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A Blow To Fishermen

Under the above heading the Moncton Transcript (Liberal) observes:
"Fishermen along the coasts of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are taking stock of a situation which appears likely to deal a heavy blow to the industry. Decision of the Federal Fisheries Prices Support Board not to buy East Coast fish from this season's pack is, according to fisheries officials in the two Provinces, likely to result in the closing of some 60 canning plants with the resulting dislocation of employment."

"Many fishermen and cannery operators had feared action of this kind would be taken. However, when March passed without an announcement from Ottawa most of the fishermen and operators commenced another season. Coming as it does in the midst of the herring fishing season, the Ottawa announcement is not only a damaging blow to the industry but also leaves the operators with a heavy financial outlay which cannot be recovered."

"Most critical comment of the Ottawa action is voiced by Mr. J. A. Burden, vice-president of the P. E. I. Fisheries Federation. He terms the action a 'surprise' and adds: 'If refusal to buy the east coast fish pack had been contemplated, it had been expected after the Board's meeting on March 24. As this was not forthcoming then, we believed the fish would be bought. As it is now the season is well under way before the decision not to buy our pack is announced.'"

"Nor is there much comfort to the fishermen in the Ottawa announcement that the Federal Department of Fisheries is considering 'alternative solutions' to the problem. These would include establishment of freezing plants in New Brunswick. However, many of the 900 cannery workers and 2,000 fishermen in New Brunswick believe that these long range plans will be of little help in relieving this year's problems. If forced out of the industry this year it is doubtful that many of them will return to it in future years."

"It is unfortunate that the Fisheries Prices Support Board has decided to withdraw one of its most useful aids before the final goal has been reached. The Board was set up originally to provide assistance to fishermen and stabilize prices during the period of adjustment that is now taking place. With this transition from a seller's to the buyer's market still taking place, withdrawal of the Board's assistance comes as a severe jolt and at a most inopportune time."

Something New

Something new has been added to Canadian politics with the naming of Frank Calder, full-blooded native Indian, as C.C.F. candidate for the northern British Columbia provincial riding of Atlin.

Action of the B. C. Government in extending the franchise to the native Indians marked a step forward in the history of race relations in this country. Previously, it has never been possible for any native Indian to cast a vote in Federal or Provincial elections, let alone to stand as a candidate for office. No other Canadian Government has yet followed B.C.'s pioneering innovation.

Whether or not Mr. Calder wins his contest in Atlin, the door has now been opened for Indian citizens to take their place on the floor of the B. C. legislature. The time may come, predicts a Vancouver exchange, when they will share in the law-making of their native land just as do the Maoris of New Zealand.

Out Of Luck

Young politicians of the two leading parties seem to be out of luck these days. The semi-annual meeting of the Young Liberal Federation of Canada, scheduled for Montreal June 2-3, has been postponed until later in the summer. A meeting of the national executive of the Young Progressive Conservatives which was scheduled for May 9-10 has been cancelled. The dates were picked before Parliament was dissolved and a general election fixed for June 27. The calling of the election meant that George Drew, Progressive Conservative leader, J. M. Macdonnell, president of the Progressive Conservative Association of Canada, and E. D. Fulton, president of the Young Progressive Conservatives, would not be able to attend. The meeting, intended to discuss organization and election plans, likely will be called again after the election.

Election Issues

The Government has gone to the country without an issue of its own choosing, says an exchange; but nothing could be more absurd than to say that there is therefore no issue in this Federal election. There are plenty of issues, including one or two of first-rate importance. Which party will restore Parliamentary rule in Canada? Which, on its record, is more likely by its measures to promote the country's welfare and advancement? These questions will certainly be at stake on June 27. They should count for more, in the voters' estimation, than any narrower debating point that may arise before polling day.

The King-St. Laurent regime has a long record of governing without regard to Parliament. For ten years past it has issued Orders-in-Council at the rate of forty or fifty every working day. It has imposed taxes by decree, announced over the radio. By unchecked executive action it has imposed, revised and juggled hundreds of rules affecting all sorts of business. It has given policy-making powers to high-placed bureaucrats Parliament cannot reach. It has given

on some bureaucrats the authority, with no appeal, to fix individual tax payments arbitrarily. Four years after victory in Europe, it insisted on keeping its wartime controls by another "Omnibus Bill."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Lifting the 15 per cent tax on passenger transportation has not proved much of a benefit to travellers. T.C.A. boosted its rates immediately to bring them up to the former level and now the railways have followed suit, in stages.

Nova Scotia's Liberals must be "up against it" if rumors are true about judges being recalled to carry the party standard in the present federal election. The mere fact that there are such tales indicates that finding likely candidates is not easy.

Prime Minister Pandit Nehru of India was probably thinking on purely political lines when he stated that Europeans had lost all influence in Asia, "and were most likely to lose it in Africa too." In both those continents the influence of European science, technology and standards seems rather to be increasing.

The Canadian Association of Optometrists, of which Eli Boyaner of Saint John is president, has decided to launch a campaign to have polarized anti-glare windshields and headlights installed in all Canadian automobiles. Success in their effort will mean that one of the great hazards of night driving, headlight glare, will be largely eliminated.

The new section of the Criminal Code dealing with habitual criminals seems to have drawn only favourable comment to date. There is an aspect, however, that is not altogether pleasing. Apart from the social viewpoint, to the individual it is a case of being punished because of having been punished before.

Some one must make a beginning with new improvements or there would be no progress. In regard to road making an experimental project will be set up in the next few weeks at Columbus, Ohio, to test the value of natural, synthetic and reclaimed rubber as paving materials on highways. The rubber will be mixed with concrete and light surfacings to reduce slipperiness.

In Quebec the Prime Minister announces he considers our constitution one of the barriers to national understanding because of the perspective it places upon Dominion Provincial relations, here the Leader of the Opposition asserted our constitution was the bedrock of Confederation, and ought to be maintained at all costs.

Mr. Caldwell, the C.C.F. leader, has come out wholeheartedly in favour of the farmer, denouncing the Government's trade policy with the Mother Country, especially with regard to bacon. He says Agriculture Minister Gardiner is "entirely incorrect" in "suggesting that the reason for the drop every year in our bacon contract lies with Britain."

At the end of this month the Canadian Federation of Agriculture intends to urge U.N. agriculturalists meeting at Guelph to set up an international fund to finance the movement of food from surplus countries such as Canada to help feed hungry nations at low cost. If a scheme can be worked out, one of the great problems of modern times will have been solved.

"The Twenty-fourth of May The Queen's Birthday." falls this year on a Tuesday. The Mayor of Toronto thought it would be a good move to have it celebrated a day earlier to enable week-enders to have the additional day. He was advised that as the holiday was fixed by Act of Parliament it must be observed that day, or legally, not at all. Such a difficulty would not arise when and if calendar reform becomes a reality.

Before the war coloured bicycles were uncommon, now they are almost the rule and London's Earl's Court Exhibition was described by William Holt in the BBC's General Overseas Service as "a riot of colour, with flamboyant ruby and gold and pearl and Princess blue machines, greens and dove-greys and all the colours you could think of." Holt mentioned, too, that most of the bicycles are a third lighter than they used to be and stronger at the same time: two fingers under the bar will lift some of them easily. And chromium plating, supplemented by stainless steel and highly polished light alloys, are used so freely that in future a rusty or tarnished bicycle will be an unusual sight. There are coloured hubs of bright green, lemon yellow or pink, looking like glittering jewels; there are newer and more efficient dynamos and the bicycles are even better designed than they used to be, easier to ride, more comfortable and safer. Prices have gone up since the war but the redesigned machines are vastly improved and are probably better value for money than they were before.

Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, British statesman, executed this date in 1641. While an M.P. he headed the reform party and set himself against the policies of the King and the administration of his favourite Buckingham. He was imprisoned in 1627 for refusing to agree to a forced loan as, income tax was then called, to finance the Crown, and thereafter became leader of the Constitutional (Conservative) party. In the struggle between King and people sometime later he chose to side with the King; was created Viscount and made president of the Privy Council. In 1629 he was appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland, and began to apply coercion which roused bitter resentment; returning to England he became the King's chief adviser, and created an earl. The Long Parliament failed to approve of his administration, had him attainted as a traitor to the State; while his patron, Charles I, breaking the promise he had given him that he would protect him from the fury of his foes, assented to his execution.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

IMMIGRANT LABOUR

Sir,—Common labour in this country is done by wives and university students. What political party in this country will help solve our problems by promoting, vigorously, a real immigration policy? If we have healthy people to do the work, we'll get the capital to develop our country. I am, Sir, etc. ROBERT D. MULVENNA. 27 Marmaduke Ave., Toronto.

The Poet's Corner

MODERN SONNET

Not wrongly moved by the dismayed scene The thinkers like the nations getting caught. Joined in the organizing that they fought. To scourge all earth of all but one machine.

It can be swung, is what these hoppers mean. For all the loony hooters can be bought. On the small ball. It can then all be caught. And converted to be kind and clean.

A more heartening fact about the cultures of man Is their appalling stubbornness. The sea Is always calm three fathoms down. The gigan- anthropological circus riotously holds open all its booths. The pygmy man Is one note each and the tune goes out free. —William Empson.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

GOVERNOR READY'S RETURN

The event so long and ardently looked for, the arrival of His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Ready, we have at length the pleasure of announcing. On Sunday forenoon the firing of guns in the offering indicated the vicinity of some vessel, but from the density of the atmosphere it could not be distinguished what she was.

At the conclusion of the divine service the fog having dispersed, two square rigged vessels, a ship and a brig, were discovered about two miles from the Block-house standing in for the harbour under press of sail. The ship was soon ascertained to be the Mary, being a vessel well known in this trade, and the liveliest satisfaction was evinced by the spectators on shore at her near approach.

On passing Prince Edward Battery, His Excellency was saluted with 17 guns from that point. The Mary dropt her anchor off the King's Wharf about two o'clock, and about an hour afterwards His Excellency left the ship accompanied by his two daughters, under salutes from the vessel and George's Battery. A guard of honour of the 74th Regiment, under the command of Capt. Burnett, presented arms on his landing on the wharf, where he was received by the President and members of His Majesty's Council and several other gentlemen. The ladies were handed into a carriage, and soon after drove off; but His Excellency proceeded to his residence on foot, and was cheered repeatedly by the crowds assembled on the wharf and streets through which he passed.

He voyaged out, 68 days from the Downs, must have been tedious enough, and was, we believe, unpleasant in many respects. The Mary made the east coast of Cape Breton nearly a month back, but was repeatedly baffled in her attempts to make the Gut of Canso by head winds. Besides His Excellency and his daughters the following passengers arrived in the Mary: Donald McDonald of Glenadale, Esq., Lieut. Ridge, a sergeant and two privates of the Royal Staff Corps, on their way to Canada, Mr. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Duck, and five servants.

On a former occasion alluded to in His Excellency's endeavours to improve the breed of horses within the Colony, by importing the most approved breeds, and we have now much pleasure in observing that this anxiety extends to the propagation and improvement of every other species of stock which it would be desirable to encourage here. For this purpose he has imported in the Mary, at considerable expense, the following valuable animals, which all have been landed in high order: a Normandy bull and cow, of a superior breed, 2 yrs. old; a Tessa-water cow, without horns; a South-Down ram, of the old breed; one of the new breed, crossed with Leicester, to improve the wool; a Leicester ram; several ewes of the South-Down breed; and a Berkshire sow. A Suffolk bull calf was unfortunately strangled, and two Berkshire pigs drowned on the passage.

—Prince Edward Island Register, Dec. 12, 1826.

J. P. MacPherson & Son Up's The Fit That Counts Men's Custom Built and Stock Clothing

"THAT SPRING SUN SEEMS WARMER THIS YEAR—"



The Importance of The Latest Developments in Western Germany

(By W.N. Ever) It now seems sure that within three months from now — in little more than four years from the end of the war — there will be a democratic German government functioning in Western Germany. That is in fulfilment of the declaration of the Four Powers, at Potsdam in August 1945, that one of the purposes of the Allied occupation would be "to prepare for the eventual reconstruction of German political life on a democratic basis and for eventual European cooperation in international life by Germany."

It was the hope — and, indeed, the expectation — of the Western Governments at that time that this reconstruction would take place under a concerted Four-Power policy, in Germany as a whole. But the actions of the Soviet Government very rapidly made it plain that there was little chance of this. The Soviet Military Government isolated its zone from the Western zone. It carried out without consultation with its Allies changes which imposed on Eastern Germany a political and social structure very different from anything which the Western Europeans or the Germans regarded as democratic. It began to organize the Soviet zone, politically, upon "totalitarian" lines.

In these circumstances the Western Powers went forward with the work of setting up a democratic machinery of local government: from the parish council level to the provincial ("Land") level. They refrained from anything beyond that, for they were still trying to, and hoping to, reach agreement with the Russians on the restoration of economic unity and on the basic principles of a new democratic constitution for all Germany.

The attitude of the Soviet representatives in the Moscow and London meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers made it unacceptably but indubitably obvious that there was no prospect of achieving either of those ends within a foreseeable time. An inescapable choice was presented to Western Europe. Either any further development of the unification and democratization must be indefinitely postponed, or the process must be continued in Western Germany alone, though in such a way as to make everything done in the Western zones adaptable, when the possibility came, to the framework of a single united Germany.

The decision (and any other would have been unthinkable) was taken at the Six-Power Conference in London in the spring and early summer of last year. Six-Power, because the three Benelux governments as well as the three Western "Occupying Powers" also took part in it.

The events and decisions of the past few weeks are the direct outcome of decisions taken at the London Conference. And they represent a very remarkable achievement when all the difficulties and complexities of the situation are taken into account.

The promise of Potsdam is being fulfilled in the West. German political life is being "reconstructed on a democratic basis." Unity is being restored. The three zones and their military governments will vanish. Western Germany will be governed by a German government. Allied Control will become merely supervisory — inoperative so long as German development continues on democratic and peaceful lines. Economics are to be limited to those indispensable for general security against any attempted rearmament or remilitarization. And finally, but very importantly the main German political parties have been helped through a period of critical discussion and helped to agree among themselves on the nature of their new constitution. The objective which the Western Allies set themselves, when in the summer of 1945 they took over the task of administering a country which was in political chaos and economic collapse, has been as near as may be achieved. A democratic German State has been

The Age-Old Story

The poor committeth himself unto Thee; Thou art the helper of the fatherless. To judge the fatherless and the oppressed; that the man of the earth may no more oppress. brought into being in four years. But only in the West. The problem now is the restriction of Germany and Western Germany be restricted to form a single political and economic society? Very carefully and very deliberately the Western Allies have ensured that all these developments nothing has been done which need prevent or prejudice the restoration of unity. Germany's unity could indeed be restored very rapidly if the Soviet Government and the Soviet occupation authorities would accept in practice the principle which was accepted at Potsdam — that the "reconstruction of German political life" must be "on a democratic basis."

That implies that, subject only to the conditions and controls necessary for European security, the all-German constitution shall be framed by the Germans themselves in conditions of democratic freedom. There must be freedom of speech and discussion, freedom of organization. There must be no control by occupying powers, no attempt by them to enforce the ideas or the authority of any particular German party or section, no attempt to enforce any particular economic or social structure. That has been the essence of the Allied policy in the West. Save for a ban on any attempt to restore a Nazi or militarist regime, the Germans have been left to discuss and decide freely. The Communists have been allowed equal freedom of discussion, of propaganda and of organization with other parties. Reconstruction is being carried out on a genuinely "democratic basis."

If the Russians will accept and apply those same principles — if they will admit the "Four Freedoms" in their zone — then there is no reason whatever why, within another year, there should not be a united democratic Germany. If they refuse; if they will only consent to a unity based not on democratic but on totalitarian lines, on the enforced supremacy of a single minority party, maintained in power ultimately by the bayonets of an occupying army or the local auxiliaries, then German unity becomes impossible. For the "common man" — freedom is more important even than unity. The decision now lies with Moscow. If Stalin and his colleagues agree, Germany can have both freedom and unity. But if they refuse democratic freedom to the East, then the division will remain. For neither the Allies nor the Western Germans will consider the surrender of the "democratic basis" of the new regime.

APRIL SHIFTED

In the ancient Roman calendar, April was the second month of the year.

SPECIALS

- New Army Style Boots \$6.50
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Notes By The Way

It is unthinkable that any city in its right senses would permit belching smoke stacks, at its front door, right opposite one of the largest and finest city parks in the world. Would anyone tolerate a few saw-mills or fish canneries in Stanley Park? Naturally a city like Vancouver that lives and thrives on its industries cannot afford to cold shoulder smokestacks. But it is not forced to encourage them to settle on its front door, especially when that front door happens to be one of the most beautiful harbor entrances and one of the finest public playgrounds in the whole world. — Vancouver Province.

Good-will marks Indian-English relations. Now, according to returning travellers, has the feeling been better, and the British businessmen, who foresaw extrusion as their portion in the event of independence, are said to be thriving. It almost seems as if the way to build up an association is to do without one. At any rate, this applies to Portugal and England, between whom a mere alliance of six centuries past has deepened into a relation without equal between two sovereign nations, perhaps between any two dominions. The British Commonwealth is one of the stoutest pillars of world peace. — Washington Post.

The latest stunt appears to be for a smooth stranger to approach an investor directly, over the telephone or by mail, and urge him to put up some money to help buy a good oil lease in one of the new fields. If the "sucker" falls for this, needless to say, he never again hears of his money or the stranger. The public utilities commission is investigating these swindles. However, the primary responsibility for presenting them rests with Alberta investors themselves. If they will take the trouble to investigate thoroughly any proposition that is submitted to them, the visiting confidence men will find pretty slim pickings. — Edmonton Journal.

Besides the otter and possibly the beaver, there was one other creature which was eaten to dogs. Lenten restrictions, the very mysterious barnacle goose. For hundreds of years it was almost universally believed that this dark waterfowl to our shores bred not from an egg, like its more prosaic fellows, but from a shell-fish, the ship's barnacle. As a result of this strange delusion it was sometimes claimed by the clergy that the barnacle goose, being more of a fish than a bird in origin, could be eaten on the fasting days of the church. The full story of the generation of the bird was even more marvellous, for the shell-fish themselves were said to grow like fruit on the branches of certain trees standing by the edge of the sea. As these ripened, out popped the little geese, which swam away if they fell on the sea but unfortunately died if they fell on land. Nevertheless, in spite of their remarkable origin (which he did not deny), Pope Innocent III felt obliged in 1215 to prohibit the eating of them in Lent. In his "Herball", published in 1597, John Gerard, the father of English botany, shows a most convincing picture of this goose-tree with five great tulp-like barnacles attached to two of them are open and gossins are peering quizzically out while others are swimming about happily in the water below. — Manchester Guardian.

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