

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1948

Mr. MacNichol's Proposals

Once more Mr. J. R. MacNichol, Progressive Conservative member for Toronto-Davenport, who is a frequent visitor to Prince Edward Island, has shown his keen practical interest in Maritime problems by advocating a vast expansion of electrical power plants and transmission lines in each of the three Provinces, which he maintains can be supplied from coal resources in the Maritimes as cheaply and efficiently as from hydro resources of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

It may be noted that while the Charlottetown plant is at present burning oil, a change-over to coal is contemplated owing to the greatly increased cost of the former fuel. The new boilers are designed to burn either oil or coal, though complete equipment for coal burning has not yet been obtained.

In Mr. MacNichol's opinion, the output of existing plants should be doubled in several Maritime centres, including Charlottetown which should have another plant producing 25,000 horsepower. In addition to increased power output and expansion of rural electrification, there should be an all-out program of rehabilitation in aid both of Maritime agriculture and industry.

The Toronto member's suggestions with regard to the power plant at Charlottetown are more or less in line with the Hogg report which was prepared for the Provincial Government last year, and which outlined plans for an \$8,000,000 Province-wide electrification program covering a period of ten to fifteen years. Mr. Hogg, however, assumed that this would be an entirely Provincial undertaking. In Mr. MacNichol's broader scheme the Federal Government should pay one-third of the cost of building new Maritime plants and erecting transmission lines. It should also make a capital grant and pay a subsidy on additional power produced and sold.

This argument applies particularly to Prince Edward Island, which owing to lack of industries cannot be expected to finance a big undertaking of this kind, however necessary to our future development.

The point to be noted is that this proposal does not come from a Maritime member but from a hard-headed, experienced Ontario industrialist, who has no axe to grind so far as sectional politics is concerned, and who is evidently sincerely convinced that the Dominion would gain tremendously in revenue by aiding Maritime industrial development on a large scale.

That Car Ferry Deficit

Credit is taken at Ottawa for not including, in the Dominion-Provincial tax agreement, funds to make up the deficit of the Prince Edward Island ferry service. This old red herring is evidently still doing service with the powers-that-be, and is used on every possible occasion to mislead public opinion as to the treatment this Province has been receiving.

There is, in the first place, no such service as the "Prince Edward Island Ferry." Both the Borden and Wood Islands ferries operate as inter-provincial services and are of mutual benefit to the Provinces thus connected.

In the second place, the Borden-Tormentine ferry operational costs are not chargeable to the railway at all but to the Dominion Consolidated Fund. This change was made in 1933, under the MacMillan Government in this Province and the Bennett Government at Ottawa. Since 1942 the investment accounts have also been separated from railway investment accounts.

This is in accord with section 91 of the British North America Act, which vests Parliament with exclusive authority over all matters coming within a certain class of subjects including (subsection 13): "Ferries between a Province and any British or foreign country or between two Provinces." In effect this means—as Premier Jones pointed out at the Dominion-Provincial conference on the tax agreements—that our ferries connecting this Province and the mainland "should be national highways under the terms upon which we entered Confederation." This is, in fact, the policy of the national Progressive Conservative party as enunciated by Hon. John Bracken. It is to be hoped that our Liberal representatives at Ottawa will be able to persuade the King Government to take a similar attitude.

Fishing Grounds in Danger

Signs that the rich fishing grounds of the North Atlantic are beginning to decline are noted with some alarm by the Globe and Mail. For well over four hundred years, the Grand Banks and other fishing grounds adjacent to the Maritime and Newfoundland coasts have been visited by fishing vessels, every year drawing a valuable catch for the benefit of the European and North and South American populations. Many romantic tales have been told of the "captains courageous" whose adventurous daring in small vessels defied the winds and waters of the North Atlantic. With the advent of steam and diesel trawlers, the catch per ship has been enormously increased, and the schooners of the past are slipping out of the picture.

Unrestrained competition, however, has been having its effect. So alarmed are United States Government biologists that conferences have been called of owners, fishermen's union, and commercial distributors' representatives in New England. It is expected that the conferences are to be followed by an international discussion, lead-

ing to a treaty between the nations participating in the fishing operations in the North Atlantic. These include France, Spain, Newfoundland, Portugal, the United States, Denmark and Canada. In a world rapidly outgrowing its apparent food supply, it is extremely desirable that oceanic sources should be conserved sufficiently to provide a continuous flow of seafoods to the markets of the world. Canada has a vital interest in this matter, and may be expected to support any move to maintain the fishing grounds by equitable restrictions on the quantities taken.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Corpus Christi.

The Bismarck sunk this date 1941.

Readers should note that the King's Birthday holiday is Monday, June 7th, not 9th as previously announced.

Merchants will reap the benefit of the new American customs regulation permitting tourists to take back to the States \$400 worth of goods rather than \$100 as formerly.

The U. S. Government has adopted a plan by which married couples can pool their incomes for tax purposes. Scarcely a voice is raised in Canada to demand this sensible law.

Mrs. Amelia Jenks Bloomer, American dress reformer, born this date 1818. "Bloomers" are named after her, she having inaugurated the women's dress-reform movement (short skirt and loose trousers). She was also an advocate of temperance and woman's suffrage.

The claim that Prince Edward Island made a better bargain with the Dominion than the other six dissenting Provinces does not bear out the declaration of Premier Jones that we are entitled to a million more than we are actually receiving.

Red Letter days in our history will be the International Fur Conference from July 12 to 15. It is only but right and fair that the seat of the great silver fox industry should be selected for the first get-together on the American Continent.

The existence of the Arab Legion paid a British subsidy and officered by Britons is a source of exasperation to Zionists but being the fulfillment of a treaty with King Abdullah, that assistance can only be withdrawn if the U. N. decides he is an aggressor.

Lord Macdonald, chief of all the Macdonalds, has replied that he will be "delighted and honoured" to accept the invitation of the Caledonian Club of Prince Edward Island to visit us next July, following his participation in the Gaelic Mod in Cape Breton.

The Maritime Optometrists had a successful annual meeting in the City, and visiting members were loud in their praise of the arrangements, programme and entertainment, as well as of the beautiful scenery of the Island. Nothing was said complimentary, however, about the rocky road from Borden.

The Hon. C. G. Power in giving his own views on what Liberalism should be seems considerably at variance with the accepted policies of the Government. He is opposed to "granting power without responsibility upon boards, commissions and crown companies" and thinks that essential powers should be delegated only to the specifically mentioned minister and for a limited period.

The Board of Transport Commissioners are again taking up a country-wide freight rates inquiry. Briefs will be submitted before June 19th and after the Commissioners have answered them, probably some time in July, they will open the general inquiry. It seems unlikely that they will have wide enough powers to give effect to Maritime arguments but the issue must not be lost by default.

There is nothing new under the sun, though it is hard to convince some people of the fact. Mr. F. W. Townley-Smith (CCF-North Battleford) dug away in history to support his Commons argument: when agriculture flourishes, so does the rest of the country. He recalled that Xenophon, the Greek philosopher, made the statement 2,000 years ago. He said the government and the country should do something to see that agriculture is brought up to par.

The postal officials in Charlottetown state that the Postmaster General was in error in declaring in the House of Commons that there would be a delay in connecting up Prince Edward Island with the new rate for air service on July 1. It appears that the Charlottetown post office has been sending all first class mail from here to Moncton by airplane, and necessarily when the new service begins in July the postal matter here will be in direct contact with the T. C. A. service from that point. It is satisfactory to know that there will be no holdup in connection with the inauguration of the new rates in this Province.

First civil servant to be suspended under the British Government's recently announced anti-Communist "purge" is Miss Ann George, assistant private secretary to Education Minister George Tomlinson. Miss George received notification that the Minister had decided there was a prima facie case for considering that she was a person whose reliability for employment on secret work was open to suspicion. In a letter to the Ministry asserting her loyalty, Miss George refused either to admit or deny that she was a member of the Communist Party. Since then the Government has decided to suspend the purge for further investigation.

Notes By The Way

Dentists have been advised that flattery is the best method of handling a reluctant child patient. If they don't believe it, just remember how well it works with adults.—Windsor Star.

Boys who get caught smoking behind the garage generally come in for a spanking, and doubtless feel abused at such punishment. If it's any consolation to them, they're lucky not to have lived 50 years ago. In 1888 a certain Judge Schatz, of Mount Vernon, N.Y., fined a boy \$2 for smoking and stated: "The next boy who is brought before me for smoking, I will give 10 days. This had habit, which means death eventually, must be broken up."—This Week.

The "cold war" is not so cold in the United States, where it is to be noted that defence estimates for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, have been increased to \$14,000,000,000. We can remember when anything near a billion dollars seemed astronomical but we seem to have gone past that stage. Maybe we will, in time, become used to trillions, 12 zeroes according to U.S. and French ideas, but 18 zeroes according to British figuring.—Niagara Falls Review.

As people grow older and more familiar with the experience of life they learn to bear their troubles and to see that things are seldom as bad as they first appear. The trouble with young people is that because of their lack of experience they take life too seriously. Among older people there is a tendency to believe that youth is a period of thoughtlessness, impetuosity and happiness; but that is a mistake. As we grow older we may look upon the things that worried us in our younger days as trivial; but they are very very real to the young.—Chat-ham News.

The cheapest Soviet cigarettes cost two rubles a package—about 10 percent of the 15 to 20 rubles earned a day by a low-paid worker. Medium-priced cigarettes run from six to nine rubles, while expensive varieties cost 10 to 20 rubles. Last month the trade-union publication Trust reported a speech by one Pronin, Food Industries Minister, revealing the extent to which the cigarette industry had met its planned production. The industry had turned out 12 percent of the planned production of the cheap cigarettes, 49 percent of the medium, and 142 percent of the high-priced varieties.—Newsweek Magazine.

The police impounded 719 stray dogs while the society picked up 245 stray sick or injured dogs. In this connection it would be well to emphasize that while the collecting of stray dogs is strictly a police function, the stray cat problem is left to the society for solution. At the present time the society is endeavoring to give the stray cat the same consideration as the stray dog. One thousand one hundred and forty-five animals were picked up at owner's request for a nominal charge but a request it should be made clear that where the owner can not afford to pay, the same service is cheerfully given free of charge. Of 2,490 dogs received at the shelter, 310 were returned to their original owners and 286 were placed in new homes. Of 3,073 cats received 135 were placed in new homes.—Inspector Switzer's Report to Ottawa Humane Society.

Very few people like bats—that is those little mammals which fly about after dark. There are of course some strange folk, naturalists, who do not mind handling them or having them swoop about. But the average man, as well as woman, hastily retreats when one gets indoors, grabs a broom and tries to commit murder. It is highly interesting, however, to know that there are nine or 10 species of "flying mice" found in the Dominion and further, that one of them, the "silver-haired", is a creature of striking beauty. Further, those who know and "love" them, stress that they play a very important role in making the world a better place in which to live in that they devour immense quantities of insects, including mosquitoes—though most prefer the little insect to the much bigger flying mouse. They are not, authorities assure, "bad luck" nor do they get in women's hair, nor are they unduly infested with parasites.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

The lowly lettuce and celery plants have become of prime importance in the battle for American dollars which is now carried on by the Dominion government. This is brought to mind by an experience of a resident of Fort Erie who was held up at the Peace Bridge recently because he was carrying a head of lettuce and two stalks of celery. The aggregate cost amounted to something like 26 cents—in American currency—yet he was not permitted to bring it to Canada—Canada's austerity program forbade the importation of such vegetables because these were two of the things that were not admissible to this country under the new regulations. They were confiscated and will apparently remain in the stockpile that has been accumulating both at Fort Erie and Niagara Falls. The point under emphasis is this—the vegetables were bought and paid for with a minimum amount of American money—just how the confiscation is going to improve our American dollar balance seems to be something for the finance experts at Ottawa to figure out.—From Ft. Erie Times-Review.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

AMUSEMENT TAXES

Sir,—The following is a comparative scale of the Provincial amusement taxes in the three Maritime Provinces based on the net admissions in our provincial theatres. It will be noted that the P. E. I. tax on an adult admission of 37c is double that paid in Nova Scotia and 175% greater than the New Brunswick tax of 4c.

Table with columns: Admission, P.E.I., N.S., N.B.
10c 3c 2c 2c
12c 3c 2c 2c
16c 4c 2c 2c
25c 8c 2c 2c
26c 9c 3c 3c
31c 10c 3c 4c
37c 11c 5c 4c
I am, Sir, etc.,

MOVIE FAN



DAWN IN THE CITY

Now over the town a good, clean dawn is breaking, Like a gracious dream in a world of fears; Softly in silver and pink the towers are waking From early mist—the hour of sunrise nears.

Now in the iron depths of the stirring city Is raised the ghostly grail for peace and glory— For this dawn which is beauty and peace and pity— Bring to their waking hearts a desperate hope.

And they rise and stumble on to what comes after: From the desolate night of ruin and rain, The beautiful and far country of their laughter.

Where Man comes on his hidden youth again. —Max Press in the New York Herald Tribune.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

FANNING'S CIRCUIT

"On the 6th. of June last (1787) I went on board a six-oared open boat, at Charlottetown, and proceeded down the Hillsborough River out of the mouth of the harbour, taking my private secretary, my tent and marquee, canteens, two servants and six hands to man the boat. The first day I passed several houses and in the evening encamped at Prim Village on Lot 57, where I remained three days, exploring the lands and old fields, which were delightfully situated and had formerly been well inhabited by the French, but at present not a house or family in several miles of it.

"I then went round Point Prim and encamped at Primit (Pinette) Village on Lot 88. Here, also, had formerly been a considerable French settlement. From hence I went to Wood Islands, Lot 82, and encamped two days. Thence to Georgetown at Three Rivers and Cardigan Bay. Not a soul living in all that coast and tract of country... "I then went to Lord Townshend's Lot 86, on which, at the mouth of Grand River, live seven Loyalists or disbanded soldiers and no more. From thence I went to Fortune Bay, Lot 43, a small French village delightfully situated, having a beautiful harbour for small schooners and fishing vessels. From thence to the East Point not a single inhabitant.

"Near the Point, on Lot 47, I encamped three days. Here were large tracts of meadow lands. From thence round East Point, near Surveyor's Inlet, where I found settled three or four families of disbanded troops. From this settlement to Shipwreck Point, Lot 43, not a single family or inhabitant. Here were four Highland families; and from thence to St. Peter's, not an inhabitant.

"At St. Peter's is a well settled and fine country, where I remained a few days and then proceeded to Scotch Savage harbour; opposite to which is French Savage harbour, very pleasantly situated villages. There I had my boat, with all my baggage in it, put on a sled and drawn by four pair of oxen, across the portage, two miles and a half to the head of Hillsborough River, where I encamped one day and night.

SUIT SALE 34.50 50 Fine Worsteds MEN'S SUITS—Regular \$45.00 value—will be placed on sale Thursday morning. When you see the excellent quality and superb tailoring in these Suits, you'll know the offering is really outstanding. BLUE GREYS BROWNS Sizes 36 to 42 COME THURSDAY! SAVE DOLLARS HENDERSON & CUDMORE WHERE QUALITY IS SURE

not above five hundred families, at the utmost, on the whole Island, including the French, Highland and all other inhabitants." —Letter of Lieutenant-Governor Fanning to Lord Nepean, Under Secretary of State.

The Wrong Use Of Copyright

(Winnipeg Free Press) An interesting example of how secondary legislation can be used to prevent the movement of goods from one country to another is provided by the experience of the Reprint Society of Canada, Ltd., which has been attempting to secure permission to export books to the United States. The copyright of many of the books this organization would publish is held by United States publishers, and while it might have been possible to publish them in Canada for sale in Canada, the story was quite different when it came to meeting the requests of U. S. residents for the volumes. Then the Reprint society was informed by the American Book Publishers' Council that: "... our legal council gives it as his opinion that the granting to you, by the publishers of American editions of permission to distribute copies of your editions in the United States, even though the authors be not Americans, might seriously jeopardize the protection in the United States enjoyed by the owners of the copyrights; therefore he cannot recommend acquiescence on the part of the publishers in this country to your request."

Meanwhile some \$10,000,000 worth annually of U. S. books come across the border. This is a matter which Ottawa might well bring to the attention of the appropriate authorities in the United States.

Origin Of "Bluenose"

(Financial Post)

A Post reader in Edmonton wants to know if we can tell him the real origin of the term "Bluenose" as applied to Nova Scotians. Oddly enough, what seems to be the most reasonable explanation came to us from Alberta. Twenty years ago, as editor of Maclean's Magazine, we broadcast an appeal for information on the subject. Among many letters giving various explanations was one from John Eldrick Fraser, Secretary-Treasurer of Wetaakwin. He reported that the people of Peterhead, on the Northeast coast of Scotland, always called the folks in the neighboring town of Fraserburgh "Bluenoses." Fraserburgh is near Kinnaird Head, a promontory of bluish color nosing out into the ocean. And Mr. Fraser said it wasn't difficult to imagine an old fishing skipper saying to his son, "Peterhead, that blus nose of land." Peterhead's cliffs, on the other hand, are red sandstone, and the Fraserburghers spoke of the Peterheadians as "Red noses."

In the old days, ships chartered by the Hudson's Bay Company en route to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia via the Orkneys, used to pick up trained sailormen at Fraserburgh and Peterhead. Many of them settled in Nova Scotia. And if a Peterhead man ran into a Fraserburgh man he would at once dub him "Bluenose."

As Fraserburgh was settled as far back as 1602 we think this explanation has more weight than claims that the sobriquet came from the name of a potato grown

in Nova Scotia; or that it originated when the Loyalists, at the time of their expulsion from the U. S., called themselves "True Blues," which Yankee derision corrupted to "Bluenoses."

FISHERMEN SHOW SKILL

WINNIPEG — (CP) — Bait casters showed their skill in the civic auditorium here recently. From the auditorium stage the fishermen aimed their wooden plugs to drop neatly within a white tire, floating about 60 feet

ALBERTA GETS TEACHERS

EDMONTON — (CP) — Between 175 and 200 teachers who have been in training in the faculty of education at the University of Alberta have taken school posts for May and June. The teachers are replacing married women who wish to leave and others employed in a temporary capacity.

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