

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1947

Dollar Crisis Figures

For the first time the Canadian Government has made available exact information showing the rate at which our supply of U. S. dollars is being exhausted.

There obviously was no serious problem up to December 1946. The supply of U. S. dollars fluctuated, sometimes showing a slight rise, but in general tending to decline, though hardly at a critical rate.

However, in the next four months trouble developed very rapidly. From January 1, 1947, to April 30 official holdings slumped from \$1244.9 million to \$700.3 million or a decline of \$544.6 million.

Except for May and August official holdings declined each month. It was this steady wastage that formed the most alarming element in the problem.

From January 1 to November 30 our dollar supply had fallen from \$1244.9 million to \$480.2 million for a decline of \$764.7 million.

The Freight Rates Case

The long-drawn-out hearing of the freight rates case by the Board of Transport Commissioners is reaching an end. In seeking a 30 per cent increase, the C. N. R. and C. P. R. wish to obtain an additional \$87,000,000 a year in freight rates and they have sought to justify these higher charges by claiming that the railways are in urgent need of revenues.

Only the C. P. R.'s financial position should be considered, for it has been established that the C. N. R. is not a factor in rate-making. From 1940 to 1946 the C. P. R. spent \$153,869,000 on depreciation and deferred maintenance.

In recent years the C. P. R. has improved its profit and loss balance by nearly \$128,000,000. It paid \$100,000,000 in income tax and \$81,000,000 in dividends. It reduced its funded debt by \$144,845,000. It still has \$25,200,000 put away for deferred maintenance, not one per cent of which has been spent.

Mr. Gardiner's Statement

Agriculture Minister James Gardiner's blunt words in the House about cereal-growing and meat-producing countries, such as Australia and Argentina, charging the U.K. and other needy nations three and four times as much for foodstuffs as they were charging their own people, and, in effect, taxing outside nations, including the U. K., to maintain their social services, will probably be a hot battleground when the legislators meet again late in January, writes Mr. F. C. Mears in The Gazette.

Peat Moss

Canada, according to the Assistant Development Commissioner of the Canadian Pacific Railway, became during the war owing to the failure of European supply, an important producer of peat moss. For this product, he states, there is a large domestic and United States market.

miles of peat bogs, is strongly advocated. Peat has other uses than as a fuel. The moss is a good heat insulator, absorbs liquids and gases, does not support vermin and acts as a deodorant; it makes a filler for commercial fertilizers, helps to condition soil, since it retains moisture, prevents the growth of weeds and produces stronger plants.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The day after Christmas—counting the cost.

The footpaths and pavements are more treacherous than ever. Let us beware.

The Provincial Civil Servants are to be placed more or less in line with their Federal brethren in the way of bonuses, etc.

Farmers, merchants, and wage-earners alike record on the whole a very happy Christmas, and look forward to a prosperous new year with hearts attune.

Charlottetown stop signs serve a useful purpose even if motorists act as though illiterate. Many such a sign has given its all to stop a driver who either did not read or comprehend.

Inflation all over the world will not be cured until production for use catches up with wages and profits paid for production for war during the year: 1939-1945. Controls delayed the effect of that surplus of purchasing power and spread it over a longer period.

Tomorrow's issue will feature our sport review for the year by Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D. S. O., etc. The Colonel is admittedly the best informed writer on horses and racing in the Maritimes, and his review is always keenly looked forward to and appreciated by all lovers of the King of Sports.

Festival of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. He was accused by the Jews of blasphemy and stoned to death. His defence before the Sanhedrin is given a prominent place in the Acts of the Apostles, and contains the first statement of the universality of the Gospel to the Gentile as well as to the Jew. His death was witnessed by Saul of Tarsus, and the scene made a vivid impression on his mind.

Britain's beer must take another cut with the year's end—this time in quantity rather than quality, although it is likely to be watered down as here. The Brewers' Association announced that reduction of sugar allocations would mean a curtailment in beer output equivalent to nine pints out of every 144-pint barrel.

Saskatchewan combine crews working in the United States last harvest season earned over 3,000,000 American dollars, M. E. Hartnett, deputy minister of agriculture for Saskatchewan, said at the Dominion-Provincial farm labor conference held at Ottawa recently. Discussing the movement of farm labor during the past summer, Mr. Hartnett said this exodus is the first large migration of labor to take place every year, and last summer involved 1,950 workers.

The Island is gradually becoming more civilized as the term is understood among sociologists. Our means of transportation, (highways, ferries, bridges), communication, (radio, telephone, telegraph, newspapers), inventions (science, art, business, agriculture), urbanity, (proportion of population living in cities) and in intelligence (including education) are all on the up grade, even education in the one-room schools.

Eight years ago, on Christmas Day 1939, more than 7,500 members of Canada's Armed Forces were welcomed into almost as many English homes for the first of many Christmases they were to spend overseas. They had arrived in Britain only a week before. That year, too, Christmas was celebrated by thousands of troops at sea in troop transports.

Christmas 1940 was an important one for Canadian troops overseas. On that day the first Canadian Corps came into being under command of General McNaughton. That Christmas Day also marked the arrival overseas of the last infantry battalions of the 2nd Division. Christmas Day 1941 was one of the darkest of World War II for the people of Canada. Two Canadian battalions fighting in Hong Kong surrendered after a gallant fight against hopeless odds. By Christmas 1942, Canada was really beginning to feel the effects of war. Thousands of young men were overseas and hundreds who had been at Dieppe were still in British hospitals or languishing in German prisoner of war camps. Little that was comforting was known of the men who had fallen or been taken at Hong Kong. By Christmas 1943, Allied troops could look back with pride upon some of their achievements. The conquest of North Africa had been completed; Sicily was behind them, and they were slugging their way up through Italy. For Canadians who fought in Italy that winter, Christmas and Ortona are synonymous. Christmas 1944 saw Canadian troops fighting in both Italy and Northwest Europe. In Europe, Canadians realized a long-standing ambition when at Christmas they finally came to grips with the enemy on German soil. Many then firmly believed that they would not spend another Christmas overseas. They were right. By Christmas 1945, the war was over and Canada's repatriation scheme was functioning smoothly. However, not all troops got home for Christmas that year and some did not get home for Christmas 1946.

Notes By The Way

Something called the Fashion Foundation recommends that men carry "pocket books like women" instead of using their pockets for "odds and ends." It wouldn't work. The methodical man, with twelve to fifteen pockets at his disposal, has a place for everything, and everything in its place. But dump into a purse such items as pipe, tobacco, pouch, cigarettes, money, pen-knife, keys, wallet, handkerchief, old letters, pencil and pen, matches, and the poor fellow would be reduced to hopeless confusion. —Ottawa Journal.

If we fail to tell other nations about ourselves, it is no wonder that many persons living in the United States—our closest neighbors—believe that we pay taxes to Britain, or believe we take orders from the governor or believe that the Dominion is covered with snow and ice the year around. Canada has assumed a new importance in world affairs, and it's time we told other nations about ourselves. We need to expand our information service. We should have at least one representative in every American state to inform Americans about the Dominion. —Essex County Reporter.

News of the shipment of two African cargoes comes from Sydney. The first is a 7,300-ton load of Cape Breton coal to Argentina, the first such shipment to be made from Nova Scotia. The other cargo of note is carried on the Duxton vessel Wabano. It is one of iron ore, and it is going to Birkenhead, England. It is a sad sign of the times that England is in the position of having to import domestic supplies from other countries. Seeing, however, that such ore must be imported, it is something that it came from this side of the Atlantic, instead of from Sweden or some other European field.

It was submitted at the milk price hearing in Edmonton recently that one dairy farmer considers that he is paid \$1.20 for 3,120 hours' work during the year. This is at the rate of just over 42 cents an hour, observes The Lethbridge Herald. If this is a true picture of reality, the farmer is doing a little wonder that there is a little wonder that the price of milk is so high that a great proportion of the dairy products in this country are produced by the labor of women and children. The milk used is not very well paid labor at that. This is a fact which should be kept in mind as we ponder ways and means of keeping dairy production up to the country's requirements.

Who made the atom bomb? Why, Americans, of course—or did they? Naturally, they had a little help from physical scientists from other countries—but how much help? Dr. Karl T. Compton has pointed out something every American needs to know: that of a rough dozen of the fundamental ideas used in the field of atomic power, some nine or ten came from Europe, including the original discoveries of radioactivity and nuclear fission. The United States owes a substantial degree of the ability to use a useful application of new ideas, but most of these basic ideas have originated elsewhere. —Christian Science Monitor.

Violin making may, in time, become a lost art. This has been entirely a European enterprise, requiring, as the Cleveland Plain Dealer says, "a certain amount of long periods of apprenticeship, performing first the most simple operations and working by stages into the manifold and delicate skills that together comprise the violin. Similar establishments never flourished in America. Labor could command much higher returns both in industry and in agriculture. World War II put the European violin shops out of business. Young men were called to the ranks. The stocks of wood so carefully gathered and so patiently aged were lost. While the machine may not be able to rival the artist's skill, it cannot preserve the art of Stradivarius.

War-time savings advised as a reserve for emergencies are being used largely, not as intended, but to meet the problem of the shrinking purchasing dollar. It is pointed out that Canadian spending for current needs is already up to an average of 92 cents out of every dollar of income, which means that some people are spending beyond their income and dipping into savings to meet current needs. A fairly reliable indication that savings have disappeared in many cases is contained in the estimate that by the year's end installment buyers will have increased by 70 to 80 percent over last year. It is not an encouraging trend and Ottawa has made things worse by slapping an excise tax on a number of household appliances and other articles that are really essential, not because it needs the money, but simply as a part of its austerity program. —Kitchener Record.

Capital investment in Canadian farms in 1946 amounted to \$5,222,347,000, more than 36 percent above the figure recorded by the 1941 census according to the Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics for April-June, 1947. The investment includes land and buildings, implements and machinery—including motor trucks and automobiles—and livestock, including poultry and animals on fur farms. The estimated value of farm capital in 1946 was almost seven percent higher than the value for 1945, but nearly 78 percent of it can be attributed to the enhanced value of land and buildings. High-

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current topics of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

C.C.F. GAINS?

Sir.—It was rather amusing to hear and read of the expressions of C.C.F. leaders as to the encouragement which the results of the recent elections gave to them. At a first glance one might think that there was some ground for C.C.F. rejoicing because the total C.C.F. vote in the 1947 elections was about 3,409 as against the 1943 total of 1,446 or an increase in that total of over 135%.

Of course, the above figure is misleading and an analysis of the results gives a much less rosy picture to C.C.F. followers. In the 1943 elections the C.C.F. Party placed candidates in the following districts: 3rd Prince, 4th Prince, 2nd Queens, 5th Queens (Ch' town and Royalty) and for Assemblyman in 3rd Kings. The total given for those candidates was 26,684 of which number 1,446 or 5.44% went to the C.C.F. candidates. In the 1947 elections the C.C.F. Party placed candidates in 8 of the 15 districts and in these the total vote was 58,493 of which 3,409 or 5.87% went to the C.C.F. candidates. It will be seen, therefore, that the net percentage of gain for the C.C.F. party was only 0.43% or less than one per cent.

Even the above small percentage of increase does not give the exact picture. The true picture can be better arrived at by a comparison of the results in the districts which were contested by the C.C.F. Party in both elections. That party did not nominate any candidates in 3rd Kings in 1947. Therefore, let us examine the figures in 3rd Prince, 4th Prince, 2nd Queens and Charlottetown and Royalty. The total vote in the four districts in 1943 was 26,004 of which number 1,378 or 5.31% went to the C.C.F. Party. The same districts in 1947 had a total vote of 19,600 of which 1,692 or 8.63% went to the C.C.F. party. It will be seen that the net percentage of increase for the C.C.F. party in those districts was only 0.32% or one-fifth of one per cent. In 3rd Prince, the only district in the list which any real C.C.F. following, the increase was only from 14.80% to 14.87%, while the percentage in the Charlottetown district dropped from 4.10% to 2.36% of the vote cast.

With the C.C.F. party only increasing its percentage of the vote at the rate of about one fifth of one per cent in every four years it is quite evident that the Party cannot expect to form a government within the lifetime of the present one now living. Therefore, present day C.C.F. members would do well to take kindly to the suggestions of Premier Jones that they should join the forces with other or other of the Old Parties and make their ideas and influence felt from within.

I am, Sir, etc. STUDENT

Charlottetown, Dec. 22, 1947.

The Wrong Attitude

The expatriation of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, which is now owned by the University of Chicago, was a matter of regret and some misgiving. The latter sentiment will be considerably intensified by an occurrence which the Daily Telegraph reported on Monday. The article on Palestine in the current Britannica Year Book has, astonishingly enough, been entrusted to Rabbi Israel Goldstein, chairman of the World Zionist Federation, and contains such observations as that "the Jewish people were expelled from their land in 70 B.C." and "the Jewish people were expelled from their land in 70 B.C." and "the Jewish people were expelled from their land in 70 B.C."

The Poet's Corner

OF THE SEA, WHAT NEW? What remains to tell Of the sea? What fresh what more, Of the ancient fabric that crumples and crinkles At earth's every shore. In folds of fluid pliancy? What may be spoken that is new Of this antique blue. This formless maze and mystery That wraps itself in flexile rhythm.

About the globe? Perhaps it weaves a legendary robe. Endlessly tattering it to shreds, And endlessly gathering up the threads. Fingering and shutting tirelessly Perhaps it scribbles on the sand with restless hands. Strange tales that none may read, Save those who know the language of the moon. It scrawls in wavering lines a hurried scene. Then sweeps it all away. And drives once more To write its haunting thoughts Upon the shore. What may be said of the sea That is new, Utterly fantastic, Possibly true? —Dolores Cairns, Christian Science Monitor.

Old Charlottetown

A short time ago Mr. Angus MacMillan, of Point Pleasant, purchased a large oak tree for boat-building purposes, from Mr. Murdoch MacLure of Brackley Point. Mr. MacMillan assisted by Mr. John Boats undertook to saw it down. Their movements were somewhat retarded by the teeth of the saw coming in contact with some metallic substance. Fearing something explosive, they moved to the other side of the tree and renewed their efforts there. After the tree had been felled, they discovered, wrapped in a piece of soiled cloth, a gold watch and four French coins of the year 1740, with the head of Louis the 15th, stamped upon them. The tree was sawed off very close to the ground, and they had evidently been hidden in the junction of the two roots, the wood growing over and enveloping them. The tree had attained a great age, being about four feet in diameter. The articles in question, no doubt, had been placed there by some of the early French settlers, as the place is supposed to have been settled by French at one time. —The Examiner, May 14, 1880.

Royal Family's Wealth

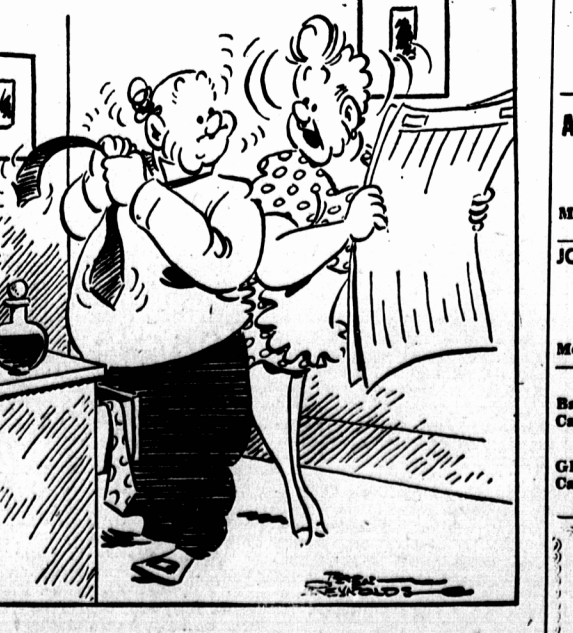
One of the most widespread assumptions about the Royal family is, that it is immensely wealthy. Because of an all-party committee of the United Kingdom House of Commons has just recommended an increase of \$100,000 in Princess Elizabeth's yearly allowance from the nation, certain back bench members of the House are protesting that it is extravagant.

In point of fact, the Royal family is not rich in the sense that a Rockefeller or a Ford or a Sir John Ellerman is rich, that were any, that it can dispose of millions of dollars as and when it chooses. True, the royal family has great castles and palaces it possesses the revenues of duchies. It maintains what Mr. Attlee the Prime Minister, once described as "a style of living based on conceptions of Kingship now out of date." But it is literally true that after King George the fifth reduced the royal expenditure during the de-

troops behaved with barbaric cruelty. Jewish property was destroyed and thousands of Jews were placed in concentration camps. The fact that some of the statements here are true does little to mitigate the gross partisanship of the passage. If the Encyclopaedia loses its objectivity it loses its reason for existence.

QUICKIES

By Ken Reynolds



"What kind of a Secretary have you, Alvin—here's one in the Guardian Want Ads made of solid mahogany!"

Mr. Fox Rancher. We are all set to handle your Fox Pelts, Mink and Muskrat Skins. Bring them in any time WE'LL DO THE REST MARITIME FUR POOL F. R. McLaine, Local Representative

INDIAN AUTOMOBILES. NEW DELHI, India — (CP) — India will soon manufacture her own automobiles. Two plants are being installed in Bombay and one in Calcutta which will have a combined capacity of 200,000 vehicles per annum. FAST JOB. A new nylon compound can be coated on a wire at the rate of 1,000 feet a minute.

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