THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1938

Mr. Roger's Statement

The complaint that this Province has not been receiving its fair proportion of unemployment relief was made by two members of the Campbell Government during the last legislative session. Figures were cited by Hon. Mr. McIntyre in proof of this contention, and similar figures were quoted in the brief presented to the Rowell Commission by the Board of Trade. There seems no doubt as to their accuracy. The responsibility, according to Mr. McIntyre, is with the Dominion Government for this state of affairs.

We note that this question came up recently at Ottawa, in connection with the allegedly unfair scale of relief payments in another province. Labour Minister Rogers replied as follows: "The Dominion Government has not in any way brought pressure to bear upon provincial governments with respect to any change in relief scales. We have from time to time altered our grants in aid to provincial governments; in doing so, we have been influenced by improvement in the unemployment situation in those provinces and to some extent by improvements in the financial position of certain provinces. Those have been the two factors which have always governed grants in aid by the Dominion to the provinces. But there has been no pressure of any kind in respect to relief scales. *That is something which is dealt with entirely by provincial governments in conjunction with the municipalities.*"

If this be the case, then it would seem that Mr. McIntyre and his colleagues in the Provincial Government are responsible. Mr. McIntyre may argue that Mr. Rogers was simply "passing the buck", and there may be something in that, too. But the fact seems clearly to be that during last year especially our claims for relief were not properly stressed at Ottawa. Instead of seeking to sidestep their share of the responsibility, our federal and provincial representatives should get together, "take off their coats", as Hon. Dr. MacMillan suggests, and do a little hard work. Passing the buck from one to the other is getting us nowhere.

And Thus They Govern

In Rome, Naples and Florence thousands of people were imprisoned during the past few days. Mussolini was making Italy safe for Adolf Hitler.

Could there, asks the Ottawa Journal, be a more terrible commentary upon the consequences of autocracy?

England's King and Queen and England's Ministers mingle freely with their people. The President of the United States is just another citizen. No one would dream of a bodyguard for the Prime Minister of Canada.

Only the dictators—Stalin, Mussolini, Hitler—walk in the shadow of the assassin. By mass propaganda, plus the psychology of fear, they organize "ovations", but lurking behind all the manufactured, high-pressure "enthusiasm" is terror—terror for their own lives. Hence the blood purges of Stalin, the concentration camps of Hitler.

Hence also the character of Italy's preparations for Hitler. We read that the "round-up" in Rome, Naples and Florence ran it several thousands. That Hitler's own detectives are assisting Mussolini's police. That Germans are being sent out of Italy until Hitler returns home.

Thus the fruits of tyranny. Their souls and consciences trampled upon, the victims of the dictators are made into conspirators; forced underground to plot; the worst of them turned into potential assassins. Bullets take the place of ballots.

Another "Will-O-The-Wisp"

Our farmers will recall that in 1935 one of the chief appeals made to them by Mr. Mackenzie King and his supporters was in regard to lower prices on farm implements, particularly binders. In the House of Commons the other day it was admitted by Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, that since the 1935 election two substantial increases were made in the price of binders.

How the Government has dealt with this problem was commented upon by Mr. T. C Douglas, member for Weyburn. First, on March 2, 1936, he said, an order was issued in the House of Commons for an inquiry into the high price of farm implements. On April, 24, 1936, a question was asked regarding the response of the implement companies to the agricultural committee's request that during the course of the inquiry prices should be reduced to their former level. Hon. Mr. Gardiner's answer was non-commital. On Feb. 1, 1937, the agricultural committee reported and suggested setting up a select committee of the House to continue the investigation. On April 8, 1937, the report was tabled by the chairman of that committee, Mr. Johnston, but no discussion followed and no action was taken. On March 11, 1938, the report was discussed on a motion of concurrence moved by the chairman of the committee. The time between the tabling of the report and the moving of the motion of concurrence was so long that the chairman felt compelled to add several suggestions of his own, which had no bearing on the report but were apparently intended "as a sop to soothe the disappointment of those who had expected the government to take some action as a result of this inquiry."

"Now, six weeks later, on April, 29," said Mr. Douglas, "we are still discussing a report that was tabled over a year ago regarding the investigation into the high price of farm implements. One cannot too strongly condemn the dilatoriness of the entire procedure with regard to this inquiry. It looks to me like a grand farce, with the government stalling for time. It is two years since this investigation began and now we are only at the stage of discussing a report which, even if it is passed, is no guarantee of legislative action regarding the committee's recommendations, let alone the chairman's suggestions. Let me point out further that so much time has been allowed to elapse during the present session that it is altogether unlikely that we shall get legislative action during this sitting of parliament. This means that it is not likely we shall have legislation dealing with this matter until next year, which will probably be the session prior to the general election. In other words, the entire term of office during which the present government has ruled will have been taken up with an inquiry into a question as to which the government's duty was clear from the very beginning."

Canada's Contribution

What Canada can contribute towards the defence of the British Commonwealth is the subject of an inquiry by an important London publication, The Economist, edited by Sir Walter Layton.

Pointing out that the Dominion occupies a peculiar place, it says: "Her isolation is deep-seated; her defensive ties with Great Britain and other dominions are slight; her armed forces are feeble compared with her size and wealth, though not perhaps compared with any actual threat to her local security. This precludes any firm reliance on her for much active assistance in a Commonwealth war. At the same time, she is the most industrialized of the dominions, she can draw on all the technical and material resources of the United States, and whatever else she may do she is unlikely in the event of war to impose those restrictions on the export of war-like supplies which we must expect from the United States if the Neutrality act remains in effect. Hence, in such circumstances, she might well prove an absolutely invaluable channel for the supply of aeroplanes and munitions, including many made under American patents or with American materials. The possibility is all the more fortifying in that Canada's western ports are less than three weeks' sail from New Zealand, Australia and the Singapore front. It would be comforting to feel that the British and Dominion governments were exploring and strengthening all these possibilities now."

Editorial Notes

Much is hoped for from the Empire Exhibition opened by the King and Queen at Glasgow yesterday. All Scotland is intensely proud of it for although on a smaller scale than that of Paris last year it is declared to be much more attractive. Canada has one of the finest pavilions in the exhibition.

* * * *

The delay in signing the Canada-U.S.A. tariff treaty has necessitated delay in bringing down the budget. To avoid further delay which would carry the session into July it is proposed to include the tariff amendments in the budget in anticipation or adjourn the present session to deal especially with the subject or perhaps to have a special session in the fall.

* * * *

Premier Hepburn has been getting back at Premier King before the Rowell Commission. Among other things he declared that matters concerning the structure of confederation should not have been assigned to a commission at all, regardless of the distinction of its membership. The Ontario Premier argued Confederation was the outcome of conferences and any change should be brought about only by renewed conferences.

* * * *

The Lord's Day Alliance of Canada this month celebrates the 50th anniversary of its organization. The celebrations will be inaugurated by special services in Ottawa and Toronto, when the work of the past fifty years will be reviewed. The major achievement of the Alliance was in obtaining the enactment of the Lord's Day Act of Canada, 1906, the provisions of which were directed towards conserving the rights of all Canadian citizens to their weekly day of rest.

* * * *

All interested in the unemployment question are urged to attend a meeting to be held this evening at 8 o'clock in the Canadian Legion Hall. The purpose, as explained in Mr. Hemming's letter in today's issue, is to follow up the suggestion of Mr. A. L. Wright of providing unemployed families of the city, free of charge, with plots for summer gardens. There is no doubt that many of our unemployed would welcome such an opportunity, and it should not be difficult to procure the vacant lots, garden tools and seeds necessary for a program of this kind. The idea is not, of course, to compete with our farmers in the sale of garden products but merely to enable the unemployed to grow their own vegetables, thus materially cutting down the civic relief bill while affording, at the same time, healthful occupation.

* * * *

The question of introducing Canadian seed potatoes into South Africa, says the Telegraph-Journal has been given considerable attention in recent years. Experiments with sample shipments showed that at least two varieties were highly adaptable to growing conditions in certain areas—Katahdin and Irish Cobbler. It is said that the Canadian seed can be shipped to arrive in excellent condition and produce a very satisfactory yield, and that this will undoubtedly influence potato growers when Canadian varieties become better known. Therefore, if Canadian seed exporters will study the market requirements carefully and endeavor to meet them as far as possible, there is every reason to believe that they will be able to secure a share of the trade.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Boys and youth are inherently "good sports." They take pride in British fair play. They scorn downright meanness. The older men who teach them hockey can mould these lads and young men into clean, clever, gentlemanly players—or they can develop them into the "bad men" of hockey. And, of all the "dirty tricks" in the whole bag of tricks that are spoiling the finest competitive sport in the world, we nominate as the lowest and most cowardly—butt-ending. The sorry spectacle of the professional finals ought to result in some slate-cleaning action against hockey's worst enemy. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Latest efforts have been to obtain consent to display the little (Dionne) girls in New York, and also to take them to Hollywood for movie production. But Dr. Dafoe is just as adamant as he was nearly four years ago, when news of the children's birth brought the first flood of offers. Up to the present the refusals have been on grounds of health, but shortly the reason will change. Then the probable deleterious effect on the psychology of the children will be the governing factor. Rearing the famous youngsters in an atmosphere that in any way approaches normal is a difficult task at best. Adding the sensational features of exhibitions would only complicate a job thus far remarkably well done. —Philadelphia Bulletin.

The second law of thermodynamics decrees that energy flows from a higher level to a lower one and water, always seeks its own level. A hot body, for example, will continue dissipating its heat until the heat energy has been evenly distributed in the surrounding air, and until the temperature of the body has reached that of its environment. So the second law of thermodynamics has been referred to as the 'death-sentence of the universe," for the available energy in the universe, being limited, is constantly being dissipated in the vastness of space and the time must come, according to this law, when the level of energy will have reached such a low point that all the stars will be uniformly cold and the whole universe will be embrased in a state of heat-death.

Maeterlinck and other bee admirers notwithstanding, bees are very stupid; even in their most complicated employments, they act as pure automata, D.M.T. Moreland, head of the Bee Research Department at Rothamsted, England, asserts, as quoted by The London News Chronicle. By painting the backs of baby bees so that he could identify them, Mr. Morland learned that: Middle-aged bees are the ones that sting. Middle-aged bees go out with the swarm; young and old stay at home. Division of labor is by age: all bees are nurses at a certain age. The life of bees is from three weeks to eight months. Swarming can be controlled by man. Wasps, says Mr. Moreland, are far more intelligent and active.

The average citizen in these parts is no Lord Chesterfield, but he is reasonably polite under most circumstances. He stands patiently in line to buy tickets to a motion-picture show or a ball game. If he bumps into another pedestrian he will as often as not ask pardon. Except in the subway, which is a world or underworld, of its own, he shows quite a lot of consideration for others. Even in the subway there is much more good humor than might be expected.—New York Times.

We don't believe that Uncle Sam can police the world with the slighest hope of success; we do believe it is not too big a job for him to keep North and South America free from totalitarianism. We can't save the white, black, brown and yellow races of the whole world. In fact, nobody can be quite sure they all want to be saved. But with a vigorous pan-American policy we can repel boarders from our own hemisphere, and come what may in Europe, Asia and Africa, we have a good chance to keep the two American continents free. We may even nourish the hope that democracy can eventually be expanded to include all Central and South American states. In so doing we may collide head-on with Hitler or Mussolini or both. But if we do, we'll be fighting for "our own acre" and not be messing into the complexities of European or Asiatic statecraft, which fights wars without declaring them; which hunts for non-existent "pirates" in companw with real pirates; which defines intervention as "non-intervention"; which calls the rape of a weak nation a "civilizing influence." Let's continue to speak our own language.—New York Post.

All those thousands of people in Canada and the United States who examined the Royal Scot, celebrated British train, when it toured this rontinent six years ago, will have an opportunity next year to inspect its successor, the Coronation Scot, for the London, Midland and Scottish Railway has reached a decision to exhibit its blue and silver streamlined flyer at the New York World's Fair and late to place it on tour in the two countries. The Coronation Scot was first introduced into regular service between London (Euston) and Glasgow and vice versa in July last year. It is scheduled to cover the 401 1-2 miles in each direction in 6 1-2 hours. During the first six months it was in service the Coronation Scot, which is a nine-coach train with seating accommodation for 82 first class and 150 third class passengers, carried more than 36,000 people.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

An estimate just published that every man, woman and child in Great Britain drinks 1,900 cups of tea a year confirms in one detail the somewhat more picturesque statement of a United States official some years ago. Supposing he said, that an Englishman, an American, a Russian, a German, an Australian, a Frenchman and an Italian sat down to tea together and ordered the cup that cheers in proportion to the relative consumption in their respective countries, the Englishman would find himself confronted with nearly 2,000 cups the American with just under 400, the Russian with 276, the German with 36, the Austrian with 20, the Frenchman with 18, and the Italian with only one.—Manchester Guardian.

The international boundary between Canada and the United States, often referred to as the most travelled over in the world, has a length of 5,500 miles, of which 3,100 miles are land boundary and 2,400 are water boundary. There is no other boundary of such length on which no gun or armament is to be found, and the increasing movement of tourists over it emphasizes the freedom of international travel between these two countries.—Brandon Sun.

If ever a man dug his grave with his teeth it was the late Feodor Chaliapin, the greatest basso and the greatest operatic actor of this century. His gargantuan feasts at the table were for many years a matter of notoriety. How a man could live so carele sly and yet retain the magnificence of his voice and art until he was 60 must remain a mystery, but nature had been prodigiously opulent in his case.—Toronto Saturday Night.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

HEARING AIDS SHOULD BE FITTED JUST AS GLASSES ARE FITTED

An individual who is hard of hearing meets a friend whom he knows is similarly afflicted and is surprised at the improvement of the friend's hearing due to the use of a new hearing aid he is wearing. His friend's hearing is so much improved that he decides that he will get one of these new hearing aids. To his dismay he finds that the hearing air which so greatly helped his friend's hearing is absolutely unsuitable for him as the increased amount of sound actually disturbs him and the sounds are less clear than with his old hearing aid.

Why the difference in hearing aids? Are not hearing aids just meant to 'increase sound'?

The individual whose eyesight is failing can go into a five and ten cent store and purchase glasses that will magnify an object so that he may see it more plainly but if he wan's his particular eyes fitted to correct poor vision due to shortsightedness, long sightedness, astigmatism or other defect, he must consult an optometrist or an oculist. Similarly with the hearing.

Loss of hearing is not the same in all cases. Some cases are due to frequent colds and chronic catarrh, the inflammation from which may extend up the air-carrying tube from throat to middle ear and set up an inflammation there. The inflammation may affect the three little bones which 'conduct' sound from the ear drum across the middle ear to the ending or plate of the hearing (auditory) nerve, so that they become ankylosed (one solid bone) which cannot conduct the sound properly from ear drum to the nerve going to brain.

Then there is the hard of hearing due to disturbance of this hearing nerve itself caused by infection, injury or other conditions.

A physician tests the hearing with the ticking of a watch or a tuning fork placed near the ear drum and then at certain distances away from the ear or he may place the watch behind the ear (on the big lump). Generally speaking (not always however) if the tickling is not heard so well at lump back of ear, some damage to the hearing nerve is suspected. If sound is not heard so well at the ear itself, then some damage to the sound-conducting bones, due to catarrh or middle ear trouble is suspected.

The lesson then is that those who are hard of hearing should be fitted with hearing aids best suited for their particular type of hard of hearing.

The Poets' Corner

EVENSONG

The embers of the day are red
Beyond the murky hill.
The kitchen smokes; the bed
In the darkling house is spread:
The great sky darkens overhead,
And the great woods are shrill.
So far have I been led,
Lord, by thy will:
So far I have followed, Lord, and wondered still.
The breeze from the embalm-ed land
Blows sudden towards the shore,
And claps my cottage door.
I hear the signal, Lord—I understand.
The night at thy comand
Comes. I will eat and sleep and will not question more.

—R. L. Stevenson.

Social Legislation

(Exchange)

The need for greater co-ordination in Canada's social legislation is stressed in the current monthly letter of the Royal Bank of Canada.

The study discusses briefly the growth and present complexity of legislation in this field. It finds "a surprising essential unity in results in each major geographic section of the country," but shows how tangled and confused are the means by which these results are attained.

It questions, for example, what is the present total cost of health "insurance" in Canada. Since the real cost of health protective services is found partly under labor legislation, partly under education and partly under welfare, no proper answer can be found. Equal hazziness exists as to the relative efficiency of results in various parts of the country.

The chief virtue of our present system, in the view of the bank, is that there has been a reaosnable adaptation to local needs. What is needed is to eliminate haphazard financial and administrative practices. It suggests this might be achieved by a central body working toward more uniform general standards and increased efficiency but giving due weight to varying local conditions.

This conclusion supports the view that the final answer to many of our complex, vexatious problems of jurisdiction and administration will be a compromies based on the general welfare of the country rather than a clear-cut cleavage between federal and provincial control.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

GARDENS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Sir,— A. L. Wright has struck a veritable gold mine in his suggestion that unemployed families of the city be provided free of charge with plots for summer gardens. The plan is quite beyond criticism and has been tried with excellent results in many cities and towns all over the Continent.

In Montreal and in the surrounding suburbs separate committees were formed to arrange for the obtaining of vacant lots for their subdivision among the applicants, for the buying of tools and seeds, and for assisting the workers with practical advice. A finance committee was also found necessary to solicit for funds.

Many ladies joined the committee and their assistance was of great value.

Now, if the work is to be done this year, no time may be lost, for most of the seeds should be in the ground before the end of May and much preliminary work is necessary.

A meeting of all interested will be held this Wednesday evening at 8.00 p. m. in the Canadian Legion Hall No. 57 Grafton Street, at which it is hoped that there will be a good attendance.

This is a work in which all can join and from which great benefits will accrue to the unemployed.

H. K. S. HEMMING

FISHERMEN'S LOAN BOARD

Sir,—On April 18 you were good enough to publish a letter of mine asking for some information regarding the administration of the Fishery Loan Board. First, I want to admit an error on my part in addressing my questions to Mr. LePage. I was under the impression that Mr. LePage was the chairman and chief official of the Board. However, the subsequent proceedings in the Legislature, and the reports in the press have clearly demonstrated that Mr. Acorn is the real boss, and that it is to him that we must look for any light that may be thrown on the activities of that very active organization. I am afraid that Mr. Acorn is rather more apt at dimming the lights than in adding more brilliancy to the scene. He complains in his Budget speech (second edition) that I am trying to discredit him. I think he has done that very thoroughly himself. Such seems to be the opinion of his colleague on the Board, Mr. Gallant, who after describing how very carefully he and Mr. LePage tried to do their duty, admitted they were fooled. Fooled, by whom? Apparently by Mr. Acorn, as he was very careful not to include the latter gentleman in his eulogy.

We would like first to get some light from Mr. Acorn on the question of his much lauded fish houses. He stated in the House that he himself inspected the most up-to-date fish houses in the eastern part of the Island, and at no cost to the country drew plans and had the Board's fish houses erected in accordance with such plans. The report of the Board shows ten houses erected at a cost of $17,000, an average of $1,700 each. In the absence of the details as to size, etc., asked for in my former letter, I am taking it for granted that they are of uniform style and size. Now, I have made inquiries into the cost of some of the privately-owned fish houses in Eastern Kings. The newest and most commodious of these cost $600, or about one-third as much as the much advertised fish houses built by the Board. Is the difference in the cost to be explained by the fact that Mr. Acorn himself supplied a great part of the material used in the Board's buildings? In the absence of any answer to the questions in my first letter, I must infer that I have given the correct explanation.

Now, as to the location of these fish houses. I asked Mr. LePage to let us know whether they were built and placed for the benefit of the fishermen, or the fish buyers. Let us look at the obvious facts. The three most westerly of these buildings were a replacement of three fish houses used for years as fish plants by buyers and owned by them, which through age and neglect had fallen down. The new buildings were taken over by the same American buyers and used in exactly the same way as the former privately owned plants. The cost to the Province was $5,100, the buyer saved $1,800 and the fishermen were in exactly the same position as before. Practically the same condition existed some miles away where two more fish houses were built for the benefit of a prominent firm of fish buyers, whose buildings were also past their usefulness. Of course the fact that this firm is an ardent supporter of the Government had nothing to do with the location of these plants. Travelling further east, we find one fish house placed so far from any place where boats can land that a fisherman would have to barrow his catch through several hundred yards of deep sand before reaching the plant, and do the same thing over again to ship them, as there is no possible road for truck or team to haul the processed article. This plant was built with lumber supplied by Mr. Acorn, so at least one good purpose has been served. Another fish house has been placed where no fish worth while have ever been landed and probably never will. However, said building has been found very useful as a dance hall, and therefore is not entirely useless. The fish buyer and the lumber dealer prosper, the fisherman is no better off, and the taxpayer (poor fish) pays the bill.

If the money used in putting up these buildings, or even the money wasted in their construction, had been given to the fishermen in the form of a small bounty on codfish and hake landed, the real fishermen would have received some benefit. The same thing applies to a great proportion of the so-called "Fishermen's Loan," which in a great many cases was not taken up by real fisherman, but by either occasional fishermen, or by those who had neither caught enough fish to make a good sized chowder, and who in a great many cases will never either fish or return the loan.

Sometime after May 1st, when my traps are in the water and the first rush of the lobster fishing is over, I will return with a few more observations on the activities of the Loan Board. Perhaps in the meantime we shall hear from Mr. LePage or Mr. Acorn.

I am, Sir, etc.,
FISHERMAN.

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Less Discount..... 4.88
12 months to pay. $12.50
Monthly instalments

to an INSURANCEMAN
to finish rooms on second story of his home.
Amount of Loan $250.00
Less Discount..... 8.13
12 months to pay. $20.83
Monthly instalments

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to instal new plumbing, repair and improve property.
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Maritime Air Service

(St. John Telegraph Journal)

It is to be hoped that those on Parliament Hill at Ottawa are noting how extremely patient the Maritimes are over the long-delayed establishment of national air serivce in this section. It is to be hoped that this patience will not be misunderstood as all too often it has been in the past. It is to be hoped that it is dawning upon Ottawa that the Maritimes can have their patience tried too far, to be asked to step aside too frequently, can be offered the leavings too often. All this is perhaps a great deal to hope for.

About these national air services—would it not be reasonable to suppose that the parts of Canada that first showed their own air enterprise and contributed from their own pockets to start aviation, might expect to benefit first by national development? If that is reasonable, the Maritimes are placed at the wrong end of the procession. Local and municipal encouragement of flying when it started in Canada was far and away greater in the Maritimes than anywhere else. While large cities in the centre were hanging back and holding out their hands for government aid, the towns of the Maritimes dug down and made airports. Now the Maritimes are beginning to hope that some day in the future, after all others have been satisfied, their enterprise may receive a little reward. Even so, they understand they are to be given a smaller type of transport plane and that their service is to be really a feeder line from an inland terminus, Montreal to a sub-terminus in Moncton with subsidiary feeders thence.

It looks very much as though once more the Maritimes are being left in the cold simply because they have not protested. Since Confederation this is a familiar story, a serial apparently not yet finished. Perhaps it is up to us to give it a surprise ending; Ottawa must not blame us if we do. Ottawa must realize that distance is no longer measured in miles. This is the speed age and places are distant from one another so many days, hours or minutes. If the Maritimes are to have their semi-detached geographical position accentuated by time, something will certainly have to be done to change all that. The longer the Maritimes are left without national air service and the longer that service is of a nature inferior to what the rest of the Dominion enjoys, the more insistent we shall have to be to obtain the grant of that which we should in ordinary justice have received before, not a.ter, other sections.

RETURNS TO SPURS

(By The Canadian Press)

LONDON — After a lapse of 12 years Peter McWilliam returns as manager of Tottenham Hotspurs football club which he left in 1927 to take charge of Middlesbrough, six years later becoming Arsenal's chief scout.

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