

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 1947

Premier Jones vs. The Auditor-General

In his political address before the Canadian Legion last week, Premier Jones maintained that the Dominion Government was conducting Canada's affairs "economically."

The Auditor-General's status is that of an independent official responsible only to Parliament. He tabulates annually in the House of Commons a report upon the way the Government handles the spending of public monies.

The Labor Gazette, published by the Department of Labor, used to employ correspondents in many localities to furnish it with cost-of-living information. Then the Bureau of Statistics took over the function of furnishing this data from its own facilities.

Here is another case: It had been the Government's practise to pay a fee of \$160.00 for an architect's drawing. This payment gave the Government the right to use the design 16 times.

Continuing in the same vein: Up in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, the Department of Veterans Affairs negotiated for the purchase of a hospital for the R. C. A. F.

Even in the field of family allowances the Auditor-General finds serious irregularities for which the public is footing the bill. He notes that the legislation itself provides that no payments should be made to "any person who is in Canada contrary to the provisions of the Immigration Act."

Then there is the case of John Grierson, former Wartime Information Board and National Film Board head to whom, incidentally, the F. B. I. have refused a bill of health to enable him to obtain a visa to live in the United States.

Many other instances are cited by the Auditor-General, indicating pretty clearly that Premier Jones was drawing a long bow when he boasted before the Legion of the King Government's "economy."

M. L. A. For Indians?

In Victoria, B. C., it has been suggested that the Provincial Government might add a seat to the Legislature for a native Indian. Such an M. L. A. apparently would only concern himself with the native tribes of British Columbia.

The Vancouver News-Herald says that while it is wholly in favor of the native Indians—those who can read and write, at any rate—having the franchise. But it does not think native Indians should have their own special representatives in the House.

Yet it seems to be the practice in New Zealand, where there are special legislative seats for Maori representatives.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Unhappy lies the head that wears a crown, or runs a government.

The government of Alberta is sponsoring a \$1,000 cooking contest, the object of which is to develop a full-course tourist meal for which Alberta will become famous.

Honeymoons are not always what they are cracked up to be. Capt. Christopher Soames, who married Mary Churchill, daughter of the wartime Prime Minister, two weeks ago, was taken seriously ill on their honeymoon in Switzerland.

Chief McLeese, of Saint John, points out that contrary to a great deal of publicity given recently about an increase in crime with regard to returned service men, he found no indication of this being a fact in his territory.

Forgotten or overlooked wealth for whom it may concern. A nest-egg of about \$1,500,000 has piled up in Canadian banks awaiting claimants who left their money gathering dust—and compound interest—in their vaults.

Mrs. MacKinnon, formerly of Grand River, who now resides with Mrs. O'Brien at Elmsdale, must be proud of her granddaughter, Mary Knowles who has just been crowned Queen of Edmonton at the Winter Fair there.

Tragedy has entered into the Barbara Ann Scott world champion figure skate rejoicings. Nadine Adair Phillips, 19-year-old runner-up for the Canadian women's figure-skating championship in January, died in a Toronto hospital a week ago.

A synthetic bar of soap which is as good as the "real thing" is to be produced by an English firm in Manchester. The formula, perfected by Mr. Fraser Johnson, excludes the oils and fats commonly used in the manufacture of soap.

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, died this date 1791 at the age of eighty-eight. He travelled extensively as an evangelist, and his preaching, zeal and popular appeal were enormous.

Displaced persons are beginning to realize they are not to be allowed to eat the bread of idleness. A system of compulsory work for displaced persons in the British zone of Germany is announced by Air Marshal Sir Sholto Douglas.

In only three cases out of the 64 death claims filed with the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office could the circumstances have given rise to a claim being made under the standard policy of public liability coverage.

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Labour Government in Australia is at loggerheads with its followers, just as is the Attlee Government in London. Differences between Prime Minister Joseph B. Chifley, with his Cabinet supporters, and the trades union executives have grown with strikes of railwaymen, tram and bus employees, gasworkers, foundry workers, waterfront workers and shipyard employees.

Excuses tendered by manufacturers will not increase the number of jobs on the market; we should prefer to hear what steps they have taken to ensure that their plants are not under-run. Their reasons are not unlike those of American manufacturers to whom Charles Luckman, president of Lever Brothers replied: "Since the faults of business were the fertile grounds upon which grow many of the vices of organized labor, so will the reformation of business have to precede the reformation of labor."

LONDON—(C P)—Licences are no longer required for the manufacture or sale of asbestos-cement products.

Notes By The Way

A traveller friend called our attention recently to the difficulty experienced in many urban municipalities of finding street names and house numbers. This is a common complaint and one which need not exist, because councils of urban municipalities are specifically empowered, to the buildings and for charging the owner or occupant with the expense incident to the numbering of his buildings or lot.

Britain's strength is in her people. They seem to endure more adversity better than any other people known to history; they whine less when the going is hard, and boast less when the going is easy.

Faith Baldwin, one of America's most prolific women novelists, has written 55 novels in something like 50 years. She goes to Florida for the winter season, if that is what her next heroine is supposed to do, or she spends time at Palm Springs, Calif., if she intends to place her next leading character there, or she goes to Washington for the same reason.

Remember when— they taught children table manners; they asked grace before meals; they made the kids say "sir" to the old man; they sent them to bed at 9:30; they had to be in by 11:30 if they went to a dance; they had a barrel stove hanging in the woodshed—and used it; they believed in political leaders; they enjoyed peace, plenty and low-priced tobacco and liquor; they had no income tax; they had not yet endured two world wars; they had one swell time in Canada?—London Free Press.

At the end of the rainbow is the tax slip. The rainbow is a beautiful thing to look at—until you come to the end of it. There you find "Government" which is "other people" and more important, "other people's money."

Where men are wearing plain knit ties, we learn from a press report. This brings up the question, why wear ties at all? One of the most foolish customs is that of men wearing neckties.

I read somewhere lately that 27,000 public works jobs in this country were put out of commission by enemy action during the war. It seems to me that this figure must include practically all those that ever catch my eye—any and every kind of public works project.

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of public interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

TALKING ABOUT MOGULS

Sir—Now that the farmers have learned according to Premier Jones first "that they should pick a wife as they would a heifer" as they would then serve better as producers of cheap labour; second, that farmers who loaned their money to the Government were the dollars were so urgently needed for furthering the war effort, were nothing better than "three per cent moguls"; third, that any farmer's son who wishes to make his living in another country, should be denied the right to assure himself of a fair price for his labour by organizing. Are they as happy with their farmer Premier as their Premier seems to be in believing himself "The Great Mogul"?

DISFRANCHISED SOLDIER

Sir—Those of the present generation on Prince Edward Island who are interested in our public schools, including especially the parents of school children, and of course the teachers as well, must surely be familiar enough with the lamentations of certain persons and groups of persons who incessantly bewail and bemoan our present school system, and incessantly demand a new one.

Our system of education. Sir—Those of the present generation on Prince Edward Island who are interested in our public schools, including especially the parents of school children, and of course the teachers as well, must surely be familiar enough with the lamentations of certain persons and groups of persons who incessantly bewail and bemoan our present school system, and incessantly demand a new one.

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or rather our present system, is in the main the best that can be afforded on Prince Edward Island for the present generation, and perhaps for several succeeding generations; that is of course allowing for the gradual evolution of the system, eliminating something here, and adding something there; and as this letter is already a fairly long one, I will ask permission to discuss in further detail in your next issue the changes that I think might be made in our present system to make it more satisfactory than it is at present.

I am, Sir, etc.

M. MCKENZIE, Retired Teacher, New Haven, P.E.I.

REPLY TO PREMIER JONES

Sir—Evidently something is disturbing Premier Jones with regard to the new car ferry and the Canadian Legion. At a meeting of the Canadian Legion Feb. 27th he showed strong anti-Union sentiment by threatening to outlaw the Labourers' Protective Union. Did Premier Jones mean all Unions such as Fishermen's Unions, Farmers' Unions, Milkmen's Unions, electrical workers, or was it only the Labourers' Protective Union he was hitting at? If so, why? What have we done to deserve it? Last year our working agreement was signed by the War Labor Board. Hon. Horve Wright, member of the Jones Government, is chairman of this Board. The Board of Trade also has a member on the Board as well as Labor. Our wages and working hours were accepted by all including our steamship agents. There was no kick anywhere, our standard working hours are eight by day and three by night, and if necessary to speed departure of steamers, work will proceed until loading is completed.

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Progressive Conservative CONVENTION Of the Second District of Queens will be held in the Legion Hall, Charlottetown, on Tuesday, March 4th, at 1 P. M. for the purpose of nominating two Candidates. Each Poll is entitled to send five accredited delegates. FRANK CASS, RAY BAGNALL, Conveners.

Progressive Conservative Convention Of the First District of Kings will be held in St. Mary's Hall, Souris, on Tuesday, March 11th, at 2 P.M. to nominate two candidates to contest the next General Provincial election. Each poll is requested to send five accredited delegates. HENRY MALLARD, CLIFFORD TOWNSEND, Conveners.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.) FLOURISHING DAIRY FARMS "Dairying is the principal agricultural industry of the Island, as may be inferred from the existence of thirty-four cheese factories and five creameries, the latter operating in the year round, and one-half of the cheese factories making butter in winter; and nowhere on our travels have we seen so large a percentage of high-class dairy cows. These are principally well-bred grades of the Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey and Holstein breeds, while excellent herds of pure-bred animals of all these breeds are found in the hands of enterprising breeders; the last three named breeds being well represented on the fine dairy farm of Mr. B. Heintz. Eighty registered cows were being milked on this farm, and we can safely say it is without exception the best herd of dairy cows we have ever seen on one farm. The Provincial Government maintains a 400-acre farm here, on which are kept high-class herds of Ayrshires and Shorthorns, the surplus stock being distributed among the country agriculturalists. Mr. William Miller, who is Inspector of the Government farm, has a large milk business in the city, and a beautiful farm of 105 acres some three miles distant. A fine herd of registered Ayrshires is maintained on the farm, headed by the handsome and richly-bred young bull, Pure Gold by Golden Gutter, and Jack Marshfield, by Jack Morton, a well known prize winner. Mr. Wm. E. R. Brown's fine herd of Guernseys, fresh from their victory in the International and Provincial exhibitions, were seen grazing at Eastview, his fine and quiet place just outside the city limits. A restful night was spent at the pleasant country home of Senator Ferguson, and a 15-mile drive across country to Pownall gave us glimpses of some of the most charming scenery it has ever been our lot to look upon. A brief stay at the homes of Albert Bownell and Henry Lane, near Pownall, and a busy look through the fine but magnificent herds of Shorthorn cattle and flocks of Leicester and Shropshire sheep, completed our visit."—Farmers Advocate, December, 1938.

TEACHERS' SALARIES Sir—As I read from day to day of all that is taking place in the way of changes in our educational system, I wonder what has happened—and what is going to happen. Our schools are in a deplorable condition, via inexperienced teachers, pupils taken from Grade X not old enough to know how to handle themselves, let alone pupils, upwards of 20 or 30 in numbers; teachers who have no personality; elderly women who have lost contact, who do not even know the King's English are placed in charge of the youth of our land (serious situation). We have correspondence courses inducing our children to remain at home, and sometimes because they do not like their teacher or because of lacadastrous parents who will not put forth the effort to get them to school. We hear much these days of travel or international relationships as part of our education. True it is, and so is school life for children who are somewhat isolated. Therefore, why give them the choice of remaining at home or making an effort to get their education. What is worth learning is worth putting forth an effort to get— they hand them out everything on silver platters. I contend we are making people less responsible every day even to this children's allowance which is only for "school attendance" as planned; something to be gained by the parents if supposed to help with the work and also get their allowance. We hear much of teacher shortage and what is being done to remedy the situation. Although I am a small teacher, I have always been interested in the youth of our land and education in particular. It seems to me that teachers have lost sight of the value of real teaching and placed the emphasis on silver platters. The clamor call is "more money." To my mind a teacher (same as a preacher), should not have to ask for money. Surely our children are of more value to the country than bank accounts. Not only is this true of the every-day teacher but of those who travel the roads all the year round for little or nothing. Even many of the rural teachers today are getting greater remuneration than our supervisors who have to have cars in this day of travel. He or she starts out with his own car and an small expense is allowed for travelling and it will take a number of years of careful saving to even pay the first installment on a new car at the price of them today. If one takes the trouble to look in our 3000 book or report of education, they will find out the salary of a supervisor, although I would be ashamed to put it on paper myself, and I am sure our Minister of Education would blush for shame if he were to compare his own salary and that of the poor supervisor. But apart from all this, the greatest hindrance to the raising of educational standards is that every year when the House meets (or before), the teacher is placed in the same category as the poor miners who have to get down on their knees and beg for a mere pittance, handed out to them as a peace-offering or as crumbs from the master's table. Our teaching profession should remain as a profession—teachers, supervisors, or any such, should not have to engage in a strike or be continuously begging for their daily living. No body of teachers or any one engaged in like work should have to go every year before a Government to beg for an increase. To me, it is one of the most humiliating acts in the educational system. Then again they are, maybe, told repeatedly "no money," then inside of a year a new man on a new job getting maybe \$2,500 or

The Poet's Corner LATER, THE EARTH Come in; there is nothing left: Drift on the wind; the lilac bush is bare; Over the garden a blanket of silence settles— The last of the birds is gone; there is nothing there. Come in, come in, out of the cold thin rain. Away from the broken stalks and the frosted grass; There is nothing here, there is no use to remain; A garden . . . a dream . . . these are things that pass. Come in, to a hearth that is warm, the fire lit; There is nothing within, though perhaps of a different kind. The gardeners were lovely, the roses were exquisite They will bloom again in the green-house of the mind. Sit for a while by the dancing flame of the hearth. There is good time for all. Later, the good green earth . . . —Mae Winkler Goodman in the Montreal Gazette.

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