THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1837)

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

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14, 1945

Literary Lapses

Politicians who venture on unfamiliar literary quotations do so at their own risk. Even Hansard, which is supposed to be impeccable in reporting such matters, fumbles the ball occasionally; as instanced in the House of Commons proceedings for Dec. 6. Mr. John T. Hackett, M.P. for Stanstead, complained of "a couple of slight errors" in the official report of his speech of the preceding day, in which the following words were attributed to him:

"- - - that nothing begins and nothing ends that is not paid for in mourning. We begin in another's anguish and we perish in our own."

"I quoted a line from Francis Thompson," Mr. Hackett explained, "and it was in these words:

"Nothing begins, and nothing ends,
That is not paid with moan;
For we are born in other's pain,
And perish in our own."

Evidently the reporter thought Thompson's lines needed a little bit of slicking up. At that, Mr. Hackett was luckier than the unfortunate editor who once quoted editorially, or rather intended to quote, Keats' lines:

"St. Agnes Eve—Ah, bitter chill it was!
The owl, for all his feathers, was a-cold."

and which the proof-reader, (no student of Keats, but a stickler for accuracy) amended to read:

"The owl, for all his feathers, had a cold."

Island Egg Production

A high tribute to Prince Edward Island poultrymen was implied in a statement made in the House of Commons last week by Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Gardiner was reviewing farm production figures and mentioned that egg production in Canada for 1945 is now estimated at 395 million dozen, the highest figure in the country's history, and exceeding the previous year by 34 million dozen. Production estimates for 1946 are based on chick hatches and sales in the 1945 season. There is now a carry-over of matured stock and anticipated early hatchings in 1946 from which fall eggs in 1946 will be produced. It is estimated that 1946 production will be 17 million dozen less than in 1945 and 18 million dozen more than in 1944. Hatches in 1945 based on approved hatchery figures were fourteen per cent under 1944. "All provinces," said Mr. Gardiner, "showed a decrease with the exception of Prince Edward Island, which recorded an eight per cent increase." An increase is anticipated for 1946, particularly in early hatches.

Our Island egg shipments during the past year were some 3,381,660 dozen and if we can keep this record up, and even improve on it, it will be well worth while. We have reached the point where we are an important factor in Canada's egg production schedule. Eggs available for export in 1946, after allowing for a continued heavy domestic use due to meat rationing, are estimated at 88 million dozen. This will barely be sufficient to fill the 1946 contract with the British Ministry of Food.

Since the inception of the British Ministry contract in 1940, up to and including 1945, a total of 267 million dozen Canadian eggs have been shipped to Britain in shell or in dried form. Those are staggering figures. They represent one phase of Canada's war effort which played no inconsiderable part in maintaining Britain's magnificent morale.

How Cartels Operate

One of the most valuable documents tabled in Parliament in recent years is probably a pamphlet of some 60 pages entitled "Canada and International Cartels." In May, 1944, the Dominion Minister of Labor asked Mr. F. A. McGregor, Commissioner of the Combines Investigation Act, to make a study of cartels and international trade, and this booklet contains his findings. The subject matter is somewhat complicated, but the net result is a well documented disclosure of how the people of this country have been exploited for years by big combines.

Generally speaking, cartels are based on agreements to fix prices, restrict production, allot sales territory, exchange patents and often suppress new inventions and new and better methods.

Mr. McGregor's report deals first with a matter of considerable importance to our farmers; namely, fertilizer. He gives the trade history of potash, nitrogen and phosphorus, all of which were internationally controlled to restrict output and keep up prices to the farmers.

Tanning materials are next on the list; then plate glass and sulphur. Examples are cited to show how through cartel agreements in Europe and U. S., territory is divided and markets exploited.

Dyestuffs and chemicals have a long history of control, going back to before the First Great War, when German producers were in control. Before the last war, Imperial Chemical Industries of England, the duPonts of the United States, the French and the Japs were all in it. English I. C. I. and American duPont in 1928 consolidated their interests in Canada by establishing Canadian Industries Limited. They still, the report states, own 80 per cent of the stock.

Tungsten carbide is the best hard metal yet discovered for making cutting edges of machine-cutting tools and wire-drawing dies and hence is invaluable in connection with war preparations. In many machining operations, substitution of tungsten carbide for high-speed steel multiplies the rate of production at least 500 per cent.

The Krupps of Germany began to develop tungsten carbide shortly after the First World War and were commencing to ship it to America when the General Electric Co., who had patented a process of their own, pooled their patents with the Krupps and proceeded to control the market. Before 1928, the price in the States had been $50 a pound. Following the agreement with Krupp it was shot up to $453 a pound. After a further agreement with Krupp in 1936, giving General Electric absolute control in America, the price was reduced to $205 per pound. This was seriously retarding American and Canadian production, while Germany, using 22 times as much tungsten carbide as America, was speeding up preparation for war.

The report goes on with another list of products, explosives, chemicals, soda ash, electric lamps, radio tubes and matches, which cartel agreements restrained Canadian production from export, thus cramping Canadian export trade.

Such Canadian products as copper, lead, zinc, steel, aluminum and acetic acid, "one of the most important chemicals used in industry" are all under cartel agreements.

A short chapter on international affiliations of Canadian companies, quotes the Bureau of Statistics that British and foreign investments in Canada in 1939 had a book value of $6,491 millions. Of this $2,475 was British and $4,188 million American. Canada has some 8,000 manufacturing concerns listed in the Canadian Trade Index. Of these 975 are controlled in the United States, besides 69 mining and smelting companies, 109 utility companies and 412 merchandizing companies, in all 1,565.

The report concludes with recommendations for checking the abuses of cartelization. It emphasizes, however, that the problem will be a continuing one and will require new measures of control, nationally and internationally, as economic conditions are, more fully analyzed and solutions devised.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Good news for housewives, shortening and lard will be available for Christmas.

* * * *

His Majesty George VI, born this date at York Cottage, Sandringham, 1895; he will spend Christmas at Sandringham this year, the first time since the outbreak of Great War II.

* * * *

The Federal Government has used 565 lawyers and paid $651,370 in legal fees in connection with prosecutions for infractions of Prices Board regulations. Of the 20,254 cases prosecuted there were 19,299 convictions. There were 245 cases where imprisonment was imposed without option of a fine. A total of $1,501,411 was collected in fines.

* * * *

"During the Battle of Britain, (says Lionel Hale in BBC "Letter from London), I found at Banstead on the Surrey Downs, the following immortal notice on the golf club notice-board. This notice was dated September something-or-other, 1940, and it was so extremely English—so very much like Francis Drake playing bowls with the Armada coming up the Channel—that I committed it to memory. This is what it said: 'At an emergency meeting of the Committee of the Banstead Downs Golf Club held to consider questions arising from enemy action, the following two temporary rules were passed: 1. Any ball coming to rest in a bomb-crater may be picked up and dropped, not nearer the hole and in a direct line with the hole, without penalty; 2. Ground littered with bomb-debris may be treated as ground under repair'."

* * * *

Albert, Prince Consort of Queen Victoria the Good, died this date, 1864 amidst universal sorrowing; Tennyson summed up his attainments, character and influence as follows:

'He seems to me
Scarce other than my own ideal knight,
"Who reverenced his conscience as his King:
Whose glory was, redressing human wrongs;
Who spake no slander, no, nor listen'd to it;
Who lov'd one only and who clave to her"—
Her, over all whose realms to their last isle,
Commingled with the gloom of imminent war,
The shadow of His loss moved like eclipse,
Darkening the world. We have lost him: he is gone:
We know him now: all narrow jealousies
Are silent; and we see him as he moved,
How modest, kindly, all-accomplish'd, wise,
With what sublime repression of himself,
And in what limits, and how tenderly;
Not swaying to this faction or to that;
Not making his high place the lawless perch
Of wing'd ambitions, nor a vantage-ground
For pleasure; but through all this tract of years
Wearing the white flower of a blameless life,
Before a thousand peering littlenesses,
In that fierce light which beats upon a throne,
And blackens every blot: for where is he,
Who dares foreshadow for an only son
A lovelier life, a more unstain'd, than his?
Or how should England, dreaming of his sons,
Hope more for these than some inheritance
Of such a life, a heart, a mind, as thine,
Thou noble father of her kings to be
Laborious for her people and her poor - - -
Voice in the rich dawn of an ampler day - - -
Far-sighted summoner of War and Waste
To fruitful strifes and rivalries of peace - - -
Sweet nature gilded by the gracious gleam
Of letters, dear to science, dear to art,
Dear to thy land and ours, a Prince indeed,
Beyond all titles, and a household name,
Hereafter, through all times, Albert the Good.'

Notes By The Way

A new type of popcorn, thirty times the usual size, is now being developed. We would feel safer if exhaustive tests were first held in New Mexico. —Edmonton Journal.

Our dictionary defines a bandit as a brigand, and a brigand as "a member of a robber gang living on pillage, blackmail, ransom, etc." In modern usage it is applied to every thug who holds up a candy shop or robs a hen roost. If we called them thieves and robbers it would be more fitting to their professional rank.—Ottawa Journal.

The spread of "teen-age clubs" where young people plan and conduct their own recreation programs indicates the usefulness of letting them help to conduct public services. It is unfortunate that in some "youth" organizations, adults and not the young persons themselves play a major role. It is suggested that Toronto might provide a successful demonstration of consulting and giving important tasks to the youth population in their own recreation services. —Toronto Star.

The completion of one of the largest printing orders for Bibles has been announced from Sweden in a message to the British and Foreign Bible Society. On Swedish paper this order was for 345,000 copies in eight European languages —French, Czech, Estonian, Latvian, Greek, two Polish dialects, Romanian, and Serbian. Another order has been placed for 100,000 copies in German. —From Scandinavian News.

We have been told that fried meat and fried potatoes and fried eggs were the most indigestible and unsuitable of human foods. Every disease from total blindness to mumps was caused by excessive use of these old-fashioned delicacies. Some historians of the American Civil War even claimed that the defeat of the South was due to the Southerners' incurable habit of eating fried chicken and hot biscuits and other foods of the deep-fat school of cooking. Well, there is nothing in it. For the first time a real scientific investigation was recently held into the subject, and it has shown up some surprising facts. It is now officially claimed that fried foods are actually more easily digested than any others, and the more thoroughly they have been fried the less indigestible they are.—Huron Expositor.

The wealth held by Canadians is mostly paper backed by a 'social credit" faith that the nation is in for a great production era that will translate this "phony wealth' into real wealth. The people of Canada have been taking the retention of controls, including price controls, with increasing restlessness. The government insists they must be removed gradually to avoid disruption of business. And it is making the mistake of being too cautious. It is failing to promote a public and business mood of getting production into fast competitive action. It has failed to produce any public works scheme. Yet the success of the government's whole economic program hinges on heavy production and employment. — Sunday Sun (Vancouver).

American isolationism is an ever-flowing stream whose volume at any one time depends on events. Though greatly reduced since Pearl Harbor it is easily capable of becoming swollen again from the same sources which so disastrously strengthened its current between the wars. The breakdown of the council of foreign ministers and the chaos in Europe are the very kind of circumstances to reinforce the arguments and the influence of the professional isolationists. An America both strong and determined to exert her strength in the cause of peace is essential to the survival of a civilization grievously menaced by the advent of the atom bomb. If the American has really learned the bitter lesson that all the future wars must henceforth be both total and global and that the great flanking oceans can no longer afford her more than the most precarious protection it will be an immense gain for the security not of herself alone but of all mankind.—London Daily Telegraph and Morning Post.

The Poet's Corner

RIVER TOWN

The duck-blind by the shore, the rotting boat,
The lily-float, the sluiceway slimed with green,
The molten glaze of water on the dam,
Still here— and here I am,
And only half a lifetime lies between.

Old rivers never change.
Nothing is vivid here. Nothing is strange.
But stranger than a wraith
I see myself on this familiar path.

Here blooms my mandrake grove
With floating tents above its musky flowers,
And here fly-fishermen, intense with love,
Straddle in boots and jeans the watery hours,
While, at their backs,
Derelict river-shacks
Bleach upward to the clean white street above.

Now in an eddying curve the current rests
Where, young and nude, we came to dip at night
And jubilant with fright
Cradled the moon between our virgin breasts,
Hearing the ten o'clock, Chicago-bound,
Rip the still valley with its claw of sound.
Here, rolled in blankets on the friendly ground,
We planned our futures full of dreams and double
And left Wisconsin and the river out.

It came at last,
The future that is past.

The old west wind blows up
The painted cock above the tavern swings,
And here I walk, while in its muffled cup
The mournful clapper of remembrance rings.

—Jessica Nelson North, in The Atlantic Monthly.

Wage And Price Increasing System

(By Harry Ferguson, Condensed Contribution)

Many plans have been presented for meeting the problems of poverty and destitution. But none of them can possibly succeed unless something is done to create wealth to put those plans into effect.

Supposing you start a man in this country with $10 and in Britain £2. You may keep the man out of poverty for just the exact length of time that it takes for the price of everything to go up and then there is poverty again.

We can not and never will solve the problem of poverty until we solve the problem of stabilizing prices, and until we solve the problem of creating wealth to a far greater extent than we have ever done in this world before.

The way we have been running the world is on the basis of ever increasing wages, salaries and profits to meet the ever increasing cost of living. In every country we continually are raising wages; shortly following these raises, up goes the cost of living again on all the things that we buy, and then wages must go up again.

Take for example the coal strike which we have had in this country (U.S.A.). The miners wanted $2 a day more than they were getting because the cost of living had gone up. Bear in mind that coal is a direct or indirect use everywhere all the time and has a direct bearing on the cost of everything we eat, wear and use.

* * *

Half a million miners and their families, some two or three million people, get a temporary benefit by this increase of wages. But there are another 130,000,000 people who are immediately and definitely worse off. Everything we buy which requires the use of coal, will be increased in price, and we will have to pay it. Thus the cost of living will go up. That is the system on which we have been running the world for many years. We propose to substitute for the "price increasing system" the universal benefits of the "price reducing system."

Under the "price increasing system" can only result in more wars, because so long as people are kept in ferment there will be wars. There will be people trying to better themselves through wars if they can't do it in any other way.

Suppose we make new machines that will bring down the cost of living by $2 a day. The miners would be perfectly satisfied. The miners would get what they want with the price reduction of $2 a day and there would be an immediate and welcome benefit to the other 130,000,000 people in the U. S. A. Then instead of having nearly the whole of the population worse off when any one section or group receive a rise in wages, you would have the whole population immediately benefiting.

* * *

The number of people in this world today who realize what is really needed is very, very small. It just is not realized that it is the farm which is the basic cause of the "price increasing system." The whole trouble is definitely in agriculture. That is not the farmer's fault. He must be given the opportunity of producing the necessities of life at a cost so low that we can cut the vicious circle of ever-increasing prices and wages.—Can we do that? I say we can.—We are going to show you how—we have made a complete revolution in the application of mechanics to the land.

Agriculture is more important to mankind than all the other industries in the world put together —yet it is about the only industry left in the world that is still being conducted by antiquated methods. Why? Because until now no one has come along with machinery which will do, on all farms of the world, everything which animals now do—and do it at a fraction of the cost. If the government of each country will help to inform their farmers of what the machinery will do, and if it be established on their farms, the cost of living can be brought down by half.

By doing this we can eliminate the "price increasing system" and substitute instead the "price reducing system." We thereby solve the problem of poverty, insecurity and the first practical step towards the elimination of war.

Today we have the case of the farmer who is the most important citizen in the whole world, still conducting his business by slavery as manual work, whereas in the factory it is done by "finger-tip control." This is all wrong—agriculture should have been the first industry to be modernised and not the last.

* * *

The Ferguson system can be operated by a child in a small field and awkward corners and make the horse look as foolish in a field as he would now look in a factory.

Regardless of the size of the farm animal power is a charge of such disastrous dimensions on the cost of production that we will continue with the vicious circle of the "price increasing system", leading to another world disaster, unless we eliminate it from the farm.

Our system—the "price reduction system"—solves all the farmer's problems, because it makes it possible to make a light machine which will not pack the land and destroy it; which will be cheap to buy, cheap to operate, indestructible, and solves the problem of the small farm, as well as the large, all over the world.

There is a theory that labour-saving machinery creates unemployment. That is entirely erroneous. The moment you start manufacturing your own tractors, you will create employment from mining right through to manufacturing, to transportation and distribution. To equip your factories to make this machinery will create great employment in other industries, since you must have all the machine tools, must build all the factories, etc., etc.

* * *

The moment you equip your farms with labour saving machinery to the extent that your farmers can produce for half the cost, the cost of living can be brought down, men won't need such high wages because they will be able to buy more for less.—Companies won't need to pay their managers so much and they won't need so much profit, because they will be able to buy more for less.

The lower the cost for manufacturers goods, the more you will sell. The more you can sell, the cheaper you can make them. The cheaper you can make them the more you can sell.

So, instead of having a vicious circle of ever increasing prices, reducing markets and ever-reducing employment, you get the circle working the other way. In other words, the Ferguson system of agricultural production is primarily a wealth producing system. The more economically you cultivate your land, the more wealth you can create.

The following message from Henry Ford was read:

"Agriculture needs a wider and steadier market. Industrial workers need more and steadier jobs. The link between them is chemurgy. In the vicinity of Dearborn we are farming 20,000 acres for everything from sunflowers to soya beans. I foresee the time when industry shall draw its materials largely from the annual produce of the fields. The dinner table of the world is not sufficient outlet for the farmer's products. I am convinced that we shall grow annually many, if not most of the substance needed in manufacturing. When that day comes, and it is surely on the way, the farmer will not lack a market and the worker will not lack a job. "More people will live in the country. The present unnatural conditions will be naturally balanced again. Our foundations will be once more laid on the land.

* * *

"Ten years ago we started seven village industries on small waterpower sites. The experiment has been a continuous success. Overhead cost has been less than that in the big factory and the workers would not hear of going back to the city shops. As they are free to till the land in the growing season throughout these trying times, they have all remained self-sustaining. Their security is produced by machine and farm, not by one alone.

That deals with the new science of chemurgy of which Mr. Ford is one of the pioneers.

Chemurgy is a new possibility, the like of which the world has never seen before. It is going to offer opportunities to all countries, the vast things that are going to happen through chemurgy — that is, the use of farm products in industry.

Why do we take iron ore from a mine, and oil from oil wells? Because it is cheaper to get them that way than from the farm. Labour saving machinery creates employment under the new possibility of chemurgy because the cost of production of goods on the farm which could be used instead of oil or iron ore or hundreds of other things for use in industries.

One thing I beg you—Don't subsidize your farmers.—You may want to lend them money or you may want to help the finance companies to lend them money at a fair rate of interest for the purchase of new equipment.

But don't subsidize them. That will defeat every object you have in view. What do subsidies do? By increasing taxation they raise the cost of living and keep us in vicious circle of the "wage and price increasing system".

* * *

What do we seek? We seek Peace, Security, Prosperity and Happiness.—With all the sincerity I possess, I tell you that we will attain those splendid things exactly in proportion as we get the farmers of the world to modernize, to mechanize, and to mix their thoughts with their labour initiatively.

I am going to take a 30-acre farm as a fair example of what can be done through mechanization with this new system, which makes possible the complete elimination of the horse. — We know from the average that we have that the income would not be over $400. With that income, that poor farmer is of very little use to industry, because he has no surplus with which to buy from the local merchant in the local town, and those local merchants in turn, if they cannot get the orders, cannot pass them on to the cities. So something must be done to increase the purchasing power.

If our plan were put fully into operation we could sell our little tractor to the farmer for less than $400 and our implements for about $60 each.

* * *

These are some of the implements, ploughing, planting, cultivating, manure-spreading, mowing, harrowing, weeding, drilling, hauling, and many others that might be required on the large farms.

Now let us consider a 100 acre farm on the same initial basis per acre, this farmer has a $1600 income and he raises it to $3140.

100 acre farm—4 horses.

present cash income	$1600
Add 20 acres (not required to feed the 4 horses)	
25 per cent increase	400
Increased yield	400
Other increased yield made possible by time saved and more livestock and more profitable crop rotation	740
Less cash costs of	$3140
Tractor operation (Oil and fuel)	80
	$3060

I foresee the day when he will not spend that $80 for oil and fuel, but he will grow the oil on his farm and perhaps process it on his own farm or in a local processing station and run the tractor for even less than that. This will be made possible by advance in chemurgy.

The manufacture of this tractor and its equipments will create employment for millions of people and offer endless opportunity for youth and capital. The slavery will be taken out of agriculture. It will become attractive and profitable and put an end to the disastrous drift of youth from the land.

We want the governments to help educate farmers on how to get the best crops from their farms. Especially do we want the governments to help in marketing. A situation could arise where the middle man would begin to collect all the benefits of the price reduction on the farm. —That is something we cannot handle.—That is a government job.

* * *

Let me make it quite clear that we want no financial help and no special privileges whatever from any government—A fair field and no favor. With this gigantic manufacturing industry open to competition from all quarters is what is needed to get the best low cost production equipment to farmers in the future at the lowest possible price.

There are three great needs following this war viz:

Mechanization, Electrification & Education.

The whole country should be electrified. — I do not mean that it should be done as a charity, but as a solid business proposition.—When the farmer gets modern mechanization, he will be able to pay for electricity. The chemergic development makes that all the more important because he will be able to make still greater profits by processing on the farm. Let me emphasize once again that however great the employment-giving benefits of this gigantic industry may be, they are really small compared with the world-wide assets of the use of the machinery on the farm. We are not really engaged upon a profit-earning enterprise, but upon a great crusade to save the world from disaster after this war and lay the foundation for peace, prosperity and happiness throughout the world.

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(Successor to Late Richard E. Johnston)
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