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

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1949

Red Cross Leadership

Probably nowhere else in the whole wide organization of the Red Cross Society will there be found such a long and meritorious record of service in an executive capacity as that of Hon. Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan, O.B.E., who has retired after thirty-five years as a member of the Provincial organization, having served during the past eleven years as its president. This is but one of many humanitarian activities with which Dr. MacMillan has been outstandingly associated, and the marvel has been how he has been able, with his large professional practice and leadership of a political party, to carry such burdens of responsibility so unflaggingly. The high honours bestowed upon him by Church and State are but fitting acknowledgment of the tremendous contribution he has made, not only to his native Province along social welfare, health and educational lines, but to Canada as a whole. We are always proud to acclaim the achievements of distinguished Islanders abroad; in Hon. Dr. MacMillan we have an almost unique example of what can be accomplished by devoted public service at home.

The Provincial Red Cross is fortunate in having as its new president, Mr. R. H. Rogers, one who has also served with zeal and distinction in many capacities relating to health, welfare and education. His recent retirement from his duties as Prothonotary of the Supreme Court will enable him to devote more of his time than would otherwise be possible to Red Cross affairs. Our Island organization, which has made history in its work for crippled children and in other activities, will go on from strength to strength under his leadership. Associated with him is an able and experienced executive, an enthusiastic body of well-organized workers, and the solid support of all our citizens throughout the Province.

A Welcome Tax Guide

A work which will be welcomed by harassed business men and others at this time is the fourth edition of the Canadian Master Tax Guide, a comprehensive work interpreting, coordinating and explaining the complicated Dominion tax structure, published by CCH, Canadian Limited, Montreal.

The income tax is extraordinarily complicated this year because of the dual Act. Theoretically, the old Income War Tax Act sets the pattern for filing of returns this year, while the new Act provides the rules for taxation of income received after January 1, 1949. However, neither Act of itself tells a complete story, for 1948 or for 1949 because the new Act in some instances affects transactions completed before it came into force, such as the carrying backward and forward of business losses, three-year exemption of co-operatives, lump sum payments made on account of loss of office or retirement, etc. On the other hand, the old Act still affects some transactions which will only be completed after the new Act is effective.

Briefly the "Guide" brings the two current income tax Acts into focus. It gives a simple, factual statement of conclusions combining the laws with related regulations, directives and legal decisions, for popular use, with heavy citations included for professional use.

Confusion Worse Confounded

As a result of "passing the buck" to the courts on the margarine question, the Federal Government now finds itself on the horns of a worse dilemma. In the words of the *Ottawa Journal*, it is in the position of a big buyer of butter and it is quite within the realm of possibility that by the end of June the Government will be the owner of millions of pounds of butter, in which it will have invested millions of dollars.

The *Journal* notes that as a result of the Supreme Court decision on margarine, and the reluctance of most provinces to take any action till a Privy Council appeal is settled, the butter market in Canada is in a state of confusion worse confounded. That confusion may well spread to other sections of the dairy industry.

Ordinarily at this time of year there is a strong demand for butter from the wholesale and retail trade. But with a potential output of 120 million pounds of margarine in sight, and no regulations over price or quantity buyers are reluctant to take a chance on the market. With no demand, prices have dropped sharply. When the big butter production season starts in May and June, a time when the make is considerably greater than current demand, there is likely to be chaos in the industry unless the whole situation is clarified. About two to three hundred thousand Canadian dairymen are directly affected.

As a result of price support legislation the Government is bound to step in when butter prices at the wholesale level reach 58 cents a pound. They have reached that rock-bottom figure now and the Government is bound to take all butter offered. By May or June, when production may reach 50 million pounds a month, it is easy to see that huge sums of money may be involved.

There is a possibility that 58 cent butter, even supported by Government buying, may prove so unattractive to farmers that the make will not be forthcoming. At that price milk will only return about $2.40 a hundred pounds to the farmer, as compared to higher prices for milk going into cheese or concentrated products and around $4 for milk going into the whole milk trade. As it takes about three average cows to produce 100 pounds of milk daily it can be seen that $2.40 would not be a very attractive price to the farmer—about six and one-half cents a quart.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Legislature.

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The Red Cross Drive.

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The Ice Follies of 1949.

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Budget day in Ottawa. The conflict between the cyclical budgeting theory and the realities of election year will be resolved today.

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Alabama is conducting experiments which are of great interest to areas, such as the Maritimes, where coal mining costs are high. The object is to convert the coal into gas by burning without removing it from the mine at all.

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Just now there is a good deal of newspaper and other discussion on methods of "assimilating" immigrants, encouraging them to learn the language and adapt themselves to our way of life. It seems possible, at least, that with a little effort we could acquire from them.

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Finance Minister Abbott professes to deplore the loss of some of our markets in the United Kingdom and Europe, and remarks, "But we don't control the trade policies of Britain or any other country?" Nor, it would seem, do we make very great efforts to influence them.

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The Ottawa *Journal*, along with other metropolitan newspapers, is becoming belatedly concerned about the effect of margarine on the dairy industry. It is being brought home that lessened farm income means reduced demand for the product of urban factories.

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The American Government has recognized the heroism displayed in last September's "attache" search by awarding three Canadian participants with the order of the Legion of Honour. The recipients well deserve the distinction, but what really calls for recognition was the effective international cooperation in that affair.

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British researchers have discovered a new drug, nisin, similar to penicillin but more effective in treating a cow disease which costs Britain 40,000,000 gallons of milk a year. The National Institute for Research in dairying announced the discovery is expected to combat bastitis, an inflammation of the milk glands.

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B. C. Coalition Government is ironing out internal problems; would like to have an election before Liberals and Pro-Cons begin fighting in the Dominion election; may not get under the wire, says *The Letter Review*. CCF in B C is turning away from the extreme Left. Mr. C. Cameron, one of its most Leftist leaders, was asked to report on the forest industry; ended by reporting that it was not a very good industry to nationalize.

* * *

Prince Edward Island which has always taken a prominent part in Dominion of Canada Rifle Association shoots and has contributed its quota regularly to teams representing the Dominion in the Empire competitions at Bisley, may this year enjoy further recognition. Brigadier W. W. Reid, D.S.O., E.D., has been offered the post of commandant of this year's team. This is a high honour not only to the recipient, but to the Provincial Rifle Association and the Province as a whole.

* * *

In a revealing passage quoted by the Associated Press, Albert Einstein, now 70, writes: "Physics broke down into numerous separate fields, each of which could devour a lifetime of study without having satisfied the hunger for deeper knowledge. In this field, however, I soon learned to scent out that which was able to lead to fundamentals and to turn aside from everything else, from the multitude of things which clutter up the mind and divert it from the essentials."

* * *

Considerable sympathy has been aroused for the escaped German prisoners of war who are threatened with deportation to the Russian-occupied zone of Germany. The first to be recaptured is a seaman who was made prisoner almost from the start of the war. Under international law it is not an offense for him to have escaped. Without further information it would seem to be a case where generosity is required for the sake of our national conscience.

* * *

Sir Anthony van Dyck, Flemish portrait and historical painter; also etcher, born this date 1599. He studied under Rubens, travelled considerably, then settled in England professionally, being Knighted by Charles I. His influence on the English school of painting was great and lasting; his scenery and historic paintings were of the style of Rubens, but his portraits resemble those of Titian. Among his religious paintings are *The Crucifixion, St. Sebastian, The Mystic Marriage of Joseph,* and *The Elevation of the Cross.*

* * *

In tabling in Parliament his report entitled, "Private and Public Investment in Canada—Outlook 1949," Mr. Howe indicates that public and private investment intentions call for 1949 capital expenditures of $3.3 billion, as against the $3 billion spent in 1948. The program will comprise $2.0 billion for new construction and $1.3 billion for new machinery and equipment. After allowing for price rises averaging 7 per cent, the 1949 program in terms of volume will involve a slight increase over 1948. In these terms, volume of construction will be higher by about 6 per cent, and equipment lower by about 6 per cent. Private outlay on capital goods covering expenditures related to privately-owned business, institutions and housing is esimated at $2.4 billion, 3 per cent higher than in 1948. Corresponding public outlay is expected to reach $921 million, or 21 per cent above the previous year. Most of this increase is due to expansion of publicly owned utilities and to greater outlay for housing and for institutions. Expected investment expenditures to be made directly by dominion, provincial and municipal governments are 16 per cent above last year's level.

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.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Sir,—Every dollar in the Sinking Fund made a dollar increase in the gross debt, and when Sinking Fund money is applied to reduce the debt it only pays the debt it has created. The only chance it has of paying any more is that the rate of interest on the Sinking Fund is more than the rate of interest on the part of the debt caused by the Sinking Fund.

That is, the Government would be in the broker's business. In that case should not the Government have a license same as the plumbers and accountants? A year ago I criticized the accountancy of the Government and suggested some changes, especially page 21, Public Accounts, March 31, 1947—an awful mess!

Recently it was announced that an external auditor would be appointed. A Montreal firm has audited the accounts and page 26, Public Accounts March 31, 1948, is an improvement on page 21 P. A. March 31, 1947, but I fail to see that this chartered accountancy is standard accountancy. It cost $10.-000. Is it worth 1,000 cents?

On page 21 is a column Sinking Fund accumulated to March 31, 1948; also on page 23 Sinking Fund grand total March 31, 1948. The total of each of these columns of figures is $1,839,062.84. One would naturally suppose this is the amount of bonds in the Sinking Fund, as each page is about bonds. But no, that won't work out. You have to interpret it to mean that the assets in the Sinking Fund should equal the sum total of each column. $1,839,062.84.

The Sinking Fund will not pay a cent more of the debt than it added to it. The rest is pure camouflage.

I am, Sir, etc.,
AUDITOR.

The Elections In The French Cantons

(By Jacques Kayser, Ottawa)

A certain political importance is given to the elections in the French "cantons" on Sunday the 20th and 27th of March. Yet these elections constitute the type of political elections devoid of all party significance.

For what is their object? They are meant to elect "general councillors" who are representatives in this lesser territorial unit, the "canton", on the "general council", which deals with the administration of the larger territorial unit called the "department".

There are in France proper 90 "departments", therefore 90 "general councils" and more than 3,000 cantons — each electing a "general councillor".

The law provides that the "general councillors" are elected for a term of six years, half of their numbers to be re-elected every three years. Voting will therefore take place in every "department" but for each of these in only one half of the "cantons." The City of Paris constitutes an exception, the law providing that the municipal councillors of the City are at the same time members of the "general council" of the "department" of Seine, in which the City is situated.

Before the war, in view of the laws, the methods, the atmosphere of the third Republic, the elections in the cantons provided very little excitement; the number of the candidates was relatively small, the electoral meetings were sparsely attended, the controversies were generally limited to matters of local interest at the polls; the number of abstainers was high.

* * *

Will it be the same under the Fourth Republic? No doubt the Constitution of 1946 contains provisions that did not exist in the Constitution of 1875.

The powers of the "general councils" in the departments have been increased, while those of the Prefect, that official representative of the Government in the department, have been curtailed. Article 87 of the new Constitution specifies that the departments "are freely administered by councils elected by universal suffrage" and that their presidents "put into execution" the decisions made. Article 86 assigns to the Prefects the task of coordinating the activities of the state officias, of representing the interest of the nation, of supervising the administration of the department.

Although under those provisions the President of the General Council has wider powers than his predecessor before the war, and he would seem to exercise more prestige than formerly, it is doubtful whether the voters will take much interest in the elections of general councillors.

No doubt, the political parties have already started canvassing and are bent on giving the coming vote a political significance. The Communist, party and the Rally of the French People, think that by a vigorous offensive on the right and on the left they will weaken the government, bring about its resignation and consequently the dissolution of the National Assembly and the holding of a new general election.

* * *

But M. Queuille's government has shown no hesitation in taking up the challenge. By calling attention to the international situation, to the effort to be pursued at home for the rehabilitation of the country, which, following on the loan, must not be jeopardized or side-tracked in any way, the government might well have appealed to its majority to postpone these elections. That M. Queuille should not have fallen into the temptation of taking the easy way out is another proof that the health of France is improving by degrees, that it has nothing to fear from the competition about to take place and to which, let it be said once more, the parties will give more political significance than the voters.

What will happen at the polls? In the country, and the greater number of the cantons are rural constituencies, a great number of peasants will vote for a candidate, not so much because he is a gaullist, a communist, a radical, or an independant, as because he is a well-known and influential member of a cooperative society, a doctor or a veterinary surgeon of repute, because he has shown himself a useful man in managing local interests.

As it was the criterion yesterday so it will be tomorrow.

In view of such a situation it is most hazardous to venture to set up Statistics of any significance. All the more so that as usual many candidates will stand under a label sufficiently vague not to enlist them in any political party, and when there will be elected "the good doctor" or "the worthy wine grower" who have described themselves as independent republicans or progressive democrats, there will be no dificulty for several conflicting parties to claim them as one of their own.

* * *

It has already been difficult, albeit in a far less measure to compile statistics at the elections for the Council of the Republic. One party had claimed that its representatives numbered half of the membership of the Council; as a matter of fact they did not represent more than a quarter. But its error was brought to light only because once the Councillors have met and have registered as members of one or the other political groups, they are called upon to vote on political issues.

Such is not the case for the general councillors, for on the one hand they do not sit in one single body, but in 90 different bodies, and on the other hand they are not called upon to take up any political responsibility.

So it is perfectly clear that while the political parties will endeavour to endow the coming elections with a political significance and claim them as a victory for their side, these elections with their purely local importance, will not give an accurate picture of the political state of mind of the country. Their importance will reside not in their results but in the direction that will be given to them by the oppositions as well as by the Government.

The Poets Corner

VILLAGE PEACE*

All's quiet now, the vale is hushed,
As silently the lambent moon
Her nightly heavenly tour begins,
She hurries forth, the morn comes soon.
She looks upon the village, spread
Haphazard fashion, neath her feet.
All life is stilled, no voice is heard,
No traffic plies upon its street.

Fair was the day, so newly closed,
Gay was the laughter, issuing forth
From happy hearts in blythesome mood,
Content to work and play within
A realm of field, of down or wood.
No strivings theirs, their humble birth
Apprenticed them, such is their grace
To live and toil on God's good earth.

O happy Swain, protect the fields
From whence the staff of life must come;
Pursue thy toil, thy noble quest
To live to work, thou choosest best
When thy skilled hand, forgetting gain,
Sows first then reaps, in God's good time,
The harvest of the golden grain.

O happy housewife slumbering now,
Beneath your roof of lovely thatch.
Replete shall be your days with joys
No dweller of the town can match.
Your things are real, Dame Nature's gifts
Are unsurpassed, her bounty large,
Both field and hedgegrow bring their yield
Of fruits in season, without charge.

All inmates of this village blest,
Resist encroachments on your peace.
Retain your age-worn ways of life;
Your simple dress and quiet speech.
Your own unhurried methods prove
To all the world in which we move,
Yours is the fullness, yours the worth.
Your peace, the very best on earth.

—Douglas E Winter.

Montreal.

(*An original contribution to this Column.)

Lenten Meditations

The Times, London

GOD IN HISTORY

What distinguishes a historical religion is that it claims to rest on a revelation at some particular point in time and space. It is thus anchored to events in history. It depends on facts, not on speculations; it is the assertion of what God has done—of His saving acts and His self-disclosure, here within the arena of man's history.

If this note is uncertain, there is nothing left for the preacher but religious and moral exhortation and the recommendation of "ideals". But in face of the contemporary challenge, moral idealism proves futile and degenerates too soon into a vague uplift. For the central problem of faith for men today is to find any sign of Providence in history.

The historical process apparently denies all that Christian belief in God affirms. Mankind seems to be involved in a corporate system of evil, to which all are morally in bondage and which good motives are powerless to change. History seems itself to be tainted. It seems as though something had taken charge of it, which possesses men and situations, wrecking the best endeavours of honest men and using their good as the instrument of evil.

Does this mean that the fight is but a sham fight and that the moral conflict is meaningless? There can be no answer to these misgivings through any glib, superficial optimism. Christianity holds that the answer to them can be found in the Cross and Resurrection of Christ—the crucial intervention of God in the temporal drama of history. Here all its tragedies and failures are embodied, encountered, and transfigured into the substance of new life and triumph.

God Himself shares the historical conflict, and within it Himself achieves the victory, in which through Christ men may be made partakers. Here is the vindication of faith in God.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

FIRST RIFLED GUN SHOOT

A total of seven badges and $46 in cash prizes was won by the P. E. Island Brigade of Garrison Artillery as a result of their recent annual shooting at Halifax. When it is remembered that the annual shooting of this Brigade has heretofore been performed with smooth bore guns, and that few or none of the gunners had ever seen a rifled gun, they certainly deserve a great deal of credit for what they have done, especially No. 5 Battery, which carried off the aggregate prize of $15.

—Weekly Examiner, March 3, 1887

The Age-Old Story

He hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, neither hath He hid His face from him; but when he cried unto Him, He heard.

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- Notes By The Way -

Fisherman Ted Nelson, of North Fremantle, caught and landed three sharks on one hook at Rottnest Island. A three-foot gummy shark took the bait, a 10-foot tiger shark grabbed half the gummy, and a nine-foot grey nurse shark tried to seize the rest of the gummy, but jammed its teeth in a brass swivel on the trace attached to the hook. —Australian News Letter.

They were discussing the savings that industries can effect by keeping their employees healthy at the meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society at the Hotel Statler. Dr. Daniel L. Lynch, the chairman, emphasized this and added: "A dollar saved is a dollar earned." Well, the old adage used to be, "A penny saved is a penny earned." The current version reflects either inflationary trends, or the high cost of medical care. — Boston Post.

One of the most disillusioning disclsoures of recent years has come from Springfield, Massachusetts. The big, brawny firemen of that city have taken to hooking rugs! The shameful facts came out when the local fire chief issued an order forbidding his subordinates to make rugs while on duty and then sell them. They will still be allowed to make the things, apparently, but only for their own use—so presumably the world will soon see the dreadful spectacle of a firehall prettily tricked out with hooked rugs! We can imagine nothing which could shatter the morale of Springfield's small boys as badly as this revelation—except possibly the disclosure that the G-men have taken up crocheting. — Edmonton Journal.

A state senator in Michigan, Robert Haggerty, lived up to his nickname of "Honest Bob" this month when his salary was held up and he had to get relief from the Detroit welfare department. When a court suit tied up the salaries of all Michigan lawmakers and state elective officers, including the governor, Senator Haggerty was $500 in debt and desperate for funds to buy food for his family of six. So the man applied for relief and obtained a cheque for $20.60 on January 22 and one for $21 on February 4. When a Michigan Supreme Court decision released the senator's salary, he came around to the relief office to repay the $41.60 he had been given. Officials informed him that he was not obligated to repay. But the senator insisted on doing so. — Fort William Times-Journal.

It is Christendom that is threatened by the Communist attack on religion. This is a campaign against the beliefs and practices of all who accept ethics as a guide, regardless of where they live or the doctrine and church to which they adhere. Messages from China recently reported that the Communists there had ordered Christian missionaries who are of many churches, to teach Marxian atheism. These facts, of course, can surprise nobody familiar with the writings of leading Communists from Marx to Stalin. It is no particular Church or sect that they attack, but all religion, and every faith which asserts that the world holds more than materialistic values. — Toronto Globe and Mail.

Mr. Churchill, the statesman and war minister, grows in stature as more light is shed upon events in the last war. In the second volume of his war memoirs, now appearing serially he gives the text of a message sent to General Smuts on June 9, 1940, when France was falling, when Dunkirk was just over and when Britain's powers of resistance were at their lowest. Out of deep anguish General Smuts had cabled military advice to Mr. Churchill: "Concentrate everything on the decisive point." Mr. Churchill replied in this prophetic message: "The classical principles of war which you mention are in this case modified by the actual quantitative data. I see only one sure way through now, to wit, that Hitler should attack this country, and in so doing break his air weapon. That, of course, is precisely what happened in the Battle of Britain. — Winnipeg Free Press.

The policy of the western world as demonstrated over and over again—often with unnecessary and dangerous concessions—is not to resist for a moment any sincere peace overture from Russia. No such overture has been made. In the Berlin blockade, in the German peace settlement, in the Austrian peace treaty negotiations now under way, in every contact between Russia and the west throughout the world, Russia has given no sign of seeking a settlement of any outstanding issue. All these issues remain open today. If Russia desires even the beginning of an agreement with the west it will find the west ready to bargain. The door is open to Mr. Vishinsky as it was to Mr. Molotov. Since they first grasped the dimensions of Russian expansion the policy of the western nations has been based on two cardinal assumptions: One, that Russia would never bargain so long as the western nations were too weak to defend themselves and had to yield, as they did yield, to Russian pressure; second, that strength in the west was the only thing that could dissuade Russia from a final act of expansion which would produce a third world war. These assumptions are still valid. Their validity is confirmed by all the recent events in the Politburo and in the Politburo's fifth columns abroad. — Winnipeg Free Press.

CUTLERY ADDITION

Eating with forks was not known in England until the reign of James I

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CHURCHES ARE BURNING

During the ten year period from 1938 to 1947, there were 26,000 church fires in the United States and Canada, according to statistics published by the National Fire Protection Association, international non-profit educational organization devoted to fire control. Other properties, such as schools, institutions, stores, warehouses, factories and homes are also burning by the thousands. During the year 1948 the aggregate fire losses were upwards of a Billion Dollars in United States and Canada, besides the tragic loss of life.

Many such losses were due to common hazards and human error, including delayed alarms.

Every citizen should do his utmost to eliminate, or at least greatly reduce this terrific waste and also safeguard their financial interests by carrying adequate Insurance in strong reliable Companies.

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