THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, NOV. 1, 1947

Election Figures

Reviewing the last provincial general election figures in Prince Edward Island, the Sydney *Post-Record* finds that the voting in most of the electoral divisions was so close that a change of 100 votes would have placed the Progressive Conservatives on top, while a transfer of 300 would have given them a two-to-one majority. The servicemen were not given the right to vote, although the P. C. Opposition had urged the Jones Government to submit a servicemen's voting bill to the House before dissolution. The C. C. F. ran 9 candidates, but they got nowhere, polling only 511 votes for Councillors, and 925 for Assemblymen. But insignificant as the C. C. F. vote was, it probably cost the Progressive Conservatives the loss of 5 seats,—two in Queen's County and three in Prince. "Neither party," says the *Post-Record*, "regards the C. C. F. as a factor of any importance in the coming election." It adds:

"In more than half the constituencies the 1943 voting was so close that the majorities fell below 100. There were 9 Liberals whose margins ranged from 74 to 10, and 4 Conservatives who made the grade on majorities scaling down from 72 to 4. The Liberal margins for 9 seats were,—in King's County, 29, 42, 60, and 38; in Prince, 74, 19 and 14; in Queen's, 37, and 10 respectively. Progressive Conservatives were returned by 72 and 4 respectively in King's; and by 40 and 52 in two Queen's divisions. Summing up, on the basis of the 1943 polling, it looks very like a 50-50 proposition on December 11."

In 1943 figures are also quoted editorially by the Montreal *Star* which says:

"The Island does not believe in letting any party get too deeply vested an interest in power. The pendulum has swung back and forth between Liberals and Conservatives fairly regularly, with perhaps some preference shown to the Liberal side. The present Liberal administration came into office following a Conservative defeat in 1943 and has broken even in the by-elections held since then. The last election, although resulting in a substantial Liberal victory by seats, showed a quite even division in the popular vote, 35,775 Liberal and Independent-Liberal as against 31,840 Progressive Conservatives, the C. C. F. trailing with a total of 1,436."

World Shortage Of Food

In the report "The State of Food and Agriculture, 1947" discussed at the third annual session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at Geneva, it is stated that one thing stands out clearly, namely that the world shortage of food and several other agricultural products is not, as was thought earlier, a short time affair of one or two years. It is stretching out throughout 1948, 1949, and perhaps 1950. For example, the grain deficit will continue for at least another year, because the 1948 harvest, however bountiful, will not permit the abolition of bread rationing in all countries. The report of the Rice Study Group convened by FAO in India, envisaged a serious rice shortage for four or five years longer. The world scarcity of fats and oils and of livestock products is likely to last at least to 1950.

The problem, moreover, is not merely the restoration of agricultural production in the devastated areas to its pre-war levels. What was regarded as "normal" in 1939 is now inadequate. The world's population has increased by about 175 millions since the outbreak of war, and every year there are 15 to 20 million more mouths to feet. In some of these regions formerly regarded as food surplus areas, growth in industrialization has caused increases or changes in domestic food consumption and a reduction (in some cases perhaps a permanent reduction) in food exports. In many industrially developed countries, the present high levels of employment, together with a considerable measure of income redistribution, have greatly increased the food demands of the low income groups.

There is further the increased public recognition of the importance of improved diets and the obligation increasingly acknowledged by governments, both in price and policy and in special food distribution programs, not merely that hunger must be prevented but that diets adequate in quantity and quality for full physiological development and working activity must be brought within the reach of all classes.

Big Tax Cuts Due

Barring some unforeseen catastrophe, says the *Financial Post*, the Dominion Government will report a whopping surplus at the end of the fiscal year next March. For the first five months close to half a billion dollars has already been accumulated.

While some of this money comes in the windfall category, such as from sales of surplus war goods, much of it represents a permanent saving in wartime spending and it should be passed along to the citizens in tax cuts.

A good many millions of expenditure, for example, have been lopped off in the elimination of special subsidies. Payments of this kind reached a peak of over $100 millions per year during the war period, when Ottawa was helping us pay for practically everything we ate and wore.

Actually, it was largely a case of taking out of one pocket and putting it into another, plus the not unsubstantial costs of operating the complicated system. In milk, for instance, the average city householder saved about $25 a year on his annual bill as a result of the subsidy, but in return the government had to take that amount plus operating costs from the average taxpayer.

In the last year most of these special subsidies have been dropped. Having stopped paying part of the bill for our daily necessities it is up to the Government now to stop collecting the special toll. The average citizen and business, too, will be expecting to hear Mr. Abbott announce some pretty sweeping tax cuts any day now and they are justified in those expectations.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Feast of All Saints—Hallowmas.

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Tomorrow Feast of All Souls.

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Today sober citizens reckon up the results of a previous night of wakeful spirits, witches, goblins and imps. It might have been worse.

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Quebec has taken steps to distribute the tax burden for educational purposes so that it is no longer borne by the owner of real estate solely.

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The Rt. Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent clearly has no use for subsidized housing. He declared at the McGill Union building that "No government of which I am a part will pass such legislation."

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It is many years since drug stores here did away with soda fountains. Now Wasson's Drug Store in Saint John has decided that it can give better drug store service by eliminating the soda fountain. If this idea catches on we may not even be able to buy a fountain pen from a local druggist.

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New Brunswick is now finding that more wives than husbands are petitioning for divorce. The first flood of aggrieved returned servicemen is over and now man's chivalry is displayed so that more men are sued than suing among those who find it impossible to maintain married life.

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Battle of Coronel this date 1914 when Rear-Admiral Cradock, with a British naval squadron encountered a powerful German squadron under Admiral Von Spree on the coast of Chile which attacked and sank two cruisers at short range, three other vessels withdrawing and resuming the fight later at the Falkland Islands when the Germans suffered defeat.

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The Liberal forces seem to be reuniting under the Premier's leadership—that is, if they ever were disunited. There are of course, always a percentage of disgruntled partizans under any administration, and in both parties. The Conservative rank-and-file are solidly behind Dr. MacMillan—that is, making allowance for a few ambitious politicians desirous of an opportunity for promotion.

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According to Premier Angus L. Macdonald, Nova Scotia gets $10,870,000 over a five-year period but that probably tax fields given up by the province are worth seven millions so that Nova Scotia gets three million in "new money." Just looking over the figures roughly it would seem that Mr. Macdonald assumes that all money from the Dominion is "new" and that no account need be had of payments under previous agreements.

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The brick industry is prepared to meet all housing and other construction needs as fast as the demand develops, members of the Structural Clay Products Institute, meeting at Montreal, were informed by their president, Roy A. Shipley. "Not only is the brick shortage a thing of the past, but this industry was the first producer of a major building material to catch up with demand and start accumulating inventories. The general availability of the new modular sizes of both brick and tile will lower the cost of masonry construction appreciably."

* * * *

Benvenuto Cellini, Italian artist, metal-worker, sculptor, and flautist, died this date 1500; nothing but his famous and inimitable *Biography* can do justice to his manysidedness; apprenticed to a goldsmith; then took up flute-playing, and became one of the Pope's court musicians; enjoyed patronage as a metal worker under Clement VII, but becoming a brawler he had to move from one place to another, changing his profession almost as often as he changed his residence. His greatest work as a sculptor is a bronze group *Perseus holding the Head of Medusa.*

* * * *

British civil servants know no party, and are at the disposal of the Government in power. Sir Oliver Harvey, Deputy Foreign Office Under-Secretary, has succeeded Mr. Alfred Duff Cooper as British Ambassador in Paris. Mr. Duff Cooper, 57, has been British Ambassador to France since 1944. Previously he was British representative on the French Committee of National Liberation. Sir Oliver, 53, a career diplomat has spent most of his service abroad in France. He is one of the "brilliant young men" of Anthony Eden's period at the Foreign Office, and since 1946 has been in charge of Western European Affairs.

* * * *

Factory owners use mechanization for the purpose of increasing output, not for the purpose of reducing employment. The more advanced the mechanization of factories the larger staff at work, the greater the output. In Agriculture, the provision of most ingenious and economic machinery does not, in most cases, result in expanded operations, but in a reduction of productive staff. That is not the fault of the machines. They are excellent and cheap. It is an automatic result of less average reward for an hour's work on the farm, with or without machines, than for one hour's work in urban occupations. The increasing mechanization of agriculture in Canada should be accompanied, as the same process is in most factories, by steady increase in output and in labour employed.

Notes By The Way

An Australian woman claims that her eye trouble and her high blood pressure were improved when she was hit on the head with an axe-handle. Somehow, though, we don't think this will become standard medical treatment. — Edmonton Journal.

That 58 per cent increase in he Russian grain harvest has everybody guessing, as Moscow no doubt intended that it should. Nobody knows just how big an increase it is because nobody knows what the new harvest is 58 per cent bigger than. Moscow merely said it was 58 per cent bigger than last year's crop. — Christian Science Monitor.

One of the stories from the York-Sunbury by-election has been told us by someone who was in Fredericton during the campaign. A group of politically-minded people were at breakfast and discussing a speech made by an orator who had gone to Fredericton from British Columbia to participate. One of the breakfast group said: "Never did any man come so far to say so little. —W. L. Clark in Windsor Daily Star.

A well-known physician has just stated, "The allergic person is a law unto himself." Ordinarily that statement would be open only to one interpretation, but in these days of legal technicalities we are forced to wonder just how long it will be before Bill the Burglar starts appealing his latest adverse verdict on the grounds that the statute doesn't apply because he "ate something he hadn't oughter" before his last little bit of mayhem or larceny. — Windsor Star.

U.S. court subpoenas directing Canadian citizens to appear in U. S. courts, and produce records from their Canadian offices, should not be left to individual citizens, corporations or even Provincial Governments to deal with. They are a challenge to Canadian sovereignty, and a matter to be taken up through the proper diplomatic channels between the two national governments. The old saying still stands that good fences make good neighbours. — The Letter Review.

Announcement of the retirement of Dr. Seager Wheeler, OBE, who plans to move from his farm at Rosthern, Sask., to Victoria, recalls that not only did he receive the crown of world wheat king five times, but that he developed two new varieties of wheat, Red Bobs and Kitchener, which won for him on two occasions. Dr. Wheeler was a good farmer but he had a hobby and that was trying to be a better farmer. To this end he set aside some of his acres for research in plant breeding. — Lethbridge Herald.

This shortage (of teachers) is largely a matter of economics, wages and returns. It is foolish to expect that bright young men and women will enter a profession in which returns are not commensurate with their training or their efforts. The ideal of the teacher may be that satisfaction in the work and knowledge of the value of the task, is adequate reward but wages and incomes are hard facts. The position of the rural teacher has been and in many places still is unfavorable to securing new blood. Possibly larger school areas will remedy this situation to some extent. — London Free Press.

No Canadian need be jubilant when a European family is placed on a farm from which a Canadian family has removed itself. Yet this is what is going on in some parts of the country. In some instances the original Canadian stock is leaving the land and getting into towns and cities. The same process is going on in many sections of the United States and is regarded with alarm by students of the social order in that country. The newcomer from Europe prizes the land; to him it is a great boon to be able to own a hundred acres. The Anglo-Saxon in this country regards the land lightly. Ownership means little to him, and in many cases he would prefer making his living somewhere else.— Chatham News.

The fear that the country church, unless revitalized, faces extinction is expressed in an article in the New York Times. The article draws attention to the enormous power which the country church can wield in the rural districts. The country church has a real problem ahead of it in holding its congregations. With the advent of the automobile many of the people in the rural sections forsook their customary place of worship to attend church in urban communities. As the years passed, this withdrawal of support became more noticeable and its effect began to be felt economically, with the result that it was difficult to raise sufficient funds to pay the ministers salary, let alone provide for other needs of the church. These conditions prevail in many communities today. — Guelph Mercury.

What is a "temporary" civil ser-vant? The question poses a puzzle for many in that category, and no less for the taxpaying public. According to the dictionary, "temporary" means "lasting or meant to last only for a time", but it appears that official bureaucratic Ottawa has an odd conception of time! Locally and throughout the country, for instance, there are civil servants who have been "temporary" for years! More than that, they have been doing "permanent" staff work while still in the "temporary" category at "temporary" rates of pay. Others while "permanent" have been doing senior work while still remaining in a junior classification. This seems neither businesslike nor fair, whether the case be considered from the point of view of the employes or that of the citizens who have to foot the bill. —Brantford Exposition.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

BANK FAILURE

From The Island Guardian, Jan. 22, 1887:

On Thursday, the 13th. inst. the creditors of the Bank of Prince Edward Island met in the liquidators' offices for the purpose of hearing the report of the committee, consisting of Messrs. H. J. Cundall, Percy Pope and F. W. Mitchell, appointed to examine the accounts of the liquidators and report upon the remuneration to be allowed them for their services.

The report referred to the Bank's suspension on the 28th. Nov. 1881, and to the appointment, on the 29th June following, of the Bank of Nova Scotia and Messrs. L. C. Owen and C. C. Gardiner, liquidators. During this period a large amount of practical liquidation was performed by the directors. The liquidators had received, in gross, about $503,337, but from this sum the committee thought should be deducted money and debentures received from the directors, the purchase money for the Bank premises, and transfers from other banks, together $108,874, leaving $394,463 of collections due to the exertions of the liquidators. Of this last amount, $133,458 was paid by stockholders on account of their liabilities, 71 of whom paid in full, 30 paid in part, and 20 paid nothing. The report recommended that $13,500 should be paid to the liquidators for their services. After a vote of thanks to the committee, the meeting attended at the Judges' chambers, before Mr. Justice Peters, when the report and resolutions were read and submitted for His Honour's final adjudication. So ended this meeting, probably the last in connection with this unfortunate, but once flourishing institution.

* * *

Little now remains to be done, but to collect the few remaining debts of any value, make the final dividend, burn the notes, and close the liquidation. The $15,000, or thereabouts, of outstanding notes, or as many as are still in existence, will then be valueless as money, but in the course of time these relics of a defunct institution will be more eagerly sought for by the antiquarian, than ever they were by the money-dealer or out-buyer in the days of its prosperity. The creditors' loss has been large, but compared with that of the shareholders, it is small indeed. Of the latter, there were only 121, and their loss, exclusive in many cases of what they lose as creditors, is about $332,000. A few persons managed, from one cause and another, to escape any payment, but as a body the shareholders acted with great credit to themselves, having paid, besides the loss of their stock, and in many cases a large part of their deposits, over two-thirds of their double liability.

* * *

This Bank, the first of its kind in this Island, was started in the early part of the year 1856, and commenced operations in the office of the late Hon. W. H. Pope, on Grafton Street, on the 13th. of August of that year. The first issue of bank notes bears this date. At this time banking was quite new to people generally. Towards the end of the following year the young institution met with what was then considered a heavy blow to its prosperity. A monetary crisis, which then prevailed so largely in England and the United States, prostrated the shipping and timber trade, so that many of the ship owners were unable to meet their engagements with the bank, and the latter deemed it advisable to suspend specie-payment for a short time. From this, however, it soon recovered, and became in a few years eminently stable and successful, and very remunerative to the stockholders.

In the years 1875 and 1876, within a few months of each other, the Bank had the misfortune to lose by death three of its chief officers, viz: Mr. George Moore, teller; Hon. Daniel Brenan, president; and William Cundall, Esq., cashier, all men of long experience, and thoroughly trustworthy. Mr. Cundall had been cashier from its beginning, and cared for and watched over it with a father's attention until his decease. Thenceforth, though there was little change in the directory, younger and inexperienced hands took charge, and in a few years brought the Bank to a disastrous and untimely end.

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II

Problem Altered

Since the report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine was written, the problem has been greatly altered by the announcement by the mandatory power of its intention to withdraw from Palestine. This is a statment of serious import and we must take it into full account in making our decisions.

Confronted with the situation which will arise when the mandatory power withdraws, we must, I think, consider urgently three problems. First how can we work out quickly and efficiently the details of the plan for Palestine which we are preparing to adopt? Secondly, who will take over the responsibilty for the administration of Palestine which the mandatory power proposes to surrender? And thirdly, how shall we go about putting our decisions into effect in the absence of agreement by both Jews and Arabs to accept them?

In regard to the first of these questions, we share the views of other delegations that the partition scheme must be made workable if either political pacification or economic unity is to be achieved in Palestine. Therefore, a sub-committee should be set up without delay, as the United States delegation has suggested, to work out the details of a scheme, particularly in respect of boundaries, for recommendation to the Committee and, if approved, the Assembly.

There remain to be considered the other two questions, the acceptance of responsibility for administration and the problem of implementation. Various suggestions have been put forward in the course of discussions in this committee as regards possible measures for giving effect to a settlement in Palestine. In particular we note that the United States has expressed its willingness to participate in a United Nations programme for meeting economic and financial problems and the problem of internal law and order during the transition period. For the purpose of meeting the problem in internal constabulary recruited on a voluntary basis by the United Nations.

From a preliminary examination of this proposal, we believe that such a scheme has possibilities which must certainly be explored. It should be recognized, however, that the authority of the United Nations over such a force must be established beyond doubt, while the basis of recruitment should be such that it will not further inflame either community in Palestine. To establish United Nations authority it may be necessary to explore the possible application of Chapter 12 of the Charter during the period of transition to independence.

Collective Responsible Decision

The Security Council has also been mentioned as an appropriate organ which might be charged with the responsibilities of implementation since the immediate question involved would be that of safe-guarding peace and security.

It is to be hoped, however, that in spite of the uncompromising words which have been used in this Committee, the executive functions of the Security Council will not have to be involved. We must assume that the decisions we make will be a collective and responsible one. Once that decision has been reached, all members of the United Nations will realize that precipitate action to challenge it in violation of the Charter would set in train events of serious and unpredictabe consequence not only to Palestine, but also the United Nations itself.

The problems raised by these questions concerning administration after the withdrawal of the mandatory power and the implementation of whatever plan we adopt should in our view be the subject of special and separate study by a second sub-committee in which the five permanent members of the Security Council should be included. This sub-committee would take into consideration, among other things, the suggestions regarding methods of implementation, which have been made in the course of this debate.

In conclusion, I must reiterate with emphasis the view I have already expressed that only through compromise and accommodation can the people of Palestine hope to find the freedom and the control of their destinies which they so rightly and urgently desire. The United Nations, for its part, will have to be prepared collectively to support the decisions reached during this Assembly. Only in this way will it be possible to provide the conditions of stability which are necessary if Arabs and Jews are to be enabled eventually to find peace and understanding within the arrangement which is made.

The Poet's Corner

TO AN ATHLETE DYING YOUNG

The time you won your town the race
We chaired you through the market-place;
Man and boy stood cheering by,
And home we bore you shoulder-high.

Today, the road all runners come,
Shoulder-high we bring you home.
And set you at your threshold down,
Townsman of a stiller town.

Smart lad, to slip betimes away
From fields where glory does not stay
And early though the laurel grows
It withers quicker than the rose.

Eyes the shady night has shut
Cannot see the record cut,
And silence sounds no worse than cheers
After earth has stopped the ears;

Now you will not swell the rout
Of lads that wore their honours out,
Runners whom renown outran
And the name died before the man.

So set, before its echoes fade
The fleet foot on the sill of shade,
And hold to the low lintel up
The still-defended challenge-cup.

And round that early-laurelled head
Will flock to gaze the strengthless dead,
And find unwithered on its curls
The garland briefer than a girl's.

—A. E. Housman.

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