# THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, NOV. 2, 1948


## Momentous Times

That is ominous news from China carried by the Canadian Press, and bears out what many who have been following the civil war there have dreaded. *Time* in its current issue puts it this way: In February 1948 U. S. Secretary of State Marshall had appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, had there engaged in a blunt exchange with Minnesota's Congressman Walter Judd.

*Marshall:* If the present (Chiang Kai-shek) government falls, the Communists will take power north of the Yangtze River.

*Judd:* And if the Communists take power in the area north of the Yangtze . . . what would be our position in southern Korea?

*Marshall:* It would be untenable.

*Judd:* And with the Asiatic continent under control of Soviet Russia, what would be the position of Japan?

*Marshall:* We would have to put forth great effort to insure that Japan continued to move under her own steam.

*Judd:* The U.S. in fact, would have either to withdraw from Japan, would it not, or continue to support her indefinitely with uncounted sums of money?

*Marshall:* We would face a very serious situation.

Last week Lieut. General Robert Eichelberger, who commanded the Eighth Army in Japan, picked up the prediction where Marshall left off. Said he, in a Chicago speech: "One can appreciate what a great prize Japan would be to the Communist nations . . . To the U. S., Canada, the Philippines and Australia it would signify the loss of World War II and a potential defeat in the Pacific in any future war that might be forced upon us."

We are passing through one of the gravest periods of the Christian era.

## Now It's Canadian Meat

No doubt much of the agitation in the United States over the importation of Canadian potatoes has been purely political. With our neighboring republic in the throes of a presidential election campaign, this kind of talk was to be expected. It is by no means confined to potatoes. Meat workers in Washington, Oregon and California are said to be protesting with equal vehemence the movement of processed meat from Canadian packing plants into the U. S. market. At a tri-state union conference, it was contended that these importations are lowering employment and creating "most unfair competitive conditions due to the fact that foreign standards are below our American standards."

Movement of Canadian dressed meat to the U.S., in any quantity, was made possible by the recent Canada-U.S. trade agreement which cut the duty on dressed beef from 6 cents to 3 cents a pound. For Canada, of course, it is far better to sell finished meat, after Canadian workers have been employed in its processing. We thus export the labor as well as live cattle, and net that much more in U.S. dollars with which to pay the bills for the large number of manufactured goods we buy from U.S.

As we provide the largest and best market for U.S. manufacturers, Americans should in return be willing to buy some of our goods other than raw materials. This is in their own trading interest, as when our dollar position becomes too lop-sided we have to curtail imports from the U.S., as we are doing now in our "austerity program."

## Trade With U.S. Booming

According to a *Financial Post* estimate, Canada's exports to the United States reached the all-time figure of $165 million in September. This is far greater than anything achieved in the wartime peak and almost double the corresponding figure of September, 1947.

In the first eight months of this year, Canadian exports to the U. S. have averaged $110 million monthly. In the same period last year, the monthly average was $80 million. In the 1935-39 pre-war period, the monthly average was $22 million in this same eight-month span.

The net result of the September upswing is that Canada may be expected to show an actual credit balance in her merchandise account with the United States in November. The balance will be small — possibly in the neighborhood of $10 such million. But it will be the first such credit balance since the abnormal wartime statistics of 1944 and 1945 when the Hyde Park agreement was in effect. It will be one of the very few balances ever to be shown merchandise account in normal peace-time trade. (In the pre-war period, 1935-39, the average monthly debit balance in the Canada-U. S. trade account was $7 million monthly.)

The figures show that the first nine months of 1948, Canada has actually reduced her total debit trade balance with the U. S. to $267 million. In the same nine-month period in 1947, our debit balance on trade account was $720 million. Measured in monthly terms this is an improvement of about $50 million monthly or $450 million for the first three-quarters of the year.

Apart from the improvement in Canadian exports to U. S. during September, however, our trade with other countries continues to show contraction rather than expansion. Exports from Canada to the United Kingdom for September are estimated at about $48 million against $55 million in the same month a year ago and $53 million in August. Exports to countries other than the United States and the United Kingdom are down from $77 million a year ago to $72 million in September. Cumulative figures for the first nine months will show a drop in our exports to these other countries of about 18 per cent.

## EDITORIAL NOTES —

All Souls Day.

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Amherst Winter Fair is the principal event of interest for farmers this week.

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High prices or not, Canadians have increased their per capita butter consumption from 2.58 pounds in September 1947 to 2.65 pounds in the same month this year.

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Everyone should buy and wear a poppy. The welfare of ex-service men cannot be completely looked after by Government, however benevolent. As Veterans Affairs Minister Gregg, V. C., put it, "No matter what regulations are passed, it is impossible for a Government department to take care of all individual veterans."

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The Chignecto canal project is taking on a new lease of life with the linking of power development and land reclamation to the principal scheme. The Island has little interest in those subsidiary aspects but the shorter water route would certainly be valuable to our shipping interests.

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Remembrance Day, November 11ht., 1948, should be the most widely observed, locally, in many years. A record turn-out of all veterans is being planned while detachments of the armed services together with representative equipment, guns and tanks, will take part.

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The Parks Branch plan to establish Green Gables as it was in the life of Lucy Maud Montgomery, a representative farm home of her day, together with manuscripts and historical items. It is not the intention, it has been learned, to make Green Gables a complete Island museum the right place for which logically is Charlottetown the capital.

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Election Day in U. S. A. to decide who shall be President. Says *The Letter Review:* "Mr. Truman has given Moscow real encouragement, with his campaign promise of a great depression in the U.S., unless he be given power to impose a totalitarian system of controls — which he himself described as being the police state. There is too much of this business of forgetting that Moscow reads U. S. papers — and even knows how many, or how few soldiers Canada has."

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Jenny Lind, Swedish soprano soloist, died this date 1887. After a great success on the continent of Europe she visited London in 1847, and subsequently U.S.A. and Canada in 1850. She had a marvellous voice that thrilled her audience in a way that may have been equalled but never surpassed. She retired from the operatic stage, and became a concert singer on her marriage with her manager Mr. Otto Goldschmidt; at the same time being appointed professor of singing in the Royal College of Music, London in 1883.

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Out-of-sight out of mind is the unfortunate experience of numerous veterans in the P.E.I. Hospital, to whom few cigarettes have been distributed recently. The local branch of the Legion has been providing visiting parties with cigarettes out of their canteen fund, but find it a considerable drain, and appeal to provincial branches to come to their aid, especially as most of the patients come from outlying districts. Perhaps the Red Cross, which gets its supply of cigarettes at a special rate could fill the breach.

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Before scientific technique was brought to bear upon building operations, our pioneer forefathers applied the resources of ordinary common sense and the fruits of observations. In the matter of insulation, for instance. In renovating an old building in the city last week, the contractor discovered strips of birch bark had been used a century ago for this purpose. Birch bark may have no rating today in the building trade, but it kept a lot of people warm for a long time before new methods were introduced.

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The Canadian Press carries a story that Russia is rapidly buying up woollens, fine fabrics and rubber. It could be stock piling for war but that would not explain the demand for top quality goods. The suggested explanation, which is heresy to the conventional business man but might make sense to a Communist state, is that they are buying on a scarce market and intend to sell later on a plentiful one to cause maximum disturbance.

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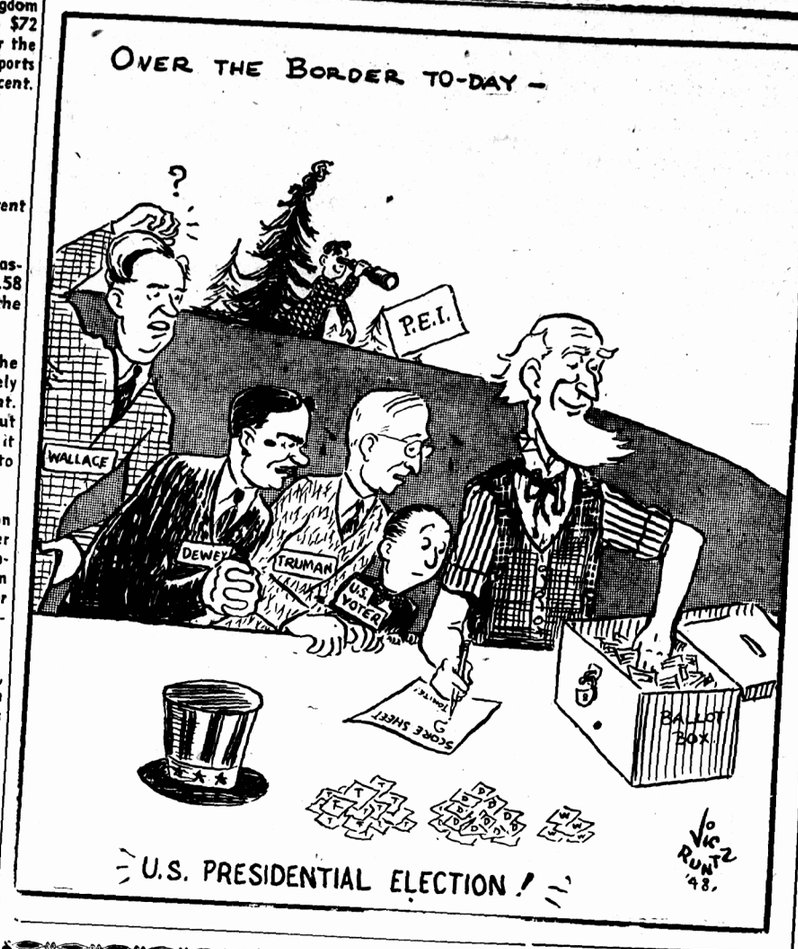
Four years ago, on November 5, 1944, all dry land on Walcheren Island in the Scheldt Estuary, with the exception of two places, Veers and Middleburg, was reported in allied hands. This brought to an end the Canadian operation to clear the port of Antwerp. These operations began the first week in October when the Canadians began their drive to secure the west bank of the River Scheldt and the advance to the general line Roosendaal—Bergen Op Zoom. After securing the west bank and sealing off the isthmus connecting Zuid Beveland with the mainland to the east, the difficult assaults to capture Zuid Beveland and Walcheren began. In preparation for the assault on Walcheren Island, the dyke at Westkapelle was bombed, allowing the sea to flow in and flood the enemy defences. By the end of October it could be said that for the first time in history an island had been sunk by air power. As a result of this flooding, the enemy garrison had only stomach enough for a week's fighting after the amphibious assaults went in on November 1. Minesweepers were already at work and some three weeks later, November 28, a convoy entered the Port of Antwerp. The first ship to tie up at the quayside was the Canadian-built "Fort Cataraque."




## Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

### LAWYER SANDY'S CAMPAIGN

A curious part in the history of the Skye pioneers was taken by one Alexander Williams, known far and wide as "Lawyer Sandy" on account of his fondness for litigation and controversy. A native of Kirkendbright, in the south of Scotland, Williams had been a tailor in his early days, and later served as a soldier in the Irish rebellion of 1798 and at the old citadel at Quebec. On the recall of his regiment he was discharged with a small pension, and returned home. At that time the question of emigrating to America occupied the minds of the peasantry in many parts of Scotland; and Sandy, who had lived in that wonderful land, could describe well what he had seen, both in English and Gaelic.

By some means or other in the fall of 1802 he attracted the attention of Lord Selkirk, who was then in pursuance of his scheme of colonizing his large estates in Prince Edward Island. A very slight acquaintance with Sandy convinced the Earl that he was just the man he wanted to act as agent to go about among the people, pointing out to them the many advantages the new world offered and inducing as many of them as could get ready to take passage in the ship which was to sail from Oban during the coming summer.

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The Earl's offer was liberal, and Sandy started on his mission. The work tallied well with the natural bent of his mind. Nearly everyone he met had fears and misgivings about going to America; they dreaded the dangers of the voyage, the cold of the winter, the difficulties to be encountered in cutting down trees, the Indians, the bears and other wild beasts with which the forests were said to abound. In combatting these natural objections, Sandy was in his true element. He had his fill of discussion and controversy that winter, and many a bottle of whisky was drained around the peat fires of the simple cottagers whose homes he visited in the Highlands.

He contrasted all the advantages they would enjoy in the new world, after the first few years, with their present condition. He represented that the ship which was to carry them was stout and strong, well found in boats, rigging, sails, chains and anchors. He told them that the trees in America were easily cut down. He expatiated on the various uses to which their trunks could be applied, such as house and shipbuilding, fencing, firewood, etc.

The sugar maple he represented as particularly valuable, from the fact that a slight notch cut into its substance set free a copious stream of saccharine liquor, which could not only be boiled into sugar of delicious quality, but, by a certain process which seems never to have been tried by the settlers, could be converted into fine whisky!

Tea (a rare luxury in the Highlands in those days) could be gathered in the swamps and forests "equal to any that came from China." Nor need the Indians cause any concern; they had all been converted to Christianity. Sandy only laughed at his hearers' fears of wild beasts, representing a bear hunt in the woods, with dog, guns and cudgels, as one of the most enjoyable and exciting of sports.

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But the crowning argument in favor of the new enterprise, which he termed the "argumentum crumenan," was the facility with which large farms could be obtained on long leases at a nominal rent. The hardships to be encountered in clearing the land he carefully kept in the background. All his statements contained a nucleus of truth, around which his glib tongue contrived to throw a halo of unsubstantial fiction.

This the settlers found to their cost before they were long in the Colony. To men advanced in years, whose principal occupation had been fishing or tending flocks or herds, the axe was a laborious implement to handle. The trees were of much harder grain than the agent had represented. The snow in winter, which was not much taken into account in discussion around the peat fires in Scotland, they found a source of the greatest discomfort all through a long winter, and the kilts of the Highlands proved poor protection against the biting frosts. The tea and sugar privileges did not come up to their expectations, and even the crowning argument, founded on the abundance and cheapness of land, turned out to be a fallacy; and many a hearty malediction against the Earl's agent afterwards found utterance in the depths of the lonely forests.

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All through the districts in which Sandy campaigned a feeling of restlessness prevailed. There was much serious consultation among the cottagers; some had decided promptly before he left, while others were slower in making up their minds. When the spring set in a great many were preparing to leave the country for America.

So pleased was Lord Selkirk with the result of his agent's activities, that he supplemented his former very liberal allowance with a free grant of 200 acres of land on his Prince Edward Island estates, giving him carte blanc as to the location. Sandy thereupon decided to throw in his lot with the emigrants, and cross the ocean in the same ship. The "Polly" set sail from Oban about the first of June, 1803. Her living freight, besides her officers and crew, consisted of about six hundred persons of all ages, from children at the breast to old men and women of three score and ten.

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In his tailoring days Sandy had spent a great portion of his leisure in poring over Blackstone's Commentaries and other legal works, which he borrowed from a learned shoemaker in the neighborhood. These books he subsequently purchased and treasured with the greatest care. He had them in his Irish campaign. He took them across the ocean to Quebec and back to Scotland; and one or the other of them he carried about with him in his Highland rambles. And more than sixty years afterwards the old volumes, thumbed and battered and worn, might be seen reposing alongside the Family Bible on a shelf in his humble home in Prince Edward Island.

—From a series of old newspaper sketches by the late Mr. George F. Owen.

### TINY FARMS

The average Chinese farm is only three acres compared to the average U.S. farm of about 160 acres.

## The Poet's Corner

### INDIAN SUMMER

Along the line of smoky hills
The crimson forest stands,
And all the day the blue-jay calls
Throughout the autumn lands.

Now by the brook the maple leans
With all his glory spread,
And all the sumachs on the hills
Have turned their green to red.

Now by great marshes wrapt in mist,
Or past some river's mouth,
Throughout the long, still autumn day
Wild birds are flying south.

—Wilfred Campbell.

## Still British

(Globe and Mail)

Since the London meeting of Commonwealth leaders there have been cries of alarm and protests that the British Commonwealth is being scuttled. Such fears are groundless. Among the nations that came to their full stature under the tutelage of Great Britain, there is a special friendliness and understanding. It is the same sort of understanding as that which holds classmates together throughout their lives; a bond made from vital experiences shared in common. Such a society is not in the nature of a conspiracy organized against any one; it is not exclusionary even if it happens, in the nature of things, to be exclusive. Moreover, because it springs from mutual familiarity with events gone by, the old association has great potency.

The decision of the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers to drop the adjective "British" from the title of the British Commonwealth of Nations is saddening. But so is the departure of any friend, custom or landmark associated with our younger and happier days. The change was made, however, in deference to the traditions and temperaments of members whose blood lines and history differ from our own. The decision was reached so that emphasis might be given to the things we have in common, rather than those which might divide us.

There has been no barrier erected to our continued association and co-operation, nor has anything precious been taken away from those who cherish it. The natural offspring of the Island Kingdom are no less British in their ways and patterns of thought than they were before. Children in these British nations will still be brought up on Kingsley and Stevenson and Scott.

The purpose of abandoning the word "British" in the official designation of the society is so that the peoples who have learned our ways can meet us and deal with us on a wide area of common ground and will not be embarrassed by an artificial classification that does not apply to them. Ancient symbols and classifications are of the highest value in preserving unity where they speak the same message to all who behold them. They become an embarrassment to unity when they say one thing to some and another thing to others.

The Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London has ordered no constitutional changes nor taken anything of value away from the group. The British association is still as close as ever for those who belong in the British tradition. The Crown, which symbolizes the continunity of the British evolutionary process and under which we have flourished mightily, still stands as an object of reverence to those who have learned to revere it. All that has happened is that a gesture has been made toward those with whom we have much in common but not all. It is a courteous, brotherly gesture in the tradition of tolerance and conciliation that is more British than the word itself.

## The Age-Old Story

I, the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment; lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.

### HALIFAX GETS MODEL

HALIFAX, Nov. 1 — (CP) — Familiar to thousands of train travellers, a 12½-foot model of the Canadian Pacific liner Duchess of York, which has occupied a spot in Montreal's Windsor Station for some years, has been presented to the city of Halifax. The $15,000 model was presented as a goodwill feature by C.P.R.

## - Notes By The Way -

**Nowadays girls have difficulty in finding their chaperones when it is time to go home.** — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

**Just wishing things would change is about like holding a match to the thermometer to make the room warmer.** — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

**Interesting comment by Dr. Jacques Tremblay, general director of Quebec City Health Services:** "Man is the only animal that drinks when he is not thirsty." — Fort William Times-Journal.

**A columnist declares that a woman's intuition cannot penetrate a poker face and a closed mouth. The fellow is obviously a bachelor with few, if any, feminine acquaintances.** —Kingston Whig-Standard.

**"The one thing we learn to avoid is making snap judgments** — we found you can't know a country by just staying a few weeks. England takes a bit of getting used to—especially that early morning tea.—Lucille Hein, an American visitor to Britain.

**The Puritan complex is just as much to be avoided as the wide-open Sunday one, and we hope it will never be permitted to replace the reasonably free customs we now enjoy. But the continuous pursuit of pleasure through every hour of every day of the seven, inevitably will cause a reaction sooner or later. People get just as tired of continuous unremitted pleasure as of grim toil, especially when the former leads to abuses which are destructive alike to morals and healthful family life.** — Calgary Albertan.

**Surely it requires no argument to prove that risk increases proportionately to speed. With all the model mechanical improvements and technical safeguards, it is, after all, the human factor which counts most in ensuring safety. A car bounding along at 70 or 80 miles an hour is not under proper control and is a peril to itself and to other vehicles. Experts agree that to drive above 50 miles an hour is to invite disaster. To abolish the speed limit altogether would be to surrender to the demands of the reckless, the selfish and inconsiderate.**—Guelph Mercury.

**There is consternation at Old Niagara over the proposed destruction of the 256 by 60 foot timber barracks of General Butler, whose troops sortied into New York State in the revolutionary war. They maintains, is a convenient contraction for the full title, the official contraction of "United Kingdom" not being in all cases appropriate** This ancient rivalry was illustrated during the war when a popular song, "There'll Always Be an England," was always sung in Scotland with the addition of "So long as Scotland's there." — Fort William Times-Journal.

**Peace has its heroes no less than war, and our heroic churchmen who served so gallantly in the war will gladly move over to make a place in their ranks for Rev. Edward C. Earle, a Baptist minister in Pennshauken, New Jersey. Recently, the parents of a four-year-old boy were told that their son would lose his arm from a tubercular cyst unless a piece of live human bone could be secured for grafting. Learning of the case, Mr Earle volunteered. He submitted to an operation in which a three-inch strip of bone was taken from his hip and grafted to the little boy's arm. If medals were given for such acts, Mr. Earle's could well be inscribed with the comment of the attending surgeons: "He is the truest Christian we have ever seen."** —Edmonton Journal.

**The Danish capital with 100,000 inhabitants, has such narrow streets in the centre of the town, that the public transport services are proving a hindrance to each other. The authorities are, therefore, planning to build an underground system of railways based on the London model. A delegation of six high officials of the Danish State Railways is coming to London to study the London Underground including design, noise-reducing methods, booking facilities, automatic doors and the way in which road and rail services are co-ordinated in order to guarantee the maximum efficiency.** — Fredericton Gleaner.

**According to Reuters, the Royal Society of St. George has made a strong protest on behalf of English men and women against an alleged tendency by the British press and radio to sink England's identity in the word "Britain."** It accuses "a considerable body of writers, journalists and broadcasters" of a "concerted determination" to avoid mentioning England and the English at all costs, even in contexts where it is demonstrably wrong to use any other term. It complains that the "junior partners" in the United Kingdom — Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — are allowed to retain their name. Why should the English, who comprise 82 per cent of the total electorate of the United Kingdom, not be allowed to do the same? the society asks. Scotland, through the St. Andrew Society, has taken the "strongest exception" to being designated as a "junior partner." It asserts that for every occasion where "Britain" is used as an inclusive term for "England," there are a hundred where "England" is used to denote the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. "Britain," it don't commit such sacrilege in the United States, where such things are memorials and tourist attractions. As one stout member of the U. E. L. said, succinctly: "If the printing press of a rebel of the time can be preserved in all its antiquity, then the General Butler headquarters should be, surely."— St. Catharines Standard.


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