

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1947

What Now?

The City Council by a majority vote has decided to flout the Provincial statute by adopting Daylight Saving Time independently as from today.

Such an exhibition of irresponsibility on the part of our civic representatives would seem to call for some explanation or excuse.

How Budgets Are Made

Although the reported surplus of \$352,000,000 in the Dominion's 1946 accounts glowed like a friendly beacon in Mr. Abbott's budget speech,

Had it not been for this mingling of proceeds from the sale of capital assets with current revenues the Finance Minister would have had to report a deficit instead of a surplus.

The 1946 expenditures of the Government amounted to \$2,632,000,000 and the revenues from taxes and departmental operations were \$2,612,000,000.

Governments often resort to this kind of sleight-of-hand in accounting to give a pleasant financial picture to the country, but how long would a private company survive if it resorted to the practice of using proceeds from the sale of its capital plant and equipment to show a profit in current operation?

Finance Minister Abbott is budgeting for a surplus of \$190,000,000 in this year's Dominion accounts against the contingency that Premiers Drew of Ontario, Duplessis of Quebec and Macdonald of Nova Scotia will change their minds and accept the Federal cabinet's financial proposals as six other provincial governments have done.

Nevertheless Mr. Abbott is budgeting for an unnecessarily large surplus against this contingency. If the three Provincial Governments agree this year to make agreements on the financial proposals of Mr. Abbott last winter the Dominion would be required to pay them subsidies amounting to \$100,000,000, which would reduce his surplus at the year end to \$80,000,000.

If, as seems possible, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia will hoe their own row this year it means that Mr. Abbott is taxing the Canadian people \$110,000,000 unnecessarily.

Consequently it may reasonably be asked what justification is there for Mr. Abbott laying an additional \$110,000,000 on the taxpayers against a contingency that is not likely to arise? Had it not been for this levy he could have slashed the 8 per cent sales tax or eliminated the vexatious little nuisance taxes that were imposed during the war.

Cheap Houses

Some people have seen a hope in the production of prefabricated ready-made homes—built at popular, mass production prices like automobiles.

In Canada, however, such "radical" houses face obstacles. The Fairchild Aircraft factory, which, like airplane plants in England, was converted after the war to turn out Faircraft prefabricated houses, has had to give up the struggle against the obstacles thrown in its way by governments and unions.

The Faircraft were conventional four-roomed frame houses with aluminum siding, 30 to 25 feet, to be sold at the factory for \$3300. Cost of erection by old-fashioned, conventional

methods, plus that of transportation, it was found doubled the cost of the house. However, varying local building bylaws throughout Canada, constituted the major obstacle.

Such bylaws, drafted according to local whims and prejudices, would be a stumbling block to any form of prefabricated housing in Canada. They vary widely in different communities, and are sometimes at complete odds.

To illustrate the attitude of organized labor toward the factory-built home, Maclean's quotes the president of the Toronto Building Trades Council, who says: "A plan of this nature would not only shorten the hours of work of the building trade mechanics, who even under the present system of home building suffer to a great extent through lack of work, but what would happen to the established building material industry and their personnel?"

From the attitude of civic authorities with their building bylaws, and the attitude of organized labor, there must arise doubt as to just how genuine is the mass desire in Canada for a really inexpensive house.

Canada's Birds

Canada is said to have 500 different kinds of birds, and each different kind has a different travel schedule; in fact, some kinds scarcely travel at all and may be found even in the most severe winter weather in their accustomed haunts.

Canada values its bird travellers for the aesthetic pleasure they give by their presence, by their beauty of color and by their charm of song. They are an important control of insect pests in forests and garden, and some kinds, which are grouped as game birds, are a major attraction for hunters in the fall.

To protect its bird travellers which spend part of the year in Canada and part of the year in the United States, Canada some years ago entered into a treaty with the United States which, by co-operation between the two countries, extends protection to migratory birds by means of closed seasons, bag limits and the prohibition of unfair hunting methods.

Canada's migratory bird treaty of 1916 has been of major assistance in conserving this resource, and has been hailed the world round as the first international treaty for bird protection.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It's hard lines on our lobster fishermen—unseasonable weather, scarcer bait, and lower prices for their catch. Let's hope conditions improve as the season advances.

One of the BBC's variety programmes, recently found a distinguished visitor sitting in the front row of the London studio-audience. It was Field Marshall Lord Montgomery, no less, and the audience stood and cheered him to the echo.

Deputy Scout Field Commissioner Carrier, Ottawa, son-in-law of Dr. James Robertson, father of mixed farming in Prince Edward Island, says Col. W. W. Reid is the best tourist representative he knows and that as the result of his recent visit to Quebec and Ottawa there will be a tremendous increase of tourists from Upper and Lower Canada to the Island.

Lord Chorley speaking for the Government told the House of Lords that Great Britain imported from the United States last year 356 tons of chewing gum base worth \$772,796. He defended it as a necessary expenditure on gum needed for miners and those substituting it for tobacco.

Jamaica discovered by Columbus this date 1494, and annexed by Spain 1509; in 1655 the English commanded by Venables and Penn banished the Spaniards and took possession of the Island which became the great centre of the slave trade. In 1831-2 a negro uprising occurred, and in 1834 slavery was abolished. The Island is now administered by a Governor, aided by a privy council and legislative council. It is the centre of the banana industry and famous for its rum distilleries.

Says the Ottawa Journal: "Prince Edward Island, with 94,000 inhabitants, has what the natives laughingly call "prohibition", and temperance workers in the "wet" provinces hold up little P. E. I. to the rest of us as an inspiration and example. But, curiously, the sale of liquor for "medicinal purposes" gave the P. E. I. Government a profit last year of more than half a million dollars and this, on the basis of population, is about as much as the liquor profit in Ontario and Quebec."

Notes by the Way

English business agent was given a jail term for spending too much money in New York. Is there any other way to live in New York?—Toronto Telegram.

Trappers near Brantford caught white muskrats with pink tails. If it had been pink muskrats with white tails, the report would have started police hunting for stills.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Children who skip school regularly don't get family allowances, says Federal Health Minister Martin. He didn't say what attitude the department would take in the case of school strikes. Maybe arrangements will have to be made for strike pay.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

When a youngster in Chinatown misbehaves, says Your Life Magazine, no one says to him, "You're a naughty child." Instead, they say, "Who is your father? Like father, like son. What sort of man is your father? Why has he not trained you properly?" So the father, knowing he will be blamed, makes every effort to bring up his son properly. It is better, so reason the Chinese, to have a son of whom you can be proud than all the gold in the world. For what good is money if a son disgraces you and you grow old in sorrow?—

There are many reports in circulation of business and professional men engaging in income tax frauds. Some of them have been even known to boast of their deceit and of how they were "putting it over" the taxation people. As the latter pursue their investigations, they may discover that crime does not pay and that there will be little sympathy for them on the part of their fellow citizens, whom they have cheated and robbed, when they are put behind the bars.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

It is a poor policy in times such as these when the demand for coal for industrial purposes is greater than ever, to allow thousands of miners to remain out of work and thousands of tons of coal unmined to the detriment of the whole country.—Brantford - Expositor.

Newfoundland, had she chosen, might have been one of the original partners in Confederation, before the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were even thought about. You can't help wondering whether, if she had become a Canadian province, her fortunes through the years would have been better or worse.—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

With the June Bride season rapidly approaching, it is interesting to note that more than 1,000 varieties of orchids are grown in Hawaii St. Thomas Times Journal.

The other day we noted briefly a California advertisement that offered a packet of 35-cent seeds for a dollar. It has been capped in a suburb where a little shop displays a window sign reading: "Penicillin Whistles—Is. 3d." reports The Edmonton Journal. Advertising in a two-cent whistle for 25 cents must be about tops in frankness. Another London suburban advertisement, reported by an Old Country correspondent, throws a vivid light on the scarcity of domestic help in England and the inducements that are thought most likely to prove really alluring. It too was placed in a shop window, was done by hand, and read as follows: "Domestic Help Wanted, £2. 5s. a week for five mornings. And a New Laid Egg." Canadians do a lot of grumbling; they really don't know how well off they are in the world of today.

The recent German coal strike, though only a token affair, lends support to those who argued that the Allies should not have tried to restore the German economy but instead should have let the German's either starve in their own juice or set themselves out of it.—Brantford Expositor.

The ghost of "Bird's Eye" is hard to lay. Gerry did more than a hundred years ago, but he discovered some "how" that has been found to be convenient in his day. For in 1810, when governor of Massachusetts, he discovered that voting districts can be so altered before an election as to improve the chances of the party in power. His discovery has since been known as gerrymandering. And gerrymandering has a long and vicious history. The first gerrymandering was done by the man in Boston we are from here, and it was said to have to say they had left home because the advantages to which they felt they were entitled had been denied to them at home; and because, also, of the general discontent so generally engendered by the cursed proprietary system of this Island (Hear!) He earnestly hoped that in the future, the prospects of the people would not be marred by the interference of middle men. But he had his doubts on that point.

run at many points around the globe? Even if the United States cannot do all these things the Truman program does not seem headed for war. But it may sink into confusion. Increased efforts to lay a global pattern of economic support and collaboration with all democracies is now clearly called for. This must be done if the present challenge to totalitarianism is surely to lead to peace.—Christian Science Monitor.

COLLEGE FOR ROOKIES

LONDON — (CP) — In accordance with the future policy of the constabulary that all officers be drawn from the ranks, a new national police college will be opened this year. It will offer an opportunity for every constable to fit himself for the highest police post.

How much responsibility can the United States accept for political difficulties which other democratic governments may face as they are caught in the East-West crossfire? Can the United States give effect to aid to such governments? Can it overrule its economic policies to support democracy for the long

The Poets Corner

OLD BIRCHES

Out in the fields where the rain-pools glisten, Spring comes, picking her dainty way;

On with your veils of misty greenness; Billow and drape with right good will; Hasten, birches, cover your leanness, Spring is coming across the hill!

Why do you loiter? Woodlands hurry Into their gowns of verdant hue; Maybe you're grown too old to worry— Spring means nothing at all to you. —Lucy Gertrude Clarkin.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

THE LAND QUESTION

From debates and proceedings of the House of Assembly, March 10, 1874:

Dr. Jenkins said it was a matter for congratulation that they were now in a position to deal promptly with the Land Question; and when it should come up for discussion he hoped it would be dealt with on its merits. It was desirable that by-gones should be looked upon as by-gones. To a certain extent the landed proprietors had gradually been got rid of, and in affecting that, both parties had lent their assistance. He did not believe the system could exist in this country, inasmuch as it was one so entirely antagonistic to the genius of the people. Yet he was far from believing that proprietors had dealt so harshly with the early settlers, as some people seemed to imagine.

Hon. Mr. Bracken cordially endorsed the sentiments expressed by his learned and hon. colleague, and also hoped that upon this question they would be of one mind. The Land Question, in the bitterness of feeling and discontent which it created, had cost this country more than all the township lands were worth. (Hear!) Some were of the opinion that the Land Question in itself was sufficient reason why they should have gone into Confederation.

Mr. L. H. Davies, Leader of the Opposition, remarked that a stranger in listening to the discussion on the paragraph of the Address under discussion, would have thought that the political millennium had arrived in Prince Edward Island. In the matter of the Land Question the paragraph was not quite an echo of the Speech, yet it was the only paragraph in the whole Speech that was worthy of more than ten minutes' consideration. Since they had gone into Confederation, and had \$800,000 placed at the disposal of the Government for purchasing out the rights of the proprietors, he felt that it was the duty of public men to use their exertions to have the question finally settled. In the Old Country the rights of the proprietors to the land they own had not been disputed; but in this Colony it was only after the lapse of ninety years of political warfare, that for peace sake, their rights have been tacitly admitted. It was and is well known that the proprietors never fulfilled the conditions entailed upon them when they received their lands. But all these questions happily belong to the past. Yet he almost trembled when he reflected how public men in the past had turned aside from that duty which they owed to themselves and the people, by availing themselves of their position to enrich themselves. He again said he trembled, least the latter end of this question might prove worse than the first. They saw their young men going away from their native Island to the United States and elsewhere. What could be of more importance than retaining our young men at home, and seeing them settling down to add to the wealth and happiness of their common country. But unhappily such was not the case. If they would go to Boston and other places, they would meet with whole colonies of men and almost said, of men and women who had gone to their native Island. A large percentage of the people in Boston were from here, and it was said to have to say they had left home because the advantages to which they felt they were entitled had been denied to them at home; and because, also, of the general discontent so generally engendered by the cursed proprietary system of this Island (Hear!) He earnestly hoped that in the future, the prospects of the people would not be marred by the interference of middle men. But he had his doubts on that point.

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GAESPICIA'S TRIP RECALLED

Sir.—In your issue of Friday, April 25, there appeared an interesting account of the arrival of the Gaespicia in Charlottetown almost half a century ago. The item was of particular interest to me as I was one of the two passengers, carried on the return trip of the Gaespicia, under command of Capt. MacKinnon to England. My travelling companion as we left Charlottetown on Christmas Day, 1898, was the agriculture agent for Prince Edward Island at the time, Mr. Joseph Wise, M.P. This trip furnished me with the first opportunity in eighteen years of visiting my family in England, and also exploring the possibilities of a cheese market in that country. Landing in this country from England in 1880, I first went to Ontario to learn something of the manufacture of cheese and then came to Prince Edward Island in 1883 where I established one of the first cheese factories in Prince County and have made my residence in this Province ever since. I well remember proudly showing my friend, Mr. Wise, many places of interest in London. One of the places we visited on January 17, 1899 was the office of the High Commissioner of London. On our return trip we landed at St. John, N.B., on the last of February, after a very calm voyage, and, crossing the Strait by ice-boat, landed at Cape Traverse. At one of the sessions of the local legislature in March of that year, Mr. Wise gave a comprehensive account of his trip to England and it might prove interesting if a report of his speech at that time could be published.

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MEANING OF TEMPERANCE

Sir.—In your issue of the 29th of April, Edward Jerome came out in support of "J.F.W." in his interpretation of the term "temperance" when he defined its meaning as moderate, then Mr. Jerome asked Teetotaler to refer to the new Universal Hand-book by W.H. Johnston and William Houston M. A. of the Toronto University Senate and see what it says about Temperance. Now we are not particular about the meaning of the word temperance when we are in this struggle against this traffic; its teetotalism we want. Some years ago we had what they called temperance societies but they were more, they were "Teetotalism" societies. There was a pledge each member took not to

PUBLIC FORUM

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

IN APPRECIATION

Sir.—It is two years this month since I first set foot on Prince Edward Island. During that time the two things which have impressed me most about this Province are the beauty of the landscape and the kindness of the people. Both have contributed to the joy and happiness which have been mine since I came here.

The countryside is unsurpassed in beauty at any season. From the top of the higher hills there stretches out before one's eyes a panorama of unexcelled beauty and interest. Almost always there is the "blue" of the sea in the distance to add charm to the landscape. Especially in the true of the southern part of Kings County, the part of the Island with which I am most familiar.

Not only is it a land of beautiful scenery, it is also a land of warm hearts. The kindness and hospitality of the people are evident everywhere. One needs only to be in difficulty to realize how generous are the hearts of the Islanders.

DAYLIGHT TIME

Sir.—I always thought that the majority of the people have ruled, but in the case of Daylight Saving the rulers seem to be those who are fond of fishing, golf, and horse race men. But they don't seem to be sportsmen enough to take this at the cost of themselves.

To take this pleasure, they want the poor hard working man to get out of his bed at six, that means five o'clock Standard time, burning light and coal, the latter being about \$16.00 a ton; also a woman who works from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. These people have to endure all this in order to give those sports fans an extra hour for pleasure while those same men can sleep in their beds until nine o'clock in the morning.

The City Recorder told the Council they could put their clocks ahead if they so desired but the resulting time would not be legal. Legal or not, they seem to want to force it on the people; and those people will take the same view of it as Mr. Martin did.

It has been claimed the majority of the people were in favour of it including railway men. I made it my duty to wait on a large number of labouring men also including railway men. There were one out of every ten in favour of it, but the man who earned his living by the sweat of his brow was against it.

The Council and sportsmen may put their clocks ahead if they like, but the majority will leave them as they are.

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RAINNY DAY Rigging Wet Weather COATS TRENCH COATS Rugged and Smartly Styled Let the spring rains come. In this carefully tailored gabardine raincoat your well groomed look will not diminish one iota. Interlined with Rubber to resist rain. All Weather Coats are featured in fawn and olive shades. Lined Gabardines \$18.00 Rubber Lined \$25.00 to \$30.00 Trench Model Cotton Gabardine Raincoats \$8.00 Buy Yourself a RAINCOAT TODAY HENDERSON & CUDMORE WHERE QUALITY IS SURE

I am writing as one whose misfortune it has been not to be born in Prince Edward Island; a misfortune partially compensated for by the fact that I spent six of the happiest years of my life there. The occasion of my first contact with Prince Edward Island is still fresh in my mind. It is among the most fragrant of all my memories of the past. The time was the late afternoon on a fair July day in the year 1929. As I rode on the train from Borden to Charlottetown and watched that ravishing panorama unfolding itself before my vision in a crescendo of loveliness, I could not refrain from asking myself: how is it that so many of us non-Island Canadians are so unfamiliar with this beauty spot in our country where nature seems to have indulged in a praiseworthy display of pastoral munificence? The capital of the Province is the pretty little city of Charlottetown, picturesquely located on Hillsborough Bay. What Charlottetown lacks in size is amply compensated for by its brightness, cleanliness, many shade trees, up-to-date stores, and especially by the geniality of its people. Charlottetown has melody in its very name. Long before there were any prospects of my going to Prince Edward Island, I was attracted by the name—Charlottetown. And now that the days of happy sojourn there have come to an end, the mere mention of Charlottetown stirs up nostalgic emotions within me. In my estimation, it is the most musical name of all the capital cities in our far-flung country. To me it sings the song of the land of my predilection. The spirit of the people harmonizes admirably with the natural beauty of the country. A visitor in Prince Edward Island never feels like a stranger. He is not by-passed by the virtuous of formalism. Everywhere he sees the friendly, smiling faces of people who are eager to make their guests feel the warmth of the peerless Island hospitality. No matter what part of the Province they come from, whether from Rolle Bay, or Palmer Road; from Tryon, or Kelly's Cross; from Bedeque, or Minto; from Charlottetown, or Summerside, they radiate the same contagious friendliness. Our strife-torn world can learn a profitable lesson from Prince Edward Island, that little Province where some 93,000 people live in the peaceful and rational enjoyment of Mother Nature's lavish gifts. Prince Edward Island has mastered the art of living because their philosophy of life is thoroughly Christian. MAY REMOVE TOLLS LONDON — (CP) — The Ministry of transport is considering proposals to free 58 toll bridges and 41 lengths of toll road in the United Kingdom.