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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, JAN. 13, 1950

The Farmer's Problems

The annual meetings of the Federation of Agriculture in Charlottetown this week were of more than usual interest.

Throughout Canada similar problems are being discussed. Noting the anxiety shown by Eastern Ontario farmers over current declines in the prices of their products, the Ottawa Citizen reminds its readers that while housewives are rejoicing at the lower prices of eggs and pork and the prospect for lower cheese prices, their gains are usually at the expense of the producers.

"When there is a general weakening of prices, the commodities the farmers have to sell almost always lead the way and it is generally long afterwards before the goods they have to buy follow the trend.

"Last year many big firms drastically cut their inventories in anticipation of lower prices and economists blamed that concerted action for the recession in the United States.

Without waiting for formal nomination, Mr. Lowther, one of the candidates for the City mayoralty, gives some important information regarding who have, and who have not, the right to vote.

"The confidence of the farmer needs to be restored. It might not be much of a drain on the treasury. It could well be that he is unduly exercised and this flutter in prices is only a breather before the country resumes its march to even greater prosperity.

Winter Roads

It is commonplace to remark how little the first fall of snow affects traffic as compared with the storms that follow, yet the fact is significant, and proper consideration given to it might mean better roads for winter travel.

Income Tax Changes

Regulations based on income tax amendments passed at the last session of Parliament have now been announced by Mr. V. M. T. Scully, Deputy Minister of Revenue.

sultation with accountants and other representatives of industry has gone into framing the rate tables embodied in the new regulations, and it is hoped that they will result in some simplification of income-tax procedure.

Hitherto no provision has been made for obsolescence resulting from technical improvements. This deficiency has now been corrected. Many Canadian industries with rapid changes of equipment design are now freed, at least partially, from an undesirable handicap.

The intention of the changes is to remove obstacles to Canadian industrial development. It is not true, however, notes an exchange, that income re-invested in plant improvement of extensions has been made entirely free of income tax.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Today, Friday the 13th.

Now Britain is having price rate problems to solve—on the eve of an election, not after, as in Canada.

At this season the tourist business seems far off and unimportant, but this is the time for planning if the Province is to make the most of its incomparable summer attractions.

The proposed customs union of the British Caribbean colonies is of great importance to this country. A strong West Indian economy would provide a market for a great deal of our production, particularly fish products and potatoes.

It appears that it was known some 1700 years before Euclid that the sum of the angles of a triangle equals two right angles.

An American college president again raises the question of how women should be educated, and proposes that education for girls should be related to their special aptitudes and needs.

John Scott, 1st Earl of Eldon, English lawyer and statesman, died this date 1838. Was appointed Lord Chancellor in 1801. Was violently Conservative and opposed to any lightening of oppressive legislation on the freedom of the underdog.

Grocery manufacturers do not condemn the increasing number of studies being made of the spread of prices from farm to consumer because, "if more economical ways can be found to process and market food products, we want to know about them so we can put them into effect," says Paul S. Willis, president of Grocery Manufacturers of America.

The passage of time brings changes. By next year there will be only 3,500 veterans in all Canadian universities, according to J. P. Kohl, president of the National Council of Student Veterans.

It has been my privilege to serve at the Council Board as your representative. Although for a comparatively short time, the experience thus acquired was of great value.

The Poet's Corner

FARMER IN WINTER

Each season at this time of year he thinks Of the little red fox he trapped, and how it laid Fast in the steel and straining at the links, Its eyes on fire for all it was afraid.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

LITERARY MEETINGS

The popularity of literary meetings in Charlottetown in early days is indicated by the following excerpt from the annual report of the Mechanics' Institute, December, 1859:

"Your committee would respectfully recommend that our meetings in future should be held monthly throughout the year, or semi-monthly for the session, instead of weekly as has been formerly our custom—on account of a literary institute having been recently established in connection with the Young Men's Christian Association, they having considered and concluded from diverse reasons that our Institute would not probably resume operations during the coming winter; and as this body, as well as the Catholic Young Men's Institute, have already commenced their course of lectures, it would be injudicious to have our lectures as frequently as formerly."

There was also started about this time an organization known as the Charlottetown Debating Club, which held well attended meetings every Friday night.

The meetings of the Mechanics Institute were held regularly in the Temperance Hall (now The Guardian building) which was for many years almost the only building available for gatherings of this kind. On the above date (1859) the Institute had been functioning for twenty-one years. The officers elected on this occasion were: Patron, Lieutenant-Governor Dundas; vice patrons, Hon. C. Young, Dr. Stratton; president, Hon. T. H. Haviland; vice president, Hon. D. Brennan, J. Barrel Cooper; secretary treasurer, James M. Butcher; committee, M. Butcher, S. Barnard, J. Williams, W. Murphy, R. Williams, B. Moore, Hugh Fraser, A. McNeill, T. Murphy, T. Handrahan, J. P. Tanton and J. Kennedy.

M. P.'s Indemnities

(Ottawa Journal) A Canadian Press despatch, tells of a move on Parliament Hill "to obtain higher salaries and a pension plan for members of the Commons."

First thing to be said about this is that members of the House of Commons are not paid "salaries," they are paid an "indemnity," which is simply a sum of money to indemnify them against the while performing their parliamentary duties. The idea, or theory, of the "indemnity" is that a seat in the House of Commons is not a job, that it must not be sought after or regarded as a job, but must be considered instead as an honor and privilege—the honor and privilege of serving the state, and it would be a pity, we think, if this idea or theory were lost. In these days, when wealth and social status can no longer be so easily passed on to the next generation, and rightly—indemnities should be sufficiently large to enable any man or woman without means to sit in the House of Commons; to take in the farmer or the worker as well as the lawyer or manufacturer.

But it would be a mistake, run against the whole principle of government, to make a seat in Parliament merely another job—another job to be sought after as more profitable than some other job. In other words, we must not lightly weaken or abandon the idea that to be elected to Parliament is to be given a great privilege; that it carries with it one of the highest honors in the public's gift.

It may be that with the cost of living what it is, and sessions of Parliament lasting six months or more, existing indemnities of \$2,000 a session, plus a \$2,000 tax-free annual allowance aren't adequate to indemnify members for absence from their ordinary callings for so long a time, plus the need of maintaining two separate residences, plus other costs.

But if that be so, what should be done is to set up a competent board of inquiry to determine what an adequate indemnity should be (after taxes), and to make sure that the "salary" and "job" angles are avoided. What should be done also is to dispense with the \$2,000 tax-free allowance, a system which puts M. P.'s in the position of imposing taxes on others while avoiding them themselves.

Watch Your Step!



CHARLOTTETONIANS ARE COMPELLED BY LAW TO KEEP PAVEMENT IN FRONT OF THEIR PREMISES PASSABLE AND FREE FROM ICE...

(Reprinted by request)

Life On The Isles

(Winnipeg Free Press) If a Scottish author, Mr. Alister Alpin MacGregor, is endowed with even an ordinary amount of discretion, he will allow a long time to elapse before he again sets foot on the Outer Hebrides.

For he has written a book about the inhabitants of the Isles and some of the things he says about them have engendered a distinct feeling of hostility toward him on their part.

What aroused the Hebrideans most of all was his accusation that they failed to observe a decent amount of reverence at funerals. "At many a funeral in the western Highlands and Islands," he says, "the providing of a copious supply of whisky is still deemed a matter of prime honor, and one which the natives observed to the full until very recently when it was agreed that too much bawling and fighting took place afterward."

As a balance perhaps to the over-supply of spirits, Mr. MacGregor infers that the supply of and demand for another liquid are very small. This is the emulsion formed by the combining of soap and water, neither one of which, he says, has ever found much favor on the Isles.

If these two slams are not enough to set the heather on fire, Mr. MacGregor has several more. He accuses nearly all the folk of looking on a hot bath as nonsense. He says the men are greedy, lazy, and lacking in civic responsibility. The women do most of the work and many of them are beaten by their husbands.

These are serious charges and they will no doubt be completely demolished by spokesmen for the Islanders. Pending the arrival of the direct case for the defence, a professional Winnipeg Highlander has been asked to supply interim comment.

His face got only moderately purple as he read through the indictment, as transmitted to this continent by Reuters News Agency. Then he slammed the despatch

down, made a great effort to regain his self control, and finally found his voice. "Sucharrant nonsense," he announced. "Such filthy slander. The man is obviously an unscrupulous Sassenach propagandist. Why the way he tells it, you would think those fine people are barbarians!"

Regarding the matter of pensions for M. P.'s, we think the idea wrong. In the case of ministers, and especially in the case of ministers who have given years of service, pensions could be defended. (In the United Kingdom pensions are given to ex-Cabinet Ministers, but only to those whose income from other sources is insufficient to maintain them in dignity.)

But to pay M. P.'s pensions would, it seems to us, put too much of the "job" aspect on membership of the House of Commons; take away from it all the appeal or glamor of adventure and privilege in public service, vest it with the idea of "security," a thing which runs counter to the whole theory of service.

And, after all, nobody has to be a member of Parliament.

The Age-Old Story

God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts; to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

To the ELECTORS of Ward 3

It has been my privilege to serve at the Council Board as your representative. Although for a comparatively short time, the experience thus acquired was of great value.

Should you favor me by again electing me as your representative, I will do all in my power to serve the citizens of Charlottetown in general, and the Ratepayers of Ward 3 in particular.

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WENDELL H. BEATON.

Notes By The Way

Grand Central is quiet again, which goes to show the importance of the American minority. It is safe to say that most of the people directly affected by the aural mixture of music and commercialism were either approved or cared not a boot. But the sharp-eared dissenters felt strongly, and insisted on what they conceived as their right not to listen. — New York Herald-Tribune.

Revolution has struck the building industry. A couple of American ex-Army engineers have perfected a brick-laying machine they say will step up bricklaying speeds three or four times. Here's what we'd like to see come next, an automatic wall-painting machine that bears such delicate adjustments that it will daub anybody's walls with the exact shade the missus wants — and on the first try, too. The contraption might cost a few painters their jobs but those who would be left would be a lot happier. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

The proposition that normal train services cannot be maintained by the C.N.R. in the Maritimes "because of lack of coal" is too preposterous to be entertained for a moment by persons who know the facts. Why should this part of the country, with ample coal supplies, be made to suffer because there may be a shortage somewhere else? — Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Mathematically the conservatives who believe that January 1, 1951, inaugurates the new half century have a slight edge. Indisputably, when you have a half dollar, the fiftieth cent is an essential part of it, and your second half dollar begins with the fifty-first cent. But there is a certain fascination to a new set of digits, and this is especially true at the end of a century. It is hard to accept the explanation that the year 1900, as well as 1899, was actually part of the nineteenth century. — Washington Post.

There is both optimism and challenge in the 1949 tally of the aircraft industry. In general, plane manufacturers will end the year with a moderate profit, which in itself is substantial progress over 1946 and 1947. Military plane production will run around 2500 units. This is only half the annual procurement recommended in the report of the President's Air Policy Commission at the end of 1947, but it is still sufficient to provide the basis for a reasonably healthy industry. Where the picture is dark is in the decline of civil transport production from 260 to 120 and of private planes from 7039 to 3400. — Washington Post.

Some years ago, in the Conquest district of Saskatchewan, a group of farmers undertook a co-operative program of tree-planting.

They planted the trees, as a system of field shelters, over a 20-section area, breaking the field into plots ranging from 40 to 84 acres. The purpose of these field shelter belts was to conserve moisture by helping prevent the Spring run-off, to cut down soil drifting and to help protect growing crops from hot dry winds. Just how effective these shelter belts are was demonstrated last Summer. Although the rainfall during the growing season was pitifully small, the farmers within the protected area harvested crops averaging 15 bushels to the acre. The average yield outside the area was only nine bushels to the acre. The Conquest shelter belt is one of the many prairie tributes to the effectiveness of the work being done in the field of soil and forest conservation by the Canadian Forestry Association. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Last April, in united family groups a d seven-foot whopper spreading 29 whopper cranes started north from their winter sanctuary at the Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, to summer in successfully hidden Canadian nesting places. In December the National Audubon Society reported that 29 adult birds (apparently 1 hitch-hiking whopper had been picked up in Canada or on the sky-road) had returned to Texas there may be a shortage somewhere else? — Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

One of the most controversial topics of the present is: How should women be educated? Dr. Lynn White, president of Mills College, contends that too many women today are being educated to be successful men, a pattern of education he says that was set up by feminists of the last century. He maintains that because of physical and psychological differences between men and women, education of girls should be related to their special aptitudes and interests. A little over a century ago the debate over whether women's health, morals, brains and matrimonial chances would be destroyed by higher learning was waxing hot. Henry Adams, over a half century ago, was starting a dinner table conversation by asking his dinner partner: "What's the matter with the modern woman?" (Occasionally at least the answer was "The American man.") We feel safe in predicting that woman and her education will still be questioned in magazine articles, books, and at dinner tables in 2050. — The Washington Post.

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