

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office
Department, Ottawa.

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29, 1948

Mr. King's Address

Canada's voice was heard at the United Nations General Assembly meeting yesterday when Prime Minister Mackenzie King reminded Soviet critics that this country at least has taken her share of the European relief burden through UNRRA and other sources as well as through direct governmental credits of more than five hundred million dollars.

On another point, too, Mr. King's words were significant. "It is vital," he said, "to the defense of freedom to maintain a preponderance of moral, economic and military strength on the side of freedom. All else is wholly secondary."

Mr. King was not unduly pessimistic with regard to the tardy progress in obtaining a worldwide community of interests. The United Nations, he pointed out, is certain to be confronted with many difficulties. He suggested that the experience in co-operation and association of the Commonwealth nations to which Canada belongs has some lessons, "both positive and negative," which might be of help in meeting like difficulties in the development of a world community sense among the United Nations.

Mr. King has come a long way from his attitude just before the outbreak of World War Two, when he could apparently see nothing more important to talk about at an Empire Conference than Canada's insistence on its own autonomy. The thing most needed to be said now is that Canada stands foursquare behind the Anglo-American programme of economic and military security, and the Prime Minister has said just that in words which cannot be misunderstood.

Fire Losses

This is the season during which special care should be observed to prevent brush and forest fires, which recently caused such widespread damage in the potato growing State of Maine, and which takes toll annually of many hundreds of thousands of dollars of property damage in Canada. Fire Prevention Week is being observed this year October 3-9, and in this connection the statistical report of fire losses in Canada, just issued by the Federal Department of Insurance, are worth noting. The tables given summarize and classify the losses in 52,931 fires in which the aggregate property loss amounted to \$7,050,461. This compares with \$5,400 fires and a property loss of \$49,413,363 in 1946, an increase of 15.5 per cent in 1947 over 1946. In addition, losses amounting to \$1,348,461 were sustained in the properties of the Department of National Defence and other Crown properties in 1947. In 1946 these losses amounted to \$1,490,000. Fatalities from fire in 1947 were 390 as against 408 in 1946. Of this number 149 were children while 149 men and 92 women died in fires.

Damage caused by fires attributed to smokers' carelessness amounted to \$5,244,747 in 1947 compared to \$3,474,371 in 1946 while overheated stoves, furnaces, boilers and pipes account for a property loss of \$3,764,826 as against \$3,491,588 in 1946. Another prominent cause of fire was defective electrical wiring and appliances. Damage in this connection amounted to \$4,624,127 in 1947 compared to \$4,203,019 in 1946. Fires from unknown causes in 1947 were responsible for property loss of about \$26,053,251 while in 1946 unknown fires accounted for about \$20,113,000.

In the figures for municipalities it is noted that Charlottetown's fire losses last year amounted to \$30,738 or \$1.98 per capita. The city was more fortunate than Summerside which had losses totalling \$43,704, or \$8.74 per capita. Fire losses in Souris amounted to \$6,815, or \$8.74 per capita.

Farmers in the Dark

Hope is expressed by the Ottawa Journal that out of the discussions between Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps and the Dominion Cabinet will come some assurance to Canadian primary producers which will enable them to plan a program for the years ahead with some stability to it. With the exception of wheat, producers of food in this country just don't know what the future holds as far as their trade with Britain is concerned.

As a result production of many products which were shipped to Britain in quantity during the war years has fallen off badly. This year, for instance, we may ship less than three hundred million pounds of pork products to Britain, compared with almost seven hundred million pounds in the peak year 1944. Cheese exported this year will be only a third or a quarter as much as during the peak year and the decrease in many other products is on a

proportionate level. In all it means a loss of well over a hundred million dollars a year in our export trade, compared to the high point reached in war years.

The reasons for these decreases are many and complicated by various factors but there is little doubt that uncertainty and the absence of any assurance as to future market prospects has had a lot to do with them.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Fest of St. Michael and All the Angels.

To get rid of sniffles, says Mr. W. Ormiston Roy, we must get rid of ragweed. He also declares the City Engineer, Mr. Harold Messervey, is the best field botanist he has met in forty years travelling in North America and Europe.

If you want a thing well done do it yourself, seems to be the motto of City Clerk Fullerton, who has installed an asphalt plant capable of doing the work on the streets better and cheaper than any contractor.

Maritime Provinces transportation services leave much to be desired so that the newly announced C. N. R. timetables with faster schedules between a number of Maritime points comes as an agreeable surprise.

There is certainly nothing in the plaintive speech of British Columbia's Police Commissioner John Shirras before the Chief Constables Association of Canada. That youth more often takes an idol of the slick crook rather than the righteous citizen is a wall as old as time.

Very many here and elsewhere heard with deep regret the announcement of the death of Rev. Dr. Daniel J. Fraser, one of our distinguished educationists. He was long connected with the Presbyterian College in Montreal as professor and principal, and many of the clergymen now in Presbyterian pulpits, graduated under him. Rev. Dr. J. Kier Fraser is now the sole member of the family left, and sympathy goes out to him and Mrs. Fraser in their loss.

According to Brigadier Reid, Supervisor of our Tourist Bureau 62,731 passengers were handled this summer on the Borden-Tormentine run an increase of 370, while 15,339 cars were ferried, an increase of 2,599. Similarly, 21,979 passengers were handled on the Wood Islands-Caribou route, an increase of 2,266 and 6,778 autos, an increase of 1,500. The number handled by the Maritime Central Airways was 7,988, a decrease of 836. Steamer passengers here this year numbered 1,155, an increase of 855. This is estimated as an increase of \$233,000 on the tourist revenue for the year.

Four young men who obviously don't suffer from too much heat and too little energy are four Boy Scouts, who, over a long week-end, paddled two canoes one hundred and forty miles, from Devizes to Westminster Bridge, London, in order to win a bet of twenty pounds. The bet was that they wouldn't make the journey in a hundred hours. They made it in eighty one hours and fifty minutes, and, being a holiday period, they had to carry their canoes through no less than fifty two locks.

Sir John Lyon, British restaurateur, born this date 1848, was the first to realize the advantage of multiple restaurants or tea rooms, with one menu and one price, so that anywhere and at any time in London travellers could be sure of a meal at a moderate rate. From this Lyon entered the field of production, and established his own tea estates in Ceylon, and milk, butter and egg production in Kent, and finally became government contractor for army and navy supplies. The multiple idea caught on in England and spread to U.S.A. and Canada. The centenary of Lyon is being celebrated this year.

Declaring to a Globe and Mail interviewer that a week's test of "man-in-the-street" reaction in Ontario had convinced him that John Diefenbaker is the only man capable of leading the Progressive Conservatives back to power, Mr. B. Roy Holman, vice-president of the Dominion Progressive Conservative Association, announced that he will support Mr. Diefenbaker at the Ottawa convention. "I am only speaking personally," Mr. Holman emphasized, "but I have found to my surprise that reports circulating in the Maritimes to the effect that Mr. Drew is solid in Ontario are incorrect. So far as I can learn, Diefenbaker has more support in Ontario than Drew. Therefore, our only interest in the Maritimes is to choose the man who can be the next Prime Minister of Canada. After a careful survey, I believe that John Diefenbaker is that man." Mr. Holman said his Ontario survey had been done "in Toronto and the immediate vicinity."

Last year we were exporting potatoes to Britain, now we are told Britain's potato harvest looks so good it is expected large quantities will be left over for export. This is attributed to the tremendous efforts made by home growers in response to the government's appeal for more acres to be used for potatoes. The government also offered to buy potatoes, growers could not sell if the market became oversupplied. The Food Ministry already has bought 70,000 tons of the early and second early crop for animal consumption. The normal price is £4 (\$16) a ton. "Vast quantities are likely to be bought by the ministry and kept in reserve for home consumption," an official said. Meanwhile the Ministry of Agriculture is appealing for between 15,000 and 20,000 volunteers to get the potato harvest in. As an inducement to volunteers, camp boarding fees have been reduced to 14s a week. In Essex, where farmers set themselves a target of 29,000 acres and bettered it with 33,000 acres, the chief problem is labor. Appeals will be made to education committees for the help of older schoolchildren.

TEACHER'S BEST FRIEND SHOULD BE THE W. I.



The teacher consults the Women's Institute in her community over school and scholar problems.

Sir Stafford Cripps' Address At Margate

(United Kingdom Information)

"This time last year we were in a very difficult position indeed especially so far as our overseas balance of payments was concerned. Both our own country and the rest of the sterling area were running heavy dollar debit balances and our overall balance of trade was also very adverse. We had as a result to take a number of most drastic steps in order to reverse the process and bring ourselves to a safer position where we could be within sight at least of eventually freeing our country from dependence upon any other country in the economic sphere."

"It was fortunate -- or perhaps natural -- that at this time in the tide of world affairs we had the encouragement of the generous and inspiring speech which Mr. Marshall had made a few weeks earlier in Harvard, which was equally important the immediate and dynamic initiative of Ernie Bevin -- to whom this country owes a great debt of gratitude -- an initiative which set in motion the European Economic Co-operation upon which eventually E. R. P. was based."

"This prospect of a period of time during which American aid and with European co-operation we could bridge the gap in our overseas payments enabled us to follow out policies which would otherwise have been impossible. We were able to continue drawing in from the United States our imports of foodstuffs and raw materials because we were entitled to take that risk in the new circumstances which we have created. It was in that setting that we initiated our policy of exchange control. The remarkable response of the British workers and managements to this call for greater discipline and greater restraint made possible a rapid improvement in our circumstances and has brought us so far safely along the road to recovery through some of the most difficult days that we have ever had to traverse in the course of our history. We had to use all our financial, fiscal and economic controls and resources to cope with the situation. The Budget became part of our economic planning to enable us to steer our way along this difficult path."

"Obviously the primary need was to reduce the adverse balance of dollar payments. That was tackled in two ways for it must always be remembered when we are talking of sterling-dollar balances that we are not the only users of sterling. We are also the users of dollars. The first thing we had to do for was a reduction in our adverse balance and that meant increasing our volume of exports to the dollar areas and reducing our imports as we could from dollar to non-dollar sources. This entailed invisibles as well as visible trade. We were last year running a heavy adverse balance of invisible payments, directly due to the aftermath of war, our increased commitments overseas and our gravely diminished opportunities of earning foreign exchange by our shipping and other services."

"We also had to persuade all our fellow-members of the sterling area to reduce their adverse dollar balances, and I must express once again how grateful we are to them for the way they have played up to most unselfishly and helped."

"We had to remember, of course, that though the first necessity was to cure the dollar imbalance we had to be careful not to aggravate the general imbalance in our overall accounts as a result of the steps we took. That is to say, we had to remember that if we switched from dollar to sterling purchases we still had to pay in exports for these sterling purchases, except insofar as our friends were prepared to help us by holding sterling until such time as we could deliver the goods they needed."

"So we had to produce and export more -- much more -- primarily wherever we could to the dollar areas, but also to the other

countries from whom we were buying our supplies. The adverse balance in 1947 had been 2675 million and the means of trading were still turning against us -- import prices were rising more rapidly than the prices of our exports. Actually the adverse dollar balance had been 2680 million in 1947 so there was a small credit in hand from other countries -- but not nearly big enough to provide all our extra supplies which we wanted to switch over from dollar sources."

"Before I come to the internal side of the picture let me give you a few figures to show how we have done in this part of our effort."

"Exports in the first half of 1948 have gone up to 130% of 1938 compared to 116% for the last half of 1947. We have reduced our Western Hemisphere purchases by 20% and switched nearly all this to non-dollar areas so that there has been no net dollar payment. In fact our living or in our supplies of raw materials."

"We have increased our Western Hemisphere exports by 25% and our exports in other areas by 19%. The dollar drawings by the rest of the sterling area have been reduced to 116% for the last half of 1947. Then we have entered into some 40 bilateral agreements in our efforts to maintain the greatest volume of trade possible with those countries which like ourselves have currencies convertible into dollars and in every case these agreements are based upon sterling payments. In fact our overseas trade is in a much healthier condition though we have by no means as yet succeeded in closing the dangerous and threatening gap. It is at the moment being substantially closed by the E. R. P. gifts and loans, at least so far as dollars and gold are concerned -- but of course we do not know how long that aid will continue after next April. All this is encouraging -- we are on the right road though still beset by many difficulties."

"But this has only been possible and has only been achieved by the hard work and self-denial of the British people. They have shown themselves a more self-disciplined and intelligent democracy than any other in the world."

"It was absolutely necessary that we should diminish the strong inflationary pressure which had by last autumn developed to a dangerous extent in this country. This was absolutely vital if we were to preserve the possibility of increasing our volume of exports and at the same time to maintain the value of the purchasing power of our own money."

"For this purpose a disinflationary budget was necessary: one which would provide not only for the whole of our Governmental expenditure both on revenue and capital account but also such a surplus with which to diminish our floating debt and so contract somewhat our credit structure. Second we had to stop the spiral of wages, prices and profits which was arising out of the inflationary pressure, and third we had to continue to use subsidies to attempt to stabilize or bring down prices. To counter the inevitable continuing increase in some prices dependent largely upon overseas raw materials, we reduced purchase tax by some £50 million and gave remissions at the bottom end of the income tax scale of £100 million -- which incidentally provided better inducements to overtime work in skilled trades, and of course somewhat or other we had to collect enough money to do that. Then except in a few isolated instances which we are doing our best to look after, full employment has been maintained, and must be maintained if we are to succeed in our efforts. The two dangers that I see to full employment are that we cannot export enough to get all our prices as high as we need or if our prices are too high and too inflated to enable us to secure the markets abroad that we must have."

(To Be Concluded)

GAS LIGHTER

If your gas oven doesn't have an automatic pilot light, try lighting it with a long drinking straw be sure it is the waxed type and is long enough so you can reach the burner without getting your hand and arm too near the flame.

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.

BUTTER FAT PRICES

Sir -- In a front page article in Saturday's Guardian Hon. Mr. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture, tells farmers how prosperous they are as a result of this year's crops. Referring to the dairy farmer he mentions 95 cents as the price being received for butter fat. By this it would seem that some sections of Queen's County are doing much better than others. The writer lives in New London and my records show that the best price received this year for first grade cream was 76 cents, just a trifling 16 cents under what Mr. Stewart mentions. Last year it was the same thing. We got less than others received."

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

RECKLESS HUSBANDRY

"The man who commences a new farm in the woods has many difficulties to overcome, much hardship to endure, and many privations to suffer; exertions of muscle, rather than skill in husbandry, is at first chiefly demanded of him. The new land yields abundantly, and with its strength thus taxed to its utmost and a long winter to encounter the temptation to over cropping is great, and he requires all his prudence to refrain from improving what he has cleared, to supply his present wants."

"But beware how you do so. Nature has been bountiful in giving great fertility to the virgin soil, but you cannot abuse her gifts with impunity; if you exhaust the ground by the reckless system of taking crop after crop, without manuring, be assured you and your children will suffer for it in after years."

"Look at many of the old farms on the Island; how many farmers do you see with forty and fifty acres of cleared land, selling their farms for a trifle, or struggling with poverty, and just obtaining a scanty subsistence, when they ought to have plenty? Yet these lands were once clothed with woods like yours, the soil so rich, the yield of the first crops as great; what has caused the change? The answer is, the foolish, barbarous system of cutting repeated grain and hay crops from the same land, without manuring. Be warned by their example, and do not follow a path which must bring you to the same conditions."

The Age-Old Story

With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation. Length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Length of days is in her (Wisdom's) right hand. By Me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased. The fear of the Lord prolongeth days.

COLONIZED EARLY Bogota, Colombia, had two universities before Harvard opened.

Notes By The Way

A pedestrian is a car owner with a wife and grown children--Kitchen-Waterloo Record.

More pay is the cry of many Canadian workmen. In China the day's pay is so great that the workers are unable to carry it home, due to inflation.--St. Catharines Standard.

For the aid and encouragement of young couples who like good music, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra is offering a unique inducement to those who subscribe for a series of ten concerts. The orchestra management guarantees to provide a competent baby-sitter for those who need one. The usual fee will be paid by the concert-goers, amounting to 55 cents an hour in Buffalo, if the baby-sitter is employed by an agency.--Philadelphia Bulletin.

Several high-toned scientific reasons have been given for the proposed detonation of 3,000 tons of bombs--the remains of World War II ammunition dump--at Attapeu in New Guinea. The blast, we are solemnly told will aid in the study of earthquakes, and perhaps lead to the discovery of oil. But we somehow suspect that the real reason may be a youthful desire on the part of the officiating scientists to produce a really big bang--the firecracker of the ages so to speak.--Edmonton Journal.

It doesn't pay to be a child nowadays. There are so many people who don't want you, particularly landlords and landladies. Not that house and apartment owners haven't bitter cause in many cases to know what a small child or two can do to wallpaper and woodwork. No reasonable parents will deny that Junior raises destructive Cain on occasion. But justification should be tempered with mercy, and judging by frequent reports across our land, this point is being entirely forgotten--or ignored--in many instances.--Kitchen-Waterloo Record.

The twentieth-century's emphasis on open diplomacy reflects general dissatisfaction with the results of nineteenth-century secrecy -- the worst of which was the First World War. Still there are few champions of open diplomacy who would urge that discussion of international problems be published at every step and debated even in their most delicate phases in public. What has been going on in Moscow is not secret diplomacy but private negotiation -- a necessary phase of democratic procedure on the international as on the national level.--Christian Science Monitor.

Tractors in use in Britain have increased by 40,000 and tractor trailers by 68,000. These figures show how quickly the internal combustion engine is displacing the horse on Britain's farms which are, in fact as highly mechanized as any in the world. More land is being cultivated in Britain, too. The Ministry of Agriculture's returns disclose that during the last twelve months 263,000 acres have been added to food production. Hundreds of acres of valuable fertile land are also being reclaimed from the sea. The same trend is seen in livestock returns. Over the same period pigs have risen by nearly half a million and cattle by a quarter of a million. Workers on the land increased by 15,000--UK Bulletin.

The Acting Mayor of Ottawa, at a recent banquet in that city, has gone on record as against the expenditure of public moneys on organizing recreation for teen-agers. Children who have passed the preschool and early school age, he claims, should be able to use their own initiative and energies rather than applying to city council for funds for the purpose of getting recreation. There will be many who will agree with Dr. Gelder's statements. There is little to support the theory that adolescent delinquency arises from lack of public recreational facilities, and much to indicate that the healthiest and happiest youths are those who organize their own spare time to provide a competent baby-sitter for those who need one. The usual fee will be paid by the concert-goers, amounting to 55 cents an hour in Buffalo, if the baby-sitter is employed by an agency.--Philadelphia Bulletin.

A Total of 780,625, born in 48 different countries, were during the Second World War enlisted in the Canadian Army, according to figures compiled by the army's historical section at Ottawa. Of those born outside Canada, statistics show that the largest number -- some 39,907 -- was born in England, and the smallest totals are shown for Albania and Montenegro, with three from each of these countries. Russian-born (the U. S. S. R. and Ukraine) Canadian soldiers totalled 2,850. Several other countries, by reason of birth, contributed heavily to the strength of Canada's wartime army. They include Scotland with 18,308; Ireland, 6,385; United States and Alaska, 19,068; Poland, 5,144, and Canada with 2,123. Almost 2,500 Canadian soldiers first saw the light of day in Newfoundland.--Veterans Affairs.

The Poet's Corner

THE ONE CERTAINTY

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher said. All things are vanity. The eye and ear Cannot be filled with what they see And heart. Like early dew, or like the sudden breath Of wind, or like the grass that withers, Is man, tossed to and fro by hope and fear: So little joy hath he, so little cheer: Till all things end in the long dust of death. Today is still the same as yesterday; Tomorrow also even as one of them. And there is nothing new under the sun: Until the ancient race of Time be run. The old thorns shall grow out of the old stem. And morning shall be cold and twilight grey. --Christina Rossetti.

POORLY PAID THEVES

BELLEVILLE, Ont. -- (CP) -- Thieves who stole a barrel of tar owned by a commercial fisherman at Point Anne near here must have had a tough haul. The 40-gallon barrel, secured at \$17.50--weighed 500 pounds. The tar is used to treat nets.

FOR COZY WARMTH COAL KEEP YOUR FUEL BINS WELL-FILLED WITH COAL WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPLY COAL FROM THE BEST MINES. TODAY WE ARE UNLOADING-- OLD SYDNEY and SPRINGHILL A. PICKARD & CO. PHONE 240

COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE W. K. Rogers Agencies LIMITED Queen Street Charlottetown