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

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1949

Canada's Income

Canada's productivity is reaching new levels, even above those of the war years when industry and agriculture were strained to unprecedented operations. Just before the war started in 1939, gross national production was valued at less than five billion dollars and net income at about four and a half billion. In 1948, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics says, Canadians produced \$15,350,000,000 worth of goods and services—almost two billion above the 1947 total. But it is to be noted that this two billion advance, representing a gain of 15 per cent, merely reflected price increases of about the same ratio over the 1947 levels. In production, therefore, these two years, 1947 and 1948, show no change although the output for each represents a new high record.

The net national income is of course based on gross production, and, according to the method of computation followed by the Bureau of Statistics, is arrived at by deducting from the latter indirect taxes (less subsidies), depreciation reserves, and similar business costs. Canada's net income for 1948 amounted to \$12,802,000,000 as compared with \$10,981,000,000 in 1947. These figures represent the net earnings of the nation for the two years mentioned, the categories including salaries and wages, investment income, and the net returns from agriculture and other unincorporated business.

Civilian labor income, together with military pay and allowances rose from \$6,300,000,000 in 1947 to \$7,200,000,000 in 1948, and accounted for 56 per cent of last year's national income. In 1947 the proportion was 57 per cent. The national income from agriculture jumped from \$1,200,000,000 in 1947 to \$1,700,000,000 in 1948. This means that, out of last year's national income of \$12,802,000,000, no less than \$8,900,000,000, or almost 70 per cent, went to Canada's wage-earners and farmers. Such a distribution of the nation's turnover leaves little argument for the regimented state envisioned by the Communists and Socialists.

Flub-Dub Financing

British Columbia closed its fiscal year with a surplus of \$3,600,000, so the B. C. Legislature has been told. Actually the surplus was in excess of \$9,000,000 because a quarterly payment of about \$5,500,000 from the Dominion government under its tax agreement with the province was not received in time to go into the year's revenues.

Manitoba has a somewhat similar story. A year ago in presenting his estimates, the provincial treasurer of Manitoba predicted a surplus of \$89,000. His successor as treasurer the other day stated the actual surplus was \$4,425,000. The Winnipeg Tribune calls his "flub-dub financing" — to underestimate revenues and over-estimate expenditure, so that the administration can pose as "a little Jack Horner."

If such surpluses are used for the reduction of public debt, there may be some justification for the tax system that produce them; but there is a clear temptation for a government to spend with a free hand if it had millions more than it expected and needs, and this temptation is not confined to the legislatures.

Newfoundland's Case

Judging from discussion in the Legislature, there is still a good deal of misunderstanding regarding Newfoundland's entry into Confederation. Both British Columbia and Prince Edward Island — not part of Canada in 1867 — were later received into Confederation without consultation of the Provinces. Why should this be thought necessary, it is asked, in the case of Newfoundland?

The answer, says the Globe and Mail, is both simple and obvious. The Atlantic and Pacific coast members came into the nation in accordance with the British North America Act. The British Columbia Legislature in 1870 and the Prince Edward Island Legislature in 1873 asked for union at the same time as the Canadian need to ask the original Provinces for their joining thus followed automatically. There was no need to ask the original Provinces for their views because they were consenting parties to the BNA Act whose provisions were being carried out.

Newfoundland's entry into the federation is most distinctly not in accordance with the Act. Newfoundland is not at present, and has not been for fifteen years, a self-governing country. It has no Legislature and no responsible Government to speak for it. It is being joined to Canada by the decision of a Commission appointed by the British Government, a Commission which was not elected by the people of Newfoundland and makes no pretense to be representative.

Canada is thus annexing Newfoundland on the strength of a plebiscite whose results are open to various interpretations. This is a wholly new experience for Canada. The irregular procedure was, some may argue, practically forced upon Canada by the British Government's decision to make "Confederation" one of the choices in last year's referendum. Canada did not freely decide to acquire a tenth Province by the method that has been adopted. This, however, in no way alters the fact that the method is both unprecedented and vulnerable on legal grounds.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Legislature.

Tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

Now we can sympathize with British Columbia and California.

It may or may not come in like a lion, provided it does go out like a lamb.

St. David's Day — his burial place is St. Davids, Pembrokeshire; the patron Saint of Wales.

In addition to other things, this is the month in which compulsory savings for 1943 and 1944 are to be returned to Canadian taxpayers.

Mr. Brooks M. P. for Royal stated in the House of Commons that taxes in New Brunswick are the highest of any place on the North American continent. The gasoline tax there is the highest in Canada.

The prospect of a short session of the Legislature is in many ways a pleasant one, but members could hardly have complained had they been required to consider a few more consolidating acts to help bring simplicity and order to the statute book.

The announcement of a joint plan for advanced medical training for the Maritimes marks an important step forward in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, public health nursing and social work in these Provinces. It is also another milestone in inter-provincial co-operation.

According to the Ottawa Journal the National Film Board has released pictures of the Governor General receiving copies of the Newfoundland address with cut lines saying that the ceremony confirmed "annexation of Newfoundland." For an official source, the word seems singularly ill-chosen.

Sir Samuel Romilly, English legal reformer, born this date 1757; he persistently advocated reform of the criminal law by closer restriction of capital punishment, and the reduction of penalties for lesser crimes. His principal publication was Observations on the Criminal Law of England.

Reconstruction Minister Winters told the House of Commons that the Government is not in favour of a Dominion-provincial-municipal conference on housing at this time. That the success of such a move appears to the Minister to be improbable is to be regretted but the record of municipal co-operation seems to bear him out.

Annuities are popular but not so popular as they might be. A total of 131,835 Canadians held government annuities at last Dec. 31, it was shown in a return tabled for Mr. Stanley Knowles (CCF—Winnipeg North Centre) in the Commons. Of these, only 127,300 held individual contracts. The remaining 104,535 held annuities through group contracts. Of the 708 group plans in operation last March 31, some 72 were Government groups.

No fewer than 248,289 persons were receiving old-age pensions in Canada at last Dec. 31, compared with 223,364 a year before, a Commons return tabled for Mr. Angus MacInnis (CCF—Vancouver East) showed. Pensions for the blind were being paid to 9,425 persons at Dec. 31, compared with 7,872 a year before. Average amount of the old-age pensions in 1948 was a little more than \$29., and varied only a few cents from the 1947 rate, while pensions for blind persons were approximately the same.

More schedules for farmers to fill up? Revenue Minister McCann told the House that a directive put out by his department and dealing with the taxation of basic herds is being reconsidered. He made the statement after Mr. Gordon Graydon (PC, Peel) asked if the minister had any comment on representations made by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. The department's directive, issued last November, was a technical document outlining the definition of a basic herd. It provided that sales of cattle were taxable unless the cattle formed part of the farmer's basic herd. Sales from the basic herd were not taxable.

Four years ago, on March 1, 1945, two companies of the Essex Scottish Regiment launched the initial attack of what turned out to be one of the bitterest battles of the war. Shortly after eight o'clock that morning, they moved in on German troops strongly entrenched in the Hochwald Forest. The officer who led one company—"C" Company—was Major Frederick A. Tilston, of Toronto. He was the first to reach the enemy position, first to take a prisoner and one of the first to be seriously wounded. In all, he was wounded three times in the attack and lost both his legs as a result of his injuries. For his "calm courage, gallant conduct and total disregard for his own safety" in the highly successful attack, Major Tilston was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The restoration of the Harris paintings in St. Peter's Chapel shows a commendable sense of responsibility by members of that congregation. These works of art by a distinguished artist and native of the province are treasures which have been entrusted to succeeding generations for the enjoyment of all. Though we have not many such paintings in Charlottetown, there are a few. In the Council Chamber of the City Hall are paintings of former mayors, several of these are masterpieces of the painters' art, all of them are irreplaceable. It might be opportune, now that Mr. Woodley is in the city, for the Mayor and Councillors to have a report on the condition of these paintings and the advisability of proceeding with their restoration.

"NOW'S THE TIME TO START PLANNING FOR OUR GUESTS THIS YEAR—AND LET'S PLEASE THEM TOO WITH SOME REAL PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DISHES."



Lenten Meditations

The Times, London

THE DIVINE NATURE

There is a sense in which all believe in God, until the word is further defined: there is power, neither human nor in human control, at work in the universe. The question is not about the existence of such power but about its nature; and in this religious issue the epiphany or manifestation of Christ is all-important for Christians and a challenge to all reflecting men.

The late Dr. Temple used to say that the Church's central doctrine of Christ is made unduly difficult by the way in which believers tend to state it. Whereas it is fundamentally a doctrine about God it is made to appear as if it were primarily a doctrine about a historic person. The story of an actual life is presented and the question is asked whether or not the one who lived it is divine.

Nothing could be more misleading than the truth than this melodramatic picture of the European Allies insisting on rigid and definite commitments which the Americans — and the United States Senators in particular — refuse to accept.

The intention of the seven governments (the U.S.A., Canada, Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg) is entirely clear. Nor is there any dissent from it by majorities of Congress or Parliament. It is that an armed attack against any of them, whether in Europe or in America, will be regarded as an attack against all; and will be met by the full power of their united forces.

That intention stands. And nothing said or done during the past week or two in any way changes it or weakens it. And, whatever the final wording of the pact, that will be its meaning and its purpose.

But the wording of such an agreement is always, for democratic countries, difficult. No democratic Government can ever give an unconditional and absolute pledge of any kind as to its future action. For it does not possess absolute power. Whatever the wording of a promise, the implicit condition is there: "We will do this or that, providing that when the occasion arises our Parliament and our people agree." It cannot be otherwise.

The Age-Old Story

He is gracious unto him, and saith; Deliver him from going down to the pit; I have found a ransom. His flesh shall be fresher than a child's, he shall return to the days of his youth. He shall pray unto God, and He will be favourable unto him, and He shall see his face with joy; for He will render unto man His righteousness. He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. L.)

JAILED DEBTORS

In 1829 the Legislature took cognizance of the fact that it had become a subject of just and general complaint that persons confined in the Jail of Charlotte-Town for debt are kept within such close limits as to endanger their health, and aggravate severely their misfortunes.

No Crisis in Atlantic Pact Negotiations

(By W.N. Ewer)

Some of the reports which have gone round the world in the past week or so have given the impression that there is a "crisis" in the Atlantic Pact negotiations: that there may be no pact at all; or that any pact to which the Americans agree will be meaningless and valueless.

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Take the specific case of a treaty which involves a pledge to declare war in certain circumstances. A British Government can legally and constitutionally give such a pledge. It can declare war in fulfilment of such a pledge. But neither it nor any other democratic Government could, in fact, carry on such war for 24 hours without the approval and support of its Parliament. Nor can a Parliament be bound or in any way committed in advance by any undertaking given by a Government.

The Poet's Corner

WINTER THAW

(After reading Thoreau)

The tawny sedge, the oak leaf's clinging leather, The maples' gray, like fog across the swamps; This April sun in February weather, Has left no white tents where the field mouse camps. Man, looking South, can feel the warmth grow stronger; Man, facing North, confronts the snow's delay. What if cold deepens when the light is longer?— Spring's sunny fingers hold this winter day. Yet on these open fields and dark blue river, New flakes will fall, the wind-heaped drifts build stacks; Below the boughs where now the brown leaves quiver, The crust will fledge, the fox make careful tracks. And some snug field mouse, under roof of white, Will sleep in milkweed blankets every night. —Adin Ballou, in New York Herald Tribune.

may be loosely or strictly defined. But if and when the moment comes, somebody I to decide whether or not the casus foederis has in fact arisen. And in fact, in the very nature of things, the right and responsibility of that decision must rest with the Government which will be giving the assistance, which will be voluntarily going to war. The case may be entirely clear, and decision inescapable. But it has to be taken. And it can only be taken by the Government which is called upon to fulfill the obligation. That has been an implied condition of every alliance and every treaty of mutual aid that has ever been made. It cannot be otherwise.

Now these two points — that of the decisive authority of Parliament (or Congress) and that of the right to decide whether or not the casus foederis has arisen are precisely those which have been raised in the U.S.A. Senate.

The Senators are urging, and this especially because the right to declare war is constitutionally vested in Congress that it be made quite plain that nothing in the pact shall seem to infringe either the right of the United States Government to decide whether the casus foederis has arisen or the right of the United States Congress to make the decision to go to war.

Now these are in form reservations or restrictions on any agreement. But they are reservations and restrictions which are in any case implicitly there. They are reservations and restrictions which (whatever the form of words) every signatory in fact accepts and, indeed, upon which every signatory openly or tacitly in fact accepts.

There is no question of "watering down" or "whittling away" the pact. It will be (whatever the phrasing) a firm declaration of national intention. No treaty concerned with future possibilities can ever be anything else. The danger in all this is that it may be misconstrued and misinterpreted in other quarters. There may be read into this concern for phrases, into this desire for clarity, some indication that the United States has become hesitant, is drawing-back, is anxious to avoid commitments; and that it might be safe to gamble on the chance that, if the occasion arose, the United States would

- Notes By The Way -

The fact in Canada has "grown up", and like the matured son must now face the world as an adult nation. We have outgrown appeals to the privy council. Fortunately, Canada has always possessed vast wealth in legal intelligence, at bar and on the bench, and we have no fears for the future of Canada's courts of law. In many respects they are now and will be an example to the world. — Edmonton Journal.

Vegetable oils are competitors of the dairy industry in several ways other than in the form of oleo-margarine. We have heard of filled ice cream where vegetable oils are used to bring up the fat content. Filled cream contains 32 per cent fat, three-quarters of which is from vegetable oils, and it is claimed to have whipping qualities equal to straight cream. We have also heard of filled cheese using oils as substitutes for milk fat. If it keeps on, the cow may lose her position as foster mother of the human race. — Farmer's Advocate.

It may have become a fad or fashion, but one wonders why some people think it smart or proper to show up at 9:30 or 10 o'clock in the evening for a social function that normally might be expected to begin at 8. If it is not a waste of their time it may be a waste of someone else's, to say nothing of being a cause of inconvenience or annoyance to the host and hostess. A frequently heard excuse is that "the children" have to be washed and put to bed. This is pretty lame, for the most part, and what is more, a good many of the late-comers can offer no such explanation. — Brantford Expositor.

About all that can be said for soot—and it isn't much, considering—is that it makes extra work for chimney-sweeps and laundries. And, we should add, it comes in handy for fish that are suffocating in deep-frozen lakes. Out in Wisconsin these days they are spreading soot on the ice of lakes whose level is low. The blackened surface absorbs heat that white ice would reflect. Slush then is formed—as people who dwell in sooty communities are well aware—and air and light filter through to revive lake vegetation that absorbs carbon dioxide and exhales free oxygen for the fish to breathe. But, after all we aren't fish. In fact, those of us who live or work in soot-showered communities could breathe a lot better and feel healthier and happier without it. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Safety line tests at various points throughout the province during 1948 showed that about half the cars inspected had defects which made them hazardous either to other motorists and pedestrians or to their drivers. At some examining points the number of cars re-inspected on the first test, substantially exceeded 50 per cent. At one centre in rural Manitoba only 170 cars and trucks passed the tests on the first trial, while 465 were turned down because of failure to comply with accepted standards. Greater Winnipeg had the highest percentage of cars that received OK stickers on the first test. But even here 40 per cent of the cars failed to make the grade on the initial trial. — Winnipeg Tribune.

When a girl of 21 was crippled in a crash her boyfriend fared from her life. Was he heartless—or just practical? Faced with this problem of Leslie Asimes, Mr. Justice Streetfield declined to pass judgment on the vanished suitor. Awarding \$3,475 to Audrey Pearson, now 23 whose "dreadful injuries," he said, seriously diminished her chances of marrying, the judge declared: "Those of us who had never had to face a situation of that kind cannot sit in judgment upon a man who decided to break with a partner injured in this way. I do not know whether he was right or wrong, heartless or otherwise, but her matrimonial prospects are seriously jeopardized."

Audrey, a bus conductor, was standing on the platform of her bus in Bradford when a lorry hit the bus. Her injuries included the loss of a leg. Damages were awarded against the owners of the lorry. — London Daily Mail.

pull out having left its line of retreat carefully open. That was precisely the German miscalculation about Britain in 1914 and 1939.

And there is not in all that has passed these days in Washington anything whatever to justify that dangerous deduction. Senator Vandenberg's emphatic phrase is on record. The United States is going to "serve a notice on potential aggressors which they will not overlook."

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