

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, NOV. 16, 1948

The Late Senator MacDonald

It was with a deep sense of loss that our citizens learned of the sudden death early yesterday morning of Senator John A. MacDonald.

British Bacon Market

Agriculture Minister Gardiner has undertaken to refute the British Food Minister, Mr. Strachey, who implied in a recent statement that Canada was responsible in some measure for the decision of the British authorities to reduce the bacon ration from Canada by one-half.

Income Taxes

As a group, schoolteachers pay a larger sum in income taxes than all the farmers in Canada. At least this is what the figures for the fiscal year 1946 indicate.

In the 1946 taxation year, farmers paid income taxes of \$9.8 million, but to this amount should be added payments received too late for inclusion in the tabulation.

In the professions, medical doctors and surgeons paid almost twice as much in taxes (\$14.1 million) in the 1946 taxation year as the legal profession (\$7.5 million) which, in turn, contributed twice as much as dentists (\$3.6 million).

As a class, single taxpayers with no dependents, paid the largest total tax (\$194 million). In Canada, 2,480 taxpayers reported annual income of over \$25,000, of which slightly over half resided in Ontario.

In the 185 pages of tables in this book one should be able to find enough data to challenge the advisability of relying so heavily on one type of taxation. Distortions and inequities appear to abound. Yet an encouraging improvement in administration and collection of income taxes has taken place since the 1946 taxation year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

No one need doubt about the approach of an election with all these Federal handouts in the offing.

Canada will not go to the Washington battle conference in January prepared for fifty royal. The days when Canadians always suspected that Uncle Sam was out to impose a one sided deal are happily past.

Summerside has reason to congratulate itself on its 98 per cent tax collections. The tax burden is easier and fairer than it appears were permitted and the franchise is not restricted by tax delinquency.

The Montreal Gazette's cartoonist, John Collins portrays Mr. St. Laurent reading the funeral service over the "No Commitments" foreign policy pursued by Liberal governments these many years. Significantly, there were no mourners.

Opportunity seems to be knocking at Georgetown's harbour mouth. If the town does not become a cooling depot it will be in a favorable position to develop light industries, perhaps based on Sydney's steel.

Efforts of as great a concern as the Dominion Government to economize are a bit to be frustrated at a great many points along the way. A main switch was pulled in Ottawa to conserve power with the result that floodlights at the House of Parliament were not separately switched on and burned considerably longer than usual.

Are we entering upon an era of Literature? According to Mr. Will R. Bird, author of several Canadian best-sellers there has never been a real Canadian novel because there are no Canadians, just "Nova Scotians and Albertans" and so on. But, adds Mr. Bird, "Canada has arrived. All that remains is for the reading public to become aware of Canadian writing."

Tests are being carried out in Scotland to find the perfect potato. Most of the potatoes grown in Britain and in many parts of the Commonwealth are largely Scottish in origin as are a number of varieties cultivated in Europe.

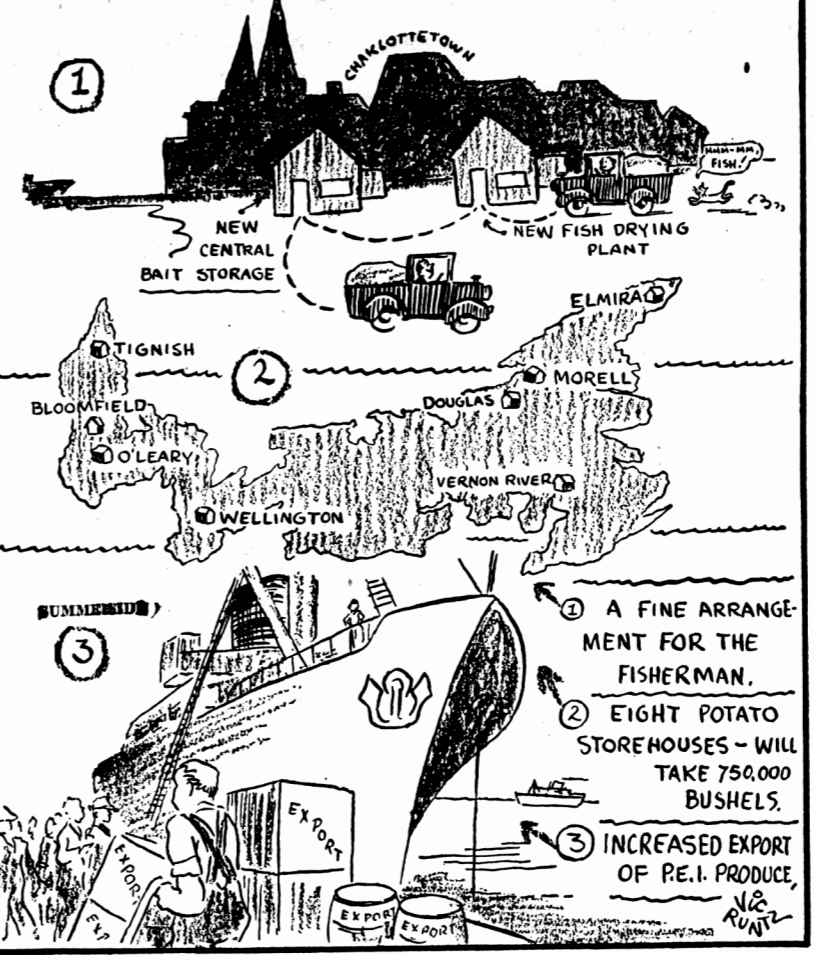
A new revelation about Winston's determination to die in the last ditch rather than surrender has been given by Sir James Bissett, former captain of the S. S. Queen Mary. In a speech at Lunenburg, Bissett said he was responsible for the safety of Britain's wartime prime minister on three voyages on the Queen Mary. Always, he said, a special lifeboat crew was standing by to take Churchill should the liner be sunk.

A number of farmers in the Pierceland area of Saskatchewan about 140 miles northwest of North Battleford, have pooled land and equipment to form the Mudie Lake Co-operative Farm. This is the twelfth co-op farm to be incorporated in Saskatchewan. The men had settled in the area in the early 1930's as individual farmers, but on that basis were unable to purchase adequate machinery to clear and work their land, which is mostly bush.

John Bright, British statesman and orator, born this date 1811; son of a Quaker cotton factory owner and exporter, he joined Cobden in his Anti-Corn Law League in Free Trade agitation throughout the country which ultimately succeeded in handicapping Britain as a self-sustaining food-producing country, but enabled the factory owners to become millionaires in the development and supply of World markets with Manchester-Sheffield-and-Ulster-made goods. He entered Parliament in 1843 as a famous platform orator. As a Quaker he opposed all war, and was equally opposed to Gladstone's Irish Home Rule policy, backing Ulster whose industrial prosperity his own policy of Free Trade has helped to make: "The angel of Death has been abroad throughout the land; you may almost hear the beating of his wings."

Comfort to oil users. The United States—"contrary to periodic rumors"—is not running out of oil, a committee of the American Petroleum Institute reports. Mr. L. F. McCollum, chairman of the committee on long-term petroleum availability, said the group has found that "substantially increased amounts of petroleum from natural sources" will be available in the United States in the next few years. Mr. McCollum, in a prepared address at the A.I.P.'s 28th annual meeting, said that after a study of the United States petroleum resources the committee forecast this outlook for 1949-53: "By 1933 the availability of natural petroleum produced in the United States is estimated to reach an upper range of 7,300,000 barrels a day. That figure would be 2,300,000 barrels a day more than actual production in the peak war year of 1945. "And, related to population, the availability for all of 1953 would be equal to almost 800 gallons for each person — about 80 per cent higher than it was in 1941."

PROGRESSING INDUSTRIALLY



MacKenzie King And His Singularities

(From an intimate sketch by "H.S. Ferns" in the Canadian Forum)
In the course of his life time MacKenzie King has created a ceremonial etiquette around himself which envelopes him like a protective mantle. It is reserved for the friends of his colleagues — they are now very few — to address him by the familiar name of his youth, Rex. No political colleague, no civil servant, no visiting dignitary has ever called King to his face, Bill, or Willy or Lyon. Depending on his rank, he addresses King as Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. King or King.

The Poet's Corner

DUCK ON THE WING
We sing the flight of birds; the slender bodies cutting the wide air;
We sing of grace, of speed, of flight,
Of rhythmic dignity.
But see,
A pair
Of ducks rises under a saffron light
Black against the sun.
Here is long reckoning
Swiftly undone.
Here is a flight, so graceful, so light
That sagas of conventionality
Are lost upon a feathered limb
Whose scant
Uneven gestures wile
And yet miraculously enchant
Till we are gay and jubilant.
Grave eagles soar, fleet swallows dip:
These water creatures fairly skip
Across the sky.
Yet, never a flight more full of joy,
Artlessly hurrying to convey
The human heart.

Old Charlottetown

DRUMS, FIFES & PICKS
The manner in which the House of Assembly proposed to safeguard this Island colony against American revolutionaries is set forth in the following quotation from Warburton's History:
"At the session of 1810 the House reported that certain provisions should be made for defraying militia expenses, as follows:
"The expense of drilling thirteen companies of militia at \$50.00 each, for contingencies for the militia \$500.00.
" For purchasing forty drums and fifes, \$500.00.
" For the purchase of one hundred and twenty pikes \$450.00.
"Doubtless other more effective weapons had been contained from Nova Scotia; for in the preceding year, at the opening of the House on 25th March, 1809, Lieutenant Governor DeBarres reported that since the close of the last session His Excellency, Lieutenant Governor Sir George Prevost, has, in consequence of my representations, ordered an additional supply of ordnance, arms, and ammunition as could be spared from Halifax for the service of this Island. A certain number of these arms would forthwith be distributed in the equipment of the militia."

It is a comment on the strength of his personality, a strength very little appreciated by the mass of people, that King has been able to impose these aristocratic niceties upon a following and an opposition so different in their manners from his own.
Although King does not belong to the baby-kissing school of politicians, his character as an exemplar of the middle class is well known. Few people may know King, but many know that he attends St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Ottawa — the old Church of Scotland, not the new fangled United Church of Canada. He makes no effort, however, to establish a reputation as a church-going man. He attends occasionally and he does not obtrude himself. He says his prayers, shakes hands with the minister, bows to his acquaintances, and goes home alone — a respectable

Public Forum

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

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

Sir — Mr. Drew, the Progressive Conservative leader has concluded his tour of the Maritimes and is now back in Ontario. He says that he is well satisfied with the enthusiasm displayed and considers the outlook promising.
There are two questions he has discussed at most if not at all in his meetings. They are the constitution and Dominion-Provincial relations. His claim is that the present agreements under which the Provinces receive greatly increased subsidies from the Dominion will eventually lead to centralized power at Ottawa and disrupt the Confederation pact and bring other divers evils. In fact his whole argument is that the present Liberal Government is pursuing a dangerous course which will eventually lead to an authoritarian state; therefore he states that he is going to scrap these agreements with the seven provinces under which the latter receive millions of dollars and he will call another Dominion-Provincial Conference.
At one of his meetings he commended what he calls "a national adjustment fund" which he argued for at the last conference and which he states was recommended in the Rowell-Sirois report. The establishing of such a fund was not acceptable to certain Provinces. Even Mr. Duplessis got weary listening to the argument and told the conference, "I'm going home and he went home and the conference came to an end. The Federal Government had a more excellent method than an adjustment fund and accordingly entered into separate agreements with seven of the Provinces and in addition are giving other grants for various purposes.
Mr. Drew made a prepared statement on the same subject which he published in Montreal and which was published in your paper. Your editorial comment was that "Mr. Drew has spoken with commendable candor and sincerity" but it cannot truthfully be said that he spoke with clarity and in a way that was easily understandable. His statement was one of many words clearly intended to befog the issue.
This is a most important matter to the Maritime Provinces. They cannot afford to have the present agreements cancelled and possibly the by-election in Digby-Annapolis-Kings will give the answer. Col. Drew had better go to Marquette, Man, and argue this issue out with Hon. Mr. Garson or he is simply trying to fool the Maritimers?
I am, Sir, etc.
J.F.W.
Charlottetown.

The Age-Old Story

His God hath instructed him to discretion, and doth teach him.
His temperance is of a moderate sort. For the guest in his house, he can draw from an excellent wine cellar, the gift of an appreciative European government.
King's assessments, in so far as the heavy pressure of government work have for some

Notes By The Way

Then there was the politician who was urged to see himself after which his advisors, wished they had urged him to be somebody else. — Edmonton Journal.

The American people have returned President Truman to office. He has outdone all the experts. The pollsters were wrong. The "wise money" was wrong. The Democrats themselves did not dare to expect it. Harry Truman was the only man who really believed that he could be re-elected. And he was right. In this surprising result, the outstanding feature was the courageous fight waged by one man who, five months ago, stood alone, despairing of his own party, practically abandoned, and who had the obstinacy, or tenacity, or just plain fortitude to go to the country, take his fight to the people and never give up. — New York Herald Tribune.

While on a train bound for New York, Henry was talking to a friend when he was brusquely interrupted by an inspector of the Foreign Exchange Control Board, who demanded how much money Henry was carrying. Henry told him the modest amount. "Have you your Form H?" asked the snoop. Henry produced it. "Is this all the money you have?" "Yes." "Let me see your wallet," the functionary ordered. Henry complied, still keeping his temper under control, with some difficulty. The inspector counted the money, found nothing wrong, and, apparently disappointed, handed the wallet back. He was about to pass on to his next victim when Henry spoke, in a voice loud enough to be heard by everyone in the car. "Hold on," he said. "You've had that wallet in your hands for quite a while. Now you just wait until I count the money in it." Henry counted it with care and deliberation while the other passengers grinned. Then he said: "It's all right. You may go." The inspector spent very little time in questioning the remaining passengers. — Printed Word.

If it weren't so serious, the strike of Calgary bricklayers would be downright funny. Imagine grovelling men drawing \$1.60 an hour for work they say takes a lot of brains, going on strike and tying up the major construction jobs because they don't want to be paid by cheque! But considering the kind and amount of work done by the Calgary bricklayers, perhaps a reasonable and intelligent outlook is too much to expect. The Calgary union definitely frowns on anyone laying more than 500 bricks a day, and the average with some men is said to be down to 300. Yet not many years ago they laid up to 2,000 a day in Calgary, and the average in British is said to be around 1,500 today. Actually cheques are one of the most efficient and worthwhile developments of business. They are here to stay, and the bricklayers had better get used to them. Why don't they strike against the Dominion government for paying their family allowances by cheque? Or because their income tax rebate comes by cheque? — Calgary Albertan.

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