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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1949


## What Socialism Leads To

The Old-Age Pensioners Federation of England petitioned the Labor Government to provide a pension of $8. per week at the age of sixty. Mr. Daines, Labour M. P. for East Ham, subsequently asked the Government what action had been taken in the matter, eliciting the following explanation from Labour Minister of Insurance Griffiths:

"We are rapidly approaching a time when every three people of working age in the community will have to support one pensioner—in addition, of course, to supporting the children who are our future workers."

"I feel sure," the Minister declared, "that neither the general public nor most members of the Associations putting it forward can appreciate the consequences of what they are asking us to do.

"It is the dwindling proportion of people of working age who, whether as direct contributors to the pensions fund or as taxpayers, must find the cost of the pensions."

Here is a striking example of "trial by error." Enthusiastic and ambitious Socialists have been so busy with schemes to relieve the average man of the necessity of labouring for a livelihood, that they overlooked the fact that someone must foot the bill. Evidently to their own surprise, they have discovered that to pay old age pensions at $8. per week would involve an addition of another $20,000,000 at least to taxation, and mean that every three people of working age will have to support one pensioner. Which brings such social panaceas within the range of a practical absurdity that even a Socialist can appreciate.

## Mount Vesuvius

Dr. Giuseppe Imbo, official observer of Mount Vesuvius, is quoted in a recent press despatch as predicting that Europe's only active volcano may erupt "in a matter of months, maybe days."

This alarming statement does not seem to have created much concern. Many Canadian veterans of the Italian campaign, however, will read it with interest. There were a number of organized tours of service personnel to Vesuvius When it erupted in March, 1944 it threw out millions of cubic yards of lava which spread over the surrounding countryside, destroying whole villages, and filling in roads five miles away to a depth of eight or nine feet. Billowing vapor clouds could be seen from as far away as Foggia airfield, about 80 miles north east of Vesuvius.

The volcano's rest period is now as long as those it has taken in all but two of its last 16 eruptions in the past 300 years. The longest period of quiet during that time was seven years. The shortest was one year. Persistent earth shakings and a heavy vapor column in the past month are signs of an impending eruption. Dr. Imbo, however, hasn't been able to get close enough to the vapor column to measure its heat, which would enable a more certain prediction.

## Death From The Sky

The technical reasons why "buzz" bombs failed to become the decisive weapons the Germans had hoped in attacks on the civilian population of Britain have recently been outlined in the *Manchester Guardian* following a report of the 1944-45 attacks, made chiefly on London, prepared by Air Chief Marshal Sir Roderick Hill.

The principle reasons for failure of the "buzz" bomb—parent of the present guided missiles — was its vulnerability to anti-aircraft fire and aerial defence, such as the bombing of launching bases and shooting the bombs from fighter aircraft. The V1 and V2 rockets, though many times more devastating where they fell, and hardly susceptible at all to defensive measures, were used prematurely for strategic reasons, and thus had neither the range, the accuracy, nor the blasting power they have today, or might have had then if the German scientists and technicians had been allowed more time to perfect them.

The destruction they did cause, however, before the launching sites were finally over-run by the invasion forces, came too close to accomplishing the German objective — complete demoralization of the civilian population in the target area—to allow any complacency about the place of these weapons in their present perfected state in total war.

Between June, 1944, and March, 1945, they killed nearly 9,000 people, maimed 24,500 more, and destroyed or mauled 200,000 houses and damaged a million.

The slow start in taking the measure of the "buzz" bombs which opened these attacks is attributed to bad intelligence. The Air Ministry knew the bombs were going to be used, but did not know they would come in at an awkward height, above the light guns' ceiling and too low for the heavy ones. But after eight months' practice the defence forces were shooting down seven bombs out of ten, and in the last days' operations twenty out of twenty one were exploded in the air and one crashed 25 miles from its target.

The rocket bomb was quite a different matter. Hitler's technicians, goaded to premature exploitation could only give their rockets a warhead of one ton of high explosives and a range of 200 miles. They soared to a height of 50 miles and landed at 1,800 miles an hour. Defences in the country could no nothing about them. Their contribution was limited to tracking the missiles, trying to locate their firing points, and attacking these more or less frequently, their efforts limited by demands for aircraft and personnel by the invading forces on the continent, and forces in the Far East.

Had the Germans launched more intensive attacks the defence problems would have been easier because launching bases could have been more easily and quickly spotted and established as priority targets.

Future defence will remain a matter of good intelligence to discover launching bases, and effective attack either by bombing or through use of ground troops to destroy them, it is now considered. The rocket with the atomic warhead "is probably some years away," and the immediate defensive worry is the rocket with a range of several hundred miles and a normal type warhead many times more lethal than the ones used to attack Britain.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Week of Prayer.

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Junior Farmers at St. Dunstan's.

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President Truman is at least leading Americans towards socialism with their eyes open. Along with social measures he proposes the taxes necessary to pay for them.

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Like Canada, Australia is carrying out research into the private life of the oyster. Unlike the activities at Ellerslie, however, the Australian studies are directed towards the production of pearls rather than the delicacy itself.

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The decision of India and Pakistan to stop fighting and settle their differences over Kashmir by a U. N.-supervised plebiscite will be welcomed throughout the Commonwealth. All wars are hateful, but a clash between sisters Dominions is doubly so.

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The long awaited drop in the cost of living index does not look as good to farmers as might have been hoped. The slight decline was due to lower prices for eggs, meats, vegetables and fruits, while other products continue to rise in price.

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In this age of credit instruments inflation is not necessarily symptomized by the reckless printing of currency. The increase of cheques cashed on individual accounts to eight billion dollars in November as compared with six and three-quarter billions a year ago must be very largely of an inflationary nature.

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At the present time there are in the Senate 65 Liberals, 16 Progressive Conservatives, and 15 vacancies. This means there are nearly four times as many Liberals as opposition members. Those who are interested in seeing the Senate preserved as an important legislative instrument, as a useful check on hasty and often near-sighted law-making and who also contend that abolition (the socialist plan) is needlessly destructive, feel (says *The Gazette*) that changes in the method of appointment and the delegation of more original legislation to the Senate, even at the cost of constitutional amendment, would be the sensible way out of the present ludicrous position. Complaint is made that new senators are appointed too late in life to be of much service as *legislators*.

* * *

Henry Arthur Jones, English dramatic author, died this date 1929. He made his first definite success in 1882 with *The Silver King* which ran almost continuously for years, and is still revived from time to time. His other plays include *Saints and Sinners, Judah, The Crusaders, The Lie.* He also produced a long series of comedies including *The Case of Rebellious Susan, Whitewashing Julia,* and *The Ogre.* In addition he published a work on the *Renascence of the English Drama:* "The one cruel fact about heroes is that they are made of flesh and blood."

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The official egg prices quoted below are for Grade A Large as at Dec. 28. At Montreal and Toronto the prices are those at which graded shipments are selling to wholesalers. At other points quotations are prices to shippers for ungraded eggs.

| | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Montreal | 51-52 | 48-48½ | 40-41 |
| Toronto | 50-51 | 45½-46 | 42-43 |
| Winnipeg | 45 | 41 | 38 |
| Vancouver | 43½ | 40 | 36 |
| Edmonton | 44 | 41 | 35 |
| Regina | 45-48 | 42 | 37 |
| Charlottetown | 46-47 | 41 | 38-40 |

* * *

When a young man addresses you as "Sir," (says *Windsor Star*) it's quite in order to ask him which of the services he was in, and the length of time he spent overseas. His easy courtesy marks him not only as an ex-serviceman, but as one who had spent considerable time in the army, navy, or air force. This revival of the use of "Sir" came at a time when it was all but extinct. Young people apparently had come to regard it as something degrading. Then the war came, and military discipline began to remold the customs of hundreds of thousands. "Sir" became a required form of address for servicemen. It is significant, however, that although more than three years have passed since demobilization, these veterans are maintaining this usage. They see no self-abasement in it, and in fact no honor to themselves by retaining this side of their military training It identifies them as veterans more completely than any service button can do. The armed forces, too, may look back with pride on this effect of their discipline. Although theirs was the grim task of hardening young men for war, they turned out the best mannered citizens to be found in the country today.

## The Poet's Corner

FROM: "THE DESERTED VILLAGE"

Sweet was the sound, when oft, at evening's close,
Up yonder hill the village murmur rose.
There as I pass'd, with careless steps and slow,
The mingled notes came soften'd from below;
The swain responsive as the milk-maid sung,
The sober herd that low'd to meet their young,
The noisy geese that gabbled o'er the pool,
The playful children just let loose from school;
The watchdog's voice that bay'd the whispering wind,
And the loud laugh that spoke the vacant mind—
These all in sweet confusion sought the shade,
And filled each pause the nightingale had made.

—Oliver Goldsmith.

## Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

### AROUND QUEEN SQUARE

There is a curious looking building on Queen Square near the Colonial Building, now in the pupa state of being; it has market life in it every Wednesday and Saturday, and promises the body of a better building, having wings and every other accommodation for a vegetable and fruit market, a fish market, and no doubt an omnium-gatherum market for lots of things that the clever country people fetch along, but which do not belong to the above enumerations.

Besides the building we have just referred to, which is a pillared, circular wooden structure, there is on the Square, and fronting Queen Street, what is called "The Old Court House," now devoted to the purposes of a Mayor's Court, a Police Court, and the Post Office. On the opposite side of the Square is St. Paul's Episcopal Church, rich in external foliage, and comfortable in its arrangements inside. There are some fine stores on the side of this Square, and some private houses, all of which agreeably flank this seat of periodical industry and traffic.

Queen Street is the main street, and slopes pleasantly to the water's edge, terminated by a fine wharf, and busy with shippers' interests. The spirit of improvement has here steadily worked and produced what in some respects may be called a fine street; there is no feeling of confinement in it, and from its breadth, position and capabilities, it will some day be a very beautiful street; but Prince Street, parallel with Queen Street, and separated from it by the length of Queen Square, is a pleasanter street, and when its freshly planted trees come to perfection, it will form a cool and shaded promenade, having also a wharf to conduct the saline waters of the Hillsborough, and place you where the summer breeze may refresh and invigorate, while the scenery delights and gratifies.

—From "The Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island," etc., by C. Birch Bagster, 1861.

## The Royal Commission

(Winnipeg Free Press)

While detailed comment must await study of the terms of reference, it may be said at once that the Royal Commission to inquire into railway problems announced by the Government Wednesday is easily the most outstanding body of this kind ever set up in this country. The Government is to be congratulated unreservedly for obtaining the services of such outstanding persons as Hon. W. F. A. Turgeon, Canadian minister to Ireland, who will be the chairman; Prof. H. F. Angus, head of the department of political economy at the University of British Columbia; and Mr. Harold F. Innis, professor of political economy at the University of Toronto. Rt. Hon. J. L. Ilsley will act as commission counsel.

Mr. Turgeon, formerly attorney-general of Saskatchewan and later chief justice of that province, has had a unique experience as a commissioner investigating economic problems. He presided over two full dress commissions into the grain trade. He chaired the commission which settled the Manitoba natural resources question. He conducted inquiries into the textile industry and so on. Mr. Turgeon's knowledge of this country is all but unrivalled and his absence abroad on diplomatic missions in the last few years will be all to the good. It will give him a highly desirable degree of detachment from the controversy which has resulted in the inquiry.

Mr. Angus, as a member of the Sirois Commission, a high official in our External Affairs department for several years, and a brilliant student of the economy of this country is obviously well qualified for this task.

Mr. Innis, although he has had less experience in work of this kind, is one of our foremost authorities on economic matters.

It is just over 17 years since the last major inquiry into railway transportation was launched. The chairman of the inquiry of 1931-32 was Sir Lyman Duff, then chief justice of Canada. He was assisted by five commissioners. There should be no better appointee than Sir Lyman Duff, but the 1931 commission as a whole proved to be ineffective. Its recommendations were only in part adopted and even so, were substantially abandoned after 1935 when the Liberals were returned to power.

The greatest achievement of the Duff Commission was, perhaps, a negative one. It did not recommend amalgamation and, therefore, marked the defeat of Sir Edward Beatty's campaign. No such question as this will come before the new commission, but it does appear that the extent to which the economics recommended by the Duff Commission have been achieved will be inquired into.

## Unhealthy For Democracy

(Maritime Merchant)

Two weeks ago Finance Minister Abbott announced that the Federal Government's restrictions on imports had been relaxed. Irritating, to say the least, is this vicious habit of cabinet ministers announcing the removal or imposition of controls, restrictions and prohibitions with the casual air of absolute monarchs. That this happened to be good news does not alter for one minute the fact that cabinet ministers in Canada have far too much power.

Parliament had no say in the matter when Mr. Abbott went on the air 13 months ago and flatly told the nation that he was clamping down on business with the United States. Apparently he has the power to do these things, or his political opponents would have gored him long since. Obviously he, and his colleagues have a measure of power over the people that is unhealthy for democracy as we have known it. How soon will "Austerity Abbott", like "Austerity Cripps", tell us that he, too, has a four-year plan?

* * *

Too much power concentrated in one place, whether in the hands of capitalists or labor leaders or politicians, means that democracy has been sold down the river. As a non-partisan business journal, we hold no brief for any particular political party, but we protest this dangerous concentration of power as the gravest threat to freedom Canada has yet known. It is grave because the threat comes from within the country. Our own political leaders have betrayed the trust of responsible government. Imagine a democratic statesman, or any politician with the slightest regard for public opinion, saying, as C. D. Howe said in the face of rising public protest over an arbitrary act of the Government, "So far as the cabinet is concerned, the case is closed." Not only did he get away with that imperious dismissal of public opinion, but the Prime Minister echoed him. Mr. St. Laurent was in Europe at the time. On his arrival back in Canada, before he had had time to ask any informed person what the people felt, he told reporters that he could only repeat what Mr. Howe had already said, "So far as the cabinet is concerned, the case is closed."

* * *

The only difference between the state of liberty in Canada and Britain today is that we haven't lost quite as much freedom as the British. We believe that, if cabinet ministers and civil servants in Canada are not quickly stripped of the enormous powers they have deliberately arrogated to themselves, we shall not see true freedom again in our time. This may be just a trade journal, but a small segment of the free press that will go on fighting for freedom so long as it can be printed. If Maritimers who read these pages are not a docile people, and we believe they are not, they will join us in the fight to keep Canada free.

## Anomalous Situation

(Stratford Beacon Herald)

Now that Newfoundland is about to enter confederation, the Canadian Government has every reason to take objection to that extraordinary decision of the United States Supreme Court which, by implication at least, makes part of Newfoundland subject to U. S. law.

It will be remembered that, back in 1940, the British Government, in return for 50 over-age but badly needed U. S. destroyers, leased to the United States a number of areas in the chain of Atlantic islands stretching from Newfoundland to Trinidad, to be used for air and naval bases. Britain made it clear at the time that she was in no way renounting her sovereignty over the leased areas, either permanently or temporarily, and the Canadian Government accepted the bargain on those terms.

Now the U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that all these bases are "U. S. possessions", at least for the term of the lease. The decision was given in a case arising at the Bermuda base, but it would apply equally to the leased areas in Newfoundland. The court also held that all persons living or working on these areas were [illegible] American law, whether they were United States citizens or not, to the complex U. S. labor legislation was held to be in force.

This decision is said to be unwelcome to the U. S. State Department itself. Apparently the present erratic Supreme Court is a law unto itself, and pays no attention to the foreign policies and pledges of the United States Government.

* * *

There are three American bases in Newfoundland—an air base at Stevensville, a naval base at Argentina, and an army establishment near St. John's itself. They will soon become Canada's concern when Newfoundland joins us. Few Canadians would object to them if they were run on the same principles as the American establishments now operating on our present territory at Churchill, for example. But it would be intolerable to have them treated as enclaves of American territory, where the authority of our Government does not run and where even Canadian citizens are subject to American laws and deprived of the protection of our own.

The Department of External Affairs should lose no time in taking this matter up in Washington, and in seeing that Canadian sovereignty is recognized, urges The Journal. If there is any dispute over the meaning of the lease agreement, it should be referred without delay to the International Court of Justice. That is surely a more fitting tribunal to settle a question between nations than a domestic court of the United States.

### NEW SWEDISH STAMPS

STOCKHOLM — (CP) — Three new Swedish postage stamps will be issued shortly to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the noted dramatist and author, August Strindberg.

## - Notes By The Way -

**A lecturer has described Canada** as a "fruitcake" land. Before going overboard for this compliment it might be well to check the nut content of fruitcake. — Windsor Star.

**Brown University has a new device** "so delicate that it can weigh the spoken word." For the airer persiflage this may be good, but how will it stand up under the weight of the typical after-dinner speech? — Ottawa Citizen.

**In the Montreal area a farmer** drove his truck on to a private crossing in the path of a train, and three persons in the truck were killed. Familiarity with potential danger had bred indifference to it, and the outcome was tragic. — Ottawa Journal.

**Penicillin and the sulfa drugs** have not only proven mortal enemies of more than a few diseases but in one instance at least they are causing a disease to disappear, in Brantford and elsewhere. This is occurring in the case of the once dreaded ear infection, mastoiditis, which is seldom heard of today and in some operating rooms has become a rarity. — Brantford Expositor.

**The first draft itinerary for the** Royal Family was a corker, says the Sydney Daily Telegraph columnist. They were to visit practically every hamlet in Australia, shake hands with every alderman, declare open every bazaar from Brisbane to Bullamakanka. The drafters showed the itinerary to Sir Leighton Bracegirdle, an old hand on shepherding distinguished visitors round Australia. Brace read it through, then said: "You seem to have forgotten one ceremony." "What's that?" he was asked. "The funeral," said Brace.

**The late Jack Miner once said if** the potato bugs are destroying your potatoes use paris green, because if you wait for God to send another bug to eat that bug, you might have no potatoes. Jack Miner always felt if there were a thousand ducks in a county and a thousand crows, and if man shot 500 ducks for food, then 500 crows which live on duck eggs should be shot to balance nature, or if there are 1,000 deer in a community and 500 timber wolves, and man shoots deer for food, then the wolves should be reduced to same proportion or else nature is unbalanced. — Farmer's Advocate.

**If there is one thing more foolish** than driving an automobile into an intersection against a traffic light, it would appear to be the inclination of some pedestrians who jump the gun and put themselves into the traffic lanes when automobiles have the right of way. The motorist who violates the regulations at least has a measure of physical protection in the car in which he rides. The pedestrian is without armor. The individual who is checked by a police officer for this absent-minded crossing of streets when the light shines red or amber seldom appreciates the public and highly audible voice from the constable. He or she can avoid it by a little thought. And preferable to a broken leg or serious injury that might be sustained from the heedless continuance of this risky practice.—Victoria Times.

**Nobody ever has designed an** effective way of keeping small boys off thin ice, but it is a perilous practice as two drownings in Ottawa within a few days show. — Ottawa Journal.

**When six-year-old Hugh Turn-**bull of LaSalle fell through the ice of the Detroit River, his Collie dog dragged him by the coat collar and pulled him to safety. A boy's best friend, certainly in this instance, is his dog. — Windsor Star.

**Were Virginia, to whom the fam-**ous "Yes, There is a Santa Claus" editorial was addressed, to be raising the question today she would not have to depend on a newspaper to resolve her doubts. Her parents would call Santa's Helpers, Inc., a recently organized New York project, which may be extended to other cities. This would send, at so much per hour, a white-bearded, red-coated, and of course fat and jolly man to the house where he would produce belly laughs, exclaim "Ho! Ho! Ho!" or "Whoa Blitzen," ring sleighbells, in fact do everything Santa Claus is supposed to do except possibly come down the chimney. Virginia would no doubt be convinced—in a way. For Santa's Helpers, Inc., whose purpose is to provide individual Santas for homes or for private parties, has on call experienced actors from stage, screen and radio. Also the streets and department stores are now full of Santas who have been graduated from the best Santa Claus schools, and who are no doubt available for private demonstrations. — Philadelphia Post.

**Often we hear people talk about** the "big salaries" paid labor leaders. While this talk may be applicable to the salaries of the heads of big unions in the United States, it is in no way applicable to what is paid our union leaders in Canada. Not if we are to believe what has just been made public by a writer in The Toronto Star. According to his findings this is how our labor leaders figure in the income brackets: President Percy Bengough, president of the Trades and Labor Congress, $6,500 a year, A. R. Mosher, president of the Canadian Congress of Labor (paid as president of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, largest transport union), $6,000, plus $1,000 expenses. Pat Conroy, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Congress of Labor, $6,500. Frank Hall, vice-president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, $11,000 a year. C. H. Millard, national director of the Steel Workers of America (Canadian Branch), $8,000 a year. Considering that trade unionism in Canada is a $15,000,000-a-year business, and considering likewise the income tax and higher living costs, such salaries are hardly something to complain of.—Ottawa Journal.

## The Age-Old Story

**Behold God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will He help the evil doers. Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing.**


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