

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1948

Ominous Indications

The domination of the big interests, as evidenced in the ruling of the Board of Transport Commissioners on freight rates and the attitude of the King Government with regard to the protests of the Western and Maritime Provinces in connection therewith, has become a major issue in Canadian politics. The King Government may succeed in staving off a vote of non-confidence on this issue in Parliament, but in that case it will simply be because politics once more has taken precedence over national interests.

The hand of the big interests is seen not only in the domination wielded by the Central Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, but in the fact that such powerful organizations as the steel trusts and the C. P. R. headquarters in London have now been transferred to the United States. One result of this transfer has been the recent noticeable rise in Dominion Steel Corporation stocks.

With these interests controlled by New York financiers, the tendency will be more and more to bring the financial and industrial relations between the two countries more closely into line. If this be the case, it is for the Maritime Provinces to look after their own interests, and see what is best to be done to save what is left of their industries, and trade and commerce.

It was at a heavy sacrifice that the Maritime Provinces entered Confederation in the first place, and perhaps the time has come to review the whole situation in the light of recent trends and developments at Ottawa which are of ominous significance to our continued existence as Provinces.

Pinching The Farmers

While the public in the Maritimes and the West prepares to dig down for a very substantial part of the \$70 millions per year increase in freight rates authorized by the Transport Commission, the following points are raised by the Winnipeg Free Press as worthy of consideration.

Freight rates were under Dominion price control during the war and post-war years. The Wartime Prices and Trade Board under order 92, dated January 20, 1942, froze freight rates as part of the general policy of price control. Along with everything else except farm products, the control of freight rates by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board was lifted last September 15. At that time Mr. Abbott and Mr. Gardiner publicly stated as one of the achievements of the Dominion Government, that the policy of decontrol was going forward so successfully that only farm products remained under control.

The prices of farm products are still rigidly kept down by Dominion controls. Everything else is free and, as Mr. Putnam, Minister of Agriculture in British Columbia put it the other day, "no worker and no manufacturer" (and he might have added no railway) has pulled any punches in getting the last cent for the products which the farmer must buy."

Farm Income Tax

Farm income tax is becoming a serious political question on the Prairies, remarks The Printed Word. For some years, the Government has been trying to collect Income Tax from farmers by getting after individual farmers who were obviously prosperous. That meant that the great mass of farmers escaped. Now, the Government has distributed what it regards as a simple Income Tax form for farmers to fill out. The farmers point out that it requires a degree of accounting skill which they do not possess, and that, in any event, accounting concepts suitable for other businesses may quite easily fail to be adaptable to agriculture. The farmers say, for example, that it is totally impossible to decide how much of the labour put in on a farm goes to increase capital value, especially in the form of improved fertility, so that Income Tax as applied to urban activities becomes unjust when applied to farmers. The plain truth is that the farmers are right, and that there has to be found some entirely different method of collecting from the farmers their share of the cost of running the country. It is a question which will play a very important part in the next General Election.

A Cancer Myth Exploded

Another so-called "cure" for cancer has been exploded, this time by Premier James McGirr in the Australian state parliament. Discussing the claims of a Mr. John Braund, a Sydney, Australia, man, the premier has described them as "an outstanding public mischief with international ramifications."

When first reported several months ago in news dispatches, the so-called Braund "cure" gave new hope to thousands of persons in many countries who were victims of cancer. In fact, several sufferers from Canada and the United States travelled all the way to Sydney at great

personal sacrifice to receive the treatment they confidently hoped would restore their health. The discomforts of the long journey and the tragic disappointment on learning that the treatment had officially been declared worthless, can only be described as one of the cruellest crimes ever committed upon suffering people. A distressing feature of the hoax is that, in at least two cases, funds used to pay the heavy expenses involved in the trip from Canada to Australia, came from mortgaged homes and small bank accounts acquired over long years of hard work.

If there is any object lesson to be drawn from such a tragic story, it is that when a complete cure for cancer is found, it will come as a result of the intensive scientific research now being conducted in laboratories and medical centres. But this work cannot be carried on without funds. That is the purpose of the Canadian Cancer Fund, for which a campaign is being conducted across the Dominion this month. The effectiveness of Canada's drive against this disease will be measured to large extent by the public support accorded the present campaign.

EDITORIAL NOTES

First prize in the Italian election lottery is reported to be \$100,000 but what would the winner do with the money if he happened to win it by calling a Communist victory?

Saskatchewan's C.C.F. government is stacking the cards against any Conservative reaction by reducing the voting age from 21 to 18. These additional voters may well offset those who, having tried Socialism, find they don't like it.

New life insurance protection put in force in Prince Edward Island during the month of February amounted to \$359,000, according to the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association. The total for all Canada exceeded \$100,000,000.

George Frederick Handel, Anglo-German composer, died this date 1759. His name will always be associated with oratorio, and he is the undisputed master of choral music.

In income and excess profit taxes a total of \$3,020,276 was collected in Prince Edward Island for the fiscal year 1945-46, according to a statement tabled recently in the House of Commons. The amount of income tax alone was \$2,117,412.

Considering the temporary breakdown in telegraphic communication there has been a lot of news coming out of Colombia. Radio "hams" or amateur operators did an excellent job of maintaining communication as, indeed, they have done in many another emergency.

As a result of the freight rates difficulty which results in seven Provinces being pitted against the Government at Ottawa Mr. King might well decide that sound strategy requires that he should not afterwards attempt to lead his party in a general election.

The principle of sovereign immunity to suits at law is an anomaly today with governments entering into fields of commerce. A striking case was the American ruling that the Russian ship Russia (and all other Russian ships) is owned by the state and consequently immune to suits for damages brought by injured passengers.

Edmonton reports a new city by-law, providing that housepainters must pay \$1000 for a licence to do business; must pass an examination for competence. All that now remains, says a contemporary, is to have a by-law that candidates for the City Council must pay for a licence, and have an examination for competence.

A mass invasion of Ottawa by Maritime Canadians and Western Canadians is under contemplation. It is felt the only way to impress the lukewarm M.P.'s and Government of the seriousness of the freight crisis is to beard the lions in their den and convince them that the people and not the autocrats, plutocrats and bureaucrats are the bosses and have the ultimate say in what should and should not be done.

Here is how the Maritimes fall down, and allow Ontario and Quebec to triumph over us: "It is expected that one or both members of the dual constituency of Queen's will take occasion to express their views on freight rates and emphasize the very great disadvantage the Island Province will suffer under the new tariffs. It is not anticipated, however, that Mr. Douglas would vote against the administration on the Coldwell amendment." What is the good of talk if it be not carried to the logical conclusion, and followed up by determined action?

The day of air passenger travel is fast approaching that of universality—soon everybody will be saving time, money and delay by taking to plane instead of the train. The main handicap so far is the uncertainty of starting and landing due to unfavourable atmospheric conditions, but that will soon be remedied, and flying passengers may go and come with the regularity of the railway service. Even as it is, if there be a delay the time saved overall more than compensates for the inconvenience.

Some unthinking folk wonder how it is that a usually docile, quiet-living population rises in rebellion and creates a revolution. Well, it is easily explained, the down-trodden worm has a habit now and then of turning and making its humble presence felt. There is this case in point in the Maritimes. We have put up with all sorts of Government neglect and contempt, but the time seems ripe to make a bold stand, or for ever to become submerged as off-scourings of fabulously wealthy Ontario and Quebec. We are in earnest, and before long these Maritime Provinces will make their presence felt in no uncertain way in the purlieus of Parliament Hill.

Notes By The Way

Your boss may be a crank, but perhaps he has to be to get you started. — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

It is claimed the new square milk bottles pack much better. Nature, however, still refuses to provide us with square eggs, olives or sardines. — Edmonton Journal.

Because he lacked a visa, Jamal Effendi Hussein, Palestine Arab leader, was not allowed to stop over in Britain en route to the United States. Wonder if this Arab had a tent to fold as he slipped silently away. — Windsor Star.

Cost of having a baby, and maintaining it for the first year, has risen nearly 40 percent since 1939, according to a survey just completed in Vancouver. In 1939 the cost was \$325—now it has risen to \$450. — Vancouver News-Herald.

If we are to combat inflation successfully, it is essential that we tighten up on all forms of credit which expand consumer buying power, or which permit manipulation. It is just as essential that we encourage loans for increasing and cheapening production and that we try to divert some of the "spending money" of the people into savings. — Milwaukee Journal.

An English judge says most women who throw things at their husbands would be "inconsolable" if their missiles hit the target, "thereby seeming to indicate a judicial belief that the women don't really intend to hit hubby, just to frighten him. This contradicts the common impression that the low casualty rate among husbands is due to the fact that most women couldn't hit the broad side of a barn." — Vancouver Sun.

A move to discard wigs and gowns in British courts was rejected by a House of Commons standing committee. Communist William Gallacher claimed they terrorized defendants. The latter should know that in his favorite countries courts can terrify the disobedient without the use of wigs and gowns. — Fort William Times-Journal.

During 1947 gypsum quarrying in Nova Scotia reached a peak output of 2,151,000 tons, with an estimated value of \$1,800,000. This was more than 20 per cent up from the 1946 records. Victoria and Hants Counties are the two main sources of production. Nova Scotia gypsum has been produced and marketed on a modest scale for many years, but the real value of this important deposit is yet to be fully appraised, says the surface, so to speak, still remains only partly scratched. — Sydney Post Record.

Remember the people who used to whisper during the war that the refundable part of the income and corporation tax would "never be repaid"? Well, during the last two weeks of March the Department of Finance will be repaying these refundable taxes to the tune of \$93,000,000, paying not merely the principal, but adding interest to boot. There will be no dent; no whitening down of payments; every one, to the last cent, will get what is coming to him. A good lesson to us against heading the "doubting Thomases" who forever are seeing ruin. — Ottawa Journal.

Britain's forests and woodlands are to be managed for the benefit of the nation. A scheme was published recently by the Forestry Commission whereby owners can make over their plantations to the state by deed of agreement. In return they receive financial assistance equal to 25 percent of expenditure. This is devised that Britain's 2,000,000 acres of privately owned forests shall be maintained in such a way as to make the largest possible contribution to the country's timber supplies. — Fort William Times Journal.

Some day you may be driving your car with solid gasoline — gas which can be bought by the pound and handled with as much safety, and in much the same way, as a pound of butter or a bag of oatmeal. Solid gasoline, already a reality, is being manufactured for the United States military forces under a contract granted by its French inventor, M. Jean Patus-Labour. The U.S. regards the invention so highly that it has labelled it top secret and refuses to disclose any information. The invention promises to make flying (and, ultimately, motoring) much safer. Also, it should mean a great saving in fuel. The great advantage of solid gasoline is that, paradoxically, it is fireproof. — Magazine Digest.

The reader of the Times who had to pay 1d. surcharge on a letter which bore two very early Victorian half-penny stamps must feel that he has had good value for his money. Posted in North Wales to an address in London, the letter bore five stamps—three George VI orthodox half-pennies and the two blue-green "Victorians." These latter a vigilant Post Office official had ringed in red pencil, adding the word "obsolete" and a 1d. postage due stamp. The reader thinks this, surely, was a small enough price to pay for a veritable museum piece and an addition to his collection that must be absolutely "one might almost say obsolescent"—unique. — London Times.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

THE MONCTON HIGH SCHOOL

Sirs—After a visit to the Moncton High School, Mr. Ralph McLean made the following report: There has been considerable interest shown in the possibility of establishing a Composite High School in Charlottetown, and much discussion of the purpose and organization of such a school. A description of the Moncton High School as a concrete example may clear up a few misconceptions. The building itself is impressive in its architecture and size, being three stories high and covering an area of about an acre and a quarter. It contains thirty-three classrooms, gymnasium and auditorium, and nine large workrooms which house the Shops and Home Economics Department. Even this does not take care of the 930 students who attend classes so that a new wing is being added.

The cost of the original building was approximately \$300,000 which did not include the cost of furniture and equipment. Since it was felt that the school did not belong to any one generation, the city issued bonds to raise the money. In this way every generation has a share in paying for the building and at not too great a burden. Of greatest interest, of course, is the way in which the curriculum is organized to suit the needs and desires of the various students. There are five courses offered: the Academic, Technical, Industrial, Commercial and Home Economics. In Grade IX all students take a certain amount of each course to that he may discover the one in which he should specialize.

The Academic Course is the ordinary High School one which prepares students for University work. In Moncton, students may do this work in three years or four years depending on their ability. The Technical Course also prepares for University Matriculation and is designed primarily for students going on to University in the field of Engineering or some other phase of applied science. In the Technical Course, the student takes, in addition to his regular academic course, four periods of shop per week. This means extra work to the extent of one additional hour a week after regular school hours. There is some common preparation for this, however, since the student may drop one language from his academic course.

An explanation of the word "Shop" might be of value at this point. In the Moncton High School there are five Shops; wood-working, in which the student learns the fundamentals of carpentry and cabinet-making; Electrical, where he learns about the wiring of houses, the use of two-way switches and electricity as it applies to radio; Machine Shop, in which the practical uses of such metal-working machines as lathes and drills is taught. This shop is quite different from the Motor Mechanics which gives some idea of the workings and parts of a truck, car, and other motors. Lastly there is the Drafting Shop where the student draws plans of machine parts, houses, electrical circuits and so on. A student in the Technical Course gets some experience in all these Shops while specializing in one.

The Industrial Course makes use of the same Shops; however, it is designed to fit students for work in one or other of these fields immediately after graduation. The academic work in the industrial course is reduced to four subjects: social studies, English, Mathematics and Science—so that the student is not only equipped to earn a livelihood, but in addition, acquires a certain cultural background. The Home Economics Course is a technical course for girls and gives those who do not wish to enter a university a considerable knowledge of and experience in Home Economics. The girls take Home Economics subjects while the boys are taking Shop work, otherwise the course is the same for both.

The students who choose to specialize in Commerce take, in addition to a modified academic course, typing, shorthand, bookkeeping and business practice. They are ready to begin work on completion of High School. School spirit which is a vital part of school life is manifested by participation in sports and social activities in the High School gymnasium. Another way in which the students of different courses mingle on an equal footing is provided by Interest Groups. One period of school time every week is taken to allow a student to do what he is especially interested in classes in journalism, dramatics, choral and orchestral music, science and cooking for those who would not ordinarily be studying it.

The auditorium and gymnasium are quite separate and each has been designed for its specific purpose. A really good auditorium is an advantage to any community and the Moncton auditorium is used extensively for a variety of programmes of interest to the whole city. In other words, it is something of a community centre. In addition to this, the shops and classrooms are available to citizens for night classes two evenings each week. Moncton High School is a modern, up-to-date school offering a wide variety of courses to the students. In addition, citizens are given the opportunity of improving their cultural background through the night school and the programmes given in the auditorium. The school will no doubt adapt itself



MONEY'S WORTH

To see a strange out-landish Powle, A quaint Baboon, an Ape, an Owl, A dancing Bear, a Gyan's bone, A foolish Ingin move alone, A Morris-dance, a Puppet-play Mad from to sing Roundelay, A Woman dancing on a Rope, Bull-baiting also at the 'Hope'; A Rimer's Jest, a Juggler's cheat, A Tumbler showing cunning feats, Or Players acting on the Stage— There goes the bouncy of our Age; But unto any plous motion, There's little coin and lesse devotion. —Henry Farley: 1621.

Old Charlottetown

EARLY POSTAL SERVICE

The earliest period in which we find a postal service in operation in Prince Edward Island, is 1801 (John Robb Almanac, 1802, p. 11). Quebec is mentioned as postmaster in that year. He was succeeded by Benjamin Chappell, in whose hands and those of his family the postmastership remained for over forty years. The connections with the mainland and the mother country were maintained for some years by such vessels as happened to visit the Island. The postal service was withdrawn from the jurisdiction of Nova Scotia, and it was not until 1816 that the Deputy Postmaster-General made any mention of the Island service in his reports to the General Post Office in London. He then informed the Postmaster-General that when Lord Selkirk was in Nova Scotia, some years before (1803), that nobleman urged upon him the necessity of a courier service to Pictou and thence to Prince Edward Island by packet. This service was established in 1816, and an arrangement was made with the Island Government by which the postage was to be applied, as far as it would go, to maintain the packet and pay the postmaster's salary, and the Government would make up the balance. There were no accounts between the Island post office and the General Post Office. The postmaster simply presented to the Deputy Postmaster-General periodical statements of postages collected and his expenses, together with a receipt for the deficiency, which was paid by the Government. This arrangement had the immense advantage that from the very first the Island service was in the hands of the Local Government, which carried on the post office with no more than a formal reference to the General Post Office. The post office from Charlottetown to Halifax was eight-pence. Until 1827 the post office opened in Charlottetown in the beginning of the century was the only institution of its kind on the Island. Letters remained in the post office till called for. —From "The History of the Post Office in British North America, 1639-1870," by William Smith, quoted in Warburton's History.

THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE

Elementary Education Sir, — In a recent address Mrs. Leona M. Ross, Parkdale, gave a clear cut statement of the aims and methods in the new trend of Education as it relates to the Elementary level. There was nothing new, of course, in the speaker's approach. It was simply a restatement of procedures and aims which every good teacher has used since the days of Comenius. Why then is there a need for advancing that which has been practised for a long time? Simply because some where along the line we have lost that approach. We are so busy in schools these days hearing lessons that the teacher hasn't time to teach nor the pupil to learn. Confronted with an over-weighted curriculum the teacher is at a loss to know what to emphasize and what to skip lightly over. Dabbling into unrelated knowledge here and there is a sheer waste of precious time. Time was when the three R's—Reading, 'Riting, and 'Rithmetic, were important. It appears at times that teachers impressed by the thought that all is wheat that comes to the mill find that they haven't time for Reading and Writing in this ceaseless grind. What we want is not more variation that will resolve itself into subjects on a curriculum but variation that will have its effect in the broadening of experience. This can even be done without the use of text-books. Let us go back to the Three R's. Let us have more reading, interesting, wholesome reading until reading becomes a pleasure for life. Let us have more writing — not copy-book writing but creative writing or to put it simply the ability which one rarely finds of saying in simple words what one wishes to say. Let us have arithmetic that is meaningful. Let us insist on accuracy developed through reasoning. This brings us to the fourth R, suggested by the speaker — Reasoning. The only so-called reasoning received in school is the pet reasoning, a la Euclid which is no more suitable for the development of intelligent citizenship than is Sanscrit. Reasoning is not a subject; it is every subject. Let I be misunderstood, the many and varied subjects have

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