

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, J. K. Burnett.
Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, DEC. 4, 1948

The Highway Ferry

The long agitation for an additional ferry
steamer to handle motor car and truck traffic
between Borden and Tormentine during the
summer months has culminated in the presenta-
tion of a comprehensive brief by the Asso-
ciated Boards of Trade of the Province, strongly
supported by our federations of farmers and
fishermen. This brief should strengthen the
hands of both our Provincial Government and
Federal representatives in urging Ottawa to be-
gin work on the proposed new highway ferry im-
mediately. As pointed out in the supplementary
arguments accompanying the brief, it is impera-
tive that plans be formulated now to provide,
not only the steamer but suitable docks at both
terminals, before the present construction work
is fully completed.

There is no excuse whatever for further de-
lay or sidestepping of responsibility on the part
of the Dominion Government with regard to this
matter. It is not a political issue and the Govern-
ment need have no fear of Opposition criti-
cism in implementing a project which has had
the explicit indorsement of both the present and
immediate past Conservative Party leaders. In
Hon. John Bracken's opinion, voiced in Charlotte-
town in 1945, this Province is entitled, not only
to supplementary ferry service, but to have the
increased cost of moving all farm products and
other essential freight, by truck or rail, across
the Strait reduced to the equivalent cost of land
mileage transportation; this as a matter of na-
tional policy, on the principal that the water
route from Borden to Tormentine is an integral
part of our national highway system.

The present Conservative leader, Colonel
Drew, while in Charlottetown last month,
spoke to the same effect, declaring that it was
only a fair interpretation of the terms of Con-
federate to make provision for the movement
of passengers, freight and commodities without
additional cost as a result of our separation from
the mainland.

The same point has been stressed repeated-
ly by Premier Jones in presentations before Do-
minion-Provincial conferences, as well as in a
very able brief which he forwarded some months
ago to the Minister of Transport. At that time
he called attention to a Federal promise given
some six years ago, to provide an extra ferry
service at the earliest possible time.

Our Trade Boards have scrapped the term
"additional ferry" and are stressing the urgent
need of a new "highway ferry." This term is
more appropriate, underlining as it does the
connection between this service and the Domini-
on Government's trans-Canada highway policy
which is to be discussed shortly at Ottawa. This
is the opportune time to bring every influence
to bear in obtaining this long delayed recogni-
tion of our most urgent transportation require-
ment.

Nor should our friendly and intimate rela-
tions with the other Maritime Provinces be for-
gotten at this time. Before the Ottawa confer-
ence meets, it might be possible to have a special
meeting called of the Maritime Boards of
Trade for the purpose of indorsing our Island
briefs. Both the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
Governments and members of Parliament should
also be contacted. No stone should be left un-
turned to get the widest public sentiment be-
hind our representation. Past experience should
teach us that no other course is likely to have
any concrete result.

Exchange Control

A St. John's, Newfoundland, contemporary,
the Daily News, notes that for more than a year
the Canadian Government has maintained a
severe control over imports to conserve Ameri-
can dollars. Recent relaxation of the restric-
tions to allow entry of fresh vegetables has
not materially altered the basic situation. A
great range of commodities remains on the pro-
hibited list and it does not appear to be gen-
erally realized that these prohibitions apply to
all countries and not merely to the United
States. A still bigger range of goods may be
imported only on quotas and the result has been
to create some measure of scarcity in certain
consumer wants which has had the additional
consequence of higher prices for the limited
supplies available.

The dangers inherent in a policy of exchange
control have been emphasized by Dr. D. B. Marsh,
economist of the Royal Bank of Canada, in a
recent speech in which he said that "exchange
control, once it becomes an accepted and per-
manent part of a country's international mon-
etary mechanism, is one of the most insidious
types of government control. Not only is there
an economic cost in governmental overhead, badly
allocated resources and loss of the gains from
international specialization and trade, but the
power to control imports in a country like Can-
ada is ultimately the power of life and death
over many individual firms and industries. This,
together with the obvious limitation of free
movement of people and their effects across in-
ternational boundaries, becomes a direct threat
to political as well as economic liberty." Dr.
Marsh added that exchange control was no cure
for balance of payment deficits and was "simply
an emergency device to gain time so that the
fundamental realities might be applied."

The Daily News finds this a matter of "no
small interest to Newfoundland which, as a
member of the Canadian community, will be de-
nied the right of free access to world markets
for the first time in her history. This island
has today a very substantial favourable trade
balance in her dealings with the United States
and has been able to have surplus earnings of Ameri-

can dollars has gone to Canada because we have
refrained from establishing our own monetary
unit and have preferred to do our trading in
Canadian dollars. So far as can be ascertained
no consideration for this U. S. dollar surplus is
included in the terms of union and if this should
prove to be true, we shall be denied ready in-
tercourse with the United States, a country with
which we have always enjoyed close economic
and social relations. All we can do, it would ap-
pear, is hope that some arrangement will be
reached between Ottawa and Washington that
will put an end to the artificial barriers to
trade and travel within the very near future."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 2nd. Sunday in Advent.

Thomas Carlyle, philosopher and author,
born this date 1795. He never learned to suf-
fer fools gladly.

Viscount Templewood, former Conservative
air minister in London, urges the formation of
an international air force to strike against "any
attempted Russian advance" in Europe. This is
in line with President Truman's policy, and
Prime Minister St. Laurent is in line with both.

The Community Chest plan saves duplica-
tion of effort on the part of busy canvassers.
If adopted, it must be so organized and inspired
that its one big campaign nets as much as all
the separate drives it is intended to replace.

Socialists would be the first to deny that
Argentina and Portugal are Socialist states, yet
both these countries have nationalized the rail-
ways and are looking for new fields for gov-
ernment enterprise. There are essentially only
two political philosophies today. Either the

As with the weather, most people content
themselves with talking about Communism. Now
32 member unions of the Trades and Labour
Congress are going to do something about it.
Led by Mr. Frank Hall the unions plan to drive
the Communists from the ranks of organized
labour.

Warren Cottrell who was for a brief but
inglorious time in business here as a bond broker
has met his Waterloo in Saint John, N. B., plead-
ing guilty to two charges of violating provi-
sions of the New Brunswick Security Frauds Pre-
vention Act and fined \$500. An optional four-
month jail term was imposed in the event of
non-payment of the fine.

Efforts to get out the vote reached a new
low in Kelowna, B. C., where voters in a provin-
cial by-election were urged to go to the polls
in the hope of winning a lottery. The problem
of the non-voter is not merely a headache to
politicians, it is one of the more direct threats
to the survival of democracy.

The Boards of Trade are getting into their
old-time stride of leading in agitations for
public reform and improvements. They got be-
hind the proposed new public building project,
the town and rural planning scheme, the Car
Ferry service, and now the auto meter and com-
munity chest proposals are to engage their at-
tention.

From civil service to Parliament seems to
be the way to get on politically. General Mac-
Naughton attempted to lead the way, followed
by Mr. L. B. Pearson. Now Dr. Arthur Beau-
chesne, Clerk of the House, retiring at seventy-
two is following suit as candidate for Ottawa
East. Dr. Beausnesne ran twice as a Conserva-
tive candidate years ago, once for Ottawa, once
for Quebec's Legislature, and was defeated both
times.

It is understood contributor pension fund
legislation at 65 is to be introduced at the forth-
coming session of Parliament, which would call
for contributions to the pension fund by the Do-
minion, the provinces and the individual. The
individual's share would be collected along with
income tax payments. It is not said at what
age the individual would have to start paying
into the fund or when the pensions would be
collectable. It is believed that the cost of most
insurance retirement policies. Major political
parties at national conventions last summer
went on record in favor of contributory old age
pension plans that would provide security for
everyone 65 and over.

Five years ago on December 5, 1943, troops
of the First Canadian Division in Italy began
their offensive across the Moro River in the
drive to Ortona and engaged in what Major-
General Chris Vokes, then commanding the di-
vision, described as "the most intensive fighting
that the Canadians had yet engaged in." On
December 5, the Hastings and Prince Edward
Regiment attacked across the mouth of the
Moro and, despite counter-attacks by enemy
infantry and armour, managed to gain a foot-
hold on the high ground of the north bank to
which they clung precariously. Farther up river,
on the extreme left, the PPCLI descended to the
river bed at midnight and, without the assist-
ance of artillery, scaled the opposite bank and
seized the hamlet of Villa Roatti. Despite the
mounting violence of enemy counter-attacks,
the Pats and a squadron of the 44th. Royal Tank
Regiment somehow managed to hold on to their
prize. In the meantime, the Seaforth Highlan-
ders of Canada had moved two companies across
the river opposite San Leonardo, one of which
fought its way up a gully on the far bank and
held its ground against a strong attack by
enemy tanks. From Dec. 6 to the 10th., the Can-
adians improved their positions and fought off
enemy counter-attacks. Then, on the morning of
the 10th, the Edmonton's broke out of the Seaf-
forth positions at San Leonardo and drove
straight along the road leading to the Berardi
crossroads and Ortona. The battle for Ortona
had begun.

"Oct. 1804: This has not been done
from apprehension that the communication of
the fire could not be stopped with sufficient cer-
tainty and the fire should have spread
it might have done a great injury
to the buildings, &c. of the ad-
joining settlers. Had the neigh-
bourhood been unsettled the experi-
ment might have been made.
"Much of this is spruce wood,
which has very easy roots, and
will (I am told) grub in 3 or 4
years afterwards. Spruce generally
grows on poor land, but here the
land seems to be good, and the
spruce prevails only because of the



Old Charlottetown

SELKIRK ON LAND CLEARANCE

"August 15, 1803. In the road
from Vernon River, I passed a
piece of land accidentally burnt a few
months ago, in the spring or be-
ginning of summer. This frequ-
ently happens at that time, from the
spreading of the fires made by the
settlers in clearing, or many other
accidents. In autumn there is too
much moisture and the fire will not
spread; it runs along the
ground, and burns up the dead
wood, leaves and bushes; the large
trees are scorched, but retain their
leaves, but next year get none and
die. Laird (James Laird, an Em-
pire Loyalist with whom Selkirk
was favorably impressed) said that
in a year or two the raspberry
bushes and other underwood will
begin to get up and grow so thick
as to choke every other growth, and
by degrees young wood gets very
thick and renders the woods use-
less as to pasture.
"Near Charlotte Town, and at
many other places, I afterwards
saw instances of old burnt woods
grown up in this way into a thicket
more impervious than the original
land and the dead stumps rising over
the ground. Laird thinks that if the
ground immediately after the fire
was sown with clover the grass
would keep down the brush wood
and the cattle being attracted from
all sides would bring it to an ex-
cellent pasture, and keep it clear,
and that in this way land might be
cleared fully as well as by girdling.
"Here would, however, be the
same inconvenience as in girdled
land, that pasturing stock would
be exposed to accidents from the
falling branches.

"Even independent of grass seeds
it appears to me, that fire might
be made a useful instrument of
improvement. Where the land has
been burnt 6, 8 or 10 years ago
the old stumps appear as if they
were ready for rooting out, and by
the help of the long lever of the
stems may be got up easier than
the stumps of chopped wood; the
young growth too that has come
up is not so large as to have roots
of much obstinacy, and might be
grabbed out, or perhaps burnt
again in two or three years, and
would come out with great ease.
In this way these old burnt lands
could perhaps be sooner brought
into complete cultivation than any
others. Or if cultivation were not
thought advisable, there could be
no danger on such twice burnt
land from the falling branches, and
the land by close pasturing would
in some years completely clear it-
self.

"It is admitted that close pastur-
ing, especially with sheep, will ef-
fectually keep down wood, yet I
see many places in the Island,
formerly cultivated, now growing
up into young wood; but this is be-
cause the fences are neglected. Cat-
tle that are allowed the range of
the woods are eager only after the
grass, but if they were confined to
spot they would browse every-
thing. To make a trial of this fiery
principle of improvement, I have
directed a cut to be made through
the woods (for stopping the com-
munication of the fire) and to cut
off about 100 or 150 acres on Pt.
Prim to be burnt and pastured.

"Oct. 1804: This has not been done
from apprehension that the communication
of the fire could not be stopped with
sufficient certainty and the fire should
have spread it might have done a
great injury to the buildings, &c. of
the adjoining settlers. Had the neigh-
bourhood been unsettled the experi-
ment might have been made.
"Much of this is spruce wood,
which has very easy roots, and
will (I am told) grub in 3 or 4
years afterwards. Spruce generally
grows on poor land, but here the
land seems to be good, and the
spruce prevails only because of the

The Poet's Corner

DELAYED ACTION

(Demand for the artificial teeth
attached to dental plates is stated
to be five times what it was before
Britain's National Health Act came
into force, and factories making
them are said to be "weeks behind
with their orders".)
Hark! As of waves that break
upon the strand,
The long, dull roar of ocean's
foam-crowned rollers,
There is a sound of champing in
the land,
The endless gnashing of replenish-
ed molars.
Whence comes this tumult, never
known before?
Who stirred the gears, by time and
chance created?
It is, it is the opening dental roar
From Britain's bulldog breed with
jaws replated!
But all is not yet well within the
State;
Mouth-joy is incomplete and slight-
ly fractured
For there are those who still must
stand and wait
For teeth alas! as yet unmanu-
factured.
Will there be civil war, a thing ac-
cursed,
'Twixt those, quick off the mark in
such adventures,
Who rot their National Health Act
And those who have to queue for
Bevan's dentures?
—Lucio in the Manchester
Guardian.

The Age-Old Story

I will cry unto God most high,
unto God, that performeth all
things for me.

NO TEETH

Swordfish have no teeth but de-
pend on their swords to slash their
prey.
exposed situation killing the other
woods.
"Laird alleges that all trees die
outright when girdled, and that the
contrary is owing to its being im-
perfectly done. I think he is in
the right, for I examined several
trees that had been girdled, and
still retained leaves (particularly
maples) and I always found some
corner of bark that had escaped
and kept up the communication.
Girdling is not in general practice
in the Island for cleaning but I
see it occasionally done to trees
beside roads."
—Lord Selkirk's Diary. The dates
above given (August 15, 1803 and
Oct. 1804) are confusing, but the
explanation is that Selkirk left the
Island in September, 1803, and after
an extensive tour on the continent,
returned at the end of the same
month the following year.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the
discussion by correspondents
of questions of interest. The
Guardian does not necessar-
ily endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

THE SENATE VACANCY

Sir, — In your Public Forum of
November 29th appears another
letter giving the reasons why the
Senator to replace the vacancy
created by the passing of the late
Senator McDonald should be a
resident elector of King's County
and stating that the Hon. J. P.
McIntyre's name was not on the
Dominion voters' list for Kings,
but was on the list for Queen's
in every Federal election since he
was twenty-one years of age. This
is not correct, as there were no
voters' lists when Mr. McIntyre
was a young man.
But assuming this to be correct,
your correspondent should also
have stated that Hon. J. P. Mc-
Intyre has both a franchise and a
property vote in King's County
all down through the years. Why
your correspondent picked on one
franchise and left out the other,
can easily be seen. Legally, if Mr.
McIntyre wished, his name could
be placed on the voters' list for
King's, as he has a residence in
it. Thus you see "Euclid's" argu-
ment does not comply with the law.
It is up to Mr. McIntyre to choose
his residence and if he prefers
Queen's for voting purposes, what
can be said about it?
Mr. McIntyre nominated twice
in King's as a Federal Liberal
nominee and if successful he would
have chosen King's and his name
would have been on the voters'
list. This knocks the props from
under Euclid's argument.
Mr. J. L. Douglas, M. P. is
practically in the same position as
far as the Federal voters' list is
concerned; when he was nominat-
ed for Queen's it was natural that
he would want to vote in his
County. I see in the same issue
of the Guardian that Mr. Douglas
is sixty-seven years of age. This
would just leave him on the
correct side of the blue line. He
enjoys the best of health, both
mentally and physically, and is
respected on both sides of the
House; a quiet unassuming gentle-
man, with hatred towards no per-
son, and fully qualified to repre-
sent the Province in that august
body.
"Euclid" is now following the
"line" that should have been
followed a few years ago when all
well established precedents were
shattered by the Resident Federal
Member for King's, which is now
history. "As ye sow, so shall ye
reap."
As I have stated before, the four
Senators can be appointed from
any one of the three Counties or,
if the Prime Minister wishes, all
from Savage Harbour.
I find Euclid died at Alexandria,
200 B.C. at the age of seventy-
two.
I am, Sir, etc.,
BLACKSTONE

The High Cost of Living
Its Cause and Remedy

1. THE GOVERNMENT'S SEARCH FOR A SCAPE GOAT
By
E. L. R. Williamson, M. B. E.

Ten years ago a Canadian dollar would buy fourteen and three-
quarters loaves of bread of standard weight and quality. Today it will
buy only seven and one half loaves of the same weight and quality.
Ten years ago our dollar would buy a yard of good woollen cloth—
today it will buy less than an half-yard of woollen material of the same
quality.

On the average, the Canadian dollar today will buy less than two-
thirds the amount of essential consumer goods that it bought before
the war; in more technical terms, the cost of living index is up to
159.6 or 59.6% higher than before the war. In the business world the
dollar will buy approximately one-half of the goods that it bought be-
fore the war—in technical terms, the wholesale price index is up to 264,
or more than double what it was ten years ago.

2. Who suffers?
Such conditions as these introduce serious stresses and strains on
the whole economy and create a multitude of inequities before a bal-
anced adjustment is restored. The question which is urgently pressing
upon Canadians in all walks of life is this: What has happened that
everything costs nearly twice as much as it did—what has happened
that our dollar will now buy no more than .50c bought a few years ago?

3. There has been a nation-wide outcry against this ever-mounting
cost of living. In response to it the Government secured the appoin-
tment of a Parliamentary Committee to investigate the cause of the rise
in prices. After four and one-half months of sittings and investiga-
tions, the Committee presented their Report. This Report has been be-
fore the public since the end of June.

4. The sixth and substance of its findings are contained in the fol-
lowing paragraph in its "Summary of Findings":
"The Committee conclude that the significant causes of the recent
rise in the cost of living in Canada are:

- (a) the rise of external prices,
(b) the increase in the costs of production,
(c) the expansion of purchasing power in relation to goods and
services available, and
(d) certain supplementary factors" (principally abnormal gains on
inventory values).

5. The fact that prices have risen in other countries is the first
reason given by the Committee for the high cost of living in Canada. If
this reason is valid, essential imports would have to be a dominant fac-
tor in our national economy. In point of fact, the value of essential
imports represents, on the average, only 6% to 8% of our gross na-
tional expenditure.

6. Further, it should be noted that fuel (coal and oil) represents
approximately 40% of these essential imports, and that the price index
for fuel has risen only 21.3 points in the last two years; whereas the
food index, which is principally composed of domestic products, has
risen 67.7 points in the same period.

7. Finally, it should be observed that in recent months prices have
risen much more rapidly in Canada than in the United States—our
principal source of supply since the end of the war. This is shown by
the fact that in the past two years our Wholesale Price Index has risen
by 63.1 points (Dominion Bureau of Statistics), while the United States
index rose only 50.0 points (U. S. Dept. of Commerce) in the same time.

8. All of these facts taken together clearly suggest that the rise
of prices in foreign countries could not, and did not, have a preponderant
effect on Canadian prices as the Committee on Prices assert. Increased
in the cost of imports, through the imposition of Canadian tariffs, ob-
viously are another and a different matter which we shall discuss later.

9. In the next article, (to appear on Monday) we shall examine the
facts behind the increase in the costs of production; then in turn, we
shall deal with the other "findings" of the Prices Committee. After
that we shall assess the real or basic causes of the rise of prices in
Canada, and finally, we shall examine those measures which are required
if there is to be any effective relief from the high cost of living.

Notes By The Way

We begin to get a better idea of
how the years have slipped along
when we read that Jackie Coogan's
troupe has been stolen from his
car. — Windsor Star.

A writer says "the greatest mod-
ern development in the art of
camouflage has been made by the
Russians." And why not? All they
had to do was shave off the whisk-
ers, and now they look like any
other humorless guy. — Ottawa
Citizen.

Visitors from overseas spent
\$180,000,000 in Britain during the
season just ended. Of this total,
\$28,000,000 was spent in shops
where they bought everything from
gold plate to golf clubs. These fig-
ures have been announced by the
British Travel Association. — Uni-
ted Kingdom Information.

The truth is that every price is
a bad price when it is founded on
anything other than value, as es-
tablished by over-all economic con-
ditions. The truth, of course, will
remain veiled—won't be allowed to
work itself out—so long as the
housing shortage remains close to
the emergency level. In the long
run, though, no formula can offer a
satisfactory substitute for honest
prices arrived at on the basis of
what an article or service is worth
to the person paying for it, in terms
of his own situation. — Prince Albert
Herald.

Clara Wilson McNulty of Halley-
bury, sends the column this picture
of the daily newspaper from the
pen of the Irish-American journal-
ist and adventurer, John Boyle
O'Reilly (1814-1890): "It is the
biography of a day. It is a photo-
graph, of 24 hours' length, of the

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