THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1945

The Income Tax

Of chief popular interest in the budgetary announcements by Finance Minister Ilsley were his references to an abatement of 16 per cent in the present high personal income tax. Many were surprised that the reduction was made in this general way, and not on a sliding scale. Actually, the reduction will benefit the higher-income groups to a greater extent than others, and the lower one's income bracket is, the less relief he will feel. There may be good and sufficient reasons for adopting a policy of this kind, but if so, Mr. Ilsley unfortunately did not give them in his budget speech.

Some idea of the importance of this source of revenue may be gathered from the fact that it amounts currently to about one-third of our total tax revenue. Mr. Ilsley conceded that the system of levying personal income tax needs revision badly. He had decided, however, that it was unwise to attempt to combine an immediate revision of the whole structure with reduction in the tax. He promised that when the returns for 1945 are due it will be found that a greatly simplified system of calculation has been introduced without legislation. For this at least, many will be thankful.

What the Finance Minister has attempted this year is admittedly a makeshift, done to offset "the great and harmful effect which our present high personal income tax is having in discouraging work and initiative in all groups at a time when we need a rapid expansion of employment and a willing mobility of labour."

In his own words, this year's income tax reduction is merely "an interim measure," and a very small one indeed so far—let us say—as the working man, whether in office, farm or factory, is concerned. However, the interim measure has been applied promptly, and it will continue until it is possible to combine further abatement with a thorough overhaul of the whole rate structure. Let us hope, with the Minister, that the new arrangements with the Provinces and further progress in the transition to peacetime conditions "will have so clarified the outlook that it will be possible in the Budget of 1946 to propose such a comprehensive revision."

Down To Brass Tax

Coming down to brass tax, there is not much to choose between C. C. F.'s and Social Crediters. This was made self-evident in a brief discussion in the House of Commons last week. Mr. John Blackmore (S.S., Lethbridge) asked where the C. C. F. would get the money to pay workers not less than $1,800 a year if it was in power and expropriated the strike-bound Ford Motor Company plant at Windsor, Ont.

"Out of production, not out of profits," interjected M. J. Coldwell, C. C. F. leader.

"Well, you could not possibly get it out of production without taking it out of profits," said Mr. Blackmore.

Rev. William Irvine (C.C.F., Cariboo) said his answer was "that we would not hesitate to create just as much money as was necessary to equal the goods we are competent to produce."

Mr. Coldwell said the answer had his approval.

"Now I am going to ask the C. C. F. why they have been so busy for years trying to destroy the Social Credit movement in Canada, which is the one movement which has gone on record as favoring that very thing," said Mr. Blackmore.

"No; you have the cart before the horse," said Mr. Coldwell.

"Maybe we are getting together now," said Mr. Irvine.

Mr. Blackmore replied:

"If we do it will be the C. C. F. who will have to do the getting together, because they are wrong, if they agree with what the member for Cariboo has just said, then no member of the C. C. F. has any right whatever to oppose any Social Crediter in this country; he could not in honor do it, because that is precisely the attitude the Social Credit people have taken."

The New Japanese Premier

In the view of British Far Eastern experts, the nomination of Baron Kijuro Shidehara as successor to Prince Higashikuni places the Japanese premiership in the hands of an eminent and able Liberal, perhaps the most able in Japanese politics today. More important still, Baron Shidehara is not a mere armchair theorist. When in office, he applied his liberalism in the very fields which is of the most concern to Britain and other foreign countries—the field of foreign policy. With regard to Manchuria, when Japanese policy stood at the parting of the ways, Baron Shidehara advocated a policy of peaceful penetration by economic development. He was overruled by the militarists, and fell from power in 1931, and withdrew from public life. He made no attempt to stem the surge of aggressiveness which swept Japan during the next ten years. To have fought such a battle against such odds would doubtless have demanded a degree of robustness which Baron Shidehara did not possess. But at all events, he never made any compromise with the militarist clique, and he now emerges from retirement with clean hands.

It is recognized in London that Baron Shidehara faces a difficult task if he is to carry out the policy, of which he is reported to have spoken on October 8th, of reconverting the Japanese nation to the principles of liberalism and democracy. His natural supporters in Japan would be those victims of militarist repression who are to be emancipated by General MacArthur's latest order. But in Japan, the apostles of liberalism and their proselytes are, in contrast with the victims of the Gestapo in Germany, insignificant in quantity and for the most part undistinguished in quality. It is noted, however, that Baron Shidehara has declared his principle objective to be the most complete co-operation with the occupation authorities. It is stressed in London that if Baron Shidehara fulfills that promise and ensures a like "complete co-operation" of his Ministers and their subordinates to the same end, he will have gone a long way towards strengthening the otherwise weak position of any liberal government in present-day Japan

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

The tax relief is microscopical, but it may be welcomed as the thin edge of the wedge.

* * * *

If we have Sunday movies here from now on, we can thank Rev. John Coburn of Toronto for inaugurating them.

* * * *

A striking trend in recent advertising has been the emphasis on giving the public facts and information about business problems and achievements.

* * * *

Attorney-General Large has been receiving bouquets from both wets and drys for the able manner he has handled the liquor problem since taking office.

* * * *

English and other overseas' wives of returned soldiers, sailors and airmen are invited by advertisement by Mrs. Joan Graham and Mrs. Bunny Rogers, president and vice-president respectively to meet in the Legion Hall this evening to discuss starting a club.

* * * *

It is now up to the Provincial Premiers at their adjourned conference next month to give the Federal Government the "all clear" that will enable both Dominion and Provinces to proceed full steam ahead towards renewed prosperity.

* * * *

Both the doctors and the Temperance Federation have distinguished themselves for their moderation in handling the liquor situation. Had it been a Conservative regime that had introduced the reform, wouldn't the rafters have been made to ring? Yet it is the 1927 Tory platform in a less ethical form that has come into existence.

* * * *

Prime Minister Hansson, of the Socialist Government of Sweden, declared at a recent press conference that his Government has no plans for complete Socialization. As he puts it, "The main principle of our programme is that the means of production must be used as effectively as possible. Wherever private enterprise proves to be the superior, it will have our support." If by "superior", Mr. Hansson means best able to produce wealth for the community, for a minimum of use of labour and materials, then we can recommend this attitude as a guide for our policies in Canada. Up to date we have not known any "public" enterprise which, if it had to pay its fair share of taxation, and meet all its expenditures out of revenue, would have become as successful in Canada as private enterprise in the same field.

* * * *

The British Government has decided not to reduce the importation of Canadian newsprint because of a scarcity of dollars to pay for same. Similarly London commentators observe that the British Government's order that ships from New Zealand and Australia shall avoid using the Panama Canal is solely dictated by the present shortage of dollar exchange. The latest available figures are those of 1940 in which year the United Kingdom paid nearly one million and a quarter pounds sterling in Panama Canal tolls at the rate of one dollar per net ton for laden ships and sixty cents for ships in ballast. The decision is part of the United Kingdom Government's scheme for devoting all the available dollar exchange to the purchase of food and essential materials, pending some new arrangement with the United States.

* * * *

Letitia Elizabeth Landon, "L.E.I.", English poetress, died this date 1839; nearly all her life known to the literary world merely by her initials, over which her poems appeared in the leading newspapers and magazines, afterwards published in book form; her principal works are: *The Improvisatrice, The Troubadour, The Golden Violet, The Venetian Bracelet;* her biographer wrote: "Never was there a poet whose works were less a reflex of his own mind than those of L.E.L. with all the enchanting descriptions of woodland glades, sunny gardens, flowery meadows, beneath the magic of a Provencal or Italian sky, Miss Landon, like Charles Lamb, had little affection for the country, and found herself nowhere in a more congenial atmosphere than amid the smoke and bustle of London". Late in life she married Mr. George MacLean, Governor of Cape Coast Castle, where she died on her honeymoon:

Violets—deep blue violets!
April's loveliest coronets!
There are no flowers grow in the vale
Kissed by the dew, wooed by the gale—
None by the dew of the twilight wet,
So sweet as the deep blue violet.

Notes By The Way

It happened in the office of a book publisher. Felix Frippingham, a struggling writer, had asked that his manufscript be considered. "It has merit," acknowledged the publisher, "but we only publish material by writers with well-known names." "That's me," shouted a waiting visitor. "My name's *Jones!*" —From Christian Science Monitor.

Brantford, free of diphtheria for so many years, is completely convinced of the effectiveness of toxid. It is as necessary to keeping a city diphtheria-free as to achieving that desired state in the first place. Immunizing of all children must continue. It is the only real safeguard. The grim story of what has happened in Europe during the war years shows that diphtheria has lost none of its power to strike with devastating force when control measures are relaxed.—Brantford Expositor.

If you shuld ask the person next you on the street car if he reads poetry for pleasure, he will more than likely deny the question hurriedly. To be thought fond of poetry makes the average person self-conscious, as if there were something abnormal about it. This is really a pity, because there are few intellectual pleasures so rewarding as a love of poetry. No other form of literature can evoke such permanent satisfaction. In the sunshine, it enhances enjoyment; in the shadow, it sustains and soothes. Next to music, it is the most subtle and intense form of communication between persons. Through it indeed, "deep calleth unto deep." — Toronto Globe and Mail.

At the Beltsville research centre of the Department of Agriculture near Washington, government scientists have developed a breed of hens that lay "non-spoiling" eggs. These eggs, after being kept two weeks at a temperature of 100 degrees, have been found fresh and edible, says the Philadelphia Inquierer. The trick is, say the scientists, that the new hen strain lays an egg with a thicker shell and a maximum layer of thick white inside. They ship better than ordinary eggs and poach and fry better. — From Philadelphia Inquierer.

I never realized what medieval ideas Japan had until I read in the paper where Tokyo warms its young women to be very careful about showing their red underwear, as it constitutes a modern temptation to American soldiers. Shucks if a GI saw a girl in red undies he would be just about as much interested as if she were parading around in hoop skirts, high shoes and a bustle. "I've been worried," says a Japanese, "when young women in elevated cars nonchalantly take off their slacks, show their red underwear and then put on their slacks, after smoothing out their rumpled undies." Well, any country where the women take off their clothes in the elevated trains needs occupying, and I guess MacArthur will have to stay longer than he counted on.—Dave Boone, in New York Sun.

Many will agree that water lilies are among the most beautiful of our pond plants. Their delicate fragrance is a gentle reminder of nmidsummer outings to Nature's quieter, less frequented spots. In the animal world another kind of water "lily", known as the Crinoid or Sea Lily, is likewise noted for its exquisite beauty. A sea lily has a long, jointed, limy stem which fastens it to the sea bottom. The soft animal is lodged in a cup which is made up of many limy plates. Radiating from the upper margin of the cup are numerous, flexible arms, the animal's food-gathering device. Sea lilies were more common in the prehistoric seas than they are at the present time. During the Coal Age particularly, over two hundred and fifty million years ago, the seas teemed with these creatures. The comminuted remains of their fossilized shells are the chief constituents of many of the economically important limestones of the world. — Royal Ontario Museum.

Even if sentimental consideration for the people who withstood the fiercest fury of the Nazi onslaught is to be ruled out, there still remain compelling reasons why our Government should extend further succor to Britain. It is an old-established practice of banks to keep "afloat" an old customer involved in temporary financial embarrassments, because he has been in the past a good customer and because he can be counted on to provide profitable business for the bank when his position is retrieved. Our attitude toward Britain should be governed by this sensible banking practice. In the past she has been by far the best market for our exports. She is today suffering from financial debility, but she has great powers of recuperation, if she can survive this critical period, and Canada should help to nurse her through it. In our own selfish interest we cannot afford to let the national economy of our best customer deteriorate to a point where she would cease to be a market for our production. — From the Globe and Mail.

A generation ago the kerosene oil lamp was the principal means of illuminating our homes, as it is in many homes even yet. It superseded the candle for general use, until kerosense itself was displaced by gas, to be followed by electric light. It is perhaps not generally known that a Canadian geologist invented and developed the process for making kerosense, or coal oil as most of us call it now. The discoverer was Abraham Gesner who was born at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, in 1797. He made his discovery in 1852 at the age of 55. The 1941 census of Canada showed that 69.1 per cent of all occupied dwellings in the Dominion were lighted by electricity, 30.5 per cent, by kerosene or gasoline, 0.4 per cent by gas. The proportion of homes without electric light was considerably higher in farm communities than in urban areas. —Brandon Sun.

One of those interminable gastrotory arguments rages around the question as to whether doughnuts and fried cakes are synonymous. Without claiming expert knowledge, we incline to the belief that they are vastly different. At least, we have had some soggy atrocities foisted on us under the name of doughnuts, but we have never found anything but supreme delight in fried cakes. The true fried cake is twisted, not round.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

W.C.T.U. ATTITUDE

Sir,—With reference to a statement in The Guardian of October 13, that the Charlottetown W.C.T.U. approves of the new liquor amendment, the following is our official action:

At a subsequent meeting of the members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union who were addressed by Attorney General Large on Monday, October 8, the following was passed:

"With reference to the six months' liquor amendment which has been passed by Governor's warrant, contrary to the thrice-expressed wishes of the majority of the electors, we wish to say that this is most undemocratic and unstatesmanlike, and meets with our unqualified disapproval and censure."

Christians cannot stand for liquor.

We are, Sir, etc.,
EDITH B. STERNS,
Secretary.
ANNIE G. WATSON,
"Y" Secretary.

(The Guardian's authority for its report is as follows: "Assurance has been given by Attorney General F. A. Large to the local Women's Christian Temperance Union that less liquor would be consumed under the new permit system, according to Mrs. W. H. Johnson, president of this organization. Mrs. Johnson said she was favorably impressed by the Attorney General's sincerity, and thought the new regulations should be given a fair trial for six months."—Ed. G.)

Threat To Maritime Ports

(Moncton Transcript)

Some time ago Mayor McKenna of Saint John wrote Mayor Butler of Halifax proposing the two cities work together to advance the interests of their ports. Mayor Butler replied that he was all in favor of the suggestion and stated his belief that joint action would do a lot to convince the authorities that the port business of the future should be handled to a large extent by the two great all-year ports of the Maritimes.

It now seems that joint action, supported by other Maritime interests, will be necessary if the two ports are to receive their rightful share of the shipping business. Shipping officials have already given frank warnings that if Halifax and Saint John do not prepare to handle more traffic with greater despatch, by modernizing their port facilities, they will lose business to New England ports. Lending emphasis to this warning is news from Boston that elaborate improvements to facilities are planned for that port. A $15,000,000 state appropriation has been made for new berths and mechanical equipment, as well as for a major campaign of salesmanship in an effort to obtain a larger share of seaborne freight. Boston authorities even propose action to control labor on the grounds that labor practices in that port in the past have resulted in unnecessary and exorbitant costs which not only drives business away but discourages new business. In addition to Boston, other New England ports—Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore and Portland are making preparations calculated to attract the shippers.

The Toronto "Saturday Night" takes up the cudgels on behalf of the Maritime ports in a recent editorial. After paying a fine tribute to these ports for yeoman service rendered, the Allied cause every month of the year during the war, with an efficiency and devotion that could not have been surpassed, the paper says:

"Thousands of men from all over the Maritime Provinces work as longshoremen in these ports, and they need year-round employment. But now Halifax and Saint John face decline to the old six-months' port status. To permit this to happen is against the interests not only of the Maritimes but of all Canada. Winter traffic should not be routed out of Canada that can get through these ports. With the volume of European relief and export freight slated to move overseas during the next several years, it should be possible to route plenty of summer business via the Maritime outlets. Summer idleness is an old grievance of Halifax and Saint John. The present would seem to be a good time to do something about it."

Thanks are due the "Saturday Night" for supporting a cause which means so much to the Maritimes. But the fact remains that the Maritime ports will hold their own only if they are adequately equipped to meet competition from all quarters. Now is the time to prepare for the future.

TOOTH DECAY

It is estimated that more than nine of every 10 children have one or more decayed teeth by the time they reach the age of six.

It has a crisp crust, rich brown in color and inside it is white and flaky. It is not for those with "queezy" stomachs, for it is rich fare. It could not be otherwise, having been fried in deep fat. The round, hole-in-the-centre doughnuts, of course, can be good, but they can also be awful. They can be tough or doughy, and they can be flavorless. It is easy to understand why many believe they have to be dunked in coffee before they are palatable. But dunk a fried cake? Never! That would be sheer sacrilege. — Windsor Star.

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BE STILL, THE HANGING GARDENS WERE A DREAM

Be still. The Hanging Gardens were a dream
That over Persian roses flew to kiss
The curled lashes of Semiramis.
Troy never was, nor green Skamander stream.
Provence and Troubadour are merest lies,
The glorious hair of Venice was a beam
Made within Titian's eye. The sunsets seem,
The world is very old and nothing is.
Be still. Thou foolish thing, thou canst not wake,
Nor thy tears wedge thy soldered lids apart,
But patter in the darkness of my heart.
Thy brain is plagued. Thou art a frightened owl
Blind with the light of life thou'ldst not forsake.
And error loves and nourishes thy soul.

—Trumbull Stickney.

A Tip For The Bureaucrats

(Financial Post)

"He's lucky I didn't put him out of business."

The speaker of that sentiment, recently overheard in an Ottawa elevator, was one of Canada's bureaucrats; a man who, with his vast armoury of wartime regulations, his power over scheduling and supply distribution, has without question the power of death over a business organism.

That is an appalling power to put into anybody's hands. The insatiable, frenzied demands of war and of our survival may indeed have made inevitable the trusting of such absolute power to men and to boards. Certainly the danger from without far outweighed these dangers within. But that time has passed.

During coming months, some critical shortages will remain and the perils we suffered from some of our multitudinous bureaucracies may indeed for a little while longer be less than the perils threatened by the inequities and hardships of disorder.

But the bureaucrat must surely and promptly be stripped of the powers which would let him carry out the threat implied in "he's lucky I didn't put him out of business."

The businessman lives and works in an all-embracing and continuous aura of responsibility; responsibility for the success of the ideas and vitality of the ideals which he brings to his work; responsibility to the people to whom he sells and from whom he buys; responsibility to all who work with and for him; responsibility to his community, to his board of directors and to his shareholders.

None of these responsibilities need, in fact, weigh heavily on the bureaucrat and some of them not at all. He has no particular need to get along with his "customers." If they don't like him or his "wares," he has simply to use force.

The bureaucrat must justify his existence first to himself and second to his superiors, hence he is almost invariably busy finding problems and projects. For those things are the lifeblood of his existence.

Canada has been remarkably fortunate in the big army of talent which it has mobilized in its wartime bureaucracy. The great majority of our bureaucrats would privately be described as "good men" and excellent citizens.

But (and we aren't authors of this phrase), "All power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely." For their own sake and for Canada's, we are tipping off the bureaucrats that they ought to take a good look at what power has done to them as men and as citizens; and scramble out of bureaucracy as fast as their sober, objective conscience tells them their post can possibly be vacated.

WILD DOG PACKS

The wild dog is found in all the wilder jungles of India. It hunts in packs, sometimes of 20 dogs.

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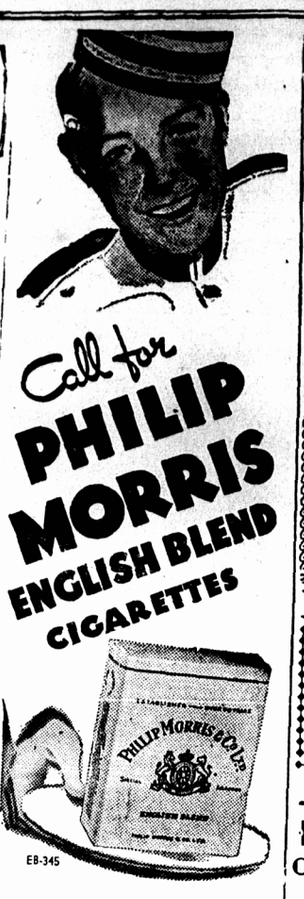

EB-345

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STILL THE CIGARETTE SENSATION

PRAYERS GET HOUSE

BECCLES, England — (CP) — The congragation of the Strict Baptist church in this Suffolk town met to pray that their homeless pastor, Rev. R. B. Hewitt, might get a house. A short time later the clergyman received an offer of accommodation from a man who had no connection with the church.

MATTER OF ETHICS

LONDON — (CP) — Asked to arrange for the ringing of his church bells in Thanksgiving Savings Week, Rev. J.P. Harvey, vicar of St. James's, Hampton Hill, replied: "This act of worship to mammon savors much of paganism. We do not want to drag God and worship into efforts of making money."

PIONEER HOMES

The first English people to go to New Zealand lived in huts put up for them by the natives. The huts were made of raupo, without flooring, chimney or window and neither windproof nor rainproof.

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