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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1949

The Federal Budget

More than ordinary interest has been aroused
in the contents of the speech which the Hon.
Mr. Abbott will deliver next Tuesday evening
when he presents his budget for the coming year.

It is likely that the Dominion Government
will again have a large surplus of revenue over
expenditure, but whether this will be used to
relieve the hardy pressed taxpayers or to finance
increased social legislation is a matter of con-
jecture.

There is much justification for this attitude.
War with its vast expenditure of money and
manpower for uneconomic goods and services re-
sulted in the prosperous conditions which Cana-
dian agriculture and industry enjoyed during
the past few years.

Within The Gate

While our leaders in Parliament discuss
what should be done about Communists in our
midst (Prime Minister St. Laurent says that
Communist activities are "under constant sur-
veillance"), the following appears in the March
4 issue of the Winnipeg Free Press:

"The night school of the Labor Progressive
(Communist) party enrolled 79 students at the
opening session of the course Monday in the
party headquarters, 607 Main street. The courses
ending April 18, are: Philosophy and Practices
of Communist parties, with W. C. Ross as in-
structor; Marxism and Trade Unions, with W. G.
Gilbey and Muni Taub as instructors. . . . The
women's classes are to start in two weeks, ac-
cording to Morley Zelig, director of the school.

Penny Wise Pound Foolish

In the discussion on Public Works in the
Legislature, the Minister, Hon. Mr. Barbour, in
reply to Opposition criticism declared the non-
publication of details of expenditure with refer-
ence to roads and bridges, etc., was to keep down
the cost of printing. This attitude is opposed to
the policy of his predecessors, both Liberal
and Conservative. The saving in printing would
be infinitesimal compared to the loss possible
through incorrect returns on actual expenditures.

Newfoundland Administration

There are various rumors afloat as to the
persons who will comprise the interim adminis-
tration of Newfoundland, pending the first gen-
eral election in the country when it becomes a
province of Canada. Several names have been
currently reported as the ministers of the dif-
ferent departments.

The question says the St. John's (Nfld.)
Telegraph is who does the choosing and on what
basis the selection is made. It is not an unimport-
ant matter. If the former practice is followed,

the appointed administration would go to the
country as the Government.

Our St. John's contemporary adds: "In the
opinion of this paper, the ministers selected tem-
porarily to fill the offices should be men who by
their proven ability and integrity in one walk
of life or another would command public confi-
dence. Their political affiliations should not be
a determining factor. They will be required to
carry out the responsibilities, probably for some
months and during a transition period in which
many intricate problems will call for careful
consideration. In addition, during that time,
since a standstill policy is out of the question,
various activities such as the highroads opera-
tion, matters related to health and welfare and
to the general economy of the Province will have
to be administered, and unless those in charge
of affairs could bring to bear a wide knowledge
of conditions and sound judgment, confusion
might result."

"More important than anything else to be
considered should be the appointment of a pro-
visional ministry who would not be regarded by
one section of the public as partisan. The sooner
that prejudices fade out, the better, and old
animosities would merely be rekindled by an
administration which was selected merely on the
basis of political affiliations."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Legislature. . . .

St. Patrick's Play. . . .

Nova Scotia has at last decided to take ac-
tion prohibiting the export of babies to the United
States to be sold as chattels. A considerable
trade in this unsavoury business had developed
in recent years.

It must be news to our exporters to learn
from Maine potato growers that the Federal
Government pays all the freight on consignments
of potatoes, by both rail and water, to the
U. S. A.

What the eight nations working on the
North Atlantic Pact are really doing is to de-
clare their determination to hang together rather
than hang separately when the Soviet Union
gets around to them.

The public speaking contest being sponsored
by the Junior Farmers' Federation may well
disclose some of the future leaders of this Pro-
vince. More important, it may give a start to
some who otherwise would not take the plunge.

No taxes on what? asks the Sydney Post-
Record. Premier Jones has announced "there will
be no new taxes imposed by his Government this
year. Certainly none on incomes, or the estates
of deceased persons, or corporations. Because,
'tis a common proof, that even Governments
cannot eat their cake and have it."

Newfoundland is already reaping some of
the benefits of Confederation. She will have to
wait until March 31st. for old age pensions and
family allowances but already more than 600,000
pounds of frozen B. C. herring is authorized to
be shipped to relieve a serious bait shortage.
The Dominion Government is paying most of
the transportation costs.

The high standards set by the Chartered
Accountants of P. E. I. may surprise some. Ac-
counting is not a mere matter of correct fig-
ures but requires wise decisions on policy. A fre-
quent problem today, for instance, is whether to
provide depreciation reserves on the principle
of first cost, actual use in the period covered,
replacement cost or on some other basis.

It is worthy of note that during the shipping
season 1948-1949 an adequate supply of re-
frigerator cars has been available at all times,
removing all cause for complaint which was given
wide publicity in previous years. During the
month of February 1949 a total of 815 cars of
potatoes and turnips were loaded and ferried
from the Island Division, Canadian National
Railways, in comparison with 618 for the cor-
responding month of 1948, with the supply of
refrigerator cars being greatly in excess of the
demand.

Sir Robert Walpole, Earl of Orford, British
statesman, died this date 1745. Became Prime
Minister in 1721, and retained office for 21
years, the longest period in Imperial history,
only exceeded recently by the Rt. Hon. W. L.
Mackenzie King. One of the greatest British
statesmen, he sought to bring the King and the
House of Commons into a working alliance, to
unite the nation by keeping as free as possible
from foreign alliance, and to make the nation
prosperous, and succeeded in these aims; at the
same time he was a man of coarse fibre, gross
pleasures, and no intellectual tastes who un-
doubtedly gave a low tone to politics, and did
not hesitate to stoop to corruption to secure
party successes.

The proudest possession of a young hoodlum
who fancies himself as a budding gangster says
Mr. John Atkins in The Secoe from Shingwauk
Farm, is a scrapbook of newspaper clippings re-
garding his exploits in crime. "The friend who
told us about this case feels that this young ex-
hibitionist would quickly lose interest in com-
mitting crimes if he could not gain wide public
attention through them. His satisfactions are
not in the results of his crimes but in the infla-
tion of his ego by the notice he gets. Although
it seems more dangerous to conceal the extent
of crime than it is to reveal it, it is possible
that juvenile crime would decline if newspapers
omitted to give the names and addresses of the
young braggarts who band together to gain at-
tention. It is so much easier to become notor-
ious than it is to achieve fame, that indolent
young people who have not acquired satisfactory
purposes in life resort to crime as a means of
getting into the limelight. A complete lack of
newspaper publicity might prove to be the best
deterrent to those whose tendency to show-off
should have been directed earlier into useful
means of earning distinction."

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the
discussion of correspondents
of questions of interest. The
Guardian does not necessari-
ly endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

SHUT-IN'S DAY

Sir:—May we be permitted
space in your paper to acquaint
your shut-in and handicapped
readers with the Shut-in's Day
Association which is operating in
their interests? This is a non-pro-
fit organization sponsoring Shut-
in's Day, held annually the first
Sunday of June. . . .

Thanking you for any considera-
tion you may care to give this
appeal.
I am, Sir, etc.,
THE SHUT-IN'S DAY ASSN.
Ernest Barker
Secretary.

Box 474,
Goderich, Ont.

"A FORGOTTEN LAND"

Sir, — All that part of New
London lying north of Clifton
Bridge is often referred to in so
far as our politicians are concerned,
as a "Forgotten Land," that is un-
less an election is pending. This
was exemplified within the last
few days when the snow plow
was turned back at French River
corner instead of being allowed
to go through the Spring Brook
district to Clifton Bridge, a
distance of only 3 or 4 miles. This
would have given residents of that
district a chance to truck their
loads of bushels of potatoes to
market which have been bagged
and ready for some time; not only
that but it would have given
residents of French River and
Park Corner free access to a good
road through Margate or Graham's
Road to any place they wished to
go.

It seems that an official in
Prince County controls the move-
ments of those plows, and neither
requests, persuasion, cajolery, nor
even pleading would induce him
to allow the road to be opened.
He was reported to have said this
road was "not on the map." If
that is so it should have been
before this. Just before the last
provincial election a meeting was
held in Spring Brook Hall to dis-
cuss what could be done to have
the road from Clifton Bridge lead-
ing north widened and improved.
All the candidates for election
were present and all promised if
their party was returned to power
that the road would be built with-
out delay. Hon. Mr. Large told the
meeting, "No matter what party is
returned to power when the
spring comes you people insist on
getting your road, there is no
surplus right now of eight hundred
thousand dollars, so there will be
no shortage of funds." When the
spring came we were told that the
"funds" had disappeared. Almost
two years have passed and now we
are told that the road we have is
"not on the map." It is rather a
strange thing that before the elec-
tion if one of the Liberal committee
just whispered they could be
heard all the way to Charlotte-
town, but now their loudest shout-
ing is like into the buzzing of a
fly, or at least of a stinging
hornet. We are hoping though, that
reception will improve with the
coming of a Dominion election.
I am, Sir etc.,
OBSERVER

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

TOURIST FARE

"Island beef is not par excellence,
but the lamb is simply—well, I hate
to carve it, it's like cutting babies.
You buy a lamb for two dollars, sell
the pelt for sixty cents; three
quarters for fifty cents each; so
you make your own quarter and
ten cents profit. And lobsters are
high this season, twenty-five cents
per dozen. And such lobsters! . . .
Cod is cod—ten or fifteen cents will
buy them, and mackerel at the same
price. Clams cost nothing but the
digging, and we have the broth-
oh, so unlike Broadway broth-
every morning before the bath.
"Most of the inhabitants of this
beautiful place are kind, generous
and hospitable, though some are
not quite so unspicified as they
were two years ago. Every new-
comer from the States spoils them,
and where an article of consump-
tion once cost five cents, it is now
ten cents. Everything has gone
up—seven mals and lumber, to say
nothing of butter and eggs. In their
regular season wild strawberries,
raspberries, blueberries and mush-
rooms, grow in profusion. The
butcher calls twice a week, and you
earn your beef and mutton by the
choice cut ahead of your neigh-
bors. Although isolated from the
world and scrapping for our living,
we do not vegetate, for at present
as guests of a near neighbor are Sir
Louis and Lady Davies—charming
people, without a particle of the
'side' a title usually calls for."
—From a letter by Mr. Charles
Kent in the New York Mirror, ad-
dressed from "Arden Cottage,
Georgias Farm, Aiken's Camp,
Fortunate Bridge, King's County, P.
E. I., Canada," September, 1902.

HOW THEY WERE ARMED WHEN THE BUDGET WAS BROUGHT DOWN



The Poet's Corner

SWEET DAY SO COOL
Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so
bright
The bride of the earth and sky:
The dew shall weep thy fall to-
night;
For thou must die.
Sweet rose, whose hue angry and
brave
Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye:
Thy root is ever in its grave,
And thou must die.
Sweet spring, full of sweet days
and roses,
A box where sweets compacted lie;
A music shows ye have your closes,
And all must die.
Only a sweet and virtuous soul,
Like season'd timber, never gives;
But though the whole world turn
to coal,
Then chiefly lives.
—George Herbert.

The Need For An Atlantic Pact

(By W. N. Ewer)

The storm over the U. S. A. Sen-
ate Pact has died down as swiftly
as it arose. It was never, indeed,
a real storm. The Pact was never
(as some rather wild-headed and
correspondent suggested) in danger.
The American will and intention to
resist—and at once—any new ag-
gression in Europe has not been
in question. There has been the
inevitably difficult problem of ex-
pressing that intention in the
treaty formula. Such a formula
of obligation must not be stronger
than the legal power of the govern-
ment to fulfil the obligation. Yet
such a case as this, it must be
as strong as possible: so that a
potential aggressor shall not mis-
judge the intention.

In such conditions, some com-
mentators—notably Mr. Walter
Lippmann—have suggested that the
whole idea of a formal treaty is a
mistake; that instead of a treaty
there should be simply "military
accords" reached by the general
staffs, as to the action to be taken
in such and such circumstances;
plus ad hoc agreements about the
British, American and Canadian
(but mostly American) contribution
to the "preparedness" of the con-
tinental democracies of Western
Europe.

This is a tempting thesis. I have
at times been inclined to it my-
self. And there is a good reason.
In 1914 Britain had no formal
obligation to help France if she
were attacked. But the whole
of the French plan of defence had
been worked out on the assump-
tion—based on "military accords"—
that the British Army could take
over one sector of the land front
and that the British Royal Navy
would guard the French coasts and
the sea lanes to the Atlantic. And
when the moment came the British
Government acted without hesita-
tion—before Belgium was invaded
and the treaty obligation became
operative.

Why not then the same sort of
arrangement now? The answer is
also given by 1914. The answer is
intention to come to the aid of
France was in fact absolute. But it
was not embodied in a formal pub-
lic treaty. And because of that,
the German government did not be-
lieve in it. They thought (as pub-
lished documents show) that there
was quite a reasonable chance that
Britain would stay neutral. And
they gambled on the chance. It is
quite possible that had there been
a formal Anglo-French treaty of
alliance, there would have been no
1914 war.

So the point of a formal treaty
pledge of assistance against ag-
gression (though it can never, in a
democracy, be absolute and un-
conditional) is that it should be a de-
terminant: that in Senator Vanden-
berg's phrase it "serves notice on
any would-be aggressor." The pur-
pose of such a treaty is not merely
to ensure victory: it is to prevent
war.

A formal treaty is essential for
that purpose. And so wording had
to be found which would safeguard
democratic sovereignties and at the
same time leave no doubts in a po-
tential aggressor's mind as to dem-

Lenten Meditations

The Times, London

THE UNKNOWN FUTURE

Just as an express train forges
relessly ahead along the track
laid down for it, mankind—and
each individual member of the hu-
man race—forges ahead, but into an
unknown future.
Whereas the future course of the
train is known, and for all prac-
tical purposes can be foretold, the
course of human history, and of
each life within it, cannot be fore-
told, except within certain very
broad limits. Moment by moment,
the course of history is being de-
cided. The raw stuff out of which
history is made takes its form and
sets.

A few practical maxims may be
relevant at the present time, when
there is a fear that the course of
world events may get completely
out of hand. Emphasize the per-
sonal element in life. Even in a
world whose future is trembling in
the balance, family affections,
friendships, comradeship remain.
Just because all else is uncertain,
personal relationships become more
vital.

Look out for the things of abid-
ing worth. The course of world
history may depend on decisions in
Moscow or New York, but here and
now the Spring sun already fore-
casts the budding chestnut leaves;
the frosty air will soon be sweet
with the aroma of bonfire smoke;
the stars still shine; music has not
lost its charm. To value these things
is not a sentimental escape from
harsh realities.

Avoid cynicism, and the sense
that nothing really matters. Even
the big world may be affected by
the way ordinary people behave.
Above all, remember this: the Cre-
ator has put this generation into
this particular world—not into the
peaceful security of Victorian Eng-
land, or into some scientific Utopia
of the future. Remember St. Paul's
injunction: "Walk worthy of the
vocation wherewith ye are called."
Therein lies the immediate chal-
lenge.

It has been difficult but not in-
soluble. We are getting a form of
words which will not indeed com-
mit the U. S. A. (or for that mat-
ter any of the other signatories)
automatically to war in certain cir-
cumstances. Such automatism is
impossible. Human will cannot be
so predetermined. Even an auto-
crat cannot irrevocably bind his
successor; and autocrats have been
known to break their word.

We are getting a form of words
which will (as democracies must)
safeguard the constitutional rights
of Congress (or Parliament or As-
sembly).

But we are getting at the same
time a form of words which should
make it abundantly clear to any
government which may be weigh-
ing the chances of successful ag-
gression, that an attack on any one
of the partner states will, in effect,
be an attack on all of them: that
others will at once come to the aid
of the one attacked; and that is as
nearly certain as any treaty can
make it that aid will be given by
the full strength of the combined
armed forces of all. That, coupled
with preliminary aid to prepared-
ness and with known concerting of
defensive strategic plans, should be
sufficient warning.

Nor, let it be added, is there to
be—indeed could there be—any-
thing in the Pact to justify sus-
picious or accusations that there is
any danger of its being an instru-
ment of aggression. One democ-
racy is very unlikely to commit an
aggression. That seven (or even
more, since there will be other ad-
herents) should agree to do so in
concert is grotesquely unthinkable.

The Age-Old Story

Support under troubles. — The
Lord also will be a refuge for the
oppressed, a refuge in times of
trouble.

Notes By The Way

Cardston recently opened a cot-
tage school costing \$35,000. These
schools, we understand, are coming
into favor and Cardston is planning
a second one to serve its growing
school population. This will be in
the west end of Cardston, a section
of the Temple City requiring addi-
tional facilities. The cottage school
is designed to take care of over-
flow student population. It is built
at a minimum cost yet modern and
provides in a satisfactory way sup-
plementary accommodation. The
new cottage school at Cardston is
110 feet by 58 feet, having four
large classrooms and a hall ex-
tending the full length of the build-
ing. It has a teachers' office and
other essential space. Abundant
lighting provided the classrooms is
a feature. At a time when cities
and towns everywhere are grap-
pling with increasing school popu-
lations and rising operating costs
these supplementary schools appear
to have a place. Lethbridge has
one called the Annex to Fleetwood
School. — Lethbridge Herald.

A discovery that will be of great
benefit to a large number of peo-
ple has been made because a watch-
maker heard a cricket chirruping as
he walked in the mountains of
Switzerland. If such a tiny insect
could make a sound clearly audible
from a distance of a dozen yards
why, he thought, could he not make
an alarm bell that was small
enough to go in a wrist-watch but
yet noisy enough to wake a sleep-
er? The upshot of his mountain
walk was an alarm mechanism that
works on the principle of the
cricket's chirrup. The cricket makes
his distinct and penetrating noise
by rubbing the file like edge of one
wing against the other; the watch-
maker produced the same effect by
setting a light hammer to vibrate
against a thin metal diaphragm.
The result is that now, in a case no
bigger than that containing an
ordinary wrist-watch, lies both the
mechanism and the alarm bell. —
Brandon Sun.

Much may be said for the plea
by a national housewives' associa-
tion for standardization of markings
on consumer goods, particularly
clothing. A spokesman for the
group wishes to avoid the mis-
take of trying on everything from
size 14 to 18 when you want a new
dress. The case is logical. But
unless we are to abandon our harm-
less little beliefs in feminine in-
consistency, it is too logical. Just
as we are prepared to accept the
fact that the best 10 years of a
woman's life are between the ages
of 18 and 22, we would like to allow
the stylishly stout, for instance, to
purchase a garment on which was
sewn a flatteringly slender size
mark. We would like to see the
girl with large feet find both com-
fort and self-confidence in a large
shoe which fits her but was still
marked at a size that could be spoken
out loud without embarrassment.
These little elegancies we would
like to preserve, but how
long they live against the campaign
for standardization? — Victoria
Times.

Chief Khatsalano, talking to a re-
porter in North Vancouver, had
some excellent advice for his paleo-
face brothers. Some of us, you
say, are doing each day what
has to be done, if we could just
stop worrying over what can't be
helped. The white man, said the
old Indian chief—and how right he
is—"always wants what he ain't
got." Keeping to the weather, al-
ways a safe subject, he explained:
"If it rains, he want snow; if it
snows, he want rain." And, bring-
ing it nearer home, if it's below
zero, we want it mild, but when a
Chinook comes along, we fear that
such mild weather in winter is
"unhealthy." We are too apt to for-
get all the good days, however,
an ill wind blows. However, Chief
Khatsalano prescribes good medi-
cine: "Tell white peoples not to
worry. By and by come spring.
There's a pretty thought to take to
bed tonight, as we listen to another
degree below zero. Spring is com-
ing, by and by! And maybe, near-
er than you and by, is another Chin-
ook. — Edmonton Journal.

THE Best Dressed MAN IN TOWN!
is wearing one of our distinctive new topcoats in 100% wool gabardine.
These coats . . . so obviously a work of the tailoring art . . . create an air of distinguished smartness about the man who wears one. Spring's newest shades 45.00
HENDERSON & CUDMORE
WHERE QUALITY IS SURE