

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1945

100 Years Of Co-operatives

As previously noted, a Royal Commission on Co-operatives has been appointed with Judge E. M. McDougall of Montreal as chairman, and public hearings are to be held in every province. The issue is the right of governments to tax these enterprises for income and other purposes, an issue bound to be bitterly contested for co-operatives are now big business in Canada.

The question is being raised here almost exactly on the hundredth anniversary of the movement as it exists today. On December 21, 1844, the first truly co-operative store was opened in a dismally basement of the drab industrial town of Rochdale, in Lancashire. Today the Rochdale plan of operation—one vote each member, sales at market prices, savings going back to customers according to their purchases—is the accepted principle on which most successful co-operatives do business. Out of the Rochdale experiment has grown in Britain a concern that supplies one-seventh of all food consumed there. The British Co-operative Wholesale Society owns nearly 200 factories and is one of Canada's best customers for foodstuffs.

The latest Government report, for 1943, shows that Canadian co-operatives in that year did a total business of \$352,785,598, of which about a third was in transactions of the wheat pools. There are over 8,700 known co-operative societies in Canada with telephone services leading the list with 2,387 and credit unions next with 1,780. The Department of Agriculture lists 1,675 active co-ops. The large central Ontario co-op enterprise did a twenty-million-dollar business last year while the central Quebec enterprise will likely double that figure.

The fact that these cooperatives—for one reason or another, are exempt from many of the ordinary taxation burdens of business, such as income and excess profits taxes, has long been a thorn in the side of private enterprise. The latter complain that co-operatives offering the same services as they do have great advantages. The opposition has succeeded in organizing, raising the whole issue, and the Royal Commission is the result. The taxation exemptions enjoyed by publicly-owned enterprises, such as the Ontario Hydro, Toronto Transportation Commission and Canadian National Railways, are bound to enter the picture because while not strictly co-operatives, they enjoy about the same taxation privileges.

The task before this commission, says the Ottawa Journal, is not an enviable one, because co-operation to many has become almost a religion. There are 585,826 members of co-operative societies in Canada and patrons number considerably more. The wealthy wheat pools, and some of the other larger societies have already stated they intend to fight for what they consider their rights with every means in their power. Politically the situation is tense, especially on the Prairies, where governments are very co-operatively minded.

Large School Units

The movement for the larger units of school administration in Saskatchewan seems to be making good progress. A number of the larger units are being started experimentally at the first of 1945, and they will include 1,100 of the present small school districts. In selecting the large units, the opinions of the provinces were tested recently by representatives of the Education Department, and they were found to vote overwhelmingly for the change after hearing it explained.

The places where the tests were highly favorable included East and West Saskatoon, Meadow Lake, Biggar, Turtleford, Kindersley, Herbert, Foam Lake, Maple Creek and Swift Current.

This is of interest to other provinces, where the problem of rural school consolidation is more or less acute. The general trend everywhere is away from the small district for each school to the large unit containing a number of schools, and the purpose is to ensure for all a proper standard both of instruction and of buildings and equipment.

Within the larger units there can be consolidated school districts and these should be extended as far as they are feasible, since the pupils attending those schools have great advantages in many ways.

Scolding The Women

A Prices Board statement explains with dramatic detail that the nylon and rayon which might be going into women's stockings are going instead to such items of war equipment as tow ropes for gliders, parachutes, gun-powder bags, linings for rubber tires. The suggestion is clear, in the statement, that women who clamor for stockings, any stockings, are thinking selfishly of themselves, not enough of the men overseas.

This is not quite sporting of the Prices Board, says an exchange. Stockings are an essential item of feminine attire, in Winter at any rate, and it does no good to scold the women as though they were black-market profiteers because they insist upon something with which to cover their legs. They do not demand "glamorous" hose, and they have learned to conserve their supply, but they do think it should be possible to buy the occasional pair without spending all their leisure rushing about from shop to shop.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There can be no mistaking the January thaw this time.

The festive season being now practically over, and the students returning to their colleges, business will once more settle down to more or less routine, and the churches enter upon a Week-of-Prayer.

A splendid and deserved compliment was paid the Charlottetown by a traveller on the D.A.R. this week. Asking a fellow passenger whether bound? when told Charlottetown, he exclaimed with enthusiasm—"Why the Charlottetown is the best hotel I know. I travel New England, the Maritimes and Quebec, and nowhere do I find pre-war service and meals so well maintained as by the Charlottetown Hotel." Those of us who do not travel far to realize fully what a valuable asset we have in Mr. and Mrs. Mould of the Charlottetown.

Britain's wartime development and experience of night flying will have a considerable influence on post-war civil aviation. Night flying, which was rare in pre-war days, will be a commonplace of post-war flying owing to the enormous progress made by British research in the design of aircraft and special equipment. Passengers will be able to sleep comfortably on long distance routes and mail freight will also be carried. Above all British air liners will be able to draw on the great body of the most experienced pilots in the world—the men of R.A.F. Bomber Command and night fighter squadrons.

Now when Christmas and New Year are past, storekeepers are freed from Government interference in regulating their business. Mr. Ralph Harris, retiring administrator, announces the Management Service Division of the Prices Board, has been discontinued December 31. Mr. Harris said that the division brought about pooled and curtailed deliveries—shorter store hours, simplified accounting and operating practices and in many instances provided increased profits for small businessmen, particularly in the food, drug, hardware and footwear trades. He added that the trades concerned now are in a good position and their most pressing problem is reconstruction, which is not the task of the Prices Board.

Renewed activity in civil defence organizations is evident. The office of civilian defence at Washington has issued instructions for defence against robot bomb and rocket bomb attacks. Instructions sent to state defence committees to be passed on to the public, O.C.D. pointed out that little or no advance warning is possible, adding: "The public should realize the danger and be constantly on the alert, particularly along the coastal areas." Maj. O. R. Crowell, director of civil defence for Halifax, reports the Halifax Civilian Emergency Corps has been planning measures against robot bomb or rocket attacks ever since the possibility of their use against this continent was recognized. "We are not suggesting that there is any cause for alarm," Maj. Crowell said, "but it is the duty of civilian defence workers, particularly in this key centre, to prepare for all possibilities."

Robert Louis Stevenson, novelist, poet, essayist, died this date 1894; was a lifelong invalid suffering from lung trouble, spending a great part of his life in bed; nevertheless he was a great traveller, touring the continent of Europe, the United States and the East Indies, all in search of that health which had been denied him since childhood; as a writer he was a Victorian stylist, Andrew Lang describing him as being in the forefront of purists in this respect; his essays are a delight to read and re-read; his poetry is the natural out-pouring of a spirit of refinement, ebullient and charming; his novels are compared with Sir Walter Scott's characterized by powerful imagination and remarkable narrative faculty; "There is nothing an honest man should fear more timorously than getting and spending more than he deserves."

It is amusing, to say the least, to Old Timers to find Mr. David Lloyd George becoming an hereditary peer of the realm. He gained popularity and maintained political prominence by denunciation of the hereditary principle in the House of Lords. Referring to one member of the House of Commons to whom a peerage had been granted, he exclaimed contemptuously—"What does it signify? The higher up the greasy pole he climbs the more he shows his tail!" Of another childless M.P. who had, for his political services, been created a baron he declared he had "neither pride of ancestry nor hope of posterity." But now he himself has taken the bait, and who knows but that it is because he has both a son and grandson to succeed to the title. For himself he will always be plain David Lloyd George, the orator who played the main part in rousing and stimulating the British in their darkest hours of the last Great War.

Over 120 applications have been accepted to date by McGill University for entrance to the recently announced special courses for war veteran students beginning on January 8. The special courses have been instituted by McGill in order to accommodate war veterans who have recently been discharged and who otherwise would have to wait until the next regular academic session in order to continue their college education. McGill is the first university in Canada to plan such extra sessions outside the regular sessions for the accommodation of war veterans. The 120 applications accepted by McGill include those of two or three women. The majority of the applications have been from Air Force veterans, although all three services have been represented. Pre-engineering is the course chosen by the majority of veterans, with science and commerce proving popular also. In addition arts, agriculture, pre-medical and pre-dental courses have attracted war veterans.

Notes By The Way Britain's First Sea Lord

Comparing endurance necessary in the First World War with that at the present time, it is interesting to note that serving a half-hour spell in a British tank is stated to be a greater strain than full day's marching and trench digging in France in 1917. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Until rural people assembled locally in community groups give voice to their views and opinions no farm organization with headquarters in Ottawa can speak forcibly for the farmers of Canada. The roots of any farm organization must be in the soil—not in bricks or in pavement. — Farmer's Advocate.

Poor sermons may furnish the excuse for many (who do not go to church) but they are better than none at all. There are many attractions in this modern age that lure folk away from worship. This is one of the problems of the modern church, and the cause may prove to be more serious than the loss of members. — Guelph Mercury.

King George struck a responsive chord in his Christmas message when he said: "The defeat of Germany and Japan is only the first step towards the reorganization of the world to create a world of free men 'untouched by tyranny.' That is the goal which we must all strive for, fighting, and it would be a negation of victory if the United Nations failed to attain it. — Hamilton Spectator.

If the Russian offensive can get rolling, the German drive on the Western Front may fall short of wrecking Allied plans to the extent hoped for by Berlin. The enemy's powerful thrust is serious enough, in all truth, but with Russia attacking in force on the East, and the Allies reorganizing, the Germans may soon again be facing a two-front war that will be decisive. — Hamilton Spectator.

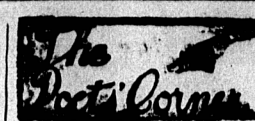
At least one of Britain's most famous shipping companies is planning to scrap all first-class accommodation in its future ships, in the belief that after the war passengers who once paid for first-class tickets will want to travel by air instead, says the London Daily Mail. The company in question hopes to start by substituting liners for them. Its surface ships of the future will cater almost entirely for cargo. Limited passenger accommodation to be offered at relatively low rates, will be intended for people who like sea travel for its own sake.

Another "cure" (for smoking), one which is usually employed only when all else has failed, is to smoke dry tea in a new pipe or sweet fern in a clay pipe. The tea, which is brewed in water, falls within the category of those cure or kill remedies, which are like a sledge hammer and are likely to do more harm than good. A strong will is the thing needed to conquer here and trials and tribulations are bound to be. By the way, have you got a ci-? We have left our cannolis at home. — Hamilton Spectator.

What do you know? The second-hand car which was bought after all of us had a whack at it, it still runs merrily around its little track after another week or so the children will get a whack at it all by themselves. But, after a strenuous workout on Christmas Eve, the little thing still goes choo, chooing like a good fellow. The doll still closes its eyes when laid on its back, which is something. The novelty of trying to find out why the eyes close never wears off and there is always the desire to promote everyone to open it up and discover the reason. One point we want to make abundantly clear is that loud cleaning noises were neither the toy train nor the hammer and saw outfit that came for lunch. Not at all. That loud noise of all happened when we put on the Christmas tree that the family got. Boy, was it a wow! — Windsor Star.

The Quartermaster Corps has devised a method of shipping whole eggs by which it was possible to send to the European and African theatres in the past six months more than 140,000,000 eggs. This has been done by taking strictly fresh eggs, dipping them in mineral oil to seal the shell to prevent moisture loss and retard evaporation and then packing them in special crates designed to absorb shocks from one's and two per cent have been broken in transit; and, since the eggs are kept at 38 degrees during shipment and storage, there have been no complaints of spoilage. Increase in shipping space has made it possible to ship whole powdered eggs as a concomitant to ham or bacon. There probably is not a GI who would not willingly swap a whole load of powdered eggs for a chance to eat his fill of "ham and"—New York Sun.

Young women of this generation perhaps never heard of Charles Dana Gibson, the artist, now dead in New York, but their mothers know of him and his work. Around the turn of the century there then young artist created what came to be known as "the Gibson Girl." He worked with pen and ink, and his sketches in black and white of lean, elegant beauties affected the styles and manners of women for a generation. The Gibson drawings appeared in the magazines, and were printed in portfolios which had great popularity—for years no parlor table was complete without one. Gibson had considerable skill with the pen, and an eye for the ideal, and the Gibson Girl became the fashion and the ideal. Young women everywhere copied his styles and ideas as best they could, and of course tried to adjust their shapes to the Gibson case. It is interesting to recall the recall, with entire success. These were simpler days, when Charles Dana Gibson was in his season of popularity, and there were no movies nor radio to carry Broadway fashions over-night across the continent. The Gibson Girl was a product of the times, and a passing phase, but while she reigned her creator was a man of influence, which he exercised with dignity and restraint. He was no Sinatra. — Ottawa Journal.



The Post's Corner

FAILURE Because God put His adamantine fate Between my sullen heart and its desire, I swore that I would burst the Iron Gate, and curse Him on His throne of fire. Earth shuddered at my crown of blasphemy, But Love was as a flame about my feet. Proud up the Golden Stair I strode; and beat Thrice on the Gate, and entered with a cry— All the great courts were quiet in the air, And full of tacant echoes: moss had grown Over the glassy pavement, and begun To creep within the dusty corners. An idle wind blew round an empty throne, And stirred the heavy curtains on the walls. — Rupert Brooke.

settlement of doubtful points to chance and that some litigation may find it worth while to seek decision from the courts. Codification at present is not practicable continued Mr. Emmett. He recommended the establishment of a law institute from which a committee of experts from each branch of law would report to the council chosen from all branches of the profession. By such procedure the country could modernize its common law.

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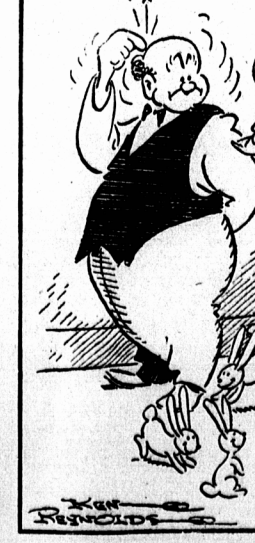
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QUICKIES

By Ken Reynolds



"I don't care if the Guardian Want Ad did say it was a 'magic hat'—there is no such thing!"



Because God put His adamantine fate Between my sullen heart and its desire, I swore that I would burst the Iron Gate, and curse Him on His throne of fire. Earth shuddered at my crown of blasphemy, But Love was as a flame about my feet. Proud up the Golden Stair I strode; and beat Thrice on the Gate, and entered with a cry— All the great courts were quiet in the air, And full of tacant echoes: moss had grown Over the glassy pavement, and begun To creep within the dusty corners. An idle wind blew round an empty throne, And stirred the heavy curtains on the walls. — Rupert Brooke.

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