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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1946

Ontario And Direct Taxation

Ontario's counter-proposals for a basis of Dominion-Provincial financial relations are said to have been received like a bombshell at Ottawa. It would be strange if this were so, because Ontario's attitude on this question has been pretty consistent over a period of years.

Here is what Finance Minister Ilsley said on this point at the Dominion-Provincial Conference of 1941: "The war burden cannot be distributed fairly so long as the provinces occupy the progressive fields of taxation and use them in such a way as to produce a tax system with varying rates of burden and of incidence in different provinces, and with inevitable conflicts, overlapping, duplication and needless expense and waste."

And again: "The war has produced vast distortions of our economy creating fortuitous gains in some areas or for some classes, and fortuitous losses in other areas. Under the present confused tax system, any reasonable degree of equity in tapping these fortuitous gains or alleviating those fortuitous losses is clearly impossible."

That was why the Dominion had to take over direct taxation during the war. The question arises, whether a system that was too unfair to be tolerable in war, is good enough to return to in the critical years of post-war reconstruction.

Ontario, it is true, is prepared to make some concessions. It offers, among other things, to allow 10 per cent of its provincial corporation taxes, personal income taxes and succession duties to go into a national adjustment fund, to be paid to the poorer provinces on the basis of fiscal need. That does not obviate the fact, however, that the dual taxation system is insisted on; a system which the Siros Commission condemned as tending to perpetuate, and to accentuate, the existing financial inequality among the provinces.

It follows, of course, that with its huge post-war commitments in the fields of public health, social service, veterans' pensions and rehabilitation, the Dominion will require enormous sums of money, and this money will have to be raised either by direct or indirect taxes. If the Ontario proposal carries, indirect taxes will have to be increased. It is well to realize just what this means.

No clearer exposition of the case has ever been made than by Hon. John Bracken, when he spoke at the 1941 Conference as Premier of Manitoba. The Siros report, Mr. Bracken pointed out, notes as a distinguishing feature of Canadian economy that "a very large proportion of the surplus—and taxable—income of the country is concentrated in a few specially favored areas."

He noted that until the war, these accumulations of wealth and income escaped all but a moderate amount of Dominion taxation and the great weight of the burden of Dominion finance fell therefore on the lower income groups. This was so because the Dominion had to raise the bulk of its revenue by sales taxes, customs taxes and other indirect taxes upon consumption, which bear most heavily on the low income consumer, on the farmer and other producers who were not protected by tariffs. The poorer a man, the larger his family, the less protected his market—the more heavily this pre-war tax structure bore upon him, regardless of the province in which he lived.

Mr. Bracken cited some significant figures in this connection. Until World War II the Dominion tax levied on the higher income groups amounted to only \$64,000,000; succession duties to \$35,000,000. In order that these groups should enjoy the advantage of low taxes, the farmer, the worker and all other low income groups paid a large part of the \$12,000,000 in customs duties, \$52,000,000 in excise duties, \$144,000,000 in sales taxes; they helped also to pay approximately \$250,000,000 in real and property taxes.

That is not the kind of thing the people of Canada want to return to, though admittedly it might be advantageous to the wealthier provinces. Nor is it much inducement for the "have nots" to be told by Ontario that the issue is one of provincial autonomy. This point too was raised at the 1941 Conference and answered by Mr. Bracken in words which are worth quoting at this juncture:

"No doubt it will be argued that the right to impose the income tax, the inheritance tax and the corporation tax is a provincial function and a part of provincial autonomy. But provincial governments do not tax for the mere sake of taxing; they tax in order to get the revenue with which to pay the cost of discharging provincial functions of government. If, however, in lieu of these taxes the provinces are relieved of certain costly responsibilities and at the same time are given an adequate alternative source of revenue—which is not given or withheld at the will of the Federal Govern-

ment, but is established by law in accordance with a certain formula—then the alleged loss of autonomy arising from the transfer of these taxes is but a technical and not a real loss."

The same view has been expressed by Prime Minister Mackenzie King, and for once with commendable brevity. "It is recognized," he said, "that the substance of provincial autonomy will become only a shadow if provinces are not in a position to discharge the financial obligations without which the other duties of government cannot be performed. The best way to preserve provincial autonomy is to maintain provincial credit."

That would seem fairly to represent the case for Prince Edward Island, which has been going behind to the tune of half a million dollars annually under Liberal financing. But with Ontario and probably Quebec and British Columbia insisting on a return to dual taxation, we shall probably have to fall in line, and accept what subsidies or handouts we can get to offset the inequalities of an obsolete fiscal system. That system—again to quote Mr. Bracken at the 1941 Conference—would appear to have been based unalterably upon the biblical statement: "For he that hath, to him shall be given; and he that hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which he hath."

British Labor Policy

In a nutshell, this is the British Labour Government's policy, as outlined by the Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison at the Canadian Club luncheon in Montreal on Monday: "We have decided to include in our economic planning for recovery the public ownership of certain basic industries. That is the policy of our Labour Government. It is, I think pretty hard headed and sound commonsense. Some of those industries such as coal, iron and steel, and transport are in pretty bad shape. They are definitely a drag on other industries and hamper the efficiency and enterprise of trades and industries to which we look for rapid, bold, and private development. They were not even making sound margin of profit. Whether an industry is run publicly or privately one measure of its efficiency is its solvency—another measure is its service. That I think is quite a good political principle, and, as it also happens to be good business practice, we shall no doubt make a success of our experiment in nationalization. After all, very big profits are not good business because eventually they lead to loss of expansion and stalemata. And losses are not good business either because they lead out of the picture altogether."

-EDITORIAL NOTES-

The Prime Minister is following the example set by the British Prime Minister in inviting the Leader of the Opposition to accompany him to the peace conference.

Again Prince Edward Island leads the way—first in peace and first in war. We have the highest percentage of women workers in Canada. The average per province is 25.3 whereas we stand 28.3.

Even if the Russians have improved on the atomic bomb, it does not necessarily follow invention will end there. The next important discovery on the part of scientists no doubt will be a means to render all such bombs innocuous.

According to the regulations for the administration of the city's open-air skating rinks, adults will not be able even to steal a free skate there. It is going to be a case of be taxed or be—doomed.

How many unpropertied people have paid their head-tax to enable them to vote at the forthcoming civic election? Apparently the rising generation are not yet sufficiently interested to induce them to register as voters in considerable numbers, thus leaving the selection of Mayor and Councilors as heretofore largely in the hands of property-owners.

An A. I. F. officer at Mindanao, Captain Robert K. McLaren, of Bundaberg, Queensland, successfully operated on himself for appendicitis. McLaren, a veterinary surgeon, was attacked by acute appendicitis. Alone, except for a Filipino boy, he cut his body open without an anaesthetic. While the Filipino held a mirror over the wound he removed his own appendix and sewed up the incision. The operation took three hours.

If Prince Edward Island were not in Confederation, Canada would be badly off for directors at the present time. Not only the head of the Army, but the virtual head of the State, Mr. Norman A. Robertson, Under-Secretary for External Affairs, and the Prime Minister's chief advisor, owe their origin to the Island. Mr. Robertson will go to the Peace Conference. Though born in B.C., his parents hail from here, his father, Mr. L. F. Robertson from Marshfield, and his mother, Flora McLeod, from Belfast. Over and above we have to our credit the only Prince of the Church in Canada, Cardinal McGuigan, who hails from Hunter River. Again in war and peace, Prince Edward Island leads.

Napoleon III of France died this date 1873; a nephew of Napoleon I and Josephine, he was as ambitious as his uncle but lacked firmness and decisiveness in his policy; as leader of the Bonapartist he first attempted to upset the Republic at Strasbourg in 1836, failed and was deported to U. S. A.; he made a second attempt in 1840 when he invaded France, was captured, and sentenced to perpetual captivity; he escaped in 1846, and lived in London till 1851 when the Republic was overthrown, and Napoleon declared Emperor the following year; he reigned till the Franco-German war ended his career in 1870, when he retired to England where he resided till his death; his only son the Prince Imperial, was killed in the Zulu war in 1879.

Notes By The Way

Canada will be given "full recognition" in future world councils—two of a kind of question of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

Now that the Ontario Attorney General's Department has undertaken to protect the public against watters, raffish and bingo games, how about some similar protection against green peaches disguised under red leno?—Brantford Spectator.

Mr. Churchill's facility with words delight us all, out of office as he is. Speaking of Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Keyes, and the loss the Royal Navy experienced at the death of Mr. Churchill said "he embodied the traditions and renewed its glories," and in him the fire and force of valiance burned there in English at its best.—Ottawa Journal.

A railroad company in England runs what is called a "two-winch special"; it carries no passengers and every time a bump is hit, a splash of whitewash is dropped to mark the place for a repair crew. If such a machine were put on some of our war-neglected high-tension lines, it would set on a long streak of whitewash. The Kingston Whig-Standard comments.

The church that interests itself in the welfare of the young folk of its district, that does what it can to keep the streets clean and out of evil company, that helps them organize and carry out their picnics, hikes, sporting events, and other wholesome varied activities that appeal to the energetic, complex, hard-to-satisfy youth of today—and that preaches to them and leads them to a far greater claim to exemption than the church that does not.—Vancouver Province.

A woman has died on the island of Skye at the age of 108. There is no doubt about her age, because she lived on that island off the west coast of Scotland for most of her life, and her birth is written in records of the parish. She was so old that she had talked with men who had fought in the trenches at the Battle of Trafalgar which took place 140 years ago, and men who had fought in the trenches a few years later. Life is placed in some times hard, on the island of Skye, but she has the highest percentage of aged people in the world. Another woman on the island is 104.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

It's Mr. Clement Attlee's privilege, of course, to worry about the future of England, says Collier's, a well-known London magazine. The well-furred and tradition-cleaving lady—elderly—who marched sturdily into one of New York's busiest bookstores, picks up a book which in 300 pages made it clear that the author had discovered the British Empire as it was washed up. She carried the book gingerly to the nearest wastebasket, tore each leaf out down the middle and finally dropped the covers in after them. Then she carefully wiped her fingers, said "Nonsense," and departed triumphantly, feeling ever so much better.

The price control authorities in the United States, told so often that release of control would not mean soaring prices and perhaps inflation, decided to experiment with juke boxes. They took off the ceiling and overnight the price of juke boxes doubled, rising from \$250 to \$500. The authorities restored the ceiling, but could view with a considerable degree of concern even the new price for juke boxes, but the incident does show the danger of releasing the price of goods in demand—and most goods are eagerly sought—until proper controls are in place. The incident does show the danger of releasing the price of goods in demand—and most goods are eagerly sought—until proper controls are in place.

Very few of us are aware of the remarkable advances made during the war in the elaboration and perfection of calculating machines. In Britain the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has produced several which are spectacular in their performance. For example, a Government department recently wanted a table of figures in an urgent and complicated problem, and its mathematicians to work to revise such a table. After some time it was apparent that the job would take a very long time to complete, and after further investigation it was discovered that it could not be finished by man-power in anything short of three hundred years. But the department appealed to the D.S.I., and the lives of others in peril, and the most rigorous measures for the public safety were justified, indeed demanded.—Ottawa Journal.

A blow for married men has been struck by Mr. Justice Hens Collins in a British court of law. The learned judge has ruled that a wife may not have her parents' consent to marry without his approval, even though he is not residing there himself. In the case a husband from Nottingham complained that when he married in 1943 his wife's parents moved in. He tried all sorts of ways to get her out, but she refused to get the in-laws to leave. But they remained unconvinced to blast them out. It will give immense satisfaction to husbands to learn that they have certain legal rights as well as moral rights in the face of the chateleine's relations. However, let joy remain within bounds—remember that many a pedestrarian has been removed on a stretcher just after standing on his rights in the face of an incoming five-ton truck—dead right and dead wrong.—Saskatoon-Regina Tribune.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

P.E.I. AND P.Q.

The following letter is from a recent issue of the Hamilton Spectator: "Sir—My attention has been called to a letter in your issue of December 26 from Mr. Wilkowsky, a returned soldier, the gist of which is that this letter makes some statements about conditions in Prince Edward Island which are so far from the facts that I feel your readers should be told the truth. I am thoroughly familiar with conditions there and have recently paid the island province a two-weeks' visit. To say that in the towns of Prince Edward Island one in five is 'light' is absolutely untrue. Let me give you two facts.

On October 3 last the Dominion Government held an auction sale of the equipment of an airport. The report in which the price of the equipment was estimated at between five thousand and six thousand. The sale lasted all day and into the night. The press reported that not a single case of drunkenness was seen at the sale. This was personally confirmed to me by several persons who had attended it. A leading citizen of Charlottetown told me that during the week Home Week celebration last summer there were eighteen thousand visitors to that city and that the occasion was remarkable for the complete absence of drunkenness. I suggest that such conditions could not be duplicated in any other province in Canada, except perhaps in local option areas.

If your contributor had studied the situation he would have found that Prince Edward Island has less crime per population than any other province. For instance, the last report of the Bureau of Statistics shows that in 1942 Prince Edward Island's share per population of convictions for all crimes was 4.96. It actually had only 1.762. The year 1942 was not exceptional. Similar conditions have prevailed year by year during the nearly half century in which Prince Edward Island has been under a prohibition law. In that year (1942) the report shows not a single conviction in Prince Edward Island for any of the following offences: Assault on a wife, assault on family, desertion of children, wife desertion, non-support of family, seduction, or rape. Every one knows the close connection between these particular crimes and liquor drinking. When describing the paradise of Montreal, your correspondent forgot to note that last summer in six weeks the R. C. M. P. seized thirty-six stills in the province of Quebec and that conditions of gambling, prostitution and bootlegging in the province had become so bad that a group of public spirited citizens have demanded a judicial investigation.

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The Poet's Corner

WHY NOT PRAY? Within morn's radiant lighted dawn, Well knowing of the many gone; And knowing not how many more, Shall I kneel before you leave life's shore.

Will you not pray? Within the noonday's fiercest sun, Life's work no longer—just begun; And coming with a heart content, For cleansing from sin's awful blight.

Will you not pray? Within the sunset's glow at eve, See thou His wonders—and believe; Here in the radiance that light, Where nature shouts His wondrous might.

Will you not pray? Within night's solemn silent hour, Where myriad stars bespeak His power; Within that heavenly light swept sphere, And knowing well that God is near.

Will you not pray? Ten thousand sins would dim their light, Before God's majesty and might. —John of "The Lilies."

WOMEN ENROL IN FISHING SCHOOL

BOSTON, Jan. 7. — (CP) — Bostonians answered "which would you druther do or go fishing?" by signing up—60 strong—for the city's first municipal fishing school. "Women as well as men came to our first night class," said the director, Robert S. Kelley, who is principally interested in salt-water fishing, said he is glad to swap yarns with brook trout and white fish. He has convinced the new fishing school will be successful. "I don't know how many business courses used to be," he said, "and now we have the Harvard School of Business Administration."

GESTAPO KILLED POLISH SAVANTS

WARSAW, Poland, Jan. 8. — (CP) — Twenty-three of Poland's greatest mathematicians were killed by the Gestapo during the Nazi occupation. An investigator for the University of Warsaw which, like 17,000 other homes and buildings, was burned and blown up by the Nazis after the 1944 insurrection, said the mathematicians were slain simply because they were men of learning or were of the Jewish race. The investigator's report said "in the domain of all other sciences in Poland, the situation is analogous—Poland lost her best under the Nazi occupation."

CANADA'S AREA

Canada has an area of 3,868,180 square miles.

How Our Potato Growers Are Treated

(Saint John Telegraph-Journal) Potato growers, whose prosperity is so important to New Brunswick, seem to be the forgotten men of Canadian agriculture. Small yields per acre made their 1945 production costs very high, but the wartime price ceiling board refused to adjust price ceilings accordingly. As a result, a lot of our farmers who had poor crops have lost money.

A despatch from Ottawa emphasizes how low potato prices have been on this side of the border. It refers to the subsidies the W.P.T.B. agency, Commodity Prices Stabilization Corporation, has been paying on potatoes brought in from the United States. These subsidies were necessary because the minimum or floor price for potatoes in the United States is far above the maximum or ceiling price fixed for potatoes in Canada.

The fact that the Canadian ceiling is below the United States floor, in a season when we have a shortage of potatoes and the United States has a surplus, is incongruous. It is a pity that the minimum of the way our potato growers have fared under government control. And while price ceilings have prevented them from earning anything like the amount they might have earned during the war period, their requests for a price floor—a protection extended to practically all other groups of farm producers—have not been granted. The powers at Ottawa have stubbornly evaded their appeals, and have tried to say that they were given a price floor, everybody would get into potato growing, clear acres would be planted, with disastrous consequences.

Yet the United States manage to have a floor that is higher than our ceiling, while our officials continue to argue that even a low floor under potato prices is an impossibility. If your contributor had studied the situation he would have found that Prince Edward Island has less crime per population than any other province. For instance, the last report of the Bureau of Statistics shows that in 1942 Prince Edward Island's share per population of convictions for all crimes was 4.96. It actually had only 1.762. The year 1942 was not exceptional. Similar conditions have prevailed year by year during the nearly half century in which Prince Edward Island has been under a prohibition law. In that year (1942) the report shows not a single conviction in Prince Edward Island for any of the following offences: Assault on a wife, assault on family, desertion of children, wife desertion, non-support of family, seduction, or rape. Every one knows the close connection between these particular crimes and liquor drinking. When describing the paradise of Montreal, your correspondent forgot to note that last summer in six weeks the R. C. M. P. seized thirty-six stills in the province of Quebec and that conditions of gambling, prostitution and bootlegging in the province had become so bad that a group of public spirited citizens have demanded a judicial investigation.

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Tower Doors Open Again

(Globe and Mail) Another symbol of wartime restrictions disappeared from the scene of London on New Year's Day, when the Tower of London was again opened to the public. It is said that visitors took great advantage of the opportunity, and flocked in crowds to see the ancient fortress. Not all the sights were there—the Crown Jewels will remain in their hiding place in the North of England until spring—but the collection of armor and which men call history, has so far to be seen, and of the colorful Yeomen of the Guard, the famous Beefeaters, stood forth in all their glory.

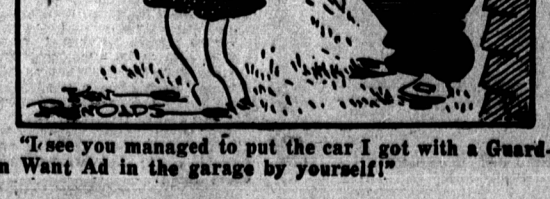
The Tower suffered a little from the bombing, but the damage was relatively superficial, and mainly in the more "modern" parts. The Keep, which is the most familiar feature of the group of buildings which are the Tower of London, is one of the chief links with the history of the British nation. It is said that Julius Caesar had a fort on the site; Alfred the Great may have built another. The present Tower was founded by William the Conqueror in 1078. Some claim that it is the oldest continuously occupied military establishment in the world. For many centuries it was used as a prison for distinguished persons who fell foul of the displeasure of the Sovereign. Sir William Wallace, the "Little Prince," Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Thomas More, Anne Boleyn; Princess Elizabeth, later the great Queen, and many another were imprisoned within its storied walls. In recent times traitors and spies have been incarcerated there. Lieut. Norman Ballis Stewart, the Guardsman who was accused of selling vital information, was there for a time a few years ago. In this way only one spy, Josef Jakobov, was executed in the last war. This week it was revealed that the British had been there for three days after his historic flight to England in 1941. They kept him in a loft which was above a

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QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds



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THE 2 MACS

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cow stable of Henry the Eighth's day. The British people treasure these survivals of their past. They form tangible links with the people who made England great. They enshrine the shadowy episodes as well as the glories. All go into that fascinating record of humanity which men call history. Little of it reflects greater credit upon mankind than that made by the people of those small islands beyond the Atlantic.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 8. — (CP) — Population of British Columbia, as shown by ration-books issued, has soared to a new all-time peak of 930,397—a gain of 63,381 in the last year, it was reported today by the Prices Board.

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FRONING MADE EASY LONDON — (CP) — A new system of mobile radio-telephony, not connected with fixed stations, has been perfected by the British Home Office. It is to be used in trains, as well as in police cars and aircraft, to enable passengers to hold important long-distance conversations during their journey. The use of the new system enables the range to be extended to an unlimited distance by the use of automatic relay stations.

FLOATING SCENT Ambergis, used in perfumery, is found floating on the sea.