

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1949

Living Costs On The Farm

There seems to be a general and growing
impression among people complaining of the
high cost of living that the farmers of Canada
have been peculiarly exempt from the effects
of high labor costs; in short, that the high prices
of such foods as bacon, ham, eggs, beef, milk,
butter, cheese and so forth represent straight
profit to the farmer.

This fallacy, remarks an exchange, has been
promoted to a considerable extent by the argu-
ment over the admission of margarine to the
markets of Canada. The contrast between the
price of this product, largely manufactured from
imported vegetable fats and oils, with the pre-
vailing high price of butter has created the im-
pression, especially in the minds of the city
dwellers, that the Canadian farmer is a profiteer-
ing monopolist.

This psychology overlooks the fact that the
farmer suffers from high prices the same as ev-
eryone else. As a whole, there are relatively few
farmers who provide even all their own food from
their holdings, not to mention clothing, educa-
tion costs, farm machinery and especially hired
labor.

In respect to the item of labor, recent fig-
ures published by the accurate Dominion Bureau
of Statistics are illuminating.

These show that the labor cost on farms has
been steadily rising during the last three years
with no diminishment in sight as yet. On the
basis of pay per month with board, the average
monthly wage of male farm help in Canada rose
from \$63.29 in 1947 to \$70 in 1948 and \$104.34
in 1949, taking January of each year as a com-
parative base.

Monthly wages for male farm help without
board, on the same basis, were—1947, \$89.25;
1948, \$100.09; and 1949, \$104.34.

There was a great variation in these labor
costs among the provinces. Steepest rises in
farm labour costs have been in British Columbia,
Alberta and Saskatchewan in the west and New
Brunswick and Quebec in the east. Manitoba
farm costs have increased like the rest while
Nova Scotia is the only province showing a de-
crease in male farm help wages.

Socialist Society

Ivor Thomas, M. P., former Colonial Under-
Secretary and Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation
in Prime Minister Attlee's Labor Government in
Britain, recently resigned. In doing so he made
a speech in the House of Commons in which he
said:

"For long, Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that
the Labor party would be the best instrument
for raising the standard of life, both materially
and spiritually, of the poorer classes of the com-
munity. But I see that ministers are bent on
levelling down, not levelling up. . . . Most Social-
ist M. P.'s would be horrified if they could see
the type of society they are unconsciously creat-
ing. . . . Hard work, thrift and honesty no longer
pay. The paths of duty today lead but to the
tax-gatherer's office. The incentive of financial
independence, which has been the mainspring of
our economic life for centuries has disappeared,
and nothing has taken its place."

The Latest Epidemic

An observer and commentator in the United
States declares the whole world is being swept
by an epidemic of the "gimmies." Nearly every-
body desires to get something at the expense of
somebody else. This epidemic grows out of a be-
lief that governments somehow can provide aid
and security for its people no matter what the
cost and how far in debt it is already.

The more government provides, the more
is expected of it. One of the penalties of gov-
ernment assistance, notes an exchange, is a
widespread lowering of the sense of responsibil-
ity. Individual stamina and self-determination
expenses are going up. This parallel development
has destroyed nations. It enabled a few thou-
sand barbarians to overthrow the vast Roman
Empire. The Romans came to depend on the
state for food, shelter and entertainment. In
their eagerness for free security they became
so insecure they lost everything.

A state is just a large number of individ-
uals. In the end, it is subject to the same limita-
tions as the individual; it pays the same penalty
for bad management. Take debt, for example.
The United States government owes over 250 bil-
lion dollars—more than \$6,000 for every Ameri-
can family. Other political sub-divisions—
states, cities, counties, school districts—owe
twenty billion. All of them are under terrific
pressure to provide more services and still
greater benefits. All are having to increase
taxes and borrow money to pour out to a never-
satisfied public.

The popular idea is that these funds can
be obtained from the rich and big corporations
—so that the majority of people can have the
benefits without paying the cost. But nobody
gets anything for nothing; everybody shares the
debt. Everyone pays taxes—direct or indirect.
There aren't enough rich people to enable the
government to finance itself at their expense.
If government took all the wealth of the cor-
porations, it wouldn't put the country on a
sound financial basis. But it would put the
corporations out of business and workers out
of jobs. Meanwhile, all that the big companies
pay to government becomes a part of the cost
of the goods they produce—an important fac-
tor in the cost of living for everybody.

Only wider realization of these basic facts
can stop the tragedy that must eventually hap-
pen if the give-everything-to-everybody theory

continues unchecked. The "gimmie" menace ex-
ists in all democratic countries. If it is not cour-
ageously curbed it will ultimately lead to na-
tional ruin.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Legislature Prorogues.

New Brunswick had a surplus of \$2,032,418
last year, and estimates another surplus, its
tenth, of \$119,278 in the current year.

The long suffering rural mail carriers have
had their plight mentioned again in Parliament;
but Postmaster General Bertrand offers little
hope of improvement.

Discipline must have been emphasized at
the Government caucus on Wednesday morning.
There was a greatly subdued atmosphere in the
afternoon and evening.

The United Kingdom Government lost
£10,000,000 (\$40,000,000) on purchases of po-
tatoes and carrots last year to maintain fixed
prices. Keeping the Old Country farmer solvent
is considered to be of prime importance over
there.

The announcement that the United States
intends to test rockets with atomic warheads
as well as other long range weapons in Central
Australia indicates that Canada is not the only
Commonwealth country with which the Ameri-
cans are on good neighbourly terms.

Finance Minister Abbott's announced inten-
tion to continue the policy of postponing public
works where possible is an eminently sensible
one. To avoid competing for scarce and expen-
sive materials and labour at this time and to
have projects ready to take up the slack in case
of unemployment is a policy that should com-
mend itself to all.

That the world would have been much hap-
pier and would be better off today if the Ameri-
can colonies had not left the British Empire in
the Revolutionary War, is one of the subjects
which four intrepid members of the governing
board of the Cambridge Union will debate with
American students on a month-long tour of the
United States. That such a subject will be dis-
cussed without rancour seems to indicate that
the negative has overwhelmingly the stronger
case.

It now can be fairly accurately estimated
that Canadians consumed approximately 100 lb.
of sugar per person last year, according to Ca-
nadian Grocer. That would be close to 1,300,
000,000 lb. and a record. That, at least, says the
grocery business paper, constituted the sales of
refined, and of this amount only 1,300,000 lb.
were exported. Lifting of the ration restrictions
toward the end of 1947 opened the door for all
the sugar industrial users and consumers want-
ed.

The Archbishop of Canterbury says there
are only three kinds of people in the world:

- 1. Communists.
2. Convinced christians.
3. Amiable nonentities.

In a sermon at an R.A.F. station the Arch-
bishop, Most Rev. Geoffrey Fisher, said the first
two know their goals. "The rest of the people
of the world are amiable nonentities, contribut-
ing literally nothing to the construction of the
Kingdom of God." Carlyle terms them "Mostly
fools!"

Michael Davitt, Irish agitator, born this
date 1846. He became a Fenian in 1865, and
later became associated with Parnell in his Home
Rule agitation. He was thrice imprisoned for
sedition, which only made him the more popu-
lar in Ireland and Home Rule circles in Britain.
He was a member of Parliament in 1892-3, and
again in 1895-9. He caused serious disturbances
in the House of Commons as an obstructionist,
and was removed from the House. After the Pig-
gott scandal, and the division of the Irish party,
he threw in his lot with the Parnellites, and this
served to accentuate his unpopularity in the of-
ficial Irish party of which Mr. John Edward Red-
mond became leader. In his later years, Davitt,
who did more to force the Irish issue to the
front than any other politician of his time, re-
tired from his activities and wrote The Fall of
Feudalism in Ireland which was published in
1904: "Home Rule must be a means only to an
end, and that end is Irish independence."

The farmers of Canada borrowed nearly
\$30,000,000 under the Farm Improvement Loans
Act during 1948, according to the Annual Re-
port tabled in the House of Commons by the
Hon. Douglas Abbott, Minister of Finance. This
total represents an increase of 61 per cent over
the year 1947. Since March 1, 1945, when the
Farm Improvement Loans Act came into force,
just under 70,000 individual loans have been
made to a total value of \$60,000,000. For the
fourth successive year there have been no losses.
Of the total of \$60,000,000 lent under the Act,
57 per cent has been repaid. Farm Improvement
Loans are made through the chartered banks
under a partial Government guarantee. Loans
are made for a wide variety of purposes includ-
ing the purchase of farm implements, the pur-
chase of livestock, the financing of farm build-
ings and the clearing and breaking of land.

The loaning in 1948 by Provinces is shown
below:

Table with 3 columns: Province, No. of loans, Amount. Total: 30,431 loans, \$29,331,130.70

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

AROUND QUEEN SQUARE

Charlottetown is a city of rec-
tangles and red clay, regular in
its streets, and uniform in its col-
our; but the advantage of a situ-
ation beautifully sloping to a fine
estuarial sheet of water have not
had justice done them. At some
future day, probably, there will be
some sort of 'Tyburnia' or 'Bel-
gravia', where mansion follows
mansion in clustering magnificence,
and one will be spared the feeling
of having seen a whole town, after
looking at one imported-stone Col-
onial Building, which, alone in its
glory, stands like Patience on a
monument, smiling at grief, or in
its naked amplitude, groveless and
unshrubbed, one of those architec-
tural beauties which 'when un-
adorned's adorned the most.'

While there is only one import-
ed-stone building, it would be a
pity to give design and ornament
to its approaches; the Island can-
not afford to hide a single stone by
foliage, the visitor must have
'a clear road and no favour' to
see it all. But were a real stone
building not so great a rarity,
there could be combined on
Queen Square, where the Colonial
Building stands, the richest ef-
fects of colour under the diversi-
fied and gorgeous hues of autumn
follage, the green carpets at its
base, and the ruby lines which
would form its approaches. Here
is wanted a colossal statue of
Prince Edward Island, the late
Duke of Kent; but it is unlikely
that any one will open a subscrip-
tion, or make a trial of arousing
sufficient interest in so desirable
an undertaking, because so many
frustrations always arise to such
efforts where a community, like
clay under the sun's burning, gets
cracked by the heat of unreason-
able debate, and loses its cohesion.
—From "The Progress and Pros-
pects of Prince Edward Island,"
etc., 1861, by C. Birch Bagster.

Lenten Meditations

The Times, London
THE TWILIGHT OF
CIVILIZATION

In one of his weighty books, "The
Twilight of Civilization," M. Jac-
ques Maritain, the distinguished
French Catholic philosopher, diag-
noses the conditions which have
produced the present crisis for
mankind. This is not, as the title
might suggest, yet another expres-
sion of pessimism; no real Chris-
tian can fall a victim to that. As
M. Maritain says: "If twilight ushers
in night, night itself precedes
happens that the first rays of
dawn are mingled with the twi-
light."

The book is rather a piercing
analysis of the contemporary hu-
man situation; and not the least
of its virtues is that it does not
stop short at diagnosis, but con-
fidently points out the way of re-
covery.

An age that lives under the
atomic menace is in dire need of at-
tention to the teaching of Christ.
Half a century ago much of that
teaching seemed to anti-Christians
to have been superseded by the
progress of science. This discus-
sion has been invalidated by the discov-
ery that science in itself is neu-
tral and it is the uses that men
make of it which are crucial.

Even Christians seem sometimes
to be infected by the tendency so
to dilute the tremendous sayings
of Jesus that they almost lose their
meaning. A theistic humanism ad-
vocates the idea that man alone,
and by himself alone, works out
his salvation."

But experience proves that, as
Maritain says, a world that "shuts
man up in himself and separates
him from Nature, Grace and God,"
and "puts aside God in order to be
self-sufficient in the world in
which 'man loses his soul'."

For if indeed this is God's world,
and God has revealed Himself in
Christ, life, by substitutes hostile
to that revelation, must lead first
to frustration and then to the
abyss. Nothing else will work in
God's world but God's own way of
life: man can fulfill himself only
in life which is "hid with Christ
in God."

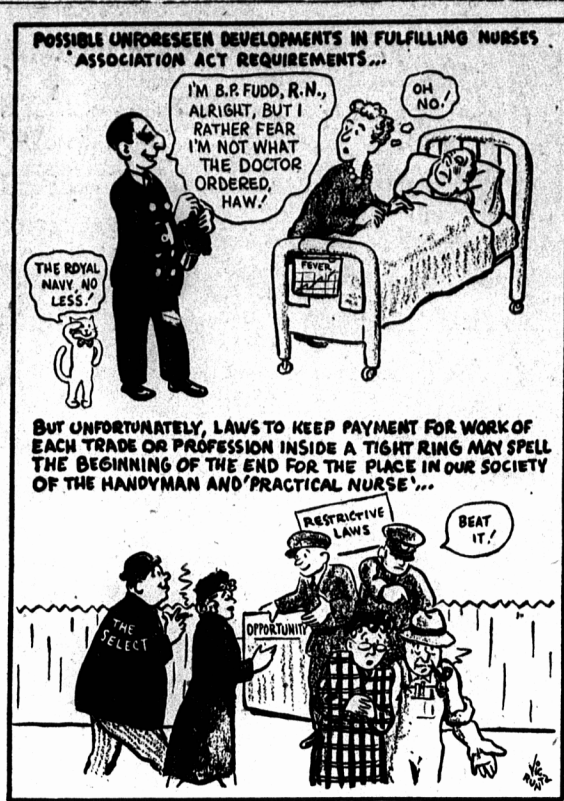
Maritain can call all history to
witness to the truth of his con-
clusion that "if a night of long
continuance is not to come down
on civilization it is on condition
of 'the rediscovery of God.'
Men must 'go back to the first
source of spiritual energies,' to
God. As Robert Louis Stevenson
once wrote: "Sursum corda! . . .
Enter God."

The Poet's Corner

Go, songs, for ended is our brief,
sweet play;
Go, children of swift joy and tardy
sorrow;
And some are sung, and that was
yesterday,
And some unsung, and that may be
tomorrow.

The Age-Old Story

AGE OLD STORY
He satisfieth the longing soul,
and filleth the hungry soul with
goodness



Norway And The Atlantic Pact

(By W.N. Ewer)

I am writing this article in
Oslo. Here in Norway, one sees
the European pattern from a dif-
ferent angle: yet it is the same
pattern.

Only here one realizes even
more than in Britain how entirely
the pattern has been created by
Soviet policy: how Stalin is the
maker of the Atlantic Pact.

It could be argued (though in-
accurately) that so far as Britain
is concerned the Atlantic Pact and
Western Union are the outcome
of the expression of power politics;
that in the Middle East and in
Asia generally, Britain and
Russia have been rivals for more
than a century past, that the So-
viet Union is an obstacle to Brit-
ish "imperialist aims" and so on;
and that therefore Britain is
seeking to build a coalition
against a rival great power.

But Norway as well as Britain
is to sign the Atlantic Pact. And
she will do so not only of her own
free will, but on her own initia-
tive. That is the important point—
Norway herself took the decision.
There was no pressure on her to
do so either from Britain or Amer-
ica. Had there been—this one
realizes also in Oslo—she would
very probably have refused. There
was a Soviet attempt to bring
pressure on the Norwegians to
decide against joining the pact.
That at any rate was the inter-
pretation the Norwegians placed on
the Molotov proposals of a Soviet-
Norwegian "non-aggression" treaty.
And the effect was to convince
them finally of the need for join-
ing the Atlantic group.

Now NORWAY is not a great
power or an imperialist power.
She has a long tradition not only
of peacefulness but of pacifism.
She has (except under the com-
pulsion of Nazi invasion) follow-
ed a policy of strict neutrality, of
aloofness from "power politics" of
any kind and from coalitions of
any kind.

Furthermore, the Norwegian
Labour Party has had a tradition
of sympathy with the Soviet Union
and of something very like
antipathy to the Western Powers.
Yet it is the Labour government
with the firm approval of the vast ma-
jority of the party and of the
trade unions, which has taken this
decision.

Norway had a tradition not only
of peacefulness but of something
very near to disarmament. And
her economic situation today is
one which makes any serious ex-
penditures on armaments a very
heavy burden. She suffered great
loss from the German war and
the German occupation. Half her
merchant fleet—her greatest
economic asset—was destroyed.
She is rebuilding it and is repair-
ing the war devastation, by ac-
cepting a regime of "austerity"
stricter than even the British. To
spend money and energy on arms
is to increase materially and to
hamper recovery. Yet Norway,
within the limits of economic
possibility, is rearming.

Here then is a country in which
neutrality and disarmament have
been accepted as the axiomatic
bases of policy, deliberately decid-
ing to abandon both. The deci-
sion was not taken in a mood of
panic or under the influence of

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Notes By The Way
In our amble to lunch the other
day our ears were assailed by
three tirades of scolding. Three
different mothers on three differ-
ent streets were nattering at three
different children. We wondered
at this rash of ranting. Is it typi-
cal of the dog-days of Winter;
when mothers have too much of the
indoors presence of their off-
spring and must blow a gasket to
relieve the strain? Perhaps it is a
noise of Spring, easily overheard
when a child and its mother are
standing at open doors. Perhaps
such scolding goes on day after
day in those households, but is
usually unheard by passers-by. A
scolding mother is not the noblest
work of God. In fact, the three
of them rather marred the bright-
ness of our day. We do not know
what effect they had on their chil-
dren's day. — Peterborough Exam-
iner.

A gull perched motionless on the
tip of a bowsprit, surveying a sail-
ing ship motionless at its moor-
ings. Below, a harbor breeze
winkles the water, sending ripples
whispering against the plack-
ing. The scene is one of repose:
the end of a journey or the pause
before the start of another. But
there is about the vessel a latent
restlessness, an air of impatience
that it should be anchored, held
to one place when it might be
slipping over the seas under a fair
wind. Even to the landsman the
sight is one to unlock the doors of
fancy. Though the masts are bare,
he can visualize the carrying their
swelling canvas. He can see the
prow cutting through the water, a
ship with a bone in her teeth.
Imagination can carry him to
strange times, to days when craft
under sail approached unknown
lands, discovering, exploring and
trading. Through the years he may
ride the wind to an era when every
sea voyage was an adventure, a test
of skill and strength, when oceans
were the vast unknown, where
legends grew out of recurd runs
to the Indies and the Isles of Spice.
He can capture these visions
through the sight of a sailing ves-
sel riding at her moorings. And
though he may see her in an an-
achronism in this age of more effi-
cient transport, he must thank the
tall-masted ship for the dreams of
a gallant age it still inspires. —
Victoria Times.

They are going to put teeth in
smoke nuisance regulations, and it
is high time they did. A new and
almost stunning reason why the
smoke abatement movement must
succeed came to light the other day
when The Gazette's woman's edi-
tor was running down a Jackson-
ville, Florida, mystery story. Down
there, around luncheon hour one Day
recently, working girls and others
who weren't working started scam-
pering about like mad. It was
quite startling. For their stockings
were disintegrating right where
they hung on the limbs of Jackson-
ville belles. It was nylon stockings
which were so affected, and soon
girls were going barelegged to
work with their stockings in their
purses and patting themselves nerv-
ously to see if any other of their

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NOTICE
The LIVESTOCK FIRST AID COURSE which was to be
held the Week of March 28th. will be held the Week of
April 4th. instead.
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DEPUTY MINISTER and
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

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