

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1947

Misleading Estimates

The estimates tabled by Finance Minister Abbott in the Commons last week indicate that Canada will spend \$906 millions less in 1947-48 than during the previous year.

Even as presented, the figures are misleading. The Government is not actually cutting costs by anything like the amount given.

Reconstruction Minister Howe told the Commons that indications were that production of nails would amount to 72,000 tons in 1947 and he hoped this would relieve the present shortage being let in some areas.

There is a likelihood of a considerable movement to Canada from Britain this year, which has induced the Dominion Government to proceed with the opening of emigration offices in Liverpool and Glasgow, and possibly in Belfast.

Canada is the largest exporter of life insurance of any country in the world and the United States interests are beginning to take a keen interest in Canadian insurance companies.

One of Mr. Mackenzie King's most interesting talents is his knack of finding out what people are saying about him; about almost anything.

Alberta's Farm Strike

Alberta is still trying to add up the cost of its farm strike, last fall and though the calculation is far from complete it is evident the losses were heavy both in money and in the antagonism aroused.

The latest item to be added to the list was provided by Mr. W. L. Perley, of Calgary, Alberta, a past president of the Alberta Dairy-men's Association.

Now this figure added to the other losses involved by non-delivery, including the slowing down of business and co-operatives generally, make a substantial sum.

Mr. Stempfle president of the A. F. U. which called the strike, says Mr. Perley's statement is eyewitness to which Mr. Perley replies that eyewitness clears the vision, a simple truth too often forgotten.

Even if Mr. Perley's estimate should perchance be on the large side by as much as 25 per cent, the loss is still big enough to make anyone pause and think about the values, if any, that were obtained by the A. F. U.

Quebec And Confederation

The Confederation of 1867 may require modifications to meet the changes of the years says The Gazette. But any attempt to disturb the primary division and distinction of local and central authority would be, not a modification, but a fissure that would reopen the fundamental problems for which Confederation has provided the only possible solution.

"It was the statesmanship that made a Dominion of Canada possible. It is not statesmanship that is now wedging open the old divisions for the sake of a leftist theory. If the present Federal manoeuvres are continued, not only will the primary tolerance of Canadian Confederation be strained, but even such necessary adjustments as the years may have required will become increasingly difficult of attainment."

EDITORIAL NOTES

After all, 65c per lb. for butter is not much when one considers how little our ration allows us.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King is about the only representative in Ottawa who has no opinion to express upon election prospects.

It is hardly a month till Easter, and both men and women are busy planning their Easter gear.

In a week's time we will be celebrating St. Patrick's, and we consider the winter is over when the Irishmen are able to parade through the streets dry shod and tile-hatted.

Lucknow fell this date 1858 after an heroic defence in the Indian mutiny. It is the capital of the independent state of Oudh, and noted for its manufacture of muslins, embroidery, brassware, and pottery; it has a population now of about 275,000.

The Legislature will meet on 18th just in time to adjourn over Good Friday and Easter when members will have an opportunity to discuss with their constituents the contents of the Governor's speech and, perhaps, the criticisms thereon, of the Opposition leader.

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An interesting experiment in part-time nursing is being initiated in Britain. Following a six-year gap in the regular training schemes caused by wartime conditions, there is a need at the present time in England and Wales of about 2,000 trained midwives coupled with staff shortages in most big hospitals.

Discussing the future of Newfoundland, Dr. J. B. McEvoy, K.C., St. John's, told a Montreal interviewer: "Canadians should consider the possibility that Newfoundland may seek, as she is free to do now, some form of government or some alliance or agreement with other countries that might shut out Canada from very real economic and strategic advantages."

Notes By The Way

Windsor's Medical Health Officer says a rat is more afraid of a human than a human is of a rat. Has he ever tried to stare one out?—Hamilton Spectator.

The average man is not suited for jury duty, and there is a serious question in many minds whether the system has not outlived usefulness. While we retain it, however, we should, as a minimum, pay at least a respectable rate for the duty we thus impose.—Windsor Star.

A psychiatrist is being widely quoted for saying that parents of young prodigals should be pitied. This is part of the popular IT's Great To Be Ignorant movement, and we suggest that this psychiatrist go take a jump in the lake.

Postman at Niagara Falls laid a bundle of mail on a verandah and was horrified to learn that Boy Scout had picked it up as salvage paper. If only Niagara Falls were closer! There are a lot of letters to the editor from free publicity hounds across the country we would willingly donate to the boys' newspaper.—Fort William Times Journal.

In the recent hockey games here between St. Catharines and Dundalk, the puck was flipped from the playing surface when a player was checked and it landed among the spectators standing along the west side. The Dundalk Herald relates. The puck hit Don Banks of Flesherton on the shoulder, then disappeared. Where did it turn up? In the pocket of a "Bank's" Mackinaw coat!

Latest word from Ottawa is that the new broom by the department of finance, Mr. Abbott, is intent on reducing the cost of government by every possible means short of dismissing temporary civil servants. The Ottawa Government's non-war expenditures are now much greater than the combined war and non-war expenditures in 1917-1918.—The Printed Word.

To a distinctive household which demands gracious living this old-world group of trained services is now available. English, French, Russian, Swedish, Polish, Irish, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Chinese. Can be engaged only as a unit.—Advertisement in Ridgefield, Conn. Press.

One of the more encouraging news items of recent weeks is the report by the American Treasury Department that the total quantity of narcotic drugs seized in the United States last year was 10,000 lbs., less than a third from the 1945 figure. This was not due to want of activity on the part of the department's narcotics section, because the number of traffickers arrested in 1946 actually exceeded the "bag" in the preceding year. It can only mean that less opium, morphine and cocaine are in circulation than before, and therefore that the decline of the illegal drug traffic, so marked since 1929, is still continuing. This is especially reassuring because it will allay fears that this vicious racket would revive with the return of peace. The war disrupted the trade routes over which drugs were smuggled, and the routes have now been reopened but the smuggling traffic has evidently failed to make a comeback. Vigorous police action in Canada, the United States and elsewhere has kept the flow of narcotics in circulation, while at the other end, China and Iran, the chief pre-war producers, have taken steps to cut down the growing of opium.—Edmonton Journal.

Mrs. McIntosh, who is soon taking over as dean at Barnard College, has put herself down as a foe of the flatterbrain. Addressing the student body, Mrs. McIntosh made it plain that she is not in one field of knowledge is the way to develop intellect. Know one thing well, be specialized and expert and thus gain the mental equipment to live happily and usefully in the world. She urged the students to be content by genuinely knowing, steer clear of shallowness and superficiality encouraged by scatterbrained intelligence. Barnard's deans are "dressed literature," the vague for digests and handy guides quick and easy "popularized" pap that kills. And she sums up the objectives at Barnard thus: "The ability to write clear, effective English. The ability to read effectively and to use books for investigation."—New York Herald Tribune.

The composite automobile accident is the result of the collision of two cars in daylight and with the weather clear, the road surface dry and the road itself straight and level. The drivers are most likely to be men in their middle thirties, with more than three years' experience as drivers and with no previous accident record. All this does not sound like the recipe for an accident. Innumerable automobiles are driven by men in their middle thirties along straight, level roads in daylight with the weather clear and pavements dry, without an accident. An additional factor must make the difference between safety and danger. Almost half of the drivers who were in accidents did not have the right of way at the time of the accident. It did not matter whether they were ignorant or plain cursed—the result was the same. One of the reasons for the needless or ignorant driving can cancel out all the good driving done in three years or thirty.—New York Sun.

Domestic reindeer were introduced into North America from Siberia via Alaska in 1901.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

PRIVACY AT OTTAWA

Sir,—I read in The Guardian with much amusement of our King's County member enjoying a private office and its status at Ottawa. He doesn't reveal to his colleagues how he got it. Well it must "tickle him pink" to think he got something for himself anyway; it is not very often we see where he got anything for his County. But to see in the press that he sports a private office is a big help to the poor labourers who sent him to Ottawa. I wonder if he has that old familiar sign hanging on the door "Sorry, Doctor not home!"

When I read that article about this private office it seemed like telling a little boy to be good "and we will give you an all-day sucker." It is an old custom to give the children something to amuse them when you have company and want them to be good and say nothing. I would suggest to him to send for our great Labour friend, Premier Jones and they could both go into the "private office" and lock the door, throw away the key and say "Bye-bye to the great Liberal Party."

I am, Sir etc. KING'S COUNTY LABOREK. Montague, P.E.I.



PIONEER TOWN

An old man prowling down an empty lane. Picking up bits of wood and odds at their play. Stopping to lean across a fence and talk.

To one or other of his old-time friends. Savoring a bit of gossip that he hears. By hanging round and pricking up his ears.

He makes a little purchase here and there. Badgers the butcher in a playful way.

Goes to the office for his bit of mail. And stops to watch some children at their play.

Patting a head, kissing a little hurt. Brushing some old leaves from a tiny skirt.

He's "Dad" to half the settlement, it seems. This rather smallish man with clear blue eyes.

His sons are middle-aged and yet to listen to his counsel calm and wise; And children slide up with bashful airs.

Sensing that they are his—and he is theirs. The church, the school, the very town itself.

Are part of all he planned and hoped would be. When life was young and eager in his veins. And now his old heart beats with pride to see.

The rich fulfillment of his dreams all here. His children's children doubly sweet and dear.

And yet a stranger in the town he only sees an old man walking there.

—Edna Jaques, Ottawa.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

EARLY TIGHISH DAYS

When Bishop Desautel visited the Island in 1808 he found 232 Acadians at Malpeque, the most western part at which he administered confirmation; and according to his report, there were then 102 souls at Tignish. The settlement of Cascumpeque was formed about this time, and contained a population of 65 souls. There were 103 English-speaking Catholics at Malpeque also, and those Father (afterwards Bishop) McLaughlin served. In 1812, when Bishop Plessis visited the Island Tignish made rapid strides as to population and settlement. After this date the Irish immigrants began to pour in, the first being a man named Rielly who came across the Strait from Richibucto. In 1812 came Father Desautel, to look after the French missions, and in 1819 Father O'Leary. From 1822, the date of Father O'Leary's return to Quebec, the entire Catholic population of whatever nationality, was served in turn by Rev. B. D. McDonald, afterwards second Bishop of Charlottetown, until 1828; by Rev. S. E. Poirier until 1844; and by Rev. Peter McIntyre, later third Bishop of Charlottetown, until 1860. The latter, in 1859, commenced the building of a beautiful brick church to replace the old church built in 1802. The corner stone was laid by Bishop McKinnon of Arichat, and Archbishop Connolly of Halifax consecrated it in August 1860. Without any previous amassed funds, the church and parsonage of Tignish were erected and paid for that costly and magnificent edifice in one single year. — From an article by the late Rev. Father Bourke.

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SEE THESE TODAY



Canadian Ports Threatened

(Saint John Telegraph-Journal) The chairman of the port committee of Portland, Maine, announced yesterday that 1,000,000 bushels of Canadian grain would be shipped through his city in the next month. A despatch quotes him as saying that he and the Portland Chamber of Commerce had offered "to assist Canada in a shipping emergency caused by the box car shortage" and had approached the Dominion government, which had promptly assigned three ships to Portland and to load for Europe.

Now, nobody can blame this gentleman and his associates for trying to drum up business for their own port, but the Federal Government is to be condemned in the strongest terms for accepting this "kind assistance." The grain that is sent through Portland obviously won't be sent through Saint John or Halifax. That means that Canadians will lose work and wages to which they are entitled — and lose them to the laborers of a foreign country.

We have been through all this before — the rivalry between Canadian ports and those of the United States. In Central Canada there seems to have been a long-time conspiracy to deprive our waterfront workmen of a livelihood. Our people fought this once, and beat it, and they must stand ready to fight it now and in future if the ports of Saint John and Halifax are to survive. The Portland shipments, transparently disguised as an emergency, must be viewed in their true light as an underhand effort again to divert to U.S. competitors the trade on which our existence depends.

The threat is serious and real! If there are box cars to carry grain to Portland, there are box cars to carry it to Saint John and Halifax. The saving in mileage as between Portland and Saint John is too trifling to be considered and certainly does not constitute a valid excuse for the double-dealing

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that Saint John and Halifax suffered heavily from the diversion of great quantities of Canadian grain to United States ports. Sir Alexander said in his report: "Apart from sentiment and patriotism, there are moral and practical, as well as some sound business grounds, for the Maritimes claim that the grain trade, which is already in many ways subsidized by Dominion funds, should utilize to a greater extent the facilities that have been established for it at a considerable expenditure of Dominion money."

The sentimental, patriotic, moral national and business grounds are the same today as in 1931. And the Dominion Government must be compelled to recognize them!

SKYSCRAPER PORTS

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