

THE GUARDIAN

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Thrice Welcome Visitors

Hon. George Drew and Mrs. Drew made many warm personal friends when they visited here last November, shortly after Col. Drew's assumption of the national leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party.

But, of course, the Drews' visit on this occasion cannot be dissociated from politics. The speech to be delivered by Col. Drew at the Forum tonight will mark the opening of his campaign across Canada, and will doubtless contain in outline the general policies on which his party is appealing to the electors, as well as specific policies concerning the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, which together form a Maritime bloc of very considerable political importance at this time.

One result of this action was the failure to put through the Trans-Canada Highway agreements with the Provinces, leaving this important project suspended, like Mahomet's coffin, in mid-air. We may expect to hear something on this subject from the Conservative leader tonight. He made his attitude very clear in speaking here in November, and his words are worth recalling on this occasion.

The chief theme of Col. Drew's last speech in Charlottetown was the sanctity of the Federal Pact of Confederation. That is a matter of very much importance to this island, which is still fighting to have its rights as a Province recognized.

Have A Raisin!

According to a despatch from Moncton, dining car and hotel chefs of the Canadian National Railways across the country will specialize in raisin dishes this week because it is being observed as "National Raisin Week" across Canada and the United States at the request of the California Raisin Festival.

This is fine! Only it would be better, and perhaps a little more profitable to ourselves, if our Government Railway would feature some of our own products which the Government has failed to find markets for. East Coast canned fish, for example. The product could be dished up by high-class C. N. R. chefs in lots of attractive ways, and Government indifference to the plight of our Maritime fishermen and packers would be offset to some extent. But no! California raisin growers have more influence at Ottawa, and if our fishermen—who cannot afford to patronize C. N. R. dining cars anyway—go broke, so much the worse for them!

Britain's Position

Socialism has by no means succeeded in solving all of Britain's problems, as the following comment by the Rt. Hon. Lord Brand, chairman of the board of directors of a well-known Scottish insurance company, plainly indicates:

"We cannot but look with concern at the serious problems ahead of us. It is true that by great and praiseworthy efforts the industrial and commercial interests of this country have greatly increased exports, visible and invisible, and brought us from the disastrous position of 1947 half way towards closing the dollar gap. But we are still far away from our objective and the obstacles seem to loom greater with the gradual fading away of the sellers' market. Unfortunately just at this critical moment we find ourselves faced with another, and it may prove, even more formidable, problem in the inordinate growth of our public expenditure and the extreme height of our taxation."

"In the name of the Welfare State we are expanding this expenditure to unbearable heights and thus unwittingly undermining the Welfare State itself. At this moment when, in order to spend more on defense, when moreover it is vital to maintain the strength of sterling and what is equally important—to allow reasonable rewards for enterprise, whether for workers, organizers, investors or risk takers of all kinds, on which the welfare of all of us in the end depends, we are endangering everything by vast new expenditures on objectives which, whatever their merits, cannot possibly do anything significant to increase production in the near future."

"It does not matter how admirably may be the ends sought through such expenditure, if in consequence the public welfare as a whole is to be compromised by clamping on to all taxpayers, large and small, more or less permanent,

taxation at a level which must ultimately bring a fall in employment and in economic standards, unless production meanwhile increases at a rate beyond what the Government itself dares, it seems, to plan for. Indeed it is difficult to see how production can be adequately increased in the short run.

"The position into which socialism — without regard for consequences — is bringing us is therefore serious. While Sir Stafford Cripps has been aiming at his admirable objectives, his colleagues have been aiming at and hitting contradictory ones. They ignore the fact that we are still in a period of crisis. Thus while the Government on the one side is doing its best to get us out of the crisis, on the other it is not merely perpetuating but accentuating it. The consequences have yet to be seen, as the mills of taxation grind slowly towards their ultimate results."

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is too bad that two Party leaders should select the same date to address the electors here.

Our fishermen are "getting it where the chicken got the axe" these days. And there is no parliament to which to appeal for redress.

People seem glad to get back for a change to viva-voce and the personal appearance of performers, and away from the rush of radio contributions with their accompanying static.

The Reserve Army plans to have more than 50 per cent more soldiers in training at camps this summer than last. This aim can only be achieved if employers cooperate by arranging to make possible the necessary holiday for reservists on their staff.

The annual exhibition of paintings by Island artists is being held this week by the Art Society. Not only the local character of the work shown, but the ever present possibility of the discovery of outstanding talent lends interest to this important annual event.

Ottawa has assumed responsibility for the building of dykes, breakwaters and other protective structures to reclaim and preserve the marshlands of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Although the rich farmlands so reclaimed will directly compete with the production of this Province we welcome this addition to the total resources of the Maritimes.

Negotiations for a seven-year Anglo-Danish butter agreement opened in London on May 2. It is believed that Denmark may be willing to make price concessions on a long-term agreement. Thus our primary market slips from under us because of our customer lacking Canadian dollars or credit. The U. S. Congress will not permit her loan to be used to relieve the situation.

Brockville Recorder and Times reminds the public that Government departments at Ottawa now have 160 public relations officers drawing over \$2,500 a year each. This means that the taxpayers now pay money to have themselves convinced that their taxes are being spent for their advantage. This is as completely out of keeping with any theory of democratic and responsible Government as anything could be.

Sir James Matthew Barrie, Bart. O.M. Scottish novelist, born this date 1860. Made his reputation with sketches and novels of Scottish life, A Window in Thrums, The Little Minister, etc., and plays of a delicate fancy, and whimsical satire, such as The Admirable Crechton and Quality Street, Peter Pan, What Every Woman Knows, Der Tag, Dear Brutus, Echoes of the War, Mary Rose, etc., was created a baronet in 1913, O.M. in 1920, elected Lord Rector of St. Andrew University in 1919: "Never ascribe to an opponent motives meaner than your own."

"This time, (says The Letter-Review) the bribe is to be a \$10 per month increase in Old Age Pensions, which is economically more useful and morally less indefensible than the shotgun Baby Bonus plan. It should be accompanied by a great easing of the means test, which is altogether too mean at present. Fortunately, the Government does not seem to plan an Old Age Pension that would be universal and compulsory, like the Baby Bonus. In actuality, this was no moment to bring in the increased Old Age Pension as an election bribe. It will not get the Government any considerable number of votes from supporters of other parties that accept the plan, and the rush to use it for election purposes means that it cannot be worked out on an intelligent basis."

Mr. Harold Wilson, President, British Board of Trade in the cabinet of the Labor Government, has set a government target to export 30 per cent more goods to North America in 1950, says The Gazette. But in reviewing this program, the British weekly journal, The Economist, points out some doubtful features. In the first place, it wonders why this program, if thought desirable now, was not adopted by the Labor Government from the first. In the second place, it does not see that anything fundamental is suggested to overcome the primary obstacle to British exports — their high price. And thirdly, it does not see how Mr. Wilson is going (as he says) to turn British exporters into "merchant adventurers" in the New World. This would be, in effect, calling upon the British exporter to take up arms against the whole tendency of the Labor Government's trading policy. "The incentive to the individual to struggle in the North American market does not exist," The Economist points out, "and will not be provided by the use of a colorful phrase."

Canada is certainly wise to do all in its power to try to restore the healthy bonds of trade that used to hold Britain and America together. But it may yet have to be realized that Canada is dealing with a different kind of Britain. And the need may be for the most energetic leadership (which has hitherto been lacking) to establish Canada's position in many new trading fields.



The Poet's Corner

HYMN TO THE NIGHT

I heard the trailing garments of the Night Sweep through her marble halls!

I felt her presence, by its spell of night

Stoop o'er me from above: The calm, majestic presence of the Night,

As of the one I love.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

LUDICROUS INCIDENT

A ludicrous incident occurred yesterday, arising out of the protracted absence of His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Ready, who sailed from the Downs in the ship Mary for this port on the 3rd October—56 days ago.

A square-rigged vessel was seen standing in for the harbour under a press of sail, which attracted no particular notice until she came within hail of the block-house, when two guns were fired from that post, which being the preconcerted signal they were to make for a vessel with His Excellency on board, attracted immediate attention.

In an instant the wharves and banks of the harbour were covered with spectators, while among the official dignitaries there was "saddening and mounting in hot haste." Others whose impatient loyalty disdained to await the arrival of the vessel, leaped into boats and pulled off, in defiance of regulations, to meet her in the face of a strong breeze which was sending her rapidly towards the shore.

Among the spectators some began to express doubts of its being the Governor after all, when the guns from Prince Edward Battery commenced firing a salute; this of course silenced the most sceptical. By the time, however, that the salute of 17 guns was fired, the vessel had drawn so near to the shore as to satisfy every one that she was not the Mary, but a small brig whose deck was covered with people. The fact soon came to be ascertained that she was from Newfoundland with passengers, who were doubtless astonished spectators of the hurly-burly which they had unconsciously excited; as they knew nothing whatever about our worthy Lieutenant Governor.

It is needless to add that the crowd dispersed very quickly; some did not attempt to conceal their chagrin, and not a few were malicious enough to laugh outright at the ridiculous figure which some folks cut.

The mistake originated in the people at the Block-house mistaking the master of the brig's answer, when she was hailed, as it blew pretty fresh at the time. —Prince Edward Island Register, Nov. 28, 1926.

The Age-Old Story

Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted.

Notes By The Way

Canadians are well aware that some of our defence preparations must be kept secret. But we do not agree that we should be kept in the dark. We are not at all sure that any government can be given blanket approval for military expenditures and military policies that do not come under closer public scrutiny.

A most remarkable pronouncement has been made by one of the prominent paleontologists in the United States. The conclusions reached by this eminent savant need cause no worry, however, to the present race of humans. At some period between forty to seventy-five thousand years hence man is to lose all his teeth, also his hair, and will grow a bigger head, in order to hold the larger amount of knowledge he is acquiring.

Violinist Yehudi Menuhin tells this story on himself. Not long ago he was late for a radio concert and, carrying his violin in its case, ran into an elevator. "You'll have to go in the freight elevator," snapped the operator. "I have no time," retorted Mr. M. "I'm in a hurry." "I don't care," continued the operator. "All musicians with instruments gotta ride in the freight elevator." By this time our violinist was exasperated. "Look," he stormed, "I'm Yehudi Menuhin. Listen, ya gotta ride in the freight elevator, the operator added with finality, "even if you're Jack Benny." — Capper's Weekly.

If parents break traffic laws before their children they are teaching the youngsters to grow up with little respect for law and order. This is the considered opinion of Dr. Robert W. Leeper of University of Oregon, who is doing research work on how children learn. It really shouldn't take child psychologists to teach us that. It is common sense. If a child knows his parents figure it smart to beat a red light or refuse to put hand out when turning, that child is going to break laws, too—perhaps more serious laws, though there are few with more dire consequences, if they are broken. — Vancouver News-Herald.

So impressed has been Dr. W. E. van Steenburg, research adviser to the Canadian Department of Agriculture, with research work in dairy and sheep farming in New Zealand, that he has recommended to his Government that two scientists should be sent to the Dominion for a year to study what is being done, states the New Zealand Herald. Auckland. Dr. van Steenburg, a delegate to the Pacific Science Congress recently held in New Zealand, said that the size of the Canadian delegation reflected the growing interest of his country in what was being done in New Zealand and Australia. High praise for what has been done in the farming development of New Zealand was voiced also by Professor D. G. Laird, professor of soils at the University of British Columbia. — New Zealand News Service.

Who can blame Winston Churchill if, giving his blessing to the Atlantic pact, he permits himself to say, "I told you so?" Remember his speech at Fulton, Missouri, in 1946? Churchill said then—he was put down as a "sensationalist" and "warmonger" for saying it—that the western countries would have to get together in reply to the Soviet's Iron Curtain. Churchill, as had happened often before, was ahead of his time; saw more clearly than his contemporaries. So pardonable if now, with the rest of us caught up with him he puffs his cigar on the deck of the Queen Elizabeth and tells New York reporters how he has been reading what he said at Fulton and

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claimed that the so-called rabbit-burgers contained horse-meat. Health department and pure-food authorities descended en masse on the hapless proprietor of the concession. Did or did not his rabbit-burgers contain horsemeat? they demanded to know. Under questioning, he broke down. Yes, there was some horsemeat in them, but only a "proportion." What sort of a "proportion" pressed the officers. Well, about fifty-fifty, admitted the rabbitburger vendor. What did he mean—fifty-fifty? they asked. Just what he said: Fifty-fifty—declared the accused man: One horse to one jackrabbit.

BRISTOL, England—Miss Ada Ramsbotham, 104, of Clifton, who once was nursed by novelist Charles Dickens, died here. She explained her long life by saying "I never had a husband to worry me."

PORTSMOUTH, England—Navy Day displays here and at Chatham and Devonport, drew 25,392 spectators.

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