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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, JAN. 14, 1949

Rural Electrification

The problem of rural electrification, next
to those of transportation and soil maintenance,
is perhaps the most important one with which
our farmers are concerned at the present time.

It is to be hoped that the Government
will shortly have something definite to report in
this connection. More than one expert survey of
the situation has been made, but the tabling of
findings of this kind in the Legislature serves
no purpose unless followed up by concrete action.

Next Federal Contest

The next Federal by-election is to take
place in the dual-county constituency of Nicolet-
Yamaska, Quebec, to fill a vacancy created by
the death of the late Independent Liberal member,
Mr. Lucien Dubois, who had held the seat
ever since it was established by the Redistribution
Act of 1933.

The political staff writer for the Montreal
Star forecasts the probability of an Independent
Liberal being placed in the field to oppose Mr.
Trahan, with a resultant division which would
be favorable for the entrance of a Progressive
Conservative nominee, who might in the circum-
stances capture the riding. In view, however,
of the definite announcement of the Progressive
Conservative headquarters that it is not their in-
tention to contest the constituency till the gen-
eral election, this prophecy may be discarded.

An Anachronism

The New York Times advocates and anticipates
the abolition of the Electoral College
which chooses the President and Vice-President,
on the basis of the national election some weeks
after it has been held. The Electoral College
consists of exactly as many members as the
combined total of the Senate and the House
of Representatives. What the people of the
United States actually voted for on November
2 last was for the election of the members of
the Electoral College, the entire membership
of each State going to the party that has a
majority, however small, in the Presidential con-
test.

The College met last week to give effect
to the vote of November 2. This is how The
Times reports the proceedings:

"There were no surprises yesterday when the
House and Senate met jointly to watch the
tellers count the vote of the Electoral College.
Or if there was a surprise it was that President
Truman, who happened to be at the Capitol for
lunch, broke precedent by being present during

part of the counting. Mr. Truman and Senator
Barkley got 303 votes and were elected. But
this was a historic ceremony — and a nice day
for it."

The official count gave Truman 303 votes,
Dewey 189, and Thurmond, States' Rights Demo-
crat, 39. The idea of The Times is that this elab-
orate, round-about way of winding up the Presi-
dential election needs to be ended or mended.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Newfoundland is already enjoying one of
the advantages of throwing in her lot with Can-
ada. Yousuf Karsh, internationally known Can-
adian photographer, is reported to be prepar-
ing to photograph members of the Government
and leading officials of the prospective tenth
Province.

Australia expects to realize some \$648,070,000
for her 1948 wool clip as compared with
\$503,820,000 the previous year and a pre-war
average of about \$194,400,000. The result will
certainly mean prosperity "down under" but it
also means that woolsens will be more expensive
than ever.

Dr. A. E. Kerr, president of Dalhousie Uni-
versity, is distressed at the lack of scholarships
or bursaries available for talented Maritime
students. The need is a pressing one, but Dr.
Kerr's suggestion that it should be filled by gov-
ernment action would be hotly contested by
many educators.

Professor Harold Sanders' short but much
appreciated visit will help to stimulate the grow-
ing interest in scientific farming in our midst.
He emphasized the advantages of using nat-
ural fertilizer, mixed with the manufactured pro-
duct, restoring as it does the natural fertility
of the soil together with a stimulation of growth.

Plastics are generally looked upon as rivals
of the metals, including steel. In one respect,
however, the development of plastics has result-
ed in a considerable improvement in steel prod-
ucts. The use of the hot-extrusion method in
the production of automotive forgings does away
with the waste and stresses involved in the use
of conventional steel plate.

There should be lumber and to spare now
for building purposes. British Columbia's lum-
ber industry, which brought in more than
\$300,000,000, last year, faces some tough prob-
lems in finding markets this year. B. C. Lands
Minister E. T. Kenney states that there is no
immediate demand for at least 15 per cent of
the logs cut last year.

While plans are being made to provide
amplifiers for the House of Commons in Ot-
tawa it might be worth considering short range
broadcasting equipment and portable receivers
such as that used by the U. N. so that members
can keep in touch with debates even if they are
called to another part of the building.

The Federation of Agriculture had a wel-
come interview with the Government on num-
erous matters appertaining to the development
of one of our two main industries. If we are to
continue and succeed as a province the Govern-
ment and the leaders of these industries
must get closer and closer together, and their
joint efforts will prove effective when it is neces-
sary to appeal to Ottawa for assistance and
support.

Lord Napier of Magdala, British soldier,
died this date 1890. He had taken part in
many wars, but his outstanding feat was the
relief of Magdala. The Abyssinian ruler declared
himself "King of Kings" as Theodore III of
Ethiopia. He drove all foreigners out of his
state and imprisoned the British Consul and his
staff in the fortress of Magdala. After abortive
negotiations to obtain their release, Sir Robert
Napier stormed the fortress in 1868, and when
entrance was effected it was found Theodore
had committed suicide. Sir Robert was raised
to the peerage, appointed commander-in-chief
of the Indian forces, and raised to Field Mar-
shal in 1883.

The Roman Catholic Church does not re-
cognize the practice of so-called "mercy kill-
ing," whether by doctors or anybody else. Rev.
Father C. P. Horvath at Ottawa told congrega-
tions at services in the Roman Catholic Church
of the Canadian Martyrs that introduction of
mercy killings would be tantamount to the re-
vival of the "pagan practice." "Human life is
sacred because it comes from God and God
alone has complete dominion over it because
He is the creator," he said. He was comment-
ing on a petition submitted to New York State
legislators by 379 Protestant and Jewish clergy-
men calling for a law to allow mercy killings
at the request of persons suffering from incur-
able diseases.

They continue to go ahead with nationaliza-
tion of industries in the old land. Nationaliza-
tion of chemical industry, some branches of in-
surance and the distribution of agricultural prod-
ucts may form part of the Labor Party's draft
program for the 1950 general election. A sec-
tion of the Labor Party has been seeking the
inclusion of these measures in the "second five-
year plan" and they are among ideas which
have been put forward to a special committee
on nationalization. Public ownership of the
shipbuilding industry is among other proposals
which have been advanced but whether these
will find their way into the final policy state-
ment is problematical. The provisional policy
statement will be considered by the national ex-
ecutive committee of the party next month and
by the party annual conference in May. If ap-
proved by the conference, possibly with modifi-
cations, it will form the foundation of the 1950
election campaign.

The Poet's Corner

INTERROGATION

I gazed into my looking-glass
And pondered on a way to pass
Beyond the mirror, so to spy
Upon the fiction that seemed I.

I thought if I could step into
The mirrored room there, I might
view,
Beyond the other side of things
The answers to my questionings

As to what mystery or chance
Could hide a dream of permanence
So subtly in my flesh and bones,
And use my motions and my tones.

I could have sworn then that I
heard,
In undertones of echoed word,
A whisper wakening a clasp
'Inside your question-mark are
you—'

Secrets you search for you might
find
Within the room within your mind
Where transit, at a listless end
Where outer and inner vision
blend—'

High tide this morning at 10.39
and tonight at 9.45.
Summerside tide eighteen min-
utes later than Charlottetown.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

PROJECTED WHARF

"We beg to acquaint our read-
ers, that a petition to the Hon.
the House of Assembly praying for aid
to erect a wharf at the end of
Great George Street, in Charlottetown,
is now open for signatures at
Mr. T. DesBrisay's Drugstore,
and such of the inhabitants as are
interested therein would do well to
call and subscribe to the same."

"The petition sets forth the ad-
vantages of the site for a wharf
off the end of Great George Street.
First, that it is the centre of the
population; secondly, that it will face
the new 'Colonial Building and
is in direct communication with the
Malpeque and Saint Peter's Roads,
which lead into the most populous
parts of the Island; and thirdly,
that it is nearly opposite the new
wharf now being erected on the op-
posite shore, at Minchen's Point, of
which a Ponton Bridge or bridge-
way could connect one wharf with
the other, and thus a bridge
could be formed across our harbour
at say, 'Little expense'."

"The Islander, Feb'y. 10, 1843.
(Through an error in the original
of the late Mr. H. D. McEwen it was
stated that "country houses were
but a few miles apart and they
all sold run." The statement
should have read "country road
houses.")

Trade With West Indies

The Maritime provinces have a particu-
lar interest in any problems affect-
ing Canadian trade with the
West Indies. When the commer-
cial treaty with the Caribbean
islands was concluded Canadian Na-
tional Steamships undertook to
provide the passenger and freight
services between the Dominion and
the British colonies in the western
Atlantic and assist in the develop-
ment of trade relations. Coming
of World War II, however, neces-
sitated what eventually became
an almost total lapse of these
steamship connections. But in the
post-war era the familiar "Lady
Lines" and "C. N. S. Freighters"
are again appearing on the
routes and are performing a splen-
did service.

The Maritime ports of Halifax
and Saint John derive much bene-
fit from the West Indies services
of the C. N. S. line and will wel-
come the announcement of the eas-
ing of restrictions on Canadian ex-
ports to the Caribbean. This has
been arranged through release of
additional dollars from the sterling
reserve pool for B. W. I. pur-
chases and is naturally of encour-
aging importance to this country.

While West Indies exports are
still to be limited for those ad-
vancing to the West Indies, the
light or tightly restricted move-
ment should result in a definite though
moderate broadening of the volume
of our trade in the Caribbean.

But it is well to keep in mind
that scanty funds for the trade's
benefit are not the only reason for
the West Indies or any other
customer area is dictated
primarily by its ability to make
dollar-earning shipments of its
products to the West Indies, their
foreign buying power is also governed
by the overall dollar resources of
the exchange pool of the United
Kingdom and other sterling area
countries, and the extent to which
the B. W. I. can tap that pool to
meet the dollar deficits arising
from adverse trading balances.



Indies of \$26 millions. While it may
not be possible, all things consid-
ered, to close that gap entirely, it
should be possible to narrow it to
mutual advantage.

Protection For The Tenant

Another purpose of the Bill is to
strengthen the laws protecting ten-
ants of houses or apartments which
are let furnished. The Rent Con-
trol Acts of 1914 and 1939 only
gave protection to tenants of prem-
ises which were let unfurnished.
No protection was given to ten-
ants of furnished premises in Eng-
land and Wales until 1946 (Jan-
uary 1944 in Scotland). In 1946 an
Act was passed under which special
tribunals were set up in most
counties, charged with the duty of
fixing a fair rent for furnished let-
tings. Any tenant can apply to this
court—so can a local authority. But
if the tribunal does reduce the
tenant's rent, it can only give him
security as a tenant for three
months. At the end of the three
months the landlord can give the
tenants notice to quit, recover pos-
session, and re-let the rooms.
The Bill, a tribunal can extend this
period of three months indefinitely,
but only by three months at a
time and in each case with a
fresh hearing before them.

Can Be a Killer

No one knows how many men
die in New Brunswick every
Winter because they throw themselves
too wholeheartedly into shovelling
snow on their sidewalks, paths and
garage approaches. We know how
many people lose their lives in
drownings, in fires, in automobile
accidents, but no statistics are kept
of the deaths indirectly attrib-
uted to over-exertion with a snow
shovel. Yet there are plenty of them
—perhaps more deaths than are due
to some of the other and more spec-
tacular causes, like going through
the ice in a car or truck.

The first big snowstorm of the
season is the most dangerous time.
Middle-aged and older men, who
have had no exercise at all since
Summer, get bravely and determin-
edly sloshing out in the gleaming
snow with a heavy coal shovel over
their shoulder, and tackle the task
with enthusiasm. Admonitions from
neighbors to take it easy only spur
them on to more strenuous effort—
they want to show that they're not
so old as they look—and they work
until they feel a sharp stab of
chest pain or realize they have sud-
denly become so weary that they

Notes By The Way

A real man stands up and takes
what is coming to him, while
youngsters lean over. — Kitchener-
Waterloo Record.

Why the United States should be
so eager and anxious to stop the
so-called fighting in Indonesia
when it has proved incapable of
halting the real fighting in Pal-
estine (or maybe the cynics) to
answer. — Brantford Expositor.

The addition of windshield wip-
ers to the equipment of the auto-
mobile many years ago was an im-
portant step toward greater safety
on the road. But there is still con-
siderable room for improvement in
these devices. The majority of them
give the auto driver all too little
clear space to look through in
rainy or snowy weather. Those
corners of the windshield that are
not touched by the blades of the
wiper are a constant menace to
visibility. With cars darting out of
side streets it is necessary for the
motorist to have the advantage of clear vision
along the entire width of the wind-
shield and this is something that
most windshield wipers don't pro-
vide. Auto makers seeking im-
provements for future models might
well consider this important aspect
of motor car safety. — Boston Post.

Revolution has again broken out
in Central America, and with the
cost-of-living index steady down
there is every sign that we are
coming into a period of normalcy.
— Hamilton Spectator.

By rejecting a proposal to intro-
duce the game of shuffle-board as
an added attraction for visitors to
St. Andrews, the town council
have followed the lead of King
Henry VIII. The Tudor king, ac-
cording to Police Judge A. Imrie
of St. Andrews, banned shuffleboard
because the men of England were
neglecting their archery for it.
Judge Imrie was speaking in sup-
port of Police Judge D. Fraser's
proposal to lay down six concrete
courts at the Low Butts. The an-
cient archery ground near the R. and
A. Golf Clubhouse. He added, how-
ever, that the clock had turned full
circle since the days of Henry VIII.
Ballie W. P. Tulloch said that a
game like shuffleboard in the head-
quarters of golf would be entirely
foreign to the nature of the sur-
roundings. It was not a game
worthy of St. Andrews, and they
should not try to imitate the man-
seaside resorts in England "with
all their vulgarities at the end of
the pier." — London Times.

Shortly before Christmas we re-
ceived a cartoon from the public re-
lations department of the Ontario
Secondary School Teachers' Federa-
tion. It showed pupils dashing
out of school and exclaiming about
"10 days' holidays" while a teach-
er groans in front of a huge stack
of examination papers, thinking
"Papers to mark—teachers' meet-
ings—travelling time!" On a black-
board behind him is the notation:
"1 paper equals 15 minutes; 200
papers equals 9 days' work!" The
caption reads, "Christmas Holi-
days (C)." The publicity men ap-
parently wanted us to publish this
thing in order to convey to the pub-
lic what a downtrodden character
the secondary school teacher really
is. The teachers have an excellent
board behind them to publish their
spend many expensive years ac-
quiring the education and training
which fits them for their job, and
their job is one of the most im-
portant and responsible ones in
our society. Whether school board
can grant much higher salaries
than at present under the present
system of education financing is
another matter. The Secondary
School Teachers' Federation sticks
its neck out when it complains
about holidays, however. Few peo-
ple in any walk of life enjoy as
much "free" time over the space of
a year. The teacher's actual work-
ing conditions are among the best.
Perhaps examination papers do
take a lot of the teacher's time dur-
ing the Christmas holidays, but it's
doubtful they prefer to bring gold
enjoying the big day itself. There
are plenty of people who have only
Christmas Day off from work. —
Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Westinghouse Electric Corp.
scientists have developed a machine
which can measure how much the
weight of a feather twists a steel
bar. Called an elastic-drift measur-
ing machine, it can measure in-
credibly small amounts of twist,
little as one-millionth of an inch.
It was devised to aid in the de-
velopment of more accurate torque-
meters, which are used to measure
the turning force delivered by air-
plane propellers, jet engines and
other rotating machinery. The
new "twist detector" consists of a
steel shaft 25 inches long and one
inch thick. One end of the shaft
is fastened down, while the other
is bolted to the centre of a cross-
arm. Weights placed on one end
of the cross-arm cause the steel
shaft to twist in a degree propor-
tional to the weight. With the aid
of sensitive electrical contacts,
movements at the surface of the
shaft of less than one-millionth of
an inch can be measured. Present
torque meters are 98.5% accurate,
but special applications require
ones of greater accuracy, which the
new "twist detector" will make
possible. — Wall Street Journal.

The Age-Old Story

Thou, which hast showed us
great and sore troubles, shalt
quicken me again; and shalt
bring me up again from the
depths of the earth.

CARGOES OF GOLD
Galleons were large ships used by
Spanish merchants from the 15th to
the 18th century to bring gold to
Spain from Mexico and Peru.

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10 Boys' OVERCOATS, 33 to 35, worth \$27.50. Sale \$13.95
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