

Flooding The Home Market

Figures cited yesterday in these columns showed that last year no less than \$7,405,866 of fresh fruits and vegetables were imported into Canada from the United States, as against \$1,270,039 exported by Canada to the neighboring republic; a trade balance against us, on these farm products, of over six million dollars in one year. The figures do not include such semi-tropical imports as bananas, citrus fruits, and pineapples. In fresh vegetables alone, our imports amounted to \$4,539,933 as against exports of only \$905,915.

Our local contemporary argues, (1) that there was also an excess of imports over exports in these products under the Bennett Government, and (2) that the bulk of imports come in when Canada is not able to produce or supply the market.

But what do the figures show for 1934, the last full year of the Bennett administration? They show exports of fresh vegetables to the amount of \$1,593,754 (as against \$905,915 in 1938) and imports of \$2,732,382 (as against \$4,539,933 in 1938). Altogether, in fresh fruits and vegetables our exports in 1934 were \$1,362,111 as against \$1,270,039 in 1938; whereas our imports of these products in 1934 were \$5,179,373 as against \$7,405,866 in 1938.

In other words, while we exported less fresh fruits and vegetables to the United States last year under Liberal "trade expansion" policies than we did in 1934, we imported over two million dollars more.

Our contemporary says that "not even the Tories could prevent the people from having fresh fruits and vegetables during Canada's off season." The Tories made no attempt to do so; what they were concerned with was protecting our farmers' home market during their own marketing season, and this, as the figures show, is what they did.

The two million odd dollars increase in imports of these products last year over 1934 represents the extent to which our farmers suffered in their home market as a result of Liberal tariff tinkering. The figures quoted are beyond dispute as they were tabled by the Minister of Trade and Commerce himself at the present session of Parliament. They point conclusively, as stated yesterday, to the reason why the Canadian fruit and vegetables industry is reported to be facing a "crisis" in the home market.

Harbour Improvements

Although no announcement has as yet been made in Parliament regarding the proposed improvements to the Charlottetown Harbour during the approaching spring and summer, so much has been heard of them of late that *The Guardian* has decided to invite discussion from all who feel that they can throw light upon the subject. To start this discussion we have asked Mr. H. K. S. Hemming to write a series of short articles outlining the benefits he feels will accrue to the Island by supplying to ocean vessels the required accommodation in the Charlottetown Harbour of long and high piers, full depth of water, etc.

Since coming to the Island Mr. Hemming has won for himself a reputation for clear and incisive writing, free from exaggeration, and as he has made a close study of this particular subject we bespeak for his articles a careful perusal from readers of *The Guardian*.

The first of the series will appear in tomorrow's issue, the others on alternate days of next week.

A Discouraging Picture

Liberal statements regarding improved employment conditions find no substantiation in the latest report published by the Canadian Welfare Council, based on returns from 210 public or voluntary welfare agencies throughout the Dominion.

Entitled "This Weary Pilgrimage, the Dependency Outlook in Canada, 1939", the survey notes that as the last month of 1938 got under way, there were 875,000 persons in the Dominion dependent on unemployment or agricultural aid.

Worse still, it notes with regret that "an abiding weariness, a fatigue seems to be upon the land, a grim acceptance on the part of the taxpayer that 'relief is here to stay'; a terrible, tragic apathy on the part of the people."

The threat to Canadian well-being seems to lie now not so largely in the actual sag which the Dominion may be facing in unemployment, the report adds, but in "this let-down of spirit and morale in the country as a whole."

In an analysis of various public works usually labelled as "relief" projects, the report finds that the majority of these consists of ordinary public works, let to regular contractors. "A few hundred men may or may not get off relief" on to these projects for full or part time work. They or their dependents go 'off' or 'on' also, and, consequently, the relief totals shows a fluctuation that is not significant and tends to obscure the basic fact that these people are still dependent on public funds for stimulated work or for aid in its absence.

More increases in total dependency relieved through public funds are represented by those receiving old age pensions, mothers' allowances and cash aid to veterans and blind persons, the report points out.

Settlement on the land of families on relief is, outside of Quebec and, to some degree, Manitoba, proceeding in a "somewhat desultory and

spotty fashion." The youth training plan is praised, but rarely, it is claimed, do more than 25 per cent of those trained find employment after their course.

A definite increase in unemployment, dating from last autumn, is noted, employers' returns in last October showing a decline of 10.6 in the index of employed from the same month in 1937.

This is the net result of three and a half years of Liberal efforts to substitute "jobs for doles", and it can hardly be described as an encouraging one.

The Bren Gun Inquiry

Of the fifty members of the House of Commons who compose the Public Accounts Committee, 35 are Liberals, supporters of the Government.

It is to this committee that Prime Minister Mackenzie King wants to relegate the Bren gun inquiry before permitting open debate in Parliament.

The reason, it is obvious. The 35 Liberal stalwarts, or at least enough of them to constitute a majority of the Committee, are expected to bring in a report constituting a negation of any charges and a resultant "whitewashing" of the ministry.

The Opposition are desirous of debating the question first, and in the meantime of having the Bren contract cancelled.

It is now frankly admitted that the report of the Royal Commissioner, Judge Davis, has settled nothing. The Commissioner did not pass on the merits of the contract, but left that for Parliament to decide.

Editorial Notes

Canada passed into the hands of Britain by the Treaty of Paris this date, 1763.

So far as the European situation is concerned, it will depend on what demands Italy makes on France after the Spanish peace, whether or not there will be another World War. Meantime Mussolini declines to withdraw his troops from Spain until the end of the war—reserving to himself to decide what that term means.

The Prime Minister has said, and repeated, that our preparations have reached the point where we can defend the Empire. We trust that Mr. Chamberlain will be able to go on making it. But, we are public anxiety growing, let the declaration be amplified and supported by statements from the Ministers in charge of the various departments. Let us have from them something in a form which will convince us that the scale of rearmament and military expenditure has been grasped, that developments in Europe have been taken into account, and that we move forward as fast as we can, and as fast as we need.—London Express

The reality, in brief, is this: that we are in the Empire today, and we stay, we must do our part—dance to the Empire tune, in the choosing of which we may share. If we get out of the Empire, we shall have to face the wolves alone. If we face the wolves alone, our fate is not in the slightest doubt. If we join another group, our liberties will not be enhanced one jot and may very well be diminished. What, then, are we hesitating about?—Vancouver Province.

After a three month's stay in the U.S.A. Mr. John Strachey, the distinguished British author and socialist, left for England on Saturday, consequently, for the second time, deportation proceedings against him have been withdrawn. In 1935 Mr. Strachey similarly forced an indefinite postponement of exclusion proceedings. Much of his time since last October, when he arrived for a subsequently forestalled lecture tour, was taken up with immigration proceedings, but he still had time to transact a good deal of remunerative business.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King has intimated in Parliament that Canada would not throw her doors wide open to political refugees, but would deal with special cases on their merits. The Prime Minister's statement came during a protest by Mr. Heaps, a Commonwealth Federation-Labor member, against utterances in Parliament and throughout the country directed against the refugees from Nazism. Even the Secretary of State, (Mr. Rinfret) Mr. Heaps said, had allowed himself to be quoted in a Montreal newspaper as declaring that, "despite sentiments of humanity," it would be difficult if not impossible to admit any large number of refugees from Europe. The Prime Minister said he was sure Mr. Rinfret had been misinterpreted. "The Minister must have said something about sentiments of humanity necessitating a certain course of action," Mr. King stated, "and then gone on to say that, despite the sentiments of humanity, certain things could not be done. But the thing he referred to as not being possible was the open door, which is a very different thing from giving consideration to a situation and meeting it in the best way possible short of an open door."

Not a few Island investors will be interested to learn that Mr. Charles V. Bob, the mining engineer and promoter, after whom Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd named an Antarctic mountain range because Mr. Bob had helped finance an expedition that resulted in its discovery, was convicted recently of mail fraud and sentenced to serve seven years in prison. The conviction and sentence ended the government's fourth attempt to send Mr. Bob to jail for his activities in connection with the sale of mining stock. The promoter was tried in 1931 on the charge that he and others defrauded the public in the sale of stock of Metal and Mining Shares, Inc., and Mineral Research Corporation, which crashed in 1930 with losses of \$6,000,000 to 5,000 investors. The trial ended in a jury disagreement. A second jury disagreed in 1932 and a third in 1935. At the end of the 1935 trial, Mr. Bob charged that he was being persecuted and demanded a Congressional investigation. The United States Attorney's office subsequently dismissed the old indictment, but last May it obtained a new true bill charging that a year after the disagreement of the second jury, Bob and others engaged in a new fraud, which they continued until 1935, a fraud in the sale of stock of Coronado Gold Mines, Inc., and Kelly Gold and Silver Mines, Inc., which cost the public \$450,000.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Premier Daladier has given plain warning that France and Britain are prepared to take effective steps if necessary, to prevent Italian domination of the Mediterranean following the insurgent victory in Spain. What steps he has in mind can only be guessed—on guess is that they include the occupation of Minorca and Spanish Morocco—but it may be said that Italy is vulnerable at many points. Her Ethiopian empire is a perilous position, Libya is exposed to attack on two sides, and she has a long coastline to defend. If it came to war, France, pouring her unfortified Pyrenees, might quickly reverse the Spanish situation and turn the Italian gas to loss. It may be taken for granted that General Franco has no desire for a French invasion. That Great Britain will stand by France for her rights in the Mediterranean is certain, a no Premier Chamberlain may be expected to make that quietly clear in his speech at Birmingham on Wednesday. Hitler may give some indication of his attitude when he addresses the Reichstag on Monday. The situation, though it is again becoming critical, is not desperate. On this occasion the decision for peace or war may be expected to count the costs before forcing a fight. He has much to gain by peace and a great deal to lose in war.—Toronto Telegram.

It cannot be denied that in the light of the present European situation the project may be seen from new angles, and the committee of the Foreign Affairs Commission and of the Chamberlain general will be awaited with interest. On this side of the Channel the deputy's proposals and arguments will be received with criticism but interested caution. The project remains tremendously costly; it is a work to be undertaken in less straitened circumstances. It is an excellent way for defence reasons so closely linked up with the Continental system.—Glasgow Herald.

The Prime Minister has said, and repeated, that our preparations have reached the point where we can defend the Empire. We trust that Mr. Chamberlain will be able to go on making it. But, we are public anxiety growing, let the declaration be amplified and supported by statements from the Ministers in charge of the various departments. Let us have from them something in a form which will convince us that the scale of rearmament and military expenditure has been grasped, that developments in Europe have been taken into account, and that we move forward as fast as we can, and as fast as we need.—London Express

The present trend of treatment is tracing the trouble to its source and relieving it of it before the condition becomes chronic. Stress is laid on increasing the resistance of the individual and increasing ventilation and drainage. Eating less meat and table salt, and eating more fruit and vegetables, is an excellent way to help these chronic sinus cases.

Dr. Pearman states further: "The present trend of treatment is tracing the trouble to its source and relieving it of it before the condition becomes chronic. Stress is laid on increasing the resistance of the individual and increasing ventilation and drainage. Eating less meat and table salt, and eating more fruit and vegetables, is an excellent way to help these chronic sinus cases."

The Poet's Corner

TO A FISH
 You strange, astonished-looking,
 Dreary-mouthed, gaping wretches of the sea,
 Gu ping sea water everlasting,
 Cold-blooded, though with red your
 And mate, though dwellers in the
 roaring waves;
 And you, fishy beside, that
 fishy be—
 Some round, some flat, some long,
 All devilry,
 Legless, unmoving, infamously
 chaste—
 O scaly, slippery, wet, swift, s'aring
 wights,
 What is ye do? What life lead?
 Eh, dull goggles?
 How do ye vary your vile days and
 nights?
 How pass your Sundays? Are ye still
 but joggies
 In ceaseless wash? Still naught but
 getting and
 And drinks, and stares, diversified
 with boggies?
 —Leigh Hunt.

considerable socialized industries of the country. The unemployment front is still as bad as ever. Not a shot is fired. Not a command is given. Such is the situation in the eighth year of "National" Government. And that is why we say the country's need now is for a Government that will deliberately take the conquest of unemployment as its first and chief task, and will not rest until the job is performed.—London Daily Herald.

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Where is the Minister to whom the Prime Minister at intervals says: "I want to see how the drive against unemployment fares. What progress are you making?" There is no such Minister, no such inquiry. Where is the Department of State to which the Minister says: "There are the general lines down in the Cabinet. Get busy and work out the details?" There is no such institution, no such Department to instruct. There is no economic sub-committee of the Cabinet; there is no Economic General Staff; there is no man to be consulted on the employment policies of the various and

That Body of Hours

FEWER OPERATIONS NOW FOR SINUS TROUBLE
 A few years ago there were many operations for sinus trouble—the little hollows or caverns adjoining the nose. These sinuses are lined by the mucous membrane of the nose, and when a head cold is present and these little sinuses get filled with mucus, the voice sounds flat and "ring" sounds like "lick," the expression "Good Mordick" instead of "Good Morning" being the usual illustration. When these head colds become very common and the mucus and sometimes pus was too thick to drain out, the enlarging of the sinuses was frequently done by opening up the sinuses with the mucous and pus to drain out. The enlarged opening also helped to ventilate the sinuses, thus the mucous membrane, like the lining of the nose, helps to warm and moisten the outside air on its way down to the lungs. Unfortunately, these openings from the sinuses into the nose are in the best position for drainage when we are standing or sitting, but as Dr. Louis M. Pearman states in Hygiene, the different position one naturally takes when lying down are favorable to the emptying of the sinuses. "When one lies on the left side, the right sinus (sinus in cheek bone) is emptied; when one lies on the right side, the left sinus is emptied, and when one lies face downward, the sinuses at the back part of the nose (level with the eyes) are emptied. This is one of the reasons why rest in bed is an excellent way to help a severe cold in the head. Frequent colds are the most common cause of chronic infections of the sinuses."

However, it has been found that in many cases, operation is of no help and may leave the patient in the same condition as before operation and with some loss of smell.

Dr. Pearman states further: "The present trend of treatment is tracing the trouble to its source and relieving it of it before the condition becomes chronic. Stress is laid on increasing the resistance of the individual and increasing ventilation and drainage. Eating less meat and table salt, and eating more fruit and vegetables, is an excellent way to help these chronic sinus cases."

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The *Charlottetown Guardian*, as a newspaper, necessarily endorses the opinions of correspondents.

NIX GAMBLE AGAIN
 Sir—"Nix" switches off on another tack into the little "red herring" scheme, in a long dissertation on lexicography, to prove that a "proletarian" is not a taxpayer; ergo, he can not be "One of the Goats." It is rather crawling into the hole in silent admission that the proletariat was not, as he claimed the source and origin of all wealth.

But more significant, is his proof conclusive that small property owner and business men are the real taxpayers of the country. His "red herring" idea was to conceal the real issue and make it appear that I spoke for the proletariat, instead of the fact that "One of the Goats" I wrote in defense of the taxpayers who paid the bills, of which I am one.

His boast was that those, the "small property holders, or business men" are to be "eliminated," a possibility which I will not dispute. When I told him that there are cases where the revenues from investments are very largely insufficient to pay the bare taxes and insurance, he said nothing. To keep the maintenance expenses, he may understand how his gloomy prophecy may materialize, and when it does when these "Goats" are "eliminated" as revenue sources, what will happen to "Nix Gamble," and the "proletarian" who are not drawing on these as their only source of supply?

I am, Sir, etc.
ONE OF THE GOATS

FIRE INSURANCE
 Sir—"Farmer's Friend" in your Forum, calls my attention, personally, to the P. E. I. Mutual and Agricultural Mutual Insurance companies with critical objective. Very little is published concerning these companies. I have no personal interest in them, and for this reason, unless some general question of public concern is in evidence, I might be touching matters in which I have no right to interfere.

It is more the place of those in interest than an outsider. It seems to me, however, from floating rumors, that in the interest of the companies and their patrons, enquiries should emanate from within to set these affairs on a specific purpose. To a considerable extent they have fulfilled their mission, and if any defect exists now to impair their usefulness, an effort should be made to correct it.

I remember when the Charlottetown Mutual was transformed into a joint stock company, the P. E. I. Mutual considered the same procedure, but learned of an ill-pediment in their charter preventing it.

The only item noticeable by me was of a company carrying over \$9,000,000 of the risks, should indicate assets reasonably sufficient to justify so large a liability.
 I am, Sir, etc.
LEWIS F. TANTON

Canada's Role

(Hamilton Spectator)
 It is unfortunate that there has been so much "politics" involved in the question of Canada's defence obligations. In the end the government had undoubtedly either to continue to accept the shabby plan of complete dependence on the United States and Great Britain, or show some sincerity both to the public of the Dominion and to the other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Of course, arguments without and could be and have been brought forward to show that our position is so strategically different from that, say of Australia or South Africa, that to judge us all on an equal basis would be misleading. This was so patently an excuse rather than a justification that even its political validity has been steadily crumbling.

The very simplicity of the issue has, perhaps, been the undoing of it. Too much has been left unsaid, too little admitted. If there are parts of the country that do not look with favour on any participation in meeting a common threat to the Empire, and indirectly to Canada then it is hard to see why we should be furthering our ends by exploiting the military art of vaccination. Once our obligation is accepted, as it should have been accepted long ago, the immediate problem becomes one of making it perfectly clear as to what the intentions of Canada

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NONCHALANT
BLACK'S HARBOR, N. B. — (CP)—James Phillips, 103, was unperturbed when fire destroyed his newly built cottage. He saved his mattress, cats and dog and immediately planned to rebuild. **SERVICE EXTENDED**
SAINT JOHN, N. B. — (CP)—The New Brunswick Museum school service was extended to 398 cities, towns, villages and settlements during 1938, stated the annual report of the museum director, Dr. William Macintosh.

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