have
had an economic bureaucracy all along and
fondly imagined it was about the worst thing
that could have befallen the country, we now
have a system in which bureaucracy and politics
are engaged in a tug-of-war in the field of
the national economy.

English Hospital Crisis

Sixty-four doctors and nurses, who made up
the entire medical staff of two hospitals in
London, England, were given dismissal notices
the other day when they refused to join a trade
union. It was the Willesden Borough Council
that gave the order and, had it been carried out,
only a superintendent would have been left to
look after 100 maternity cases.

Immediately the issue became a national
one. According to the London correspondent of
The Hamilton Spectator, from the resident medi-
cal officer on the scene who called the coun-
cil's action a "fantastic flouting of personal
freedom," it went to higher political spheres.
Labour's Deputy Prime Minister, Herbert Morrison,
said he could not understand why "one
or two foolish local authorities should be mess-
ing about with such a problem." On his part,
fiery Aneurin Bevan, Labour's Health Minister,
stated bluntly that it was the council's first duty
to maintain health services and that all other
considerations were secondary.

There are many Britons, according to the
correspondent, who are by no means anti-labor,
who harbour grave doubts about the broad ef-
fect which compulsory union membership may
have in industry. The "Economist" examined
this issue and found its implications disturbing.
"It does not require a long look at the theory
of the closed shop, as a general proposition, to
make the discovery that it is the corporative
state," it said. "If there are any differences be-
tween the closed shop doctrine and Mussolini's
fancy scheme, they are relatively minor."

Flowers For War Graves

Canadians may now cable flowers to be
placed on war graves in the United Kingdom and
Europe, according to Mr. John Hunt of Dundee,
Scotland, vice-president of the International
Florists' Organization.

Mr. Hunt, who says that the plan will be
in operation by Christmas, stresses that orders
can be delivered only if the name and regim-
ental number of the deceased and the cem-
etry in which he is buried are forwarded.

Nothing is being done yet about Canadian
graves in North Africa, since work on them has
not been completed.

German Merchant Fleet

Germany's merchant navy, a fleet of 500
vessels manned entirely by German crews, will
be on the seas again in a matter of a few
weeks.

This fleet will be flying a new flag. The
flag has not yet been seen but it will bear the
international letter C and V cut-out. The ships
will sail between Baltic, west European and
British ports, carrying vital foodstuffs to the
Reich and bringing out as much timber and
minerals as the battered German industries in
the British and American zones can deliver.

German skippers, engineers and crews, who
are being processed daily to discover whether
they are adepts of the Nazi government, are
praying that nothing will happen to throw a
monkey-wrench into the works. They are afraid
of last-minute hitches at the Four Power discus-
sion table which will hold up this vastly impor-
tant plan to ease the British and U. S. transport
burden and to speed up commerce between Ger-
many and the countries to which she owes so
much.

It is estimated that 200,000 tons of Ger-
man shipping will be available for traffic be-
tween Germany and the Baltic or North Sea
portion. It is already decreed that no German
merchant ship shall exceed 1,400 tons if the
ship is to be allowed outside territorial waters.

The Four Power authorities have their prob-
lems regarding this little shipping deal. There
is the question of how German captains and
crews will be treated when they arrive as a
former enemy or at neutral ports. There is a
definite refusal by the French to allow any Ger-
man ship in a French port, but the British, U. S.
and Russians are carrying on with the plan in

the hope that eventually the French will see
reason.
One German ship has already been to
England under its own steam. This brought
back herring to Hamburg. Two or more others
were due to arrive last week carrying similar
cargo.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Now it shan't be long!
There will be no trouble getting cranberry
sauce for the turkey, so far as coupons are con-
cerned, but what about the supplies to meet the
demand?

Will the stores be handicapped in lighting
up the week before Christmas? Will the
Christmas house displays and Christmas trees
have to be sacrificed? Surely Santa Claus will
come to the rescue!

No one need count on any reduction in
gasoline because of the belated action of the
Ottawa Government in abandoning its 3c tax.
It just means transferring the privilege of taxa-
tion from the Federal to the Provincial Govern-
ments, and was one of the "rights" the op-
position provinces have been fighting for.

It looks as if when Parliament meets it will
be faced with an entirely new cabinet so far as
portfolios are concerned. The personnel will be
the same, but the offices they hold will be dif-
ferent. The only individual to be sacrificed is
evidently Resources Minister Glen, who appar-
ently has been offered and accepted a more per-
manent position outside the Cabinet.

Senator Gerry G. McGeer has for the second
time been elected Mayor of Vancouver by a
substantial majority over two opponents. He
held the position for two years previously, 1930-
32, which proved to be one of the most progres-
sive periods in the city's history, during which
visits were exchanged between the Lord Mayor
of London and Mayor McGeer.

There is such a thing in England as being
"banished" at home. Sir Oswald Mosley, former
British Union of Fascists leader, has been
refused an exit permit because he might "make
mischief abroad." Lord Chancellor Jowitt told
the House of Lords. Lord Jowitt said there are
five people to whom home Secretary Ede "thinks
it undesirable to grant permission to leave the
United Kingdom—and Mosley is one of them."
He did not name the others.

Baron Inverchapel, British Ambassador to
the United States, told a New York dinner party
that it is "an odd commentary upon the way the
world works" that Germany should emerge from
war settlements with a debt "little more than
half" that of Great Britain. Britain, as "the
country which first took up the sword in the
defence of freedom," owes other countries nearly
\$30,000,000,000, while few have suggested
that German reparations will exceed \$10,000,000,000.

In New York last week the trustees of
Columbia University awarded Mr. Grant Dexter,
Executive Editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, the
Maria Moors Cabot Gold Medal. The award
was made as well to one United States editor
and one Mexican. These medals are awarded
annually to journalists who have been outstand-
ing in their contributions to international friend-
ship among the peoples and nations of the Amer-
ican continents. The presentations have been
made for eight years but this is the first time
the award has been won by a Canadian.

Health Minister Claxton says that the
question of a \$5 wartime bonus to pensioners
being made statutory is a matter of govern-
ment policy which would be announced in due
course. The \$5 increase—boosting pensions
from \$20 to \$25 a month—was authorized under
wartime legislation which expires next March 31.
The increase was granted to help pensioners
meet increased living costs. Forecasts are that
the Government will make the increase perman-
ent. In recent sessions of Parliament there
have been widespread demands from opposition
members and Government supporters for more
generous treatment of pensioners.

Since the Australian public has learned
that Billy Talbert is a diabetic and is forced to
take daily insulin shots, the United States Davis
Cup player has been besieged for advice. Par-
ents of diabetic children have written him and
appeared at his hotel to hear him answer the
question how he manages to play such a sternu-
ous game as tennis. He advises that hard, con-
stant exercise is of great assistance in counter-
acting the effects of the malady. Only once in
the course of a match has he felt a diabetic
coma coming on and then he quickly pulled
himself together by eating a piece of sugar. He
has had diabetes for 18 years.

The Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie
King, C. M. G., P. C., M. P., LL.B., M. A., Ph.
D., LL.D., D. C. L., Prime Minister of Canada,
born this date 1874. M. P. for North Waterloo,
Ont., 1908-11, for Prince, P. E. I., 1919-21, for
North York, Ont., 1921-25, for Prince Albert,
Sask., 1926-45, for Glengarry, Ont., 1945, to the
present. He has headed administrations in
1921, 1930, 1935 to the present. Is the only
Government Leader who has survived Great War
II and remained in office for post-war recon-
struction. Has attended successive Imperial
Conferences, and was chairman of the Canadian
delegation at the San Francisco Conference last
year. He has intimated his intention to retire
from politics before another election, but en-
deavours are being made to induce him to change
his mind because of the lack of suitable timber
to replace him in the leadership. He is a bach-
elor, and has written several books on indus-
trial subjects. There has been no greater
able politician in Canada's history, and in this
respect he is still going strong.

Notes By The Way

Can Britain make it? A reform
of men's dress is urgently required.
When dressing this morning I
counted 29 buttons and buttonholes
to be manipulated with numbed
fingers. My daughter tells me she
has only four. —Lieut. Colonel H.
J. Barnes in London Times.

Maine production of Christmas
trees already are warning that the
supply of trees will be short this
year and that the price will be
high. Lack of help to cut the trees
and a scarcity of freight cars to
send them to Eastern States are
given as the prime reasons for the
threat. The Christmas decorations
are expected that even with short-
ages continuing to plague the pub-
lic. This one will cause apprehen-
sion in many families where there
are children. —Boston Post.

The Cochrane heaver was still,
at last reports, a fur-bearing animal.
It is reported that he has
acquired a new trick. He has
learned to swim. He has been
seen in the park at Commando Lake, which
is the central feature of Cochrane,
the town which was secured per-
mission to trap him. The heaver
entered the trap on several occa-
sions, once in full view of a large
crowd of watchers on the bank.
After eating the bait, he mysteri-
ously swam away from what he
evidently regarded as his club.
Perhaps he is now no one knows.
He would consider life in Cochrane
enervating. No doubt he is off in
the wilds building dams and swag-
gering a bit with a smile that won't
come off. —Ontario Northland Quar-
terly.

The musical hit, Oklahoma, went
home to Oklahoma City, Okla.
Last Tuesday night and the 6,000
people who crowded into the audi-
torium yelled and stomped and on
two occasions they got into the
chairs in choruses which they took up
for pure joy. That's the stuff! In this
instance, to be sure, it was more
than the music that stirred up the
crowd. There was a mixture of
pride, a kind of nostalgic delight in
familiar scenes and characters,
the contagious enthusiasm "of the
entirety, pleased multitude." But
mostly it was the essential, good-
willed, tuneful music which roused
them. Those 6,000 washed and
glowing Oklahoma beat time with
their feet, until they couldn't stand
any longer and had to bust out
in song. There ought to be more
of such spontaneous, musical com-
bustion. Europeans have been do-
ing this sort of thing for ages. Once
when Stravinsky conducted one
of his compositions in Paris, the
audience rose up against him. They
yelled and shook their fists.
Stravinsky stood the ground and
heroically beat time. The orchestra
loyally stayed by him. A fellow com-
poser arose in his box and berated
the audience. Everyone had a fine
time. This was an essential part
of the moving power of music. If you
ask us. Not quite as co-operative in
spirit as the 6,000 singing Okla-
homan but the same healthy tribu-
tary to music as an essential part
of life—and without benefit of
program notes.—Providence Journal.

A sombre sidelight on the effects
of the current housing problem on
veterans was recently given by a
psychiatrist in charge of the mental
hygiene division of the New York
Veterans' Center. A great many
mentally ill veterans might easily
have recovered without medical
treatment from shocks from battle
experience if they had not
discharged from the service. The
causes of the housing shortages at
home. Many are now receiving
treatment and some will require it
for a considerable time for get-
ting back mental health. They
have been prevented for better liv-
ing conditions. —Toronto Star.

Jeff Jeffries, an RCMP veter-
an who operates one of the very
few chinchilla ranches in Canada,
just outside Nanaimo on Vancouver
Island, is doing so with the help
of his wife, Lee. She is a great
D.V.A. His wife, Lee, is his business
partner. One. An everyday sort of
chinchilla coat, by the way, retails
for about \$75,000, but a really de-
corative one can cost as much as
upwards of \$125,000. The little
animals look like a cross between
a squirrel, a rat and a rabbit; their
fur is incredibly soft. Last year
Jeffries set to work on raising chin-
chillas on the farm they had just
purchased at the foot of Mount
Benson. They now have 16 of the
domesticated Chinese creatures.
This was a huge about \$1,500 a
pair. Two years ago Jeff sent down
to Colorado and purchased two pairs
of the rodents; then paid for board-
ing them at a ranch until he was
discharged from the Air Force. He
and his wife are raising breeding
stock. —Veterans' Affairs.

At this time of year everyone
wonders whether there will be
enough turkeys to go around. Gone
are the days when father could
step out the back door and bring
down his turkey. Christmas tur-
keys are mental health. They are
preserved as specimens in the Royal
Ontario Museum. Use of the tur-
key as a domestic bird was started
on this continent to which it is
native, by the Indians of the Amer-
ican Southwest. From then on it
had a remarkable history, being
taken to Spain by the Spaniards,
thence going to England in the
early 16th Century and ultimately
being brought back to America
by the early settlers. The turkey
has never been considered to
have great intellectual powers.
In fact, in Norfolk county the
early methods of capture displayed
great contempt for his soumen. A
log-covered pen was constructed,
the crooked between the logs being
narrowed so that a turkey could
not escape through, and a trench
beneath the bottom logs led outside.
The trench was then sprinkled with
corn and along went the turkey,
gobbling with bent head. When the
corn came to an end, he raised his
head and found himself in the pen.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to
the discussion by corre-
spondents of questions of
interest. The Charlottetown
Guardian does not neces-
sarily endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

Sir,—There is not a shortage of
farm labor today any more than
there was a shortage of goods during
the depression. But labor is regu-
lated by price as well as supply.
The farmers can't pay the price.
Farms carry on from year to
year hoping that next year will be
better. When the price is good the
crop is a failure. When the price is
poor the crop is poor. When the
crop and price are good, railway
cars are not available. When they
have crop, price and cars, the
ferry can't handle them. And when
crop, price, cars and ferry are
available, our bureaucrats will
likely devise some way of depriv-
ing the farmer of a just compen-
sation for his back-breaking labor.
Some politically minded men
love to talk at election time about
the good price is poor. When the
crop and price are good, railway
cars are not available. When they
have crop, price and cars, the
ferry can't handle them. And when
crop, price, cars and ferry are
available, our bureaucrats will
likely devise some way of depriv-
ing the farmer of a just compen-
sation for his back-breaking labor.

Why do young men leave the
farms? Why do they go to a Gov-
ernment job? Why do they vote
unanimously for tax-free in-
creases in salary. But this very
same benevolent Government which
pretends that it wishes to see the
standard of living of workmen
raised and to have a warm spot in
its political heart for the farmer,
says in effect through its income
tax laws) to the young man work-
ing on a farm, ten, twelve or four-
teen years ago, that he is making one
dollar a day plus board. "Sir, you
are making too much money, give
us some!"

There are some farmers in P. E.
I. today who through industry, in-
telligence and generous measure
of good luck have done very well
for themselves. But the greater
number of them are too busy try-
ing to be more successful to be
concerned with the lot of those
less fortunate. They are too busy
with their own affairs to be con-
cerned with the lot of those less
fortunate. They are too busy with
their own affairs to be concerned
with the lot of those less fortunate.
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fortunate. They are too busy with
their own affairs to be concerned
with the lot of those less fortunate.

When we chose a successful
farmer as Premier we felt that he
might get things done. Apparently
we miscalculated.
We erred in assuming that one
who was successful with a bal-
anced ration could also produce a
salutary budget. The economic and
social deterioration was accelerated.
Thus is the story of a land which
was once great but is great no
more. Today nothing is left to tell
of its former greatness, any more
than there remains in the ruins of
the Acropolis to remind us that
Athens was great but is great no
more.

I am, Sir, etc.
LE TAUREAU PAR LES CORNES

HITCHIN, Hertfordshire, England.
(CP)—Nurs Charlotte Love-
green who died at 84 brought 4,097
babies into the world without los-
ing a mother.

both of public apathy and political
stupidity. One is a corollary of
the other. Second, we shall get
justice only when we demand it
from our public servants.
But the master must first be
awake before he can awaken his
servants. It's late—but better
working late than dreaming on.
We cannot arouse our servants,
let us discipline them. If we had
men in government like Sir Zach,
Misach and Abdenago, who
wouldn't bow down before a
Nabuchodonosor king at Ottawa,
then, "friduo moritur pestis."

Mr. Manning wrote in his let-
ter of May 25, 1946, that the Fed-
eration of Confederation in P. E. I.
were short-sighted in accepting the
terms of the British North
America Act. How true! Yet we
cannot expect that they could
clearly discern the disaster to fol-
low. It is we who shall be held in
the greatest contempt by poster-
ity, if, after seeing the results, we
take no steps to amend them.
We cannot expect that toward the
future as we have in the past, I predict
that the future historian will write
something like this: "Off the
northeast coast of Nova Scotia in
the Gulf of St. Lawrence lies the
Island of the Morons. Few people
today realize that this island
wilderness, now peopled by a few
hundred imbeciles and savages was
once an outpost of civilization. To-
ward the close of the nineteenth
century this land, then called
Prince Edward Island, supported a
population of a hundred thousand
Christian souls; and from its shores
went forth bishops, and arch-
bishops, professors, writers, orators,
statesmen, business and profes-
sional men, and workers in every
trade and industry, then the tragic
effects of a Union into which they
entered in 1873 began to be felt.
This Union was with the main-
land—the Dominion of Canada.
This was the greatest blunder.
Neither geographically nor econom-
ically were they a part of that
Dominion. This was a case where
politics clashed with nature. But
nature won. Their impoverishment
was such that the necessary ser-
vices for the health and educa-
tion of their children. Teachers
left the schools; young men left
the farms. For a while laws were
enacted to keep teachers in schools
and farmers on farms, just as we
now have laws to keep criminals
in penitentiaries. When these laws
were relaxed the exodus continued.
It was then that they decided by
some peculiar process of reasoning
that their condition could be improved
by importing huge quantities of
alcohol. But alas! The beer bar-
ons of Central Canada got the
money, the "Jehander" big heads.
But even liquor could not stop the
emigration. It was said that in the
year 1946—just at the beginning
of the Atomic Era, their chief ex-
port was brains, their chief im-
port was booze. As the more am-
bitious left, the economic and so-
cial deterioration was accelerated.
Thus is the story of a land which
was once great but is great no
more."

The Poets Corner

THE RIVALS

I heard a bird at dawn
Singing sweetly on a tree.
That the dew was on the lawn.
And the wind was on the sea;
But I didn't listen to him,
For he didn't sing to me!

I didn't listen to him,
For he didn't sing to me.
That the dew was on the lawn.
And the wind was on the sea!
I was singing at the time,
Just as prettily as he!

I was singing all the time,
About the dew upon the lawn
And the wind upon the sea!
So I didn't listen to him,
As he sang upon a tree.

—James Stephens.

Old Charlottetown

(And P.E.I.)

The General Assembly of 1812,
the last to be convened by Colonel
De Barres, had a high regard for
its own dignity. It insisted upon
the most punctilious respect, not
only from the public, but its own
members as well. Did a member
see fit to be absent without leave,
or not to attend in proper time
to his duties, Mr. Speaker very
promptly despatched the serjeant-
at-arms to bring the trait before
the House.
During this session the Solicitor-
General informed the House that
he had information that a profes-
sional gentleman, lately arrived in
this Island, had said to one or more
members that the Speaker and
members, then sitting, were not
House but a Convention. Mr.
Johnston, being sent for, appeared
at the bar, and asserted that he
was not bound to declare any pro-
fessional opinion that he might
have given. Benj. Coffin, Esq., a
member, stated that Mr. Johnston
had not been professionally em-
ployed, but had made the declara-
tion before mentioned to several
people in the street, at Mr. "Jim"
door. Mr. Johnston said that such
was his opinion; he might have
so expressed himself, and it still
was his opinion. Mr. Solicitor-Gen-
eral accordingly moved, seconded
by Mr. Nelson, that Mr. Johnston
had been guilty of a high crime
and misdemeanor in such his
language, and that an honorable
address be presented to His Excel-
lency praying that he would order
His Majesty's Attorney General to
prosecute Mr. Johnston for such
offense, which was unanimously
resolved. The address was accord-
ingly prepared and presented to the
Lieutenant Governor.

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