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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1946

One Way To Reduce

The veil of secrecy is still drawn pretty closely over the fiscal negotiations between the Jones Government and Ottawa. Spokesmen for other provinces seem to be more favorably impressed with the value of publicity in such matters.

Whether \$20 millions represents an accurate accounting of Dominion obligations to British Columbia, or whether it is a sanguine overestimate does not appear on the surface. Cokey taxpayers have little interest in which of the two governments levies the taxes.

One way in which all taxes, Dominion, Provincial and municipal can be kept to a minimum, suggests a Vancouver exchange, is to reduce the burden of public debt charges. Credit of the country as a whole might be made available to all three governmental jurisdictions through the Bank of Canada at much less than present costs.

The Dominion has just borrowed millions of dollars from the small investors of Canada at 2.75 per cent. It could have raised money at even lower rates. Admittedly, interest rates in Canada are determined by Bank of Canada policy.

Canadian Citizenship

Across Canada cities and towns are preparing to hold ceremonies during the first week of January in celebration of the inauguration of the new Canadian Citizenship Act passed at the recent session of Parliament.

Heretofore, the obtaining of Canadian naturalization papers was a routine matter without ceremony and with little to emphasize the privilege that was being bestowed upon the applicant. It was an event without real significance to the individual for there was no preparation, nothing to impress upon him the seriousness and the value of the step he was taking and the requirements to qualify were at a minimum.

The casualness of this has long contrasted sharply with the manner in which naturalization was carried through in the United States where there are requirements to be met and preparation goes into the application.

The national ceremony to inaugurate the new act which defines and establishes Canadian citizenship will be held in Ottawa on January 3 with the Governor-General and the Prime Minister participating. A programme of ceremony has been laid down for the day and it is likely to be followed in other cities where observances are held. It will consist of speeches, pageantry, the bestowing of citizenship on a number of applicants and parades as well as singing.

This idea of holding a "citizenship week" is worthy of commendation. It can be used to do much to impress upon new Canadians the importance and significance of the action. But it is not enough merely to hold such ceremonies during one week and then forget all about it. The bestowing of naturalization should always be impressive and there should be assurances from those taking it that they realize in full the meaning of what they are doing. It is an honor to be a Canadian.

Some Farm Figures

C. P. R. Progress Report for November says: The potato crop this year, estimated at 47 million hundredweight, is substantially above the 36 million hundredweight crop of a year ago, according to official figures. With the exception of 1944 when 49 million hundredweight of potatoes were produced, the present crop is the largest since 1934. While acreages this year display some increase above those of 1945, the greatest contributing factor to the larger production appears to be this year's average yield of 90 hundredweight per acre, 5 hundredweight above the long-time average.

The improvement in net income during the period 1938 to 1945 was general across Canada and was substantial in all provinces except Nova Scotia. The increases in the Prairie Provinces had largely occurred by 1942 as the result of particularly favourable crops that year. In 1943 yields in the Prairies were less favourable, but in 1944, with high production and increased prices, the net income of farm operators in Manitoba and Saskatchewan reached record heights. All three Prairie Provinces returned to considerably lower income levels in 1945 when more nearly normal production was obtained. Income was maintained well above the level of the years prior to 1942, however, because of substantially higher average prices in 1945. Less spectacular but more consistent maintained income increases occurred in Prince Edward Island, Ontario and British Columbia. Farm operators in these provinces obtained their largest net incomes in 1945. In the case of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick farm operators arrived at their highest net in-

comes in 1943 while the high point for Quebec was 1944. Net income of farm operators from farming operations was as follows in 1945 in thousands of dollars, figures for 1938 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, \$10,755 (\$3,275); Nova Scotia, \$13,829 (\$13,594); New Brunswick, \$24,089 (\$7,337); Quebec, \$154,174 (\$69,484); Ontario, \$307,232 (\$136,998); Manitoba, \$86,310 (\$34,549); Saskatchewan, \$219,931 (\$26,032); Alberta, \$143,257 (\$80,825); British Columbia, \$44,722 (\$14,964).

Deceptive Index

Extent to which Canada's cost-of-living index has been officially manipulated is divulged by Mr. Donald Gordon in a series of national broadcasts. Mr. Gordon emphasizes the place which subsidies have played in keeping down the selling cost of key commodities and warns of the certainty that the key commodities will rise in price if the subsidies should now be withdrawn.

The subsidies, of course, fall on the taxpayers of Canada. If the full impact of the subsidies has not yet been felt in all its severity on Canadian taxpayers, it is only because some of the trouble has been postponed by borrowing at interest from the taxpayers themselves. Thereby trouble thus postponed will be compounded and confounded as the debt burden is borne by the taxpayers in the years ahead.

The general picture which Mr. Gordon has been painting is dark. If the subsidies are lifted in a move to stabilize taxation, then the people must pay higher prices for the necessities of life. Yet if taxation is not brought under control it stifles national enterprise.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Maritime Electric Company may, and do, have their own troubles, but they are blessed with a manager who can handle them admirably.

The City footpaths are becoming slippery, and pedestrians will have to "mind their step" to avoid accidents.

There is no firebug in the City, according to the official report of the Fire Marshal. Thank goodness, for we have more than enough fires without such assistance.

It would be one more step in the direction of bureaucratic dictatorship to impose on the police the "duty" of calling on residents and telling them they are using too much electric light. Freedom of the individual would practically be at an end.

It is evidently now up to Brighton residents and City stores to do the necessary co-operation to relieve the present pressure on our electric plant. But Mr. Ainsworth failed to mention what should be done to help out Montague consumers.

The time draws nigh for the completion of a new taxation agreement with the Federal authorities, and evidently everything is going swimmingly in the negotiations in our favour, otherwise our delegates, including the Hon. Mr. Hughes and Major Massey, would not return from Ottawa so self-satisfied, without uttering even a bleat.

The United States is expecting in 1946 the greatest volume of crop production in its history. Production of feed grains will amount to 127.5 million tons, four per cent above the 1942 high. This total is made up of 3,374 million bushels of oats, 255 million bushels of barley and 88 million bushels of soybean grain. Production of food grains at 37.4 million tons is also an all-time high. Wheat production, winter and spring, totals 1,169 million bushels, 46 million bushels larger than any previous crop in history.

John Milton, poet, born the date 1608 in Bread St., London, the building being consumed by the great fire of 1666. Before that year (although Paradise Lost, was not yet published) Milton's name had become famous, and strangers liked to have pointed out to them the house where he first saw the light. The Church of Allhallows, close by, still contains the register of Milton's baptism.

Swinish Gluttony
Ne'er looks to heaven amidst his gorgeous feast,
But with besotted base ingratitude
Crams, and blasphemous his feeder.

The prediction that the amount of consumer credit outstanding might double the present figure as soon as full production is reached and supply catches up with demand, is made by J. Gordon Dakins, manager of the credit management division of the National Retail Dry Goods Association. Since the end of the war, he points out, there has been a strong disposition among consumers to make use of their credit and an increased effort by credit grantors to extend their operations. Three factors point to an unprecedented expansion of installment credit—prospective availability of consumer durable goods, funds from which to make down payments, and the prospective continuance of high earnings.

Strange things happen at British Post Office counters. One of the strangest was when an old farmer handed a bucket full of money over the counter with the remark that there was a thousand pounds (\$4,000) "for the Bank and National Savings." The somewhat dozed clerk, more used to bags than buckets as money containers, counted the money and found only \$900 (\$3,600). The farmer asserted that he had counted the money only that morning, and he was sure it was \$4,000 (\$4,000). The clerk made another count and still it was only \$900. The farmer then had a brain-wave: "The wife has given me the wrong bucket."

Notes By The Way

However, any soap shortage will be easier to bear if it means also a scarcity of soap-box agitation.—Toronto Telegram.

An employee of the Prices Board argued in Toronto that "we cannot depend on private enterprise for fair distribution of goods in short supply. But private enterprise is distributing large number of scarce articles—automobiles, shirts, stockings, and so on—and doing a pretty good job of it. And why should an official of the Prices Board go into the realm of opinion in such a controversial issue?—Ottawa Journal.

It is a matter of historical importance that the strange markings on the Fraser Canyon rocks at Spuzzum should be studied by an ethnographic expedition, as Commissioner Parsons of the B. C. police suggests. British Museum and European authorities are sure the markings are not Ogham, the Welsh form of the Runic writings used in the fifth century, but the similarity to those ancient cryptographs is sufficiently notable to warrant further investigation. While the conviction that the markings are not Ogham fails to support the legend, the Prince of Wales Owen Glyndodd emigrated to this continent with 900 of his followers in 1077 there is evidence for reasonable speculation about other arrivals many centuries ago. There were Indians in the Columbia River country two centuries ago who could speak Welsh. The location of these markings, on rocks 1,800 feet above the river at Spuzzum, is a point in itself that is worth some research.—Vancouver Province.

In Gladen, Alabama, there is a dog, owned by Dr. C. G. Graham, a pharmacist, that finally succeeded in catching its tail. As the Times related this phenomenon, the dog had been chasing his tail as a pastime. The pastime grew into a habit and finally into an obsession. Every day, especially at mealtimes when his master was present, he would get up and chase his tail. He would snap and snarl and never stopping until his master intervened so he could catch his breath. The dog didn't realize it, but that getting more proficient all the time, finally it happened. He caught his tail, snapping down with all the enthusiasm that had kept him going for months. He bit the tail in two and wound up in a dog hospital.—Vancouver News-Herald.

The constant recurrence of school strikes in various parts of the country is a departure from the traditional practice of American schools. There is an American method for redress, the method of petition to the authorities. There is no reason why the children in various parts of the country should be denied the best way, and that the strike is a weapon that should never be used in schools, that it is a weapon which even labor unions use only when they feel they have no other alternative.—Boston Post.

Fruit and vegetables are in conflict again, says The Christian Science Monitor. This time the former is laying definite claim to rhubarb—a claim that a court has been asked to sustain. After a period of controversy, the tomato was snatched from the vegetable family and set up as a fruit. Then along came the melon with a "me too" claim to whatever aristocracy may be attached to the poor vegetable. But, come what may, whether vegetable or fruit, the rhubarb pie, with its strips of flaky crust across the top, still takes the cake.

A warning from Nova Scotia about being misled by the supply of evergreen trees for the Christmas tree trade is worth noting in this and other provinces in the interests of forest conservation, observes The Montreal Star. The business has grown to such proportions that a far-sighted American buyer fears for the future supply. The danger apparently lies in the growing practice of cutting very small trees for table decorations, with the result that a carload may now consist of between 2,500 and 5,000 of these small trees instead of the 1,500 of the larger size that earlier markets called for. It is not an altogether easy matter to regulate, since young evergreens suitable for the Christmas trade are now a worthwhile item to owners of bushlots, and especially to settlers to whom any cash crop is of importance. Out at a fair sale and with due regard to the thinning of existing stands of small trees, a substantial export business can be maintained without harm to future full-grown cutting. Regulations now limit the butt-size of trees cut for other purposes—controlled lands, and the suggestion now made that the proportion of Christmas trees cut under five feet high be limited to five per cent seems a wise one. There is a limit to the supply, even in Canada.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

TRADE BOARD MEETING DISCUSSION

Sir,—There is no desire on my part to enter into controversy, but in fairness to the Charlottetown Board of Trade I feel it should be pointed out to your readers that the news report of our last meeting attempted to quote verbatim only Mr. A. V. Ainsworth, which has resulted in some incorrect conclusions on the part of the public.

The inference in your Editorial Notes that Mr. Ainsworth was a guest is incorrect. He is a member and was not an invited guest. He did indeed give the members present much interesting information. The general sum-up of your report that no action was taken was correct, but none was anticipated. When the Montague resolution was received it was well recognized that nothing could be done about the present situation, but it was considered a suitable subject for debate at the next regular monthly meeting, in view of the general interest in the power problem. As there appeared to be much general misinformation as to the power company's position, it was thought well to bring to public attention the conditions of the franchise under which they operate. This was done, and the terms of the City's contract for street lighting was also reviewed. I would like to remark that there seems to be a current feeling that if a Board of Trade is not contemplating some project it is falling in its important functions to keep its members up to date on current problems affecting business generally, by study and debate.

A somewhat misleading report is that which states that I "thought it would be a good idea to order the Police Dept. to have men call at houses where people are using more lights than was necessary." A suggestion which that line was made by a member, and which was commented on by the member from the chair, I suggested that if the situation was as serious as had been intimated, and if there was danger of the main generator "blowing in" and leaving us in total darkness, then it was a problem for the City Fathers. Col. Stewart, as a City Councillor, interjected that the City Council had given the problem careful consideration, but had no power to suggest any legal check-up, but merely polite reminders. This discussion arose out of the statement that some areas were not complying with the regulations "following in the wake of the Utilities that voluntary rationing was advisable. Comment in Brighton area since, on Mr. Ainsworth's repeated statement that its residents were not really resentful in view of efforts being made. His statement that he might have to cut off the district occasionally if it didn't do better, brought from the writer the unreported remark that he "was welding you quote one member's remarks that he has been 'handing out penalties for many years and his experience was they never acted as a deterrent'—it is not reported that a member very humbly remarked 'then why was he awarding penalties?'" I am, Sir, etc.

F. W. HYNDMAN,
President, Charlottetown Board of Trade.

SHIPS THAT CARRY GRAIN FROM PORT ARTHUR

(Continued)
Sir, Let me cite an example of what happened recently simply because our farmers have not sufficient grain to feed their livestock. After years of careful training and support by both the Federal and Provincial Governments, including bonuses on the horns and the standard of the Island swine has been raised to a figure far higher than that obtained by any other province in Canada. Had we had the feed grain our farmers would naturally have been encouraged to increase the number of their bacon hogs, which are one of the most profitable lines in farming and for the products of which there is a world wide demand. Instead of doing so the Government allowed some carloads of our prime hogs and sows to be sent to other Canadian provinces to be used for breeding purposes in competition with this Island.

Similarly if we were assured that we could obtain all the grain required we could increase our stock of poultry, including ducks, geese and turkeys, to an almost unlimited extent. As it is at present a considerable portion of poultry grain is blended in Ontario and sent by freight to this Province.

Another factor in the carrying of grain to Prince Edward Island by ships is that the ships, before returning west, could be loaded during the months of September, October and November with practically the whole of our year's harvest of potatoes and, being return trips, much lower freight charges would be levied than is now being paid by rail. Full loads could be sent as far as Montreal, after which the ships would have to be unloaded to 14 feet or eight to pass through the canals. The potatoes would then be forwarded to Kingsport, Toronto, Hamilton, etc. Some also could be delivered in Port Arthur where there is always an accumulation of empty cars to



THE DARK HILLS

Dark hills at evening in the west
Where sunset hovers like a sound
Of golden horns that sang to rest
Old bones of warriors under ground
Where flash the legions of the sun
You fade—as if the last of days
Were fading and all wars were done
—Edwin Arlington Robinson.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

CENSUS OF 1861

A general census of the Island was taken in 1861. The population was then—as certified in the most accurate returns—eighty thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, including three hundred and fifteen Indians. The churches numbered one hundred and fifty-six; schoolhouses, three hundred and two; and public teachers, two hundred and eighty. There were eighty-nine fishing establishments on the Island, which produced twenty-two thousand barrels of herrings and gaspeaux, seven thousand of fish oil, mackerel, thirty-nine thousand quintals of codfish, and seventeen thousand gallons of fish-oil. There were one hundred and forty-one grist mills, one hundred and seventy-six saw mills and forty-six carding mills, fifty-five tanneries, manufacturing one hundred and forty-three thousand pounds of leather. The Executive Government having this year appointed commissioners to superintend the collection of products and manufactures of the Island for the London exhibition of 1862, the duty was judiciously performed, and the articles forwarded to the exhibition under the charge of Mr. Henry Hassard, the secretary to the commissioners.—Campbell's History, 1876.

carry them to Winnipeg, thus affording us a new market for our favorite spuds.

All of these contingencies depend upon our being able to unload the grain ships rapidly and on storage in the grain elevators in an adjacent elevator. With a marine leg 300,000 bushels could be unloaded from a ship in a single day, whereas using the tub system it might take a whole week, and there is a very heavy demurrage levied by the ship owners of \$300 per day after the third day in the harbour.

From the above it will be evident that at all hazards we must have ship unloading facilities on the Charlottetown Railway wharf with a grain elevator on the wharf as near as possible to the wharf. Moreover, as the advantages to the potato shippers will be very considerable, they will naturally join with the Provincial Government in urging the Federal authorities to levy no tariff on unloading these necessary improvements.

"KILKENNY CATS"

Sir,—The writer has noticed a reference to the popular misapprehension of the said cats eating themselves up till only the tails were left. It is occasionally found in a figurative sense to stress the fighting qualities of all animals, life was dull in the barracks in Kilkenny, some soldier, tied two cats together by the tails and threw them over a clothes line expecting them to fight. When the beasts refused to fight the soldiers were so disgusted that one of the clipped the tails with his sword. The main portions of the cats scrambled to parts unknown and the tails were left on the line. The first gullible who came along was told that the cats ate themselves up till nothing remained but the tails. Hence the delusive tale of the "Kilkenny Cats." I am, Sir, etc.

THE LIGHT AND POWER PROBLEM

Sir,—There were at least three points brought to light at the meeting to consider recent electric light failures. They are: (1) The Maritime Electric Co. are willing to sell their plant and franchises; (2) there is no penalty clause in its contract with the City; and (3) the former Public Utilities

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Agriculture In Transition Period

Some further security against price declines is provided by the Agricultural Prices Support Act. The recent announcement with regard to New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island potatoes is the first action taken to protect prices against a temporary glut. In this case the method is to be outright purchase in the market at a specified price—basis \$1.00 per 100 lbs for No. 1 potatoes for processing to be bought at factories this Fall, and \$1.00 per 75 lbs for tablestock to be bought in the Spring of 1947. Under the Act an alternative method is also authorized—the payment to farmers of a sum representing the difference between the market price and a stated support price.

During the war Canadian agriculture achieved a better balance than ever before. A big livestock

Board is equally responsible with the Company for having the plant overloaded, thus causing all our recent troubles.

The willingness of the Company to sell out shows that a change of mind has come over the directors in Montreal. Outside control has always been a source of trouble and the Royal Electric Co., the Associated Gas and Electric Co. and the present Maritime Electric Co. This latter concern sent their representative here who interviewed the then Premier, also the City Recorder at that time. There was a penalty clause in the former contract held by the City and the policemen were ordered to report on all street lights found out at night, and a suitable deduction was made from any pay. It was a preventive for having the City pay for light that was not supplied, and it was a most serious neglect of duty in not insisting upon its retention.

Now we come to the third point, the responsibility of the former Board of Public Utilities in granting privileges to the Maritime Electric Co. to increase its load and extend the area of its operation without making the necessary inquiries and investigation as to the equipment and capability of the Company to carry out its obligations. In view of this I ask what was the use of a Public Utilities Board kept in existence by the authority of the Government and paid for by a levy on the utilities over which they were supposed to keep watch? I am, Sir, etc.

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