

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1948

A Good Example

Now that the provincial election is over and the next Federal contest is still in the indefinite future, both our old-line political parties seem to have gone soundly to sleep in this Province.

Organization activity of any kind is conspicuous by its absence. Not so with all parties, however. Readers of our rural columns will note that regular study club meetings of the C. C. F. party are being held in certain centres, and there is every reason to expect that this movement will grow in popularity and usefulness.

A Costly Fund

Analyzing figures in the Auditor General's report for the fiscal year 1946-47, an Ottawa correspondent of the Winnipeg Free Press reveals significant facts in connection with the unemployment insurance fund.

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1947, contributions by employers and employees to the unemployment insurance fund were \$76,051,030.91; contributions by the Federal government were \$15,203,457.58; items of interest and profit on sales of securities, fines, etc., added to make the total receipts \$98,752,294.48.

This administration cost, of course, covered both handling of the receipts and disbursements of \$43,114,329.18 to beneficiaries of the fund—that is, total intake and outgo were \$141,866,693.18.

Salaries took \$14,570,790.50; travelling expenses, \$507,615.69; other pay list items, \$262,910.45; printing and stationery, \$639,631.43; telephones, telegrams and postage, \$726,424.89; rents, \$731,963.43; professional and special services, \$198,285.82; equipment \$232,529.45; alterations, maintenance and repairs to buildings, \$212,864.22; and other lesser items brought the total administration expenditure to \$18,726,118.86.

It is explained that the Department of Labor which administers the fund through a commission charges \$11,230,076.71 of this total administration cost in 1946-47 to demobilization and reconversion under the national employment service.

Moreover, according to figures already in hand for the fiscal year 1947-48, the administration expenses will run just as much, about \$18½ million dollars though demobilization and reconversion is long a thing of the past.

At March 31, 1947, there were 8,493 salaried employees being paid from the above accounts. Only the salaries of those getting more than \$2,400 a year or more are itemized. Highest paid are the commissioners—Chief Commissioner L. J. Trotter, \$12,000; Commissioner J. G. Bisson, \$9,000; Commissioner G. W. Ritchie, \$8,000; Commissioner R. J. Talton, \$8,000. Other salaries range from \$2,400 to \$4,500 and in one instance \$6,000 in this selected group.

As of March 31, 1947, the total unemployment insurance fund was \$373,466,924.49 of which \$362,384,183.78 was in government bonds and accrued interest and \$11,082,740.71 in cash.

Under the rule whereby the Government contributes an amount equal to 20 per cent of the employer and employees contributions, the Government contribution in the 1946-47 fiscal year was \$15,203,457.91. The Government also contributes \$15,200,000 to expenses of administration so that the Dominion's total payments in connection with the fund that year were slightly more than \$30,203,000.

Forestry in Britain

Five thousand acres in extent, the Royal Forest at Windsor, England, during the war supplied 300 tons of timber every month for the construction of military camps, airfields, air-raid shelters and the thousands of bunks which furnished them.

Altogether, there are about 3,000,000 acres of woodlands in the British Isles, and the Canadian Forestry Corps handled a substantial share of woodcutting therein when importations from Scandinavian and other sources were cut off.

They planted literally millions of seedlings and saplings to replace the trees sacrificed to the needs of warfare.

Even in peacetime Canada was taking the lead in helping to reforest Britain. Over a 10-year period, for instance, 32,000,000 Douglas firs, one of the Dominion's finest timber trees, were planted on suitable sites throughout Britain.

Sitka spruce from the Queen Charlotte Islands and other coniferous trees from Canada's sunset coast thrive in Britain because of similarity in climate and soil. Needless to say, the sight of vast acres of flourishing "Christmas trees" gives delight to British children.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The poultry industry is once more coming into its own with prospects of good profits.

Olympic skating contests may not be completed because of mild weather. It looks as if Canada should definitely be host for the next winter games.

Canadian wheat has many fine qualities. A most important one is its remarkable keeping qualities. What other wheat could be cut in a snow storm and stored for years without any special attention?

Not all the changes in income tax forms have been in the direction of simplicity. While the salaried man now has a special postcard sized return to fill in, the farmer's return has increased in complexity and now occupies six pages.

His Worship Mayor MacDonald has good reason to congratulate himself on being returned for a second term by acclamation. He is one of our rising hopes, who has made good by personal application and strict attention to the duties of his office.

There seems to be remarkable unanimity behind the demand that the freight assistance policy on feed grain be continued beyond its present deadline of July 31st. That being so there is no doubt but that the government will keep it in force.

An ex-German liner obtained by Canada on reparation account, and renamed "Beaverbrae", goes into C. P. R. service at Saint John tomorrow. It has accommodation for from 800 to 850 passengers, and will be engaged in bringing 20,000 displaced persons to Canada.

Deputy Agricultural Minister W. R. Shaw has proved a worthy substitute for Mr. J. W. Boulter, chairman of the Canadian Horticultural Council, who was regrettably unable to attend the annual meeting at Ottawa this week. The powers that be at Ottawa gave a receptive ear to certain of Mr. Shaw's suggestions.

It would be an unforgivable mistake today to stop the production of any basic foodstuff. Fish products, in particular, are of high nutritional value and their utilization does not involve consumption of other foods as in the case of meat. Relief agencies would do well to remember the slogan, "Eat more fish! They feed themselves."

A crowning insult to Scotsmen was related to the British Columbia Magistrate's Convention by Magistrate Mackenzie Matheson of Vancouver. Two men in preparing to blow a safe had "poured" nitro-glycerine and then "padded" the safe to deaden the explosion, he said. "Do you know what they used to pad the explosion?" "Haggis!" The safe wasn't blown for the yeggs were interrupted and arrested before they could use their "padding", the magistrate added. They received two years less a day.

We can't vouch for the following story which was related by an otherwise veracious citizen. A patient at Falconwood died, and the authorities phoned for the police wagon to convey the remains to the undertaker. Another patient saw an opportunity of getting a free ride to town, so after the two constables had taken their seats in front, he slipped in behind beside the corpse. When half way to town he tapped one of the policemen, and asked in sepulchral tones: "How far is it to Jerusalem?" Without hazarding a reply the two jumped from their seats, leaving the wagon stranded in the ditch.

Britain will be putting her ships at the disposal of the United Nations this year to assist the big programme of relief for the children of the world. The people of 38 nations are being asked to give one day's income to the international fund. This will finance food, clothing and medical supplies for millions of needy children all over the globe. Each country will use the money it raises to contribute the most appropriate aid within its power to this vast humanitarian plan. In Britain's case, ships will be made available for transporting the supplies from other countries.

Christopher Marlowe, English dramatist, born this date 1564 and died at the early age of twenty-nine. He was to drama what Burns was to poetry—he made it live. He is the first great English dramatist, and has been described as the "matrix from which Shakespeare's plays evolved." His best known plays were Tamburlaine the Great (1590) in which he showed the magnificent capacities of blank verse for tragedy; Edward II, a play of sustained power worthy to rank with the best of Shakespeare's historical plays. In estimating Marlowe's work account must be taken of his tragically short career; what we possess of him is the "wild untrained efforts of youth." Yet it suffices to earn him the title of founder of the English drama: "He that loves pleasure, must for pleasure fall."

The ABC Of Democracy - Notes By The Way

We'll be facing a new problem one of these days—who is going to live on the farm and do the chores which bring the milk and the meat and potatoes to the consumer's table? — Lethbridge Herald.

Noting that last year 158,783 motor vehicles crossed the international border by way of the toll bridge at Cornwall, The Ottawa Journal had this comment to make: "A fine healthy traffic of much benefit to both countries—a pity Canada's contribution to it has to be curtailed by the present restrictions." This, we feel sure, is an opinion shared by most Canadians who realize the importance of free trade and travel between Canada and the United States — Cornwall Standard-Freelander.

The Ottawa Journal repeats its opinion that "the primary function of a school should be to turn out young people with a love and reverence for education, and above all with understanding that education is a continuing process." To that, "Hear, hear!" Especially the part about it being a continuing process. Some graduates we have known, however, disdain even the continuing use of a dictionary, and apparently, despite all their schooling, never learned how to look up anything in an encyclopaedia. — Brantford Expositor.

Count Zeppelin developed his first craft lighter than air in his 70th year, remarks The Financial Post. Edison astonished the world with inventions between the age of 70 and 80. Benjamin Franklin helped frame the American constitution at 79, and the same was the case with the Canadian King after many recognized retiring age. Winston Churchill was 68 when his indomitable courage was steering an Empire for the ordeal of the Battle of Britain.

A Nobleford farmer took his turkeys to town the other day and found that the considered his highest and best birds were discounted—they were too big. During the days of the big drive for hog production a lot of farmers found that a hog ten pounds heavier than the scale allowed under the grading rules suffered a \$3 discount. Farmers have been looking around for the cheaper turkey and cheaper pork prices at retail based on the probable increase in the price of hogs. After all, producer can always have the last say. — Lethbridge Herald.

What is wrong with apple pie as served in many restaurants? Well, one thing, is that all too often a part of the apple core is included in the pie. Occasionally one finds seeds. More frequently, there are bits of pith, or that inedible and unchewable part of the apple which encloses the seeds. To get a piece of this with every forkful of apple pie is not only annoying and embarrassing, but it is maddening. To have to stick one's finger and thumb in the mouth after every mouthful of pie is a most annoying thing. Usually the restaurant is looking—is enough to discourage the most ardent admirer of this pastry. The result is that even though the mouth is watering for apple pie, many choose less delectable desserts. But the restaurant patron, like the prairie farmer, lives it hopes. Soon or later, he will order apple pie again, trusting that the contents of the core are gone. Usually he is disillusioned, and is off apple pie again for a week or so. — Windsor Star.

—Now comes perfidious Albion, to claim as her own the world's most generous cow in Bridge Birch who has given 41,962 pounds of milk in 328 days. Previously the record was held by the American cow, but according to London the British entry has yielded nine pounds more milk in thirty-six less days. Inadvertently, however, London let slip the tawdry secret of this success: Bridge Birch is a guzzler, who drinks half a gallon of stout a day. American dairymen, too, have dabbled with such methods. We recall, for example, the story of the farmer who idly fed his prize cow a pint of gin, and was rewarded with streams of milk from three taps and Alexander cocktails from the fourth. But the American farmer is on outright loss, who will not debase his cattle for profit. He does not fancy a pasture full of staggering Holsteins, singing their own version of the Whiffenpoof Song—"We're gonna hit the calves who have gone crazy." The American farmer loves his cows and protects them. Let Britain have the record, if Britain wishes the record on such terms. Only do not let them say that the cow gave the milk—it was coaxed from her by subterfuge. — New York Herald Tribune.

The ABC Of Democracy

By Adolph Krolawitz (contributed)

Ever since Germany first struck at Poland and thereafter attacked and conquered piece by piece all the European countries, the burning issue was and still is—Dictatorship or Democracy?

The term dictatorship, as judged from the past and present behavior of various dictators, may be defined as a system of society organized and governed by force of the dictatorial powers assumed by one or more individuals without consent or approval of the members of society. Thus, they are ruled by a government of men and not by one of laws. Yes, fellow Americans, be ye Catholics, Protestants, Episcopalians, or of any other religious denomination, Jew or Gentile, believer or non-believer, the house of freedom, yes, your house of democracy, is on fire. No system was, is, or ever will be, can be perfect, for the reason that no man ever was, is, nor ever can or will be perfect.

In a democracy, no one is above the law. No one is outside the law. To be effective and enforceable, laws must be within the framework of state constitution. In a democracy, under the law and constitution, the government is obligated to protect the constitutional rights of every one alike, irrespective of whether he belongs to a union or not. Everyone has or should have an equal opportunity to work and to earn his livelihood, whether he belongs to a union or not. Democracy as such ceases to function if these constitutional guarantees are not reasonably enforced and protected.

In a democracy, political parties are not only essential; they are absolutely indispensable. A political system based on one party, without courageous and honorable opposition is the very foundation of dictatorial rule and dictatorship governments. Would-be dictators always seek to eliminate political and other opponents, including other political parties. While the personal motives of political leaders are not always very commendable, the multiple party system is, nevertheless, the lesser of two evils. The position it offers, without critical party opposition based on sound principles there is little or no incentive to exert oneself to the utmost and to obtain the best possible results for the public good. Like all else in nature, the instinct of self-preservation and of self-interest perpetuation play a large part in the life of the average political leader and of his fellow party members. It is quite natural that the average political leadership should seek to reveal and disclose only those of its doings which will merit public approval.

It is however, also quite natural that they will endeavor to conceal whatever activities might bring them public disapproval. The political leadership out of office usually criticizes and berates the one in office without offering constructive criticism and suggestions. This is done for the evident purpose of withholding from the party in control any opportunity to obtain credit for the enactment of beneficial legislation. It is for that reason that for this legislation party not to go for those offering the criticism or rather to the political party they represent, because they are not in control. It is hoped to withhold this criticism for the future purpose when in control of the government. The people are thereby deprived of the benefit of the criticism. Such procedural tactics are usually called "playing politics."

A Speed Monster

The athletic performances of the blue whale, as well as its blubber and steaks, have attracted new attention with the reports of the British Scientific Expedition to the Antarctic. For a beast normally growing to some hundred and twenty tons, short bursts at twenty-five knots and a cruising speed of fourteen and a half knots for over two hours at a time sounds good going. It is not surprising to learn, from a communication to "Nature" that the Admiralty's experimental department is interested. It is not that submarine design is taking by any means its first glance at the whale, but new opportunities for more exact information are not to be neglected. Some 40 per cent of the whale's tonnage is muscle, and at twenty knots it is estimated to develop 820 h.p., which might account for its remarkable speed without assuming any special virtue in body-shape or smoothness of skin. Human athletes and dogs develop 0.01 h.p. per pound of muscle, and if the same reckoning fits the case the whale can develop 9 h.p. for every ton of its total weight. Coming from power unit to transmission, the whale's tail is a major asset; it has a large surface and moves slowly, so that propulsion comes from sending large quantities of water astern at comparatively slow speeds and with less energy loss. It is hoped to obtain more precise information about the whale's muscular power from future whaling expeditions.

SHIP WORK OF ART STOCKHOLM — (CP) — The new steamship Stockholm is "a work of art." Twenty-two Swedish painters have been engaged in decorating the ship with murals, oil paintings, engraved glass, glass paintings, tapestries and mosaics inlay.

The Poets Corner

FROM: LOVE IN THE VALLEY

Shy as a squirrel and wayward as the swallow, Swift as the swallow along the river's light, Circling the surface to meet his mirrored winglets, Fleeter she seems in her stay than in her flight. Shy as the squirrel that leaps among the pine-tops, Wayward as the swallow overhead at set of sun, She whom I love is hard to catch and conquer, Hard, but O the glory of the winning were she won! ... Heartless she is as the shadow in the meadows, Flying to the hills on a blue and breezy noon. No, she is a thirl and drinking up Earth to her young as the slip of the new moon. Deals she an unkindness, 'tis but her rapid measure, Even as in a dance; and her smile can heal no less; Like the swarming May-cloud that peels the flowers with hailstones Off a sunny border, she was made to bruise and bliss. —George Meredith.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

LIVING EXPENSES "A sovereign, which with you is twenty shillings, is with us worth thirty; a shilling is 16 with us. Thus, if your income is 300 pounds sterling, it is equal to 450 pounds here. And this knowledge may serve you in this wise: 350 pounds sterling gives you a larger income than any Officer of the Colonial Government with the exception of the Chief Justice who has now 600 pounds sterling but his successor, it is thought, will have 400 pounds. A person who will be able to live with the utmost comfort, mix with the best society, and see his friends as a gentleman would wish to do. The income of the Collector of Imports and Excise is 143 pounds, 6s. 8d. so that you will be perfectly right in concluding that with 200 pounds sterling per annum, a man with a wife and five or six of a family may live with respectability, and educate his children. "The next thing is shelter, as you must be provided with house. I will therefore begin with one that is vacant; it has just been left by the Chief Justice who has resided there for some time for a house of his own a little out of town. The house is now to let and is situated at the western extremity of the town opposite to the Government House, from which it is separated by a creek. There is a dining room, drawing room and study on the first floor and five or six bedrooms on the second, besides servant's room, nursery, etc. (upwards of 20 apartments in all) kitchen, outhouses and stables. It is situated and fronts on the harbour and commands an extensive view of it and the rivers running into it, and has a flower and kitchen garden. The rent of the house is 80 pounds sterling a year, and is the highest of any in town. A very good house for a family of six or seven can be had for 30 to 30 pounds sterling per year. —From a series of letters in the Royal Gazette, Charlottetown, 1861, by John Lawson, Esq., barrister, to a friend in the Old Country.

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