

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1947

\$48,000 Plus Per Annum

The extraordinary announcement by Premier Jones that he has appointed a personal, or Jones Government, representative at Ottawa takes one's breath away. This is a constitutional, democratic country which entitles each constituency to send one or more members to represent it in the Federal Parliament and to do all that is necessary in its interests.

It is hardly credible. There can be no doubt whatever, the official he has chosen is thoroughly competent and experienced, but none the less he will be the fifth wheel to the coach, and a bureaucrat, and not a representative, at that.

Export Inspection

The days when any kind of surplus was good enough for export are past and gone; now rigid inspection at the source of export, and again at the port of export is demanded by exporting firms to protect their reputation in the world markets.

Sample quantities of the lumber graded by the Maritime Lumber Bureau were sent out last year. The move is the result of work done by a commission sent to England representing the Maritime Lumber Bureau.

Liberal Press Comment

The following comment from the Halifax Chronicle (Liberal) is on a subject of much interest and importance to this Province as evidenced from the Speech from the Throne and the discussion in the Legislature.

"The statement of the Prime Minister, to the effect that he is not in a position to say when a conference will be called with the provinces to discuss social security and public works programs suggests a certain stiffness of attitude which is distressing. Nothing, apparently, is to be done along these lines until there is 'sufficient acceptance of the proposed tax agreements.'"

"There is considerable danger in the adoption at the present time of Mr. Macawber's theory of 'waiting for something to turn up.' National affairs are not influenced by world events which are not turning so rapidly to ways of easy rehabilitation, as it was expected they would when the war came to an end.

"For one thing, the process toward reconstruction has been seriously hindered all over the world by the upsurge of ideological warfare which no one expected to be so virulent. In many cases, in consequence, the very matters affecting world recovery which should have received first attention have had to be postponed while other, extraneous, problems have had to be attacked.

The economic picture is not what was fore-shadowed during the war years. No 'brave new world' has come into being. We have come into a world in which inflation has arisen, even in countries such as our own, where unprecedented precautions were employed to avoid it.

"Meanwhile Canada has been seriously divided on this matter of Dominion-Provincial relationships. Whatever the arguments, finan-

cial, constitutional or otherwise, that separate the parties to this issue, it is desperately unfortunate that disunity has been created and that nothing concrete is being done to resolve the matter."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Card playing except by special permission has come under a ban at Hart House at the University of Toronto. The board of stewards and house committee announced the ban and also said the card room in the house will be closed because "of gambling and general behavior."

The total number of television sets now in use in the United Kingdom is estimated at some 25,000, a very high per capita figure when compared with that for other countries. London is the only city in the world which now has a regular television service available to the public seven days a week.

Evidently Premier Jones has no more confidence in the capacity of our Federal representatives than he has in his own cabinet. He deemed it necessary to appoint a special bureaucrat to do the work of his ministers in enlightening the Legislature on what each department was doing. Soon it may be a case of Dictator Jones and his bureaucracy."

City property owners got a jolt when the announcement was made that the market site might be chosen for a new million-and-a-half Federal building. One or two speculators had been endeavouring to buy up property in likely localities in order to resell at a profit to the Government. It is still possible one or other of them may win out.

Mr. Frederick B. Ryan, business executive, New York, says it is the job and responsibility of advertising to create demand in order that the country may fully realize the "tremendous opportunity for the most prosperous economy in our history, which has been made possible by new products, new methods, new technologies and industrial and distribution advances."

The Astronomer Royal, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, believes that it was "pretty definite" there is some sort of vegetation on Mars. It is probably of a primitive type, different from anything known on the earth. Scientists are unable, as yet, to study Mars in sufficient detail to say whether intelligent life exists on it.

A verdict of "accidental death" was recorded at the Westminster, London, inquest on the body of Miss Ellen Wilkinson, first woman Minister of Education, who died in St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, on February 6. The coroner (Dr. H. Neville Stafford) said he found that she died from heart failure following emphysema with acute bronchitis and bronchial pneumonia, accelerated by barbituric acid poisoning. It was quite clear that an overdose of barbituric acid substances had been taken.

It is now announced that sittings of the railway freight-rate inquiry at Ottawa probably will stretch into Summer or Fall. The investigation has been under way since March 11. Even without new material on the C. P. R. sought by provincial counsel, it would take the C. P. R. — first railway to present its case—another 2 1/2 weeks to finish. If the C. N. R. took a comparable time, it would be early June before the evidence of these two companies was completed.

Queen Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen of England and Ireland, died this date 1603; her reign is marked by the rise of England in naval power, the defeat of the Armada, and the most extraordinary outburst of intellectual energy in English history. In 1601, she was compelled to yield to Parliament's objection to monopolies, and in the same year the famous Poor Law (predecessor of Old Age Pensions and Baby Bonuses) was enacted. Personally Elizabeth was most parsimonious, but her acumen in the choice of counsellors, such as William Cecil, Lord Burghley, showed she was not lacking in statecraft.

From Montreal's Economic and Tourist Convention Bureau comes data throwing new light on Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures regarding the cost of living in various Canadian cities — lifting Montreal from a place of odious comparison and dropping it into a set of comparative percentages that at least take the sting out of the stigma. The Dominion Statistics showed Montreal to have the highest cost of living index figure 129.2 as of the first of November 1946, against a mark of 125.1 for Toronto and 127 for Saskatoon and 125 for Halifax. Taking into consideration family budgets and using a system of comparative percentages instead of the straight index figures (already in disrepute in some quarters) the city's bureau shows that Montreal is not at the top of the high-cost heap, but rather yields that position to her hated rival Toronto with a mark of 107.2. Montreal has a mere 100 even (the basis of the percentage system) and is topped not only by the Queen City but also by Halifax with 102.1 and Saskatoon with 101.7.

Notes By The Way

The London bobbie may lose his tall blue helmet and adopt a flat cap like that of many Canadian and American police forces, says a despatch. It is odd to reflect that while London may go "modern" in police headgear, the old London tradition will still be preserved in the police styles of Toronto, Cape Town and other Empire cities which in one way or another, will look more like London than London itself. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

What may prove to be an internationally used invention, as it becomes well known, is the snow remover invented by Percy Hedley and son, of Hamilton. It is too late in the season to get it on the market this winter, but a number have been disposed of. The one owned by the Village of Hamilton was put to good use on the main street after the blizzard last week. It will move two yards of snow and dump it, with very little effort on the part of the man operating the team and makes a good clean job. The inventors have made 23 of them so far. — Hamilton Echo.

A movement is afoot in the State Department, we learn from a writer in The Ottawa Journal, to revise the order of precedence. It would give higher status to the Mayor of Ottawa. If he were just the mayor of any city the situation would not seem so incongruous, but as he is the first citizen of the city which is the Capital of the Dominion it would be fitting if he were advanced to a high place in the order of precedence. If the Mayor of Ottawa had the same status as the Lord Mayor of London the King would have to ask his permission to step out of the train if he came to Ottawa. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The New York Times recently printed the Daily Worker 16 pages of reprint to enable it to continue publication. Some of our readers have written to criticize us for this action. We would remind them of Veltava's ringing declaration of what free speech means in a democracy: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." We are not a field of free discussion but the United States. Nor are we in favor of using the Russian method of the Iron Curtain to prevent discussion. We think democracy in this country is strong enough to withstand any verbal blows that can be delivered by the Daily Worker, and we think the proof of this strength can best be provided by permitting the Daily Worker to keep on talking. — New York Times.

The newspaper is still and will long remain the leading purveyor of news and information, including advertising information. The radio has its place; so have the other media. Taken together they are in the main complementary rather than competitive. And freely operated as they are in this country and in the United States, they afford the freedom unexcelled elsewhere of expression of views, of speech and of expression. — Brantford Expositor.

Seldom, if ever, is a civilian-owned pistol a defensive weapon. Almost always it is a weapon of offence and aggression. The man who picks up a loaded pistol, picks it up with offensive purpose. Not yet do men cultivate their gardens with loaded pistols. The time has come to outlaw the possession of guns and pistols as appendages of family and social life. — Vancouver News-Herald.

A mother in Toronto was waiting for her boys when they came back from overseas. To the two of them she handed bank books. One showed a balance of \$800 and the other \$700. The sums represented the entire amount of their assigned pay while they were away on service. Many mothers of Canada did the same thing during the war, but this particular case is set down because both these sons still have every last dollar of the nest eggs their mother created for them. One is taking a teacher course and the other is learning electric motor rewinding and intends to use his money to start in business. Forecasting the future of any individual is risky business. Twenty years from now these veterans may have been tagged by misfortune and be in a bad way financially. More likely, though they will be prosperous, influential citizens and as such targets of the word "capitalist" from some former comrade in arms who blew in his back pay and discharge allowances on a good time before he settled down. — Fort William Times-Journal.

The kitchen is the most dangerous room in the house. It is estimated from studies of home accidents among Metropolitan Industrial policyholders and among other groups, that in the neighborhood of 6,000 men, women and children are killed each year in the United States from mishaps originating in the kitchen. Many times that number are injured, though not fatally. The kitchen, as a result, is the centre of domestic activity, and the housewife and other members of the family concerned with running the household spend a good part of the day there. Even more important is the fact that the activities usually carried out in the kitchen—cooking, baking, washing, broiling—expose the family to a wide variety of hazards, such as burns and scalds, gas poisoning, cutting, contact with electric current, and falls. In no other room is there such concentration of hazards, and in no other room is there so much chance during waking hours, for both adults and children to become involved in a fatal accident. — Metropolitan Life Bulletin.

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.

DR. GRANT'S OFFICE

Sir,—In "Current Comments" of the 6th instant appeared an item, in which it is stated, in part, that Dr. T. V. Grant has a separate office on the ground floor in Parliament, all alone, by himself. The writer of this correction has frequently visited Dr. Grant in the House of Commons since 1935, when he first came to Ottawa, and his office has never been on the ground floor, although some members have offices there.

Until about a year ago, Dr. Grant's office was on the fourth floor and last session, on account of his seniority rights, he was given Room 570, a single office, obviously on the fifth floor.

I have noticed that next door to Dr. Grant's present office is the office of the Honourable Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence and in the immediate vicinity on the same floor, are the offices of the Minister of Justice and the Postmaster General.

I am, Sir, etc. ISLANDER. OTTAWA, Ont., March 18, 1947.

FOOD FOR EUROPE

Sir,—As far as I can make out from the various items in the news, dealing with the "food" position in Europe, it would seem that there are two main opinions (with experts in between) the one I would roughly describe as the "school" holding that the situation is rapidly approaching normal; while the other can be aptly termed the "E.A.D.C." school, believing that the little against hunger still to be won? So it becomes a mere man-in-the-street anxiety over the territory where "authorities" fear to tread.

Nevertheless, there is always a path for commonsense, which someone has formed the "highest statesmanship," and I confess that I cannot understand Mr. Hoover's recent report to Washington, which is little short of an official invitation to complacency about the nutritional conditions in the war-torn countries of Europe. With due respect, it must be set down that the survey did not reach to Asia — though, obviously, there are hundreds of millions of people in China and India who are at Ernest Bevin's "starvation line."

Certainly the zoning prices of wheat in the speculative Chicago market are not indicating that the famine corner has been really turned; nor do Mr. Hoover's views synchronize with the weather facts coming forward from the winter wheatfields in various countries in Western Europe?

Winnily, I take my cue along this "food" front from the following few lines in the recent address by FAO's director-general (Sir John Boyd-Orr) from Washington — to the annual gathering of Canada's organized farmers, at Winnipeg: "As you know, the folks in the United Kingdom have a very spartan diet, though it gives them about 2,700 calories a person a day. The world food supply would need to be increased by considerably more than 50 per cent to enable the diets of all the people in all countries, who get less food than that, to reach such a level. Taking account of the increase in the world population, food supplies would need to be increased by over 100 per cent so that all people would be reasonably well fed by 1970. So if the world supply of food is to be regulated by the needs of human beings, there will be no surplus in our day."

I am, Sir, etc. R.W. EDINBURGH — (CP) — Daniel Patterson B. Des. K.C., solicitor-general for Scotland since 1945, has been appointed a senator of the College of Justice in Scotland.

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Macdonald's Policy

(Halifax Chronicle)

In his speech before the Halifax Junior Board of Trade last Friday, the Premier of Nova Scotia went further toward laying down a definite policy on Dominion-Provincial relations than he has ever done before.

Rather strikingly Mr. Macdonald compared the Liberal Government in Ottawa today with those he remembers from his youth. Perhaps it is not too much to infer that he feels that Liberalism as manifested by the present administration is not quite the article it was in the "golden days" of Laurier. Certainly the Nova Scotian Premier does not believe the arguments of Ottawa in respect to its Dominion-Provincial schemes are as convincing as those of an earlier day.

From the beginning it has been obvious that Ottawa has been regarding the financial situation from its own point of view, and the future position of the provinces has received but secondary consideration. Mr. Macdonald is not averse to collaborating with the Dominion to assist it to budget in these abnormal times. He is not taking any intransigent view concerning the matter of provincial rights. But he is intensely interested in the matter of provincial autonomy and rightly fears that any central government that distributes all the money may soon dictate all policy.

He certainly takes no stock at all in Mr. Abbott's recent statement that the alternative to an acceptance of Ottawa's offer is depression. Depression, if it comes, will come through world causes, and neither federalization nor centralization will avert it.

Mr. Macdonald is prepared to go very far toward meeting Dominion-Provincial demands, in fact, than most Nova Scotians would like to go. But he stands pat on certain matters.

Two are outstanding. He will not budge on the matter of the retention of the minor fields of taxation by the province, and he demands a general conference to finalize relationships between the provinces and the Dominion and annual conferences during the continuance of any pact.

The minor taxes are not so productive as to cause the Dominion to be so obdurate. But, to Nova Scotia, they constitute a matter of principle, since their retention would leave the province at least a vestige of autonomy.

The conference question is fundamental, and Ottawa knows it. It is all very well to say that any agreement reached is only for five years, after which it may be abandoned if it proves unsatisfactory. But anyone knows that any Dominion subsidies will be used for provincial expansion in a variety of fields.

To open up new fields of activity is one thing. To bring some provincial activity to an end, after the public has felt its benefits is quite another. It might come to pass, in the absence of any conference, that Nova Scotia might embark on a variety of enterprises subsidized by Federal money, only to find in the process of time that useful as those activities might be, they could be carried on permanently only at the sacrifice of all provincial autonomy.

Annual conferences could provide checks against any such contingencies. They are, therefore, owed to the provinces that co-operate with the Dominion. For the Dominion Government to be so adamant against the conference idea is more than a little cynical, and Mr. Macdonald is perfectly right in standing up against Ottawa's "stand-and-deliver" attitude in the matter.

EIRE LOSES CITIZENS

DUBLIN, Eire — (CP) — Eire's population has fallen to 2,953,452, a preliminary report of the 1946 census indicated. This represented a decrease of 14,988 since 1936. Emigration of workers seeking employment in Britain and Northern Ireland was held chiefly responsible.

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The Poets Corner

WINTER THAW

The wind shifts south. The melting ice-twigs make A clatter on the roof like a true storm. The sleeper stirs beneath it, over warm. In the new climate, struggles half-awake. To wonder if the river-ice will break. What fields will silt in flood, what gullies form. If orchard buds will open to their harm. And what the small precautions he may take.

This is an anxious time, when much goes wrong. When man's best wit leaves him the more alone. While the warm wind that lightly drifts along. Weighs on his peace relentlessly as stone. When weather smiles, each day more limply strong; And flays him gently to the bitter bone.

—Dorothy Brown Thompson, in "Poetry"

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

THE MINTO'S DEFECTS — "The Stanley is now laid up in Georgetown, while a test is being made of the Minto. Very little is known about this vessel beyond the fact that she has, ever since she arrived here, been under repairs. Thousands of dollars—in addition to the cost price—have already been spent in the effort to make her fit for the service for which she was designed—and she is not fit yet. When she arrived here, it was found that the steam winch in her forehold was right in the way of the freight. So it had to be removed and placed forward at the bulkhead. To place it there the men engaged for the work had to cut away part of the forehold hatch and also some of the large iron stanchions. They had also to make an injector for putting the ashes overboard. Covers had to be made for all the steam winches, and ladders had to be constructed to keep the sides of the ship from being damaged at the wharf. A room, cut part to be prepared for passengers, and the deck cut up. Indeed, workmen have been tearing down, building up, and altering generally, in all parts of the vessel. She was only half finished when she arrived at Charlottetown. More than that, important parts of her machinery have broken down already. One of these is a steam slide valve to replace which another was made here. In addition to this the steam parts of one of the cylinders gave out and the steam which on the fore deck was broken, and both have to be repaired. The outside of the ship has been all repainted. When she arrived here she was covered with streaks of rust—a very bad sign—and of course these had to be covered up as soon as possible. It is stated that the hawser-pipes were leaking while the vessel was coming out from Scotland, and that the leaks were filled up with putty." — Examiner editorial, December, 1899.

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