

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887) President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure Vice-President: J. K. Burnett, P.J.A. Secretary: Lieut. Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D.S.O. Editor and Managing Director: J. K. Burnett, P.J.A. Associate Editors: Frank Walker and Lieut. Ian A. Burnett, R.C.N.V.R. (On Active Service)

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 1944

From Famine To Feast

The Speech from the Throne delivered at the opening of the new session of Parliament shows every sign of having been inspired by the near prospects of a general election. After the death of constructive legislation in the last few years, Parliament at last is to have something to work on, including such important matters as provision for family allowances; creation of three new government departments (Veterans' Affairs, Reconstruction and Social Welfare); provision for Canadian participation in an international organization to maintain peace; provision of war-service gratuities for members of the armed forces and additional rehabilitation schemes; a national health insurance bill and contributory old age pensions; a bill to place a floor under prices of staple farm products; establishment of an "industrial development bank" to provide credits for conversion of war industries to peace uses; a bill to ensure or guarantee export credits to aid in obtaining export markets; revision of the Bank Act; arrangements to provide voting facilities for members of the Canadian armed forces, wherever they may be stationed (the Jones Government's contention that this cannot be done being rightly regarded as mere poppycock); a bill to extend the mutual aid provision of 1943-44 to include post-war relief in liberated countries; expansion of research activities; new housing legislation. Truly a gargantuan legislative feast! Coming after such a long famine, there is danger that such a bill of fare may cause indigestion at Ottawa. At any rate, however, it is a welcome change to four years of government by order-in-council.

Farm Subsidies

The question of wartime farm subsidies was discussed at some length in the address given by President H. H. Hannam at the eighth annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, held this week in Quebec. Mr. Hannam is right in assuming that there is a good deal of misunderstanding as to the purpose of these subsidies and of the benefits accruing therefrom. It is true that subsidies have augmented income from the sale of farm products since the close of 1941 when the over-all price ceiling policy was established. In 1942 farm subsidies totalled \$88,000,000, and last year's amount was substantially greater. But these payments to producers are by no means free "hand-outs", nor should they be looked upon as bonuses over and above satisfactory prices. In reality they are part of the legitimate sale price of the farmer's product, which part is paid by the Government out of taxation revenues. Under our price ceiling plan subsidy payments have been assumed by the Federal Government rather than permit price increases which would produce a rise in the cost-of-living index, and in turn necessitate increased cost-of-living bonuses to wage earners.

Mr. Hannam emphasized that through a subsidy programme consumers are paying less than a fair exchange price for their subsidized food products. His argument that "the state pays the balance out of the treasury" leaves out of account the fact that the consumers are the state, and that they pay the full price in any case. He is on sounder ground, however, in asserting that whether paid to the producer or not, subsidies are designed for the ultimate benefit of the consumer. That was made clear by Finance Minister Hsley in the House of Commons last April, when he stated that in conjunction with the special conditions attached to it, a subsidy should leave an industry in a worse, not a better position; its reason for being paid is not the welfare of the industry but the fact that there is no other way of insuring adequate supplies for the consumer at prices permitted by the price ceiling.

In addition to subsidies paid to producers, one subsidy, that on whole milk, goes direct to the consumer through milk distributors. Still other subsidies are paid to bring the cost of exports down to the domestic ceiling; coffee and oranges are examples. It is estimated that for the twelve months ended March 31, 1944, the total of such subsidies may be around \$100,000,000.

Farmers are not responsible for the introduction of a subsidy programme. They did not ask for it. They have simply accepted it as an integral part of an emergency programme considered essential by the Government in fighting inflation in wartime.

The aspect of this programme which worries farmers is this: What action will be taken regarding these subsidies when the war is over? Will they be wiped off as war measures and our farm producers forced to move back to a lower price position in relation to other prices? The Prime Minister has already declared that existing cost-of-living bonuses are to be added to, and become part of, basic wage rates for urban workers. "Why," asks Mr. Hannam, "should the Canadian Government adopt such a policy for urban workers and not adopt a counter-part policy for our farm people?"

That is a moot question, and will take some answering. In the meantime it is worth noting that the most satisfactory statement of policy on this and relevant subjects affecting agriculture was made by Hon. John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader in a manifesto issued last October. Therein Mr. Bracken proposed floor prices for farm products as a post-war policy. Five weeks later Prime Minister King announced that "as an essential part of its post-war policy, the Government intends to ask Parliament, at the next session, to place a floor under the prices of the main farm commodities."

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture is, of course, a non-partisan body. That need not

prevent its members putting their own construction on President Hannam's words when he states that leadership in measures to achieve equality for agriculture will likely be, for the first time, "a top-most issue in the next Dominion election."

Unsatisfactory Setup

Now that Parliament is about to get down to business, perhaps something will be done to improve the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation setup. As it stands now the CBC is a commercial advertising concern with present revenues approaching \$2,000,000 from that source and enjoying a special public tax revenue of approximately \$4,000,000. There seems to be evidence that the main talents of the CBC management have been devoted to the piling up of large and still larger revenues from advertising. That, as the Ottawa Journal points out, was not the original intention; somebody, presumably Parliament from which the CBC derives its being, should state now whether it approves of that change. If so the camouflage should be removed.

A license fee of \$2.50 for each radio does not seem to be out of the way. But the cost of collecting the fees is heavy and it involves employment of many people throughout the country who could be better occupied. And it does not seem fitting that a Government department (Transport) should be engaged now in prosecuting, in groups of 50, people who have failed to pay fees to a commercially-operated corporation. It is reported that the prosecutions are made in groups so that they will attract attention in newspaper police court reports.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is reported from Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia that the Polish children refugees there are settling down happily in their new quarters. They have already formed two companies of Girl Guides and one pack of Brownies, each being headed by their own Guides.

Queen Mary has accepted the invitation of the Treasurer and masters of the Bench of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, to become their senior bencher—a position occupied by King George V and the Duke of Kent. This is the first occasion on which a woman has been made a bencher of any of the Inns of Courts.

An offer to replace, as far as possible, the many volumes of non-English books and periodicals destroyed by enemy action in the British Museum has been made by the Allied Governments in London.

Frederick Delius, British composer, born this date 1863; one of the outstanding personalities of the modern musical world; has written "In a Summer Garden", "Over the Hills and Far Away"; "Life's Dance"; "Appalachia"; etc.; his "Village Romeo and Juliet" was revived by Sir Thomas Beecham's Opera Company.

As though teachers did not do enough for their meagre salaries, they, in future may be expected to teach their pupils chess. In some schools they already give instruction in outdoor recreation, such as football, ball game and hockey, now the Bluecross Chess Club of Halifax, is making plans to introduce chess into Halifax schools as "constructive recreation". The idea already has been presented to one or two schools by Mr. F. M. Wren, Nova Scotia member of the Canadian Chess Federation executive.

The Prices Board announces appointment of Henry Brown, Toronto, and H. S. Leybourne, Montreal, as administrator and deputy administrator, respectively, of the wool and wool products administration. Mr. Brown succeeds D. C. Dick, of Toronto, who has resigned because of ill health. Mr. Dick was appointed administrator in September, 1939, and also served as president of the Canadian Wool Board Limited. Before joining the Prices Board in 1939 Mr. Brown was manager of the Rosamond Woolen Co., Almonte, Ont. Mr. Leybourne, who replaces Mr. Brown as deputy administrator, has been serving as co-ordinator of production since September, 1942. Previously he was Montreal and eastern manager of Dominion Woollens and Worsteds, Ltd.

The question of Senate reform is again engaging attention at Ottawa, but unofficially. It is claimed, among other things, that too many vacancies are permitted to lie unfilled, and that many senators are beyond the age when they can travel comfortably to and from Ottawa. Two of the present Senators are over 90 years of age, Senator Turgeon of New Brunswick being 96 and Senator F. D. Smith of Ontario 91, and there are others between the ages of 80 and 90. These include Sir Allen Aylesworth, Senator Charles Tanner of Nova Scotia, Senator Henry Mullins of Manitoba, Senator Rufus Pope of the Eastern Townships, Senator Thomas Bourque of New Brunswick, Senator Robert Green of B.C., Senator Thomas Cantley of Nova Scotia and Senator Donald Sutherland of Ontario. In the range between 70 and 80 there are: Senator Frank Smith of New Brunswick, Senator James Calder, Senator Hance Logan, Senator Charles Ballantyne, Senator James Murdoch, Senator Edward Michener of Alberta. This list leaves a relatively small number of members under the 70-year limit, and any useful change in the present system would have the entire membership under that age level.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of any subject of general interest. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor.

WHERE OUR EDUCATION FAILS

Sir—I read On-lookers letter with great interest. I endorse a good many of his opinions. There is one point he makes with which I cannot agree. He states "We must admit that this same system has provided many, many well-trained capable persons who have filled important positions all over this continent and beyond it." I have heard that argument so many times now that I usually retaliate by stating that I believe the successful succeeded in spite of the system. We cannot judge a system of education by the brilliant men at the top. It seems to me that the result of wishful thinking, which blinds us to the facts.

We live in a democracy, our concern should be with the people. What of the 95 per cent of the children who leave school at Grades VIII or IX in the country and the 75 per cent who leave at the same time in this Dominion? What is there in our system for them? The percentage of attendance is very high. That would not be so if our schools were suited to the needs of the people and really prepared the child for life. There are children at work at full time jobs in Charlottetown who should be in school. There is a truant officer. But if he forced these children to go to school they would only be discipline problems. We have provided no training in our system for any but those who can take advantage of an academic training.

There was some publicity given a few years ago to special classes for the backward child but I doubt that those officials (if he gave it any thought) leaned back in his chair thinking of our successful Islanders. There is a system, which could provide men such as they could hardly be expected to be. There is a lack of money as well. We have money for many things but not for education. Let us hope that we will soon face facts and act.

It is said that our Island boys are under a great handicap in their original education. They are getting some job training but they had to offer their services in war before they got it.

I am, Sir, etc. INTERESTED CITIZEN.

A MINORITY STRANGLEHOLD

Sir—It is high time that the voice of reason, like that of the article, was heard in this land. It is high time for a re-examination of the dicta by which the greater proportion of our people find themselves dominated. The matter of the use of alcoholic beverages. For many years we have been told that the object of prohibition is to protect the health of the citizen. It is a little contemptuous remark delivered by persons who visit us and who, in their own words, we, that here under the shadow of an outmoded, psychologically unsound, Prohibition Law, conditions of life and of government exist which would find little sanction at a Barbary coast brasserie. For many years, we, many of us have been exclaiming these things. We must admit that it is one of the best educated nations in the world. When some of our best education in England they drifted into Germany for the finishing touches. And what has that nation drifted into? An evil dictatorship. Italy was another well educated nation. A great number of our statute books today were taken from a great number of our statute books today were taken to a dictatorship. It has drifted into a dictatorship. It has drifted into the wrong principles of education.

There can mainly see what this part of the western hemisphere will drift into after a few more years. We do not wake up to the fact that our educational system must be grounded on good morals and Christian principles.

Spring will come on the green hills; And just as surely Peace will sometime lay Her healing touch on those far, far, tortured lands; And the brave men who fought to victory Return to hear their Country's proud "Well done."

But you are never coming home again— Never your bounding footsteps on the stair. Never your quiet humor, teasing smile, Your high enthusiasm, boyish dreams.

Yet in the sweet "Communion of the Saints" I feel your presence very close indeed. I think you dear compassion wrapped me round. When the sword pierced my heart, And all the world turned dark with bitter loneliness and grief, I think you asked Our Lord to comfort me. Even as I begged His mercy on your soul.

Sleep, brave young soldier, on the hillside to Rome; The Holy City that you did not reach Shall surely be redeemed, while you have passed beyond. On to an even fairer, holier land. Ever within our hearts shall glow The memory of your "greater love" Fighting a pathway through the gloom ahead.

(The above poem was received from Mrs. Josephine MacDonell, Montreal, who wrote that she was sending it "in the hope that there may be a word of comfort to her other mother, bereaved as I have been.")

about Jack Citizen, the poor devil, was like the wretched George... the unhappy victim of Prohibition in the U.S.A., who threw his was defenseless in the spillover and crawled to a hole in the wall where the W.C.T.U. set knitting elastic stockings for various veins. The swollen veins have very nearly reached their bursting point as the body politic of this province accelerates its maturing process and asserts its right to make its own decisions in the matter of what it will and will not drink. And no amount of frantic knitting by the W.C.T.U. or any of the other organizations which comprise the obnoxious Prohibitionism in this Island will serve to prevent the explosion. Just so long as thinking adults, just so long as their fundamental privilege in the expression of a free will is a right of choice as to such psychological anachronism as a dictatorial Prohibition law can ever endure.

Temperance, yes. But not Prohibition, with its damnable implied insult to the mental equilibrium of every temperate human being subjected to its despotism. The self-esteem of every citizen is changed and a sneer spread its surface by the biggest minority which foists the Prohibition law upon us, and maintains it in power by the audacious manipulation of the pit-pounding, throat-cutting, and the most rustic of oracles. That we, a free people, should suffer the indignity of being treated as adolescents, and should submit to the domination in what is essentially the private matter of a group of Puritanical killjoys, has long been hard to bear, but is now intolerable.

It is to be hoped that the next Prohibition plebiscite will end of our bondage, and the advent of the exercise of personal responsibility in a new system of Government Control. I am, Sir, etc. J. M.

OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Sir—I feel I am not very well qualified to write on this subject. I do not even possess a so-called ordinary education. However, I have read with interest many letters in your "Public Forum" on education, and I feel a conviction to write a few lines on this very important matter. When our Teachers' Federation was inaugurated in this Province I was hoping it would at least consider the deeper principles of our educational system, but I was amazed from their statements in print that their original grievance or dissatisfaction was the low salary received by the teachers. Well, I don't wish to state how I feel on that point. What I am concerned about is our educational system, what it stands for and what it achieves.

In this modern age we know that education is one of the major necessities of life. One can live or exist without it, but it is as necessary as money for a full and happy life. But what is the real meaning of education? What do we educate the younger generation for, and what is the result of it? Well, this is my definition of our educational system, and that it achieves: To encourage students to become a student from college to college in order to make as much money as they possibly can with as little work as possible. To use other words to make money. To make our educational system is more responsible for the state of the world today than any other known factor.

Instead of our teachers and professors trying to teach our students money, honor, and high position in life, they have been exalting these objectives. What has been the result? We must admit that it is one of the best educated nations in the world. When some of our best education in England they drifted into Germany for the finishing touches. And what has that nation drifted into? An evil dictatorship. Italy was another well educated nation. A great number of our statute books today were taken from a great number of our statute books today were taken to a dictatorship. It has drifted into a dictatorship. It has drifted into the wrong principles of education.

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10 DAY OVERCOAT SALE



25 Tweed and Melton Overcoats worth \$22.50 to \$25.00 While They Last \$15.95 HENDERSON & CUDMORE

compelled the Trans-Canada Air Lines to provide larger office space in Montreal and the new premises, now in operation, are the last word in airline passenger ticketing facilities. Speaking at the opening of the new office, H.J. Symington, K.C., C.M.G., President of TCA, said, "The main task of the Company is to carry on, improving and intensifying its service to the people of Canada. The record of past years has demonstrated that the confidence the Dominion has placed in TCA has been amply justified." Trans-Canada Air Lines now operates over routes totalling 5,000 miles, flying more than 8,000,000 miles a year transporting passengers, mails and express in regular schedule across the continent from St. John's, Nfld., Sydney, N.S., Halifax, N.S., and Moncton, N.B., to Victoria, B.C., south to New York, and Windsor, Ont., and north to Calgary and Edmonton, Alta. R.C. Vaughan, Chairman and President, Canadian National Railways, with which TCA is affiliated, and who is a director of the airline company, was represented by D. C. Grant, Vice President, CNR.

HALIFAX, Jan. 28—(C.P.)—William McLean of Charlottetown, a seaman in the Royal Canadian Navy, is being evicted by his commanding officer from a "cannon player", but there's nothing personal in it. McLean and his family have been living in a north end dwelling, one of a group being taken over for naval purposes.

The "Island" CONDITION POWDER

Is your horse looking well? Is his coat sleek and glossy? Is he full of life and action? Or is his hair stiff and dirty looking? Is he moving slowly in a tired fashion? Do his eyes indicate good health? A horse needs a good tonic as well as does a man. THE ISLAND CONDITION POWDER will come up his digestion and appetite, clear the eyes, give gloss to the coat and lightness to his action. Feed him a package of this wonderful medicine and you will see the difference in his appearance in a few days. Its just as good for cattle, sheep and hogs. 35c lb. package. Prepared and sold by E. A. FOSTER Central Druggist

NATIONAL EFFICIENCY In the battle against Fear and Want, adequate Life, Accident and Health Insurance is a major factor. Thrift is vital to the war effort. Premium savings add to the mighty army of fighting dollars that is helping to win the war. It is a privilege of the Life Underwriter to help make peoples future more secure. Consult the Great-West Life man. HYNDMAN & CO., LIMITED Provincial Managers Offices: Charlottetown, Summerside, Montague