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Vanishing Food Contracts

Under the above heading the Globe and Mail refutes the claim advanced at Ottawa that Britain's lack of dollars is exclusively to blame for our vanishing food contracts with the Old Country.

This has resulted in emphasis on grain, to the detriment of diversified farming. The penalty is pointed up in the newly signed international wheat agreement which puts Canada and other adhering nations on an export quota.

His obvious solution would be in cattle, pigs, dairy and poultry. Britain has been and is the natural market for these products, and she signed contracts for them in good faith with Canada.

The irony is that the subsidy policy nullified the very thing it was advertised to do, and the very thing farmers were actually accomplishing.

In 1943 the Government set up a subsidy to give growers of coarse grains the benefit from higher prices when their products were shipped to the United States.

Bacon contracts with Britain began to shrink in 1945, falling first to 450 million pounds a year, then to 250 million, 195 million and finally 160 million.

These figures indicate that Britain's dollar lack was not the only reason for our vanishing food contracts. In fact, the United States agreed to give Britain \$12 million to buy Canadian bacon in the last quarter of 1948, and cancelled it when Canada did not produce the bacon.

During the prewar and war years Canadian farmers showed they could produce the type of bacon Britain wanted. But the record indicates that Agriculture Minister Gardiner still is not convinced that the West can grow hogs.

The B. C. Election

The announcement of dissolution and an election in British Columbia on June 16 reveals that the dispute which has arisen between the two parties in the Coalition over the methods of nominating candidates has been ironed out and the Government forces of Liberals and Progressive Conservatives — a union consummated in 1941 — will again appeal to the people in a united front.

In the 48-member Legislature just dissolved the Coalition Government held 36 seats, of which the Liberal representation totalled 21 and the Progressive Conservatives, 15.

Under the arrangements now being worked out in detail it appears that sitting members of both Coalition parties, in practically all cases, will be renominated. Ridings now held by the C.C.F. will be open to competition between Liberal and Conservative aspirants at joint conventions.

Major plank in the platform which the Union Government seeks to have endorsed is a five-year plan of vast public expenditures estimated to reach \$92 per head of the population on current account alone, as well as large capital expenditures.

It is regarded as not without significance that Premier Johnson announced the B. C. provincial election date on the day after Prime Minister St. Laurent had left Victoria on his homeward trip from the Pacific Coast speaking tour.

Two other Provincial general elections — in Nova Scotia and Manitoba — are rumored to be in the offing.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Teacher's Convention.

It is claimed 80 per cent of the Liberal M.P.'s favour an early election, and that two-thirds of Quebec Liberals before the Easter recess decided the time was ripe now.

Intimations that sitting members of the House of Commons will not stand for re-nomination not unusually indicates that there is a political job in store for them.

Ireland is not only quitting the Commonwealth, but the Commonwealth's language as well. It will take a long time to substitute Gaelic for English — bilingualism will have to be tried first.

Prince Edward Islanders have always felt that they lived in the centre of the world, but never until the air navigational courses in Summerside was our nearness to London, San Francisco, Toronto and the Arctic so vividly realized.

Mr. George Drew's Newfoundland visit must be something of an event to the New Province. Elections on party lines have been unknown there since the Commission government was established in 1933.

The deadline for filing Income Tax returns is just nine days away, for many the last such deadline they will have to meet, unless wars or rumours of wars or state paternalism bring back war-time tax rates.

Civilization brings its drawbacks as well as its benefits. The auto produces fatal monoxide as well as speed, and industrial centres are accountable for poisonous smog as well as prosperity. The devil always hovers near angelic progressive undertakings.

Prime Minister St. Laurent can hardly be expected to be in two places at once, campaigning for a general election and attending the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers, but he seems to have made a choice which politicians today regard more favourably than may historians of the future.

The social committee of the U. N. Assembly has voted to "encourage the freest possible movement of foreign correspondents" in reporting international news. Leon Malrand of Canada opposed a Polish amendment which would have excepted correspondents connected with Nazi-Fascist organizations, or persons known for their slanderous statements regarding the people of any of the contracting states to whose territory they wish to proceed.

Egg prices on April 14 this year and previous years. The prices quoted below are Grade A Large. At Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto the prices are those at which graded shipments are selling to wholesalers. At other points quotations are prices to shippers for ungraded eggs.

Table with 4 columns: Location, 1949, 1948, 1947. Rows include Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Charlottetown.

Adolf Hitler born this date 1889. He started life as a housepainter in Austria, and succeeded in painting the European continent red with blood before he died by his own hand on May 1, 1945. In a written announcement Grand Admiral Donitz said Hitler had died in Berlin after appointing him as his successor.

In Ottawa and Ontario generally there is a brief attempt to develop bilingualism for election purposes. Among the PC members, Mr. John Hackett, who sits for Stanstead in Quebec's Eastern Townships, can make a speech in French without notes.

Dominion leaders arrived in London yesterday for the Prime Minister's conference which is to consider India's views on future Commonwealth association. They will hold a week's discussion on this constitutional issue and other Commonwealth problems under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Attlee at 10 Downing street.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

TROUT FISHING REGULATIONS

Sir,—It seems strange that discrimination should be used concerning our fishing laws. While many were arrested violating one section of the Fish and Game Act a certain sergeant of the R. C. M. P. was reportedly violating another part of said Act, namely catching a "Rainbow Trout" before July 1st.

Surely a man with the exalted rank of Sergeant of R. C. M. P. should know better than to keep a Rainbow Trout caught out of season and if not made pay the consequences the same as a common citizen. I think it would be well for the above mentioned sergeant to familiarize himself with the Fish and Game Act of this Province.

I am, Sir, etc. READER. Summerside, P. E. I.

RURAL TEACHERS PROBLEMS

Sir,—A timely article entitled "Little Red Sweatshop" appears in the current issue of MacLean's Magazine. From this article I quote two interesting paragraphs: "In the last 30 years the schools have failed to keep pace with the society they serve. Teaching as a profession has become unattractive.

Salaries, living and working conditions of teachers, school buildings and equipment are all much as they were decades ago. The schools, and education, suffer. "Who is suffering most? The children in the rural areas. Equality of opportunity in education simply doesn't exist. Rural children are taught by teachers who are paid only \$1,207 (1947 national average) while city children are taught by teachers paid an average of \$2,120.

It might be well for rural parents and rural teachers to ask the why of some things. For instance why are the \$200 teachers for country and \$2100 teachers for city schools?

Why are there supplementary teachers to help backward pupils in town schools, but no such help in the country? We could go on in our comparisons but would it get us anywhere? However, just a brief look into a country set-up might do no harm.

Here we see pupils ranging from grades one to ten. Let us think briefly of three grades.

Firstly grade one. Compare the time a city teacher has to put on her grade one, with the brief snatches of time a country teacher can give her class and then "Pity the poor little country children."

Secondly grade two. Let us compare a country teacher trying to drill the fundamentals of fractions into her grade five pupils. It is quite a task—it requires a lot of "steady" time; perhaps nine other grades are waiting for attention. Small wonder many country adults cannot work the simplest fractions.

Thirdly grade ten. But surely with all the subjects they have to handle we need not go into details just "Pity the poor country pupils."

One more thing might be noted if necessary to arouse pity, namely country toilets. Is there no system can be arranged by the powers that be, so that country children will not endanger their lives by visiting the outhouse places?

Perhaps one might say well give some suggestions. Mine would be, first supplementary teachers for country schools as well as for city schools. Most country districts have several former teachers within their boundaries. Secondly, Whereas the conditions of many country school teachers is deplorable it should be important as a teacher should to disease etc. that some strict system of supervision be instituted.

In one of our neighboring provinces, I understand that teachers have the authority, for supervision; and that their rank as a teacher is considerably lowered, if they allow unsanitary conditions to exist without reporting to the trustees.

Perhaps some of those topics will come up for discussion at our present teachers' convention. Let us hope, so!

I am, Sir, etc. VOICE FROM THE COUNTRY. East Royalty.

FISHING OFF P.E.I.

Sir,—We must admit that we are very backward in our cod fishing on P. E. I. In the nearby province of N. B. they have modernized their fishing method to an extent that makes our way of fishing quite obsolete. If we do not modernize on perhaps a smaller scale, we will find ourselves sooner or later out of the fishing business altogether.

Below is an article from The Ensign of November 13, 1948, which speaks for itself.

I am, Sir, etc. FRANCIS DOUCETTE. Rusticoville.

CARAQUET, N. B.—Co-operation is the answer to how New Brunswick north shore French-Canadian fishermen are making from \$200 to \$500 a week.

It sounds like big money and it is—especially to men who for years had accustomed themselves to periods which varied between adequate living and lean days. Secret of the men's success is the introduction of modern fishing trawlers, smaller version of the trawler, off the banks of historic Bay Chaleur.

WITH CHILDREN'S FARM INCOME (\$500 OR LESS) DEDUCTIBLE FROM FARMER'S TAXABLE INCOME...



The Poet's Corner

SIGNS OF SPRING

And now I know the Spring is near Since horned larks and crows are here; The former in his springtime gown, You'll see on road-trails south of town. There, just ahead of you he'll run, Until, arising, just in fun, Will fly or undulating wing, With motion, then he'll sing. Sometimes he sits right on the ground, Eyes bright and ear-tuffs—is he crowned? He should be since he faces "weather," To build his nest—grass, horsehair, feather.

—S. D. Eland Flexman in Regina Leader Post.

The men weren't satisfied with their wages or shares, the companies were not happy about their supplies and selling prices for the fish and the provincial government was perturbed about the rising semi-unemployment and mounting protest.

For years the wisecracks had cried that any form of trawler would drive the ordinary man from the waters, despoil the banks and ruin prices. But finally in 1947 the companies, the men and the government had got together.

The New Brunswick Fishermen's Loan Board, which operates under the Department of Industry and Reconstruction, put H. J. Robit-Chaud, director of the fisheries division to work on the scheme with promises of financial backing for individual crews. Ramifications of the plan were wide and embodied building five experimental draggers in New Brunswick yards at Richibucto and Caraquet, organization of crews and the hiring of an expert instructor who had fished out of Portland, Maine, on these vessels.

After early "shakedown" cruises and last winter's battle against blustering winds and weather, both successfully overcome, the fleet had a profitable summer and are confident of a good winter. The first ships have been added to with others built in Nova Scotia yards and the Bay of Fundy on the opposite side of the province has been invaded.

Land and long line fishermen are swelling the ranks of the draggermen and their families and those who want to stay ashore are employed in processing plants. The government talks guardedly of "a new million-dollar industry."

Here's how it was done. Begun without fanfare because of long-standing opposition from the fishermen, these loans were advanced, boats built to forest specifications and captains and crews signed on a share basis. Things couldn't be much worse so they took a chance.

Increased volume swelled the take when prices slumped from two to three cents a pound on world markets. Each boat landed 50,000 pounds of fish at the end of a trip made short by the 10-knot speed of the dragger. While far at sea the catch is led to prevent spoilage. Methods of setting and hauling in the huge nets and icing the catch are almost mechanical and down to a fine science.

Earliest basis of comparison showed that even with green crews two five-man boats landed over twice as much fish as would have been landed by the same number of men using the old-fashioned methods and did this in less than half the time. All this was regardless of weather conditions.

The seaworthy 36-ton draggers being used are 57 feet long with a 15-foot beam. They are powered by 165 B.H.P. diesel engines, cruise at 10 knots and can reach the banks in between 5-6 hours after leaving port. They are equipped to ice up to 60,000 pounds of fresh cod and can weather any normal blow, icing the fish as they catch them.

Perhaps one of the best features of the entire project is that no bread is being taken from anyone's mouth. Those who prefer to stick by the traditional methods of fishing are not interfered with. They could not reach the banks fished by the diesel-powered craft and set out any length of time. The draggermen are careful not to invade the inshore regions of their less-lucky cousins.

With no publicity or grandiose claims the experiment is spreading and in fact is an experiment no longer but a long step forward.

DERIVED FROM LATIN

The words car and kaiser are both derived from the Latin caesus.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCE

From the Journal of the House of Assembly, Feb. 15, 1948: On a resolution to consider the expediency of providing, for such members of the Legislative Council as reside twenty miles and upwards from Charlottetown, payment for their expenses in attending the sessions of the Legislature, such allowance to be ascertained by vote or resolution of that body in session, and not to exceed the sum of thirty pounds for each such member at each session, besides travelling expenses at the rate of eight-pence per mile in coming and returning: Mr. Whelan moved, in amendment, that all the words after "resolved" be struck out, and the following substituted:

"That it is inexpedient to adopt any measure contemplating payment to Legislative Councillors, in- been advocated or recognized by the members of the Legislative Council themselves, as it would entail an injudicious expenditure of the public money, and no promise, or perhaps remote advantage result from it, and as the measure has never yet been asked for, by any portion of the people."

The House divided on the motion of amendment: Yeas: Mr. Whelan, Mr. D. Macdonald, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Mooney, Mr. LeLacheur, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Macintosh, Mr. Clark. Nays: Mr. H. Macdonald, Mr. J. Longworth, Mr. D. Maclean, Mr. N. Conroy, Mr. Haviland, Mr. Palmer, Mr. J. H. Conroy, Mr. F. Longworth, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Thornton.

So it passed in the negative. The question of concurrence being put on the resolution, it was carried on the same division. The bill in accordance with the resolution was passed three days later, but narrowly escaped being given a three months' hoist. The House divided equally on the delaying motion, which was defeated on the casting vote of Mr. Speaker.

The Age-Old Story

The Lord taketh my part with them that help me, therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

The Irish Republic

(Exchange)

On Easter Monday the country known as Eire officially becomes the Republic of Ireland. And coincidental with the assumption of this new status it ceases to have any connection with the British Crown and, furthermore, steps outside of the Commonwealth and Empire.

At last session of Eire's Dail Eireann in Dublin, the government of Premier Costello repealed the External Relations Act promulgated by the predecessor administration of Mr. De Valera. This statute placed internal affairs of Eire under a presidency while external affairs remained under His Majesty the King. The Republic of Ireland Act, which becomes effective formally today — on the 33rd anniversary of the Dublin revolution — severs the last link between Britain and Southern Ireland.

The Six Counties of Northern Ireland, or Ulster, do not, however, come within the Republic. They remain joined to the United Kingdom, retaining the position they have continued to occupy since the separation of North and South. And only two months ago the people of Ulster revealed their desire to maintain that traditional union with Britain by re-electing, by an overwhelming majority at a general election, the Unionist government of Prime Minister Sir Basil Brooke.

But while Southern Ireland leaves the British Commonwealth and Empire, neither natives or citizens of the new Republic are to be regarded by the Commonwealth nations as foreigners. At Westminster and in other Commonwealth parliaments legislation to this effect has already been passed or is in process of enactment.

Strangely, one of the dominant figures in the public life of Eire is not to participate in any of the celebrations marking the advent of the Republic of Ireland today. That man is the former Prime Minister, Mr. Eamon de Valera. He has decided to boycott the halling in of the new State, although he will lay a wreath on the graves of his late comrades who participated with him in the Easter rebellion in 1916.

In this Dominion, which has always had strong ties with Ireland, we believe the majority of Canadians will endorse the sentiments expressed in Victoria, B.C., the other day by their Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, "of regret that Eire has chosen to leave the Commonwealth," but that "all Canadians, especially those of Irish descent, would hope for continued close and friendly relations between the two countries."

It's The Fit That Counts

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Notes By The Way

Newfoundlanders begin to pay income tax on July 1. But from what we have been hearing lately about the people there, mighty few of them will have to pay. — Oshawa Times-Gazette.

One of the latest indications that the world is entering a buyer's market is contained in the annual inventory of the London Zoo. It shows that deflation, or as the London Economist prefers, disinflation, has caught up with the humble toad. Last year, with the world still firmly in the grip of high prices, the zoo placed an inventory valuation of six-pence on each member of its toad collection. In the current inventory, the price has tumbled to threepence. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Word that an all-water transportation service between Montreal and Vancouver will start around the end of April is welcome news in this port. Up until the end of 1940 ships traveling via Panama Canal brought us a wide variety of goods from the East and carried our lumber and canned salmon back with them. But the war brought the canal traffic to a standstill. Now it is proposed to inaugurate a monthly service between here and Montreal with vessels of Canadian registry. The approximate transit time will be 28 days. If the canal trade can be developed to a healthy, competitive traffic Vancouver will benefit tremendously. — Vancouver Province.

Diseases and drugs occupy much of our thought in the unending struggle for health. But a layman may be forgiven if now and then he speculates on what added measure of health might be awarded to civilized and urbanized man if he were able to experience such natural healing agents as sufficient rest, health-giving, unspiced foods, proper exercise and entertainment, emotional poise and mental relaxation. These are not to be found in any pharmacopoeia yet they may have indispensable values in the scheme of human health. — London Free Press.

The Ottawa Journal speaks of the brown water of the Spring floods as the "blood of the good earth." The slow bleeding of the land is more noticeable as the snow melts and takes the fine soil with it than at any other time of the year. The comparison of the fine grained topsoil to blood is an apt one. The water washes away the soluble plant food, and the fine particles which sustain the capillary action that carries water to the surface in dry periods. When erosion goes to the limit, nothing is left but particles of grit, with no nourishment in them. The slow hemorrhage of the life-blood of the land has been going on for years. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

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