

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, OCT. 7, 1949

New Pensions Scheme

A compulsory system of old age pensions on a contributory basis, and payable without the means test, was foreshadowed by Health and Welfare Minister Martin in Parliament the other day, in a manner which indicated that only constitutional difficulties were at present standing in the way of implementing this policy.

The Minister recalled that steps are now being taken to give the Canadian Parliament power to amend the constitution. When that has been done the Provinces will be consulted as to their attitude toward endowing the Federal Government with the power necessary to enact the old age pension scheme.

In warning members that social security schemes cost a great deal of money, Mr. Martin declared that "nothing would be more dangerous than to embark suddenly upon a particular social security measure without a full appreciation of all the economic factors involved."

The Minister stressed the desire of the Federal Government to co-operate with the Provinces, and said that despite the breakdown of the Dominion-Provincial Conference there had already been a great measure of co-operation particularly in regard to the present old age pension scheme and to Unemployment Insurance.

Wheat And Devaluation

Although devaluation of the Canadian dollar entitles Canada to sell wheat, under the international wheat agreement, at a maximum price of \$1.98 Canadian, instead of the former \$1.80, it is said to be still too early to conclude that the farmers are going to profit much from devaluation.

For the time being, Canadian wheat growers will continue to be paid the initial price of \$1.75 Canadian by the wheat board. If the wheat board sells the grain at a profit, the extra money will be distributed in the form of participation payments. A five-year fund covering profits from the 1945-1950 wheat transactions is being built up by the wheat board for this purpose.

France Tackles Food Problem

The French government has made a decision, first, on a plan for storing and freezing meat in order to regularize the market and second, to authorize imports of agricultural and industrial products to retard the rise in prices or establish a floor. The Ministry of Agriculture has supplied some details of this programme.

of storage, but at their own risk. Milk Products—The government, confirming decisions already reached, will undertake immediately the importing of butter and cheese as anticipated in existing agreements: 9,200 tons of butter from Holland; 4290 tons of butter from Denmark; 4,000 tons of cheese from Holland; and 800 tons of Gruyere from Switzerland.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Potato Festival has once more proved a success, something to be appreciated by all Spud Islanders at home and abroad.

Governor Robinson arrived here this date 1870, the last British Colonial appointment which continued till the Island entered Confederation in 1873.

"Pigs is pigs" and "Eggs is Eggs" here these days, not to mention "spuds" being potatoes, all flourishing and proving remunerative to the growers, as shown in the various official reports.

The remarkable success of our tourist attractions was attained while prices here were frequently higher than in the United States. With the advantage of a premium on American funds next year should show even better results.

It is reported that an extraordinary number of overseas visitors to Scotland have succumbed to the lure of the bagpipes. New York among other cities will soon be the owner of 40 new sets and Australia will have 20.

Canadian merchant shipping has suffered competitively by the devaluation of the sterling bank currencies, but the complaints of shipowners seems exaggerated considering that at the same time they have acquired an advantage over American bottoms.

The Defence Committee and the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Pact countries have been meeting in Washington with the greatest cooperativeness. If the U. N. only had some outside danger to threaten it, perhaps unity would come there too.

Deserters should, of course, be punished but the fact that as long ago as August, 1946, Canada granted amnesty to those who deserted in this country makes it high time that the same generosity should be shown to those who go overseas before deserting.

Television, when it comes, will not be an un-mixed blessing. The N. B. C. is suing over certain unauthorized televising of Mack Sennett comedies. If these are being used as programmes now, it gives one pause to think what will be used as fillers later.

Britain's purchases of Canadian tobacco were cut almost in half in 1948 compared to 1947, but she has indicated that the quantity to be purchased this year will be "somewhat larger than in 1948," Charles D. Coyle (P.C.—Elgin), was told in the House of Commons. The 1948 tobacco exports to the U. K. were worth \$6,330,000.

The Temperance Federation seems divided between those who want the Government to do their work, and those who believe merely in "letting George do it." The Prohibition Act having been to all intents and purposes scrapped, the Government look to the Temperance forces to inculcate temperance principles and to bring up the young in the way they should go.

Researchers are seeking ways of economizing on the transmission of redundant elements in speech, writing, radio and television. For instance, "h" can be mathematically predicted to follow "n" in a number of cases and in video, the background is unchanged for varying periods and for that time redundant. Old time editors had an expression for the principle. It included with "when a man bites a dog it is news."

Edgar Allan Poe, American poet and prose-writer, died from wounds in a Virginia election riot, this date 1849. His best known poems are "The Raven," "The Bells," "Annabel Lee"; his prose tales include The Black Cat, The Gold Bug, The Murders in the Rue Morgue, The Masque of the Red Death, William Nelson, a double personality prefiguring R. L. Stevenson's Jekyll and Hyde.

The study of classics and mathematics is increasingly neglected in Canadian schools and this represents "a very serious loss," Prof. John Hughes, Macdonald Professor of Education and chairman of the Department of Education at McGill University declares. He said that the study of classics and mathematics should be retained for all children talented enough to profit by them. "Nobody can dispute their value in the development of the gifted pupil," he said.

The events leading to revaluation were a rapid diminution of gold and dollar reserves, falling prices in America and Canada leading to falling sterling area sales, an attack launched in the spring and developed in the summer — on the sterling exchange rate, which caused a falling off of business, and a progressive increase in the volume of overseas transactions in the black market for "cheap sterling," by which some goods originating in the sterling area and in demand in North America, were used as the means of converting sterling into dollars at a rate of exchange

The Poets Corner

THE ROAD
Because our lives are cowardly and shy
Because we do not dare to take or give
Because we scowl and pass each other by
We do not live; we do not dare to live.

Old Charlottetown

STRANGE PORTENTS
The following singular fact has been noted by the authority as leaves us no doubt of its accuracy. A goose which had previously laid about fifty eggs in one day, a circumstance we believe unprecedented in ornithology.

Sir Stafford Cripps On Revaluation

Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in the United Kingdom House of Commons on September 27th "it will be necessary, no doubt, to divert goods from other markets, home and export, in order to increase sales in the dollar markets. There should be no hesitation in doing this. Dollar earnings must have first call on our resources for the present even if it means disappointing some of our older customers."

Added Impetus



considerably below the official rate. "It was after reviewing all these points and many others, including the effect upon our own standards of living that we came to the conclusion that the developing situation demanded a change of policy and, once we were convinced of the necessity, we did not hesitate to change our policy and act in a sense contrary to that announced in July."

Canadians Worst Gamblers

(Vancouver News-Herald)
Canadians, betting an estimated \$150,500,000 on various rackets annually, are North America's biggest gamblers—spending twice as much money per capita on gambling as any other nation, according to an article in an American magazine.

Electricity Contractor

WIRING AND REPAIRING
ERNEST E. RAMSAY,
129 Elm Ave. Phone 10653

Notes By The Way

The special poignance of the airplane disaster on the route between Churchill and Winnipeg must have struck every reader. The pictures of the great machine torn like a broken insect, the fragments of personal possessions flung through the northern wood chain.

The Age-Old Story

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I kept Thy word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn Thy statutes. I know, O Lord, that Thy judgment are right, and that Thou in faithfulness has afflicted me.

Professional Cards

Grid of professional advertisements including: A. Walthen Gaudet, L.L.B.; Palmer & Haslam; Gaudet & Hazard; Chas. R. McQuaid; Bell & Mathieson; J. E. Burnett, L.L.B.; M. Alban Farmer; Dr. J. C. Gallant, B. Sc.; Matheson & Peake; Neil W. Higgins; Dr. A. L. MacIsaac; H. R. Doane and Company.