

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1948

Best News Of All

More important even than our encourag-
ing livestock and farm production figures is
the Bureau of Statistics report that for 1947
we had the second highest birth rate in all Can-
ada. Let us hope that by the time our infant
generation grows up we will no longer be export-
ing brains and brawn to other Provinces. We
shall need them at home, and if we succeed
in keeping them we shall have solved one of
our most vital problems.

An item in today's "Old Charlottetown"
notes quotes a century-old prediction as to our
population possibilities. "600,000 souls" was the
estimate made by a visiting Montrealeur at that
time. This was no idle "pipe dream," for all the
natural advantages were here; but the prediction
failed to take into account the blighting
effect Confederation was to have upon our
then steadily expanding trade and population.

While we have no desire to see the ties of
Confederation severed, we have every right to
insist upon a fairer distribution of their advan-
tages. That is what we hope to achieve in the
not too distant future, for ourselves and for the
generations now rising and to come.

The Newfoundland Problem

While Newfoundland by a majority vote of
77,000 against 71,000 has decided in favor of
Confederation with Canada, the opposition of
the Responsible Government League continues
and has been crystallized in a memorandum sub-
mitted to the British Government. The memoran-
dum arraigns the Commonwealth Relations
Office for placing union with Canada in the
referendum after it had been rejected by 29
votes to 18 by the constituent convention, which
examined alternative solutions for the fate of
the island. It argues that any majority vote of
less than two-thirds is a wholly inadequate
mandate for a far-reaching constitutional change
and in support of its thesis quotes the provisions
of the constitution of the United States about
similar changes.

The League is perhaps on firmer ground
in its claim that Newfoundland, as a community
endowed with Dominion status — even though
that status has been temporarily suspended —
had the right to elect a legislative body —
such as its Instrument for negotiating the terms
of her entry into the Dominion. If the question
of the merger is to be treated as settled then
Newfoundland as a province of Canada will
have a unicameral legislature. So a reputable
British weekly paper like the London Economist
supports the idea that the British and Canadian
Governments should jointly take steps to recon-
stitute a Legislature for Newfoundland on the
Canadian pattern and that a ministry chosen
from it should negotiate the final details of the
settlement. The Economist thinks that however
desirable the union of Newfoundland with Can-
ada may be, the British Government, which is
the de facto controller of the island's destinies
at the moment, has some responsibilities towards
the minority and should not leave it to believe
that "they had been a pawn in a real estate
deal."

It is argued that the process of reconstituting
a Legislature and forming a Cabinet would
entail a bitterly fought election. That is a very
poor objection, and a very dangerous one. Dic-
tators have used it not infrequently for the
purpose of remaining in power indefinitely. It
explains, however, the wariness with which Ot-
tawa is proceeding in arranging the terms of
Confederation with the Newfoundland delegates,
and also, perhaps, why it is reportedly consider-
ing more generous financial proposals.

Mr. Drew's Following

Those who speak and write of the Progress-
ive Conservative party as though its strength
were confined almost exclusively to Ontario
have their answer in figures printed by the To-
ronto Telegram of the popular vote for Progress-
ive Conservatives and Liberals in the 1945 elec-
tion. This is the table:

Table with 4 columns: Province, Progressive Conservative Vote, Liberal Vote, Seats. Rows include P.E.I., N.S., N.B., Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Sask., Alberta, B.C., Yukon.

Thus in provinces as far apart as Ontario
and British Columbia Progressive Conservatives
pulled more votes than did Liberals; in Prince
Edward Island, despite the disproportion of Lib-
eral seats, the popular vote was almost evenly
balanced, and only in Quebec was there a large
gap between them.

In Ontario and Quebec the Liberals had
1,351,403 votes, the Conservatives 866,517 —
in the Central Provinces was the great concen-
tration of Liberal strength. In the seven other
provinces the figures were much closer, the Lib-
erals receiving 694,152 votes and the Progress-
ive Conservatives 559,803 — a comparatively
small shift in public opinion would change the
result materially.

The popular vote of 1945 shows Conserva-
tive strength in every part of Canada and
provides a substantial foundation upon which Mr.
Drew as leader can build.

Where The Shoe Pinches

An official Government report shows that
of \$647,000,000 collected in personal income
taxes in 1946 more than 50 percent came from
people making less than \$3,500 a year, says
the Ottawa Journal. It shows also that of the
2,532,122 Canadians who paid income tax in
1946 (the figures would probably apply as well
to this year), 52 percent of them made less than
\$2,200 a year.

Some people have an idea that the bulk of
income taxes come from the rich; from the "big
fellows." Actually the proportion of the total
of income taxes paid by the "big fellows" is
small. It is the "little man" who bears the brunt
of it; who gets hurt most. For the real test of
a tax, so far as an individual is concerned, is not
what is paid but what is left.

And, of course, the total of income taxes,
or the bulk of the total, must be paid by the
"little fellow"; there are not enough rich. In-
deed if the Government were to take all the
incomes of the rich, left them with nothing at
all, the total would still be but a drop in the
income tax bucket. The money must come from
the small-income man. That is why heavy taxes
are such an injustice — or at least an injustice
when the Government is collecting more money
than it needs.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Victory that came later in the Battle of the
Scheidt is known to all. And, says Col. Stacey,
credit for winning the battle lay, above all, with
the infantry soldier, who many times fought
over water-swept land in a rowboat.

Attention is called to the advertisement of
the annual Bible Society canvass, which opens
on Monday, when representatives of the Society
throughout the Province will solicit contribu-
tions to this worthy cause.

Starting today permanent Dominion civil
servants are to be paid on twice-monthly basis. Tem-
porary employees will have to wait varying
periods, some until November 30th, to go on the
new pay schedule.

Drought and accompanying danger of fire
has spread across North America. "It extends
from Missouri through Iowa, Wisconsin, Michi-
gan, South-eastern Ontario, Southern Quebec,
New York and New England to the Maritime
Provinces," but not including Prince Edward Is-
land.

Nova Scotia is justly proud of its grid sys-
tem of electric power lines. Power plants at
Stellarton, Sheet Harbour, Malay Falls, Ruth Falls
and Truro and also Moncton, N. B. all contribute
power to the system so that any plant may close
down without interruption of supply.

The Canadian Aviation Magazine predicts
that Ottawa will promote civilian flying training
by means of subsidies both to the flying schools
or clubs and to the student. With such an air-
minded people as Canadians there should be
strong support for such a move.

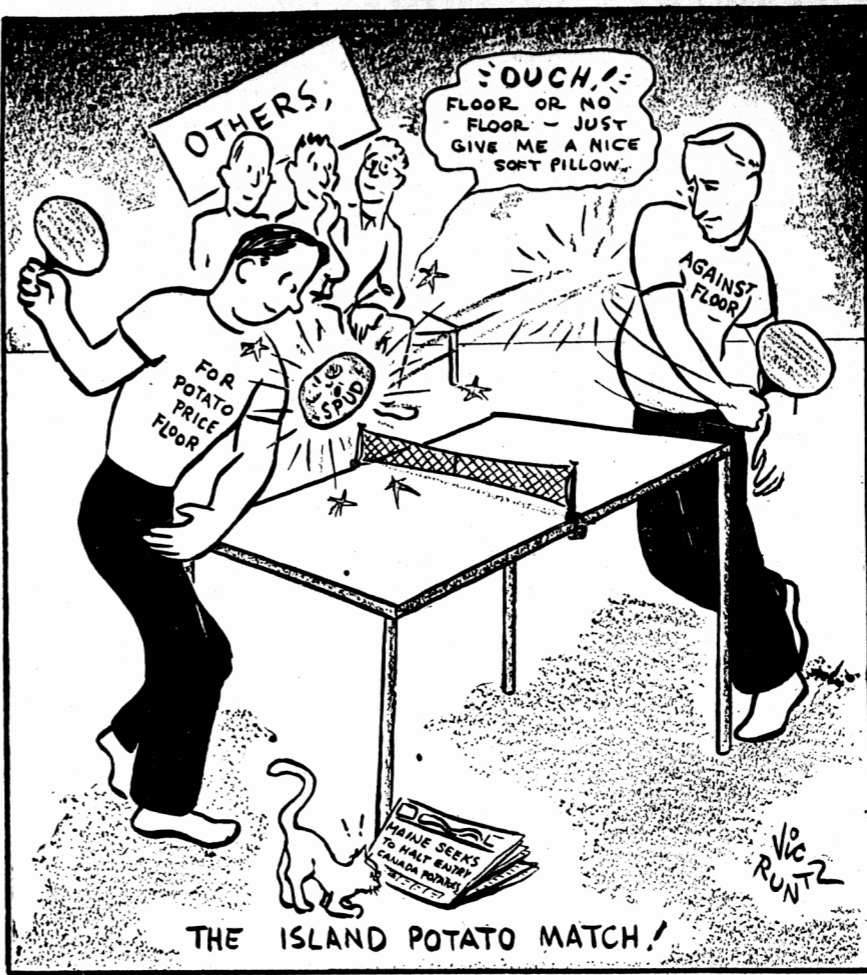
Allan Ramsay, Scottish poet, born this
date 1686; his reputation rests on his dramatic
pastoral The Gentle Shepherd, and is remembered
by the dramatic profession because it was
largely through his efforts that the first regular
theatre was opened in Edinburgh.

"For when I dinna clearly see,
I always own I dinna ken,
And that's the way with wisest men."

A lesson to musical conductors not to
be over-energetic in wielding the baton at prac-
tices and orchestral concerts. Sir Thomas Beecham,
British conductor, was recently taken to the
airport sick quarters in a wheelchair when he
arrived in Southampton by flying boat after a
tour in South Africa. His wife explained that
"as a result of his conducting his spine has been
pushed out of place onto a nerve and this
gives him intense agony at times. We believe
an orthopaedic specialist can put the matter
right, and there is no doubt that my husband
will be conducting when the Royal Philhar-
monic Orchestra goes on tour next week."

According to Associated Press of India, Sri
C. Rajagopalachari, Governor General of India,
has received a telegram from the Nizam of Hy-
derabad saying that his former Finance Minis-
ter, Nawab Main, Nawaz Jung, has unauthorizedly
transferred a sum of £1,007,940 (approx-
imately \$4,500,000) standing in the Westminster
Bank, London, in the account of the State, to
the account of the High Commissioner for Pakis-
tan in London in the same bank. The Nizam
has urged the Governor General to ask His
Majesty's Government to use their good offices
to have the money retransferred to the account
of Hyderabad State and if necessary freeze the
amount.

Tartan waistcoats are in vogue again, after
two hundred years. When some of the Scottish
chieftains followed Bonnie Prince Charlie to
France after the disastrous finish to his rebellion
in 1745, they found comfort and solace in hav-
ing fashioned for themselves and in wearing
waistcoats made of their particular clan tartan.
Perhaps it was a gesture of defiance, perhaps
of pride, perhaps of pure sentiment, but what-
ever the reason it started a fashion. And a fash-
ion which may never have died, for it is not many
years since there lived in the west of Scotland
gentlemen who wore his family tartan in the
shape of an evening-dress waistcoat. The days
when the cut of a waistcoat was the symbol of
a man's elevation in the world of society have
gone, certainly, but since the days of the brightly
coloured garments which the beau of the 18th
century affected, the British male seems to have
lost much of his delight in coats of many
colours.



The Berlin Crisis

(Winnipeg Free Press)
Since they mark a turning point
in the future of the United Nations
and in the history of the world,
the origins of the Berlin crisis should
be fully understood. It is the
point by which the Security Council
and the Assembly during the next
few weeks are to be grasped.

From early summer until a few
days ago the Berlin negotiations
were conducted in total secrecy.
Only rumors were allowed to trickle
out to the world public from the
four governments involved. Now,
in a white paper issued by the
United States, a bill of particulars
probably without precedent in U.
S. diplomacy, the story is told,
point by point. It destroys the
legend that the Russian Govern-
ment, while tough in negotiation,
scrupulously keeps its bargains,
and it shows the free world the
kind of unpredictable, unscrupulous
and shifting power concentrated in
the Politburo.

The record begins on June 23
when Russia suspended all rail and
barge traffic from the west into
Berlin for what Russia called "tech-
nical difficulties."

On July 6 the United States pro-
tested the blockade as a clear
violation of agreements among the
four powers occupying Germany
and served notice that it would
not be induced by threats, pres-
sures or other action to abandon
its rights.

On July 14 Russia, shifting
ground for the first time, acknowl-
edged that the blockade was not
due to technical difficulties but
to political considerations.

However, Stalin offered a clear
settlement without further delay.
He proposed, first, that the western
currency be withdrawn from
Berlin and, in return, that the Russian
blockade be lifted. Second,
he would no longer ask as a con-
dition the deferment of the imple-
mentation of the London decisions
(designed to organize a German
government in the western zones).
He also attributed the blockade to
the action of the western
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was in effect retaliation against
the western powers for their in-
roduction of western Germany cur-
rency into Berlin.

On July 30 the western powers
asked for a meeting with Premier
Stalin and Mr. Molotov.

On August 2, a decisive date in
our times, the envoys of the States
asked for a meeting with Premier
Stalin and Mr. Molotov.

The actual record of this meet-
ing is set out in the United States
white paper in detail. The United
States ambassador, Walter Bedell
Smith, declared: "The three (west-
ern) governments must re-emphasize
their right to be in Berlin. It is not
to be questioned and absolute. They
do not intend to be coerced by any
means whatsoever into abandoning
this right."

If the blockade were due to
technical difficulties, the western
powers would co-operate in curing
them. If the blockade were due to
the currency problem, that could be
settled by negotiation. If the
blockade were designed to bring
about negotiations concerning the
future of Germany as a whole, the
blockade was unnecessary since the
western governments and never
declined to meet Russia to con-
sider the German problem as a
whole. But if the blockade were
designed to force the western pow-
ers out of Berlin "such an attempt
could not be allowed to succeed."

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full agreement, including the re-
moval of the blockade, into effect.

At this point Russian policy sud-
denly went into reverse. Whether
Stalin changed his mind, whether
he never intended to carry out his
promise of August 2, or whether
(as seems more probable) he was
over-ruled by the Politburo, is not
clear. In any case Mr. Molotov
went into action, raising technical
objections in almost every line of
the proposed Berlin agreement.

But the main trouble came from
the control of Russia's foreign
trade. In any case Mr. Molotov
insisted on Russian domination.
Instead of sharing jurisdiction over
Berlin trade with the west, he
agreed, he sought to monopolize it.

The western powers perceived
that they had been double-crossed.
Russia, despite Stalin's promise,
was attempting to "nullify" unilat-
erally the rights of the western
occupying powers in Berlin and
"remove the use of coercive pres-
sure against the western occupying
powers is a clear violation of the
principles of the Charter of the
United Nations."

In a last move of conciliation,
however, the three western pow-
ers, on September 22, declared they
would not accept restrictions on
their foreign trade. They asked
whether the Russian restrictions on
Berlin trade were actually prepared
to lift the blockade. On September
25, Russia ended the chance of
further negotiation by replying that
the air routes could not remain
uncontrolled (by Russia) and that
the currency agreement must be
carried out, as interpreted, of
course, by Russia.

That is the record which the
United Nations — first the Security
Council and then the General
Assembly — must consider. Of
what use is this consideration? In
a direct sense, very little. Russia
can veto any decision by the Security
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mendations cannot control
Russia's actions. But the indirect
effect of the Assembly's decision
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