THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22,

Green Pastures

Because the American farmer is selling his export commodities for their full world market price, and because he is enjoying an extraordinarily high range of prices for produce domestically consumed, there is a tendency in Canada to conclude that American agriculture is luxuriating. Evidence submitted to the Federal Government's agricultural committee during its extended hearings in Washington this summer will dispel that idea. *The Country Guide* thus sums up the situation:

The fact is that things are not too sunny for a vast number of American farmers, faced as they are with costs which overshadow their high income. Many of them make too little money, according to census figures, and thousands of them have been ruined by temporary gluts and loss of war-time markets. Despite the fact that agricultural production rose steadily from 1919 to 1929, gross farm income dropped from $16.9 billion to $12.9 billion, and farm wealth declined from $79 billion to $58.1 billion.

Present price support schemes do not give aid in proportion to the need. It is estimated that 10 per cent of the farmers sell 50 per cent of farm commodities reaching market. It is obvious, so witnesses said, that this top ten per cent have been getting the largest share of the benefits. It is likened by political opponents to the help-the-rich schemes of the Republican party.

While this is a domestic issue on which outsiders will have no opinion, it discloses a hardening attitude on the part of American agriculture which is bound to make itself felt in any effort to adjust the U. S. export-import balance. President Truman's brush with the wool growers earlier in the summer is probably the first in a series with different farm interests. The president is deeply conscious of the connection between trade and foreign affairs, but he will meet well entrenchd opposition from all sides in securing the passage of adequate measures to place European, and for that matter Canadian, trade with the United States on a secure foundation.

Mr. Brown's Resignation

The departure of Mr. Frank H. Brown, C.B.E., from his post as Deputy Minister of National Revenue, says the *Globe and Mail*, calls renewed attention to the deplorable confusion that exists in that important department. Mr. Brown tendered his resignation last March, scarcely four months after accepting the appointment. He was prevailed upon to continue in office until a successor could be found. Now, after seven months of waiting, the Government has accepted his resignation, but his successor has not appeared.

"Mr. Brown," says the Toronto paper, "can scarcely be criticized for leaving his department without direction. He showed commendable patience in remaining as long as he did at a job which he clearly found unpleasant and it cannot be said that the Government did not have ample time to secure a replacement. But the fact that he found it necessary to submit his resignation after being in office less than four months and Ottawa's inability to produce a successor suggest that departmental affairs are certainly not as they should be. The public can only wonder why.

"It is true that the task of supervising income tax collections — the chief duty of that post—is a big one. More names are on the Dominion's tax rolls now than ever before and the method of computing assessments during some of the war years was complicated in the extreme. It is common knowledge that Income Tax officials are years behind in their examination of returns and the tremendous backlog of work that has accumulated reportedly beggars imagination. The reason for this colossal breakdown of governmental machinery, however, is less apparent when the other side of the picture is reviewed.

"Offsetting the larger tax roll and more complicated calculations is the fact that the Government has saddled Canadian employers with much of the work and most of the responsibility for tax collections. Before the war, income tax was purely an individual matter. Each taxpayer had to calculate his tax, report it and pay it personally. The most intensive kind of personal supervision was necessary to keep the collections coming in. But, since 1941, employers have been the compulsory cashiers of the Government.

"By deducting income tax at the source, Ottawa obtained, automatically, at least 90 per cent collection from the biggest group of taxpayers in the country—the wage and salary earners. Employers were required to hire extra staffs and do the bookkeeping and calculating that the Government required. Ottawa saved time and trouble at the employer's expense. A great burden was shifted from the Income Tax branch to businessmen across Canada and, it is to be presumed, a large number of civil servants were freed from this work to handle other phases of the tax collection program. Yet the department continues to get further and further behind in its work.

"This may be regarded as purely a mechanical problem, but such an assumption is only superficially correct. It is the end result of a cumulative chaos arising from an unwieldy, inequitable, jerry-built, patched-over tax structure. The mechanical problem will be cleared up only when the Government acknowledges the prime need for a complete overhauling of the system itself. Nothing less will suffice."

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Now that the packing house strike is over, the question is just what is the status of "the former Canada Packers Limited Packing Plant" and what becomes of its former employees?

* * * *

Steel is still one of the greatest bottlenecks in the world today. A plentiful steel supply would go far towards setting almost every country on its feet again economically.

* * * *

A market for another 2,000,000 bushels of our disease free potatoes is going some, without a doubt. The Premier has good reason to boast of this on the eve of an election.

* * * *

Australia, which last year exported only 6,000,000 bushels of wheat, expects this year to send to Britain more than 75,000,000 bushels. It is expected that a five year contract with the U. K. will be negotiated.

* * * *

It was largely due to Britain's refusal to make of Germany a "rural slum" that only 682 industries are being dismantled for reparations in the British and U. S. zones instead of more than 1,600 as was originally planned.

* * * *

Annuitants have the reputation of **being long** livers, but perhaps the most outstanding case is that of Rev. Arthur Sewell of London, England, who has drawn an annuity from the Sun Life of Canada for 24 years, and now, in his 106th year is still going strong.

* * * *

A Chicago boy of four swallowed a nail, then surgeons made him swallow a magnet with a thread attached, pulling nail and magnet out by the way they entered. That is more wonderful than pulling non-existent rabbits out of a conjurer's hat.

* * * *

War Assets Corporation is disposing of the Government-owned steel plate mill and ingot manufacturing plant in Sydney. With the prospect of profitable operation through the use of high grade ore from newly discovered deposits in Labrador it would be a pity to see the plant bought in and closed by Ontario or Quebec interests.

* * * *

To the County Court for Yarmouth County, N. S., as to many of the rest of us "forthwith" means, not immediately, but in a reasonable time. Other terms have shown the same development—presently, at once, immediately and even this instant do not necessarily negative any interval of time whatever.

* * * *

Abel Janszoon Tasman, Dutch navigator, died this date 1639. He explored the southeastern Pacific, commanding Van Dieman's expedition to circumnavigate Australia in 1642 discovering Tasmania (which he named Van Dieman's Land) New Zealand, Friendly Islands and Fiji Islands. He made several subsequent voyages of discovery, publishing an account of his experiences. Later Van Dieman's Land was renamed after him as Tasmania.

* * * *

Mr. James M. Macdonnell, M.P., Progressive Conservative financial critic, has been adopted for Muskoka-Parry Sound by which name his seat will be known under the Redistribution Act. In his acceptance, Mr. Macdonnel declared: "Mr. King is really not a leader—he's just a great vote-getter. He gets votes by waiting to see which way public opinion will jump. And like Old Man River, he just keeps drifting along."

* * * *

Lord Beaverbrook at the age of sixty-eight has decided to retire from British political life and to spend the remainder of his years between Fredericton, N. B., and Bermuda. The announcement said while Lord Beaverbrook would make periodic trips to England to maintain contact with his newspaper interests, "his place of residence from now on will be Fredericton. In his retiring years he will devote most of his time to building up the university," to which he has been a generous contributor.

* * * *

Many a true word is spoken in jest. Lord Chorley, a Labour Peer, in proposing that Mr. Churchill's cigars be taken away in "punishment" for his criticism of the Attlee government was expressing the all-too-common modern attitude that the executive branch of government, as well as the courts, may punish those who oppose its wishes.

* * * *

Eire, which lolled in luxury during the war and immediately thereafter, now is beginning to experience some of the austerity which has characterized life in the other two-thirds of the Disunited Kingdom. Everything, even austerity, comes to him who waits; only the six days per week, 312 days per annum people win out all the time in consonance with Divine prevision as well as provision.

* * * *

As already announced Canada has sent a gift to Bethnal Green's Public Libraries in London for which the children of that Borough will have reason to be grateful all their lives. It is 1500 children's books of the highest literary quality and the way in which this generous gift has come about is interesting. Last December Bethnal Green Public Library issued a report which appeared in some London daily papers and which spoke of the destruction of millions of books by enemy action during the war, which, together with the present paper shortage has made it difficult to obtain the books essential to any children's library. The report was read by Toronto's Chief Librarian, Mr. C. R. Sanderson, and as a result, a campaign was begun, under the auspices of the Canadian Library Association, in which every Canadian boy and girl was asked to send books to Bethnal Green. Soon books were pouring in to Toronto from all over Canada from schools, social organizations and from children and adults alike. Some children sent their pocket money. Others their savings.

Notes By The Way

As our readers well know, this newspaper has no use for intoxicants. We often get the impression that the liquor industry considers us equally unnecessary if not as its Public Enemy No. 1. But in fairness we should like to say a word in commendation of the American distillers who agreed to shut down for 60 days and to turn over for European aid their present stocks of grain. —Christian Science Monitor.

Not for us to say we shouldn't have diplomats roving over the world, seeing that what seems to be the prevailing practice. We only suggest meekly the danger of our getting delusion of grandeur, imagining that we're a great world power, and taking on commitments that we're not ready to underwrite. With a nation, as with an individual, there is such a thing as grasp exceeding reach. — Ottawa Journal.

The great American hot dog was introduced in 1900 at the Polo Grounds in New York when Harry Mozely Stevens added something new to his peanut and candy concession—a wiener in a bun with mustard and pickle. Americans had eaten wieners in buns before but not with mustard and pickle. From a $2 concession, Stevens built up a million-dollar business as he installed stands in the nation's major league ball parks and race tracks. Hot dog preferences vary from East to West. Easterners like theirs lightly spiced and order them "hold everything." West of the Alleghenies, people demand more tang and layers of onion, pickle, and mustard—"the works." Americans eat 419,000,000 pounds of hot dogs a year—12 pounds per person. — Chicago Daily News.

"The capitalist system," summed up a wise American spokesman the other day, "is already providing what communism says it hopes to provide some generations hence." That explains the fundamental difference in life on our side of the iron curtain and life on the other side. That in fact, explains the iron curtain itself. If and when, on the far side of that curtain, they ever reach the stage where people enjoy the same amount of goods and services we enjoy on ours, plus the freedom we have to live as we please, then we will have to admit that their system is comparable to ours. Until then, however, we should be thankful that we are living where we are. — Financial Post.

In the twenty-five-year period from 1920 to 1945 there were twenty-six officially reported milk-borne epidemics in Canada, each with thirty cases or more. These twenty-six outbreaks, attributed to consumption of unpasteurized milk, accounted for 702 deaths from typhoid fever, paratyphoid, and septic sore throat. In the same period there were numerous other lesser outbreaks of the same disease and of undulant fever, also milk-borne. These minor epidemics also accounted for numerous deaths. For instance there were officially reported, 1,124 cases of undulant fever, an extremely difficult disease to diagnose, in the years 1940-45. Twenty-three deaths were attributed to this disease in that period. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

A person can agree exactly with every one of the "Security Principles" announced by the State Department as governing its current check of its employes and still object to the final result, which seemingly is that of an American citizen can be tried without a jury, without a bill of particulars being rendered, without being given an opportunity to confront his accusers. Then he can be found guilty without explanation of about as serious a charge as we can think of at the moment. Dismissal under such circumstances means that the person dismissed is barred from employment in any other department of the government and probably from most American business concerns. — New York Times.

When commercial men do expensive drinking on trains, tipping waiters generously and treating all round, other passengers know that the spending is on an expense account and that in the end the customer pays. When a firm that has raised the price of its product 150 per cent has a bar at the head office, customers know that they, not the firm, are standing the shot. When national trade conventions are held and empty bottles by the dozen are collected each morning in hotel corridors, the extravagance is passed on to the consumers. When executives at Christmas and New Year's throw spectacular parties, the accountants know where the bill is included in general expense and, of course, the cost is passed on to the consumer. —Temperance Advocate.

Twenty-five million weary American automobiles are falling apart faster than repairmen can put them back together. The difficulty isn't a dearth of repairmen. It's lack of replacement parts to keep the senile buggies ticking. Manufacturers are making parts at three times the pre-war rate, but in the race to keep up with demand they are being left at the starting post. Some 27 million passenger cars are on the roads today. Nine out of ten, say auto statisticians, are four or more years old. The "average" vehicle has seen the frost of eight winters. "The cars are tired and battle-scarred," says one garage man who can't begin to fill requests for parts. "Not only are their insides wearing out fast, but as they get shakier they rip more fenders off each other on the roads. And don't ask me for a new fender." — Wall Street Journal

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.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND CONFEDERATION

Sir,—May I briefly as the importance of the subject will permit support the recent claim of Nova Scotia's Prime Minister Hon. Mr. MacDonald, that "Canada's nine Provinces should be consulted before Newfoundland is brought into Confederation" (Canadian Press Reporter), also Hon. Mr. MacDonald's statement that — "whatever is done in this regard ought to be done realistically and not by the use of fictions as has been followed in certain cases."

Historians, educators and politicians are responsible for concealing the truth and teaching "fictions" or incorrect theories regarding the Canada with which we are concerned: such teaching is the basis of the downfall of this Confederation and causing the people of the Maritime Provinces especially to needlessly submit to the unprecedented injustice from which they have suffered at the hands of successive Governments and Parliaments of Canada and their apparently unconstitutional bureaucratic offshoots such as the Canadian National Railway Company, the National Harbours Board, and others, which have been incorporated (through no fault of their own) without being obliged to recognize and respect the responsibility of the Federal Government and Parliament "to make laws" and provide services to promote the objects which are defined in the documents which constitute our national set-up.

In the main those off-shoots are permitted to operate as commercial projects which with other things, make practically impossible good Federal government pertaining to inter-provincial transportation and trade especially, and economic justice and fair-play for the Maritime Provinces generally, in connection with certain objects of the Confederation including "the regulation of trade and commerce" among the Provinces which is a defined duty of the Federal Parliament.

To reach a correct conclusion regarding Hon. Mr. MacDonald's claim it is necessary to know what the present Canada is, which knowledge can be found only in the documents which constitute the Dominion of Canada and define the nature of its governmental machinery and how it is constituted to function and what are its duties and objectives. The constitution of Canada's governmental machinery is one thing and the constitution of its legislative authority and the nature of its Executive Government are other things all of which are defined.

Every adult Canadian should be educated accordingly, but our educational institutions make no attempt to teach the fundamental principles of Canada's constitution nor the science of Federal Government pertaining to this nation but mislead Canadians to believe that this nation is constituted with the British system of government and that the constitution of the Dominion of Canada is a constitutional development of the Province of Canada (Quebec and Ontario only) based on the Quebec Act 1774; such are the kind of "fictions" which emanate chiefly from Toronto and Ottawa and are taught in the schools of the Maritimes. The system of government which has gradually been imposed upon this federal nation of Provinces by politicians since it started to function, is not the system of government which is provided for in the documents which constitute it. According to high authority a Provincial Government can stop any action by the Ottawa Government if it is repugnant to the documents which unite these Provinces federally.

The basis of correct knowledge is the document which the sixteen authorized delegates of the four original Provinces agreed to in 1866 and which the British North America Act 1867 defines as an "agreement" and the Privy Council 1931 defined as the "original contract" and the Privy Council, 1937, defined as "the inter-provincial compact to which the B.N.A. Act gives effect": such authorities seem to declare that not one word of that document and the laws which give effect to it can be changed morally or lawfully without the consent of the Provinces which are parties to it.

Section 1 of this document reads —"The best interests and present and future prosperity of British North America will be promoted by a Federal union, under the Crown of Great Britain, provided such union can be effected on principles just to the several Provinces": note that the name of the territory concerned is British North America not Canada: there has been no territory or land division of America named Canada since 1867 when it was discarded as the name of a section of British North America chiefly in the St. Lawrence watershed: note the words "federal union" also the words "federally united" in the B. N. A. Act and that the word "people" is not in that Act and that the Provinces are the units for the welfare of which Canada is constituted to function.

The 1866 document and the B. N. A. Act 1867 define certain terms and conditions under which Newfoundland may be admitted into this confederation of Provinces, but according to press reports the Federal Government intends to change some of these terms and conditions without the consent of the Provinces which agreed to them.

The 1866 and 1867 constitutional documents seem to make it perfectly clear that Canada is not the name of a federal governmental institution or inter-provincial organization, in other words the name of a Confederation which was created by the original Provinces for their mutual welfare regardless of their respective populations and with a unique federal (not democratic) system of government: the word Dominion merely denotes the rank of this governmental institution in the Empire.

There does not seem to be any ground to doubt that the original Dominion of Canada derives its being and authority from the original Provinces with the B. N. A. Act and Canada Railway Loan Act secondary actions which were taken by the British Parliament in 1867 to sanction the 1866 agreement; because those Provinces which at that time were self-governing parts of the Empire and according to the Privy Council retained their independence and autonomy when they confederated "expressed their desire to be federally united" as that Act declares and which means united by their agreement.

British Columbia and Prince Edward Island became members of this British North America Confederation of Provinces (not directly of peoples) which is functioning at Ottawa under the name of Canada, according to definite documentary agreements arranged between those Provinces respectively and the federal Parliament and the Prairie Provinces were carved out of the North Western Territories all of which is pursuant to the 1866 agreement and the British and Federal laws of 1867 which give legal effect to it, also define the authority and duties which the Provinces entrusted to the federal Parliament: It is under those federal laws 1867 that the Parliament of Canada undertook its obligations to the Provinces.

Also the moral aspects of the case seem to support the claim of the Prime Minister of Nova Scotia.

I am, Sir etc.

A. P. PATERSON

Saint John N. B.
Oct. 20 1947.

A Lyrical Department

(Halifax Chronicle)

The Department of National Health and Welfare has gone lyrical in a big way. One of the most recent releases to the press from its Information Services Division runs as follows. "It is not natural to be unhappy all the time, assert doctors in the Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa. Pointing out that 'every cloud has a silver lining,' the health authorities urge a search for the rainbow and an appreciation of the inevitable sunshine which follows the storm. Since unhappiness is an enemy of health, the national officials advocate cultivation of a philosophical and cheerful outlook."

This is in the best style of Aunt Tabitha's Tuesday Talks to Tiny Tots. If the department will only set the thing to music we shall have something that will make the Seven Dwarfs' march-to-work song sound utterly inadequate. Or is it that a real humorist has slipped unnoticed into the Department?

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The Poet's Corner

LITTLE THINGS

There's nothing very beautiful and nothing very gay
About the rush of faces in the town by day,
But a light tan cow in a pale green mead,
That is very beautiful, beautiful indeed.
And the soft March wind, and the low March mist
Are better than kisses in a dark street kissed.
The fragrance of the forest when it wakes at dawn,
The fragrance of a trim green village lawn,
The hearing of the murmur of the rain at play—
These things are beautiful, beautiful as day!
And I shan't stand waiting for love or scorn
When the feast is laid for a day new-born.
Oh, better let the little things I loved when little
Return when the heart finds the great things brittle;
And better is a temple made of bark and thong
Than a tall stone temple that may stand too long.

—Orrick Johns.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

"WINGS OF A PENGUIN"

The Colonial Building, since Confederation known as the Provincial Building, was not built (1847) without friction. The money was raised by a land-assessment act; and the members of the Council, the watchdogs of the proprietors, were anxious to keep down the cost to £10,000, the sum originally voted. But the Assembly found that it would require £2,000 more to execute the original design and made the appropriation accordingly.

Lieutenant - Governor Huntley assented to the bill, but sympathized with the Council and explained his opposition to the Colonial Secretary in the following caustic way: "The effect seems very disproportionate to the expense; the alteration made consists of a portico for the front entrance which is sufficiently in character with the building, and two abuttments very ostentatiously called 'wings' and bearing about as much proportion to the body of the building as the wings of a penguin do to the body of the bird; but they are of no comparatively relative use. These wings are intended to serve for side entrances, for which purpose two porticos could have been erected at much less expense and would have been quite as useful."

Huntley at that time was at loggerheads with the Speaker of the Assembly, Joseph Pope, and may have allowed his sudden passion for economy to triumph over his aesthetic appreciation; but all citizens of Charlottetown then and since have been pleased that the Assembly executed the original design.

—From an article by Dr. D. C. Harvey.

The Inconsistent Dollar

(The Country Guide)

There is one class of individual to whom freedom of speech should be denied. It consists of those who say that Canada has only 3.32 people to the square mile while the United States has 44.23, England 685 and so on around the world. Such comparisons are particularly odious. They conveniently neglect 10-storey apartment houses and avoid all considerations of soil and climate. Such people take in all the millions of square miles of ice, rock and tundra in Canada's northern hinterland, the great stretches of sub-marginal soil where nothing but trees will grow, and small ones at that, the vast areas where limited rainfall thins out the population and the very considerable proportion of Canada's surface occupied by the Rocky Mountains. They they make the comparison with highly industrialized countries, or with countries whose agriculture is largely of the knee and hoe type, and try to prove something or other by it. There ought to be a law.

In the same category are those who compare say the amount of Canada's exports and imports, or bank clearings, of the price of beans in 1939 and 1947 and express the difference in dollars. They forgot, or never knew that the term dollar is purely relative. It is like a rubber band, which no one would be allowed to use in making measurements. Governments make very strict laws and regulations regarding some standards of measure. They send inspectors around to see that scales tell the truth about weight. A yard is a fixed standard based on the length of a rod kept underground in Washington to ensure a constant temperature and measured through a telescope from the other side of the room lest the heat from a human body should increase its length infinitesimally. Air pressure is taken into account when calibrating master thermometers because water freezes or boils at different temperatures at the bottom of a hill than at the top of it. The cubic inches in a gallon are worked out to the fourth decimal place. But when it comes to the dollar it doesn't mean the same thing at two different places or on two consecutive days. It is the same with the pound sterling, the franc or any other monetary unit. In fact the Italians are the only people who have an appropriate name for their unit of currency. They call it the **lire**.

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