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

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1947

The Versatile Mr. Wright

Hon. Horace Wright's ability to speak on both
sides of a question was demonstrated in the
Legislature the other day, when he undertook to
show that notwithstanding what he had said in
1938 about retaining Latin in the rural schools,
he was justified in supporting its abolition now
that the Government's policy has changed. He
did not hesitate even to garble his own speech
of 1938, as quoted in these columns last Tues-
day, in which the Campbell Government's re-
fusal to yield to the heresy of the anti-Latinists
was defended against all comers, and notably
against the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. J.
Walter Jones) to whom Mr. Wright referred
specifically.

Last Thursday Mr. Wright quoted only that
part of his 1938 speech in which the prejudice
against Latin was noted, and went on to say:

"The general public did not appreciate the
study of Latin, and did not encourage the
pupils to study it. The condition became more
intense after that. We had the president of
the Farmers' Institute in on one occasion de-
nouncing the study of Latin and public opinion
became so against it that there was practically
no one studying Latin except the few who were
going into the learned professions. The result
was that the teachers had to spend a dispro-
portionate amount of their time on those pupils
and the other pupils who had to study other
things did not receive the proper kind of
attention. It was absolutely necessary that some
change should be made. If we were under a
dictatorship we might not do that but under a
democratic form of government we cannot legis-
late against public opinion, and so public
opinion forced the Government to change its
policy. That does not mean that I have changed
my mind."

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "What public demand
had you for the abolition of Latin?"

Hon. Mr. Wright: "We had the president of
our Farmers' Institute and different organiza-
tions coming to us to make a change. No
Government can go against public opinion. We
must submerge our own ideas for the majority.
I do not think it is necessary that I should
change my mind at all, but I think it is neces-
sary that under the circumstances I should
support the policy of the Government at the
present time."

Unfortunately for Mr. Wright's contention, it
was the whole point of his 1938 speech that the
opposition to Latin was ill-informed and based
"on a false conception of education." That
being the case the Government's duty was clear.
It must be guided by its firm conviction of what
was in the public interest. There was no ques-
tion of counting heads or votes to determine the
issue, and it was on that ground that he chal-
lenged the statements of the present Premier
and other would-be reformers. What has be-
come of this high-sounding declaration since the
Campbell Government went out and the Jones
Government came in? Mr. Wright hasn't told
us.

His arguments are strikingly similar to the
ones he gives for claiming still to be a 100 per-
cent Prohibitionist while remaining a member of
a Government which last year took in over half
a million dollars in liquor profits, and is budget-
ing this year for another half million. Mr.
Wright, still enjoying the emoluments of office,
shakes his head sadly at this state of affairs.

In this respect the hon. member is not unlike
the hero of that famous old ballad, "The Vicar
of Brae," who was also a notable fence-straddler
and came into prominence first "in good King
Charles' golden days, when loyalty no harm
meant." It paid to be a zealous high church-
man and the Vicar was all that. With the com-
ing in of King James there was a change, to
which the Vicar promptly adapted himself. Then:

"When William was our King declared,
To ease the nation's grievance,
With this new wind about I veered,
And swore to him allegiance."

After this revocation of his principles the
Vicar had to make another volte-face, "when
royal Anne became our Queen," and he once
more turned Tory. But:

"When George in pudding-time came o'er
And moderate men looked big, sir,
My principles I changed once more,
And I became a Whig, sir."

Was retaining preferment until the advent
of "the illustrious house of Hanover, and Pro-
testant succession," to which he swore undying
allegiance—"while they can keep possession."
We know not what happened after that, but the
Vicar concludes his ballad lustily:

"Now in my faith and loyalty
I ne'er more will falter,
And George my lawful king shall be—
Until the times do alter.
And this is law that I'll maintain
Until my dying day, sir,
That whatsoever king shall reign,
SHE I'll be the Vicar of Brae, sir!"

Significant Statement

Addressing the International Trade Con-
ference now in session at Geneva, Sir Stafford
Cripps said that Great Britain "firmly main-
tains her faith in the Empire preference as one
fundamental principle of her trade policy." The
principal aim of the Conference is to promote
multi-lateral dealings among the nations, and
to this end to eliminate or reduce existing re-
strictions on the flow of international trade.
The preference scheme Sir Stafford Cripps says
Britain desires to retain is that which was cre-
ated at Ottawa in the summer of 1932 on the
initiative of R. B. Bennett, then Prime Minister
of Canada.

Sir Stafford Cripps, as an exchange points

out, is one of Britain's left-wing leaders, occu-
pying a position in the British Government some-
what comparable to that of Philip Snowden in
the Ramsay MacDonald Ministry nearly 25
years ago. This means that his political back-
ground is that of a radical free trader,—form-
erly of the "Cobdenite" school. His strong
advocacy of the Empire preference after it has
been in effect for 15 years, shows how far poli-
tical sentiment in Britain has moved toward
protection since the early '30's.

Sir Stafford Cripps, Leftist and Socialist,
now occupies the important position of Presi-
dent of the British Board of Trade and as such
is the spokesman for the United Kingdom at
Geneva. Questioned at a press conference there
whether he would consider abandoning Imperial
preference if the United States should agree to
a general slash of 50 per cent in all tariffs,
Cripps answered with an emphatic negative.

EDITORIAL NOTES

That was a very fine and instructive ad-
dress by City Clerk Fullerton at the Y's Men's
Club. He let in a lot of much needed light on
civic affairs, the sort of information citizens
need and will appreciate.

Our legislators are looking forward to pro-
pagation by the end of next week, after, per-
haps, one of the most historic sessions since Con-
federation. A very great deal of business has
been transacted, and a great deal more remains
to be done. Whether it has been satisfactory or
otherwise the taxpayers will be the judges when
the election is called.

That fourth Supreme Court judgeship seems
to be as far away as ever, and our three Court
judges will have to "stay put" until further
notice. The Law Society did not approve of
the proposed deal, and the laity were not much
concerned over the matter. What the Law
Society, and almost everyone concerned with the
law, want, is a Maritime Supreme Court of Ap-
peal as outlined by Mr. W. E. Bentley, K.C., in
the Public Forum.

Two years ago next week, on 22 April,
1945, the Canadian public thrilled to the first
announcement that the First Canadian Corps
had moved from Italy and was then fighting in
Holland. The move, shrouded in secrecy and
known officially as "Operation Goldflake," had
taken weeks to complete. Commencing late in
February, the Corps, complete with vehicles,
equipment and personnel, landed at Marseilles
in southern France and trekked north almost
completely under its own power. For the first
time in the war the Canadian Army was fighting
as a whole on one front. About that time,
too, the Russians were embroiled in a life and
death struggle with the Germans for possession
of Berlin, last Nazi stronghold on the continent.
On 22 April, 1945, Russian Forces captured 16
suburbs of Berlin.

George Gordon, 6th Lord Byron, English
poet, died this date 1824; he came of a Derby-
shire family notorious for its stormy history, and
himself lived up to its worst reputation, until re-
scued by an Italian lady, Countess Guiccioli and
Shelley, both of whom, in their own ways, suc-
ceeded in sobering him up, enabling him to pro-
duce some of the best poetry in the English
language. His Don Juan is not only the cleverest
satirical poem in English literature, but also
one of the most ingenious displays of rhyming in
the language. He was the most observant of
observers, and never allowed would-be critics to
take advantage of him unawares or without re-
taliation:

He had the skill, when Cunning's gaze would
seek
To probe his heart and watch his changing
cheek,
And once the observer's purpose to espy,
And on himself roll back the scrutiny.

Table with 2 columns: Province, Income tax levied. Totals: \$7,113,926

General regret will be felt at the coming
retirement of Chief of Police Birtwistle under
the newly adopted age limit of the City Coun-
cil. Mr. Birtwistle is a thoroughly trained and
competent police officer with a record of ser-
vice in England, in R. C. M. P., and here, to be
justly proud of. He has been subject to criti-
cism, of course, from time to time, but no one
who conscientiously endeavours to discharge his
public duties, can hope to escape that. What
we must always bear in mind is that in a small
community like this, where we are all so closely
associated by blood, marriage, business, social,
political or religious connections, it is a most
difficult thing for a public servant to steer and
maintain a course that will not meet with occa-
sional obstruction and embarrassment. On the
whole, Chief Birtwistle has added to his en-
viable laurels by his faithful and efficient dis-
charge of his duties in this capital of the Gar-
den of the Gulf, as evidenced not only by our
citizens, but by tourists and other visitors who
have taken the trouble to write to newspapers
elsewhere citing the Charlottetown Police Force
as a model for other cities to copy.

Notes By the Way

The Swiss Government is toy-
ing with the idea of putting a tax
on all drinks except milk and water.
In Ontario that condition already
prevails, and, figuring the amount
of water in soft drinks and govern-
ment-dispensed alcoholic beverages,
water is taxed highly too. — Brant-
ford Expositor.

What should be done about a
youth in his early teens whose am-
bition is to be a "big shot criminal"
and who has just confessed to the
police in Vancouver that he expects
some day, to be a murderer? This
is not a nice question. But the
younger involved is 14 years old.
Only a comparatively short while
ago he was presumably the apple
of his mother's eye. — Victoria
Times.

Here is a hint for fathers. Three
hundred and twenty-six children
in a New England school district
were asked to write anonymously
just what each thought of his father.
As may be imagined the result
was interesting, if not startling.
Many reasons were given by those
who declared their liking for daddy.
He built my doll house; he bought
me to swim; he helps me with my
school work; he takes me to the
park; he gives me a calf to fatten
and sell. Scores of essays could be
reduced to "I like my daddy; he
plays with me." Not one child
mentioned the family house, car,
food or clothing. Wealth counts for
little with a child. What makes a
daddy really worth while in his
ability and inclination to be a play-
mate to his children. — Chatham
News.

We ought not to be saving coal.
We ought to be burning it, making
goods that we could use and sell.
It would be a sign of national
health if every chimney in the land
were belching smoke, every electric
fire glowing, and every gasometer
delivering gas at full pressure. By
loyal, patriotic obedience and of
force we shall surmount the immedi-
"emergency" but the reproach of it
will remain unless we are given the
leadership to enable us to do much
more. — London Sunday Chronicle.

In Moscow today, in all our world
gatherings where men meet to solve
difficulties, what is the source of
failure? Not in lack of technical
knowledge, nor in lack of political
and scientific experts; we have more
of these than before. The failure is
in breakdown of the human char-
acter; in breakdown of moral and
spiritual values. Where men admit
of no power lighter than themselves
of no sanctions higher than their
own, this is bound to be. — Ottawa
Journal.

Lord Horder, physician to His
Majesty King George, told a Tor-
onto audience that Great Britain's
national school meal service (which
was widely extended during the
war) helped to promote good health
among an entire generation of
school children. The records in
Britain have shown that the pro-
vision of daily nutritional meals pro-
duced a marked improvement in
children's height and weight. A
national school meal service is over-
due in Canada. — Toronto Star.

The first issue of the Orillia Ex-
positor, published in 1867, was a
four page, six-column newspaper.
The advertisements show how the
cost of living has increased. Men's
suits, for instance, were advertised
by both the Mulcahy and Company
and Frank Keen's drygoods, at
\$250 each O'Brien and Company
another well-known Orillia store of
the period, offered the best quality
bacon at ten cents per pound, while
a women's store advertised ladies'
French gaiters at \$1 each. Cost of
beverages was not all correspond-
ingly cheap, the advertisements
showed. Tea, for instance, was a
dollar a pound. Whisky, "the best
domestic brand made," was offered
at 75 cents a gallon. — Orillia News
Letter.

People in groups merely trade
their goods and their services as
well in this way. Money need not
confuse it. Only in periods of scarcity
will that "service" be discounted.
As things get more plentiful
through increased production the
"or else" burden will shift. It is the
customer who will trade as he
thinks it is fair he should trade,
and for nothing less. That is supply
and demand. — Hamilton Spectator.

A storm in a teacup has arisen
in London as to who should fix
Paulette Goddard's hair while she
is making a movie. At the time of
writing, the twelve English hair-
dressers who attend to the ladies in
the studio have blocked production
of the film by refusing to "do up"
Goddard's hair because Miss Goddard
has brought her own hairdresser
with her from Hollywood. This
seems to be an attempt to enforce
the "closed shop" principle, and
that were the only thing, there are
two ways of solving the difficulty.
Miss Goddard's hairdresser could
take but a membership in the Eng-
lish union, or the American practice
of paying another operator to merely
stand by and look on, could be
adopted. But the strongest reason
for the action of the studio hair-
dressers, in our judgment, is that
it is a reflection on their profession-
al skill. — St. Thomas Times-
Journal.

BARBER-POLITICO
SYDNEY, Australia. — (CP) —
An authority on the times —
fore Australian Confederation in
1901 is gone with the death of
Alexander Swanson, 74-year-old
barber, whose "hairdressing sal-
oon" was lined with pictures of
pre-federation politicians.

BIRTH OF COFFEE
Yemen, Arabia, is the birthplace
of cultivated coffee. The inland
highlands have produced coffee
since Mahomet's time.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to
the discussion by corre-
spondents of questions of
interest. The Charlottetown
Guardian does not neces-
sarily endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

"FLEEING A SCOT"

Sir,—Apropos recent letters re-
garding parcels to Britain, the
following may be of inter-
est to readers:
A small parcel mailed by me
last week containing 2 lbs. corn
syrup, 2 lbs. jam, small can milk,
and 2 packets pudding powder
cost \$1.15 in postage. I have been
in Canada 10 months and have
spent nearly \$50 on postage
stamps. As a Scot, I experience
an almost physical pain on being
fleeed in that manner!
I am, Sir, etc.,
C. W.

BACHELORS vs. SPINSTERS

Sir,—In a recent issue of the
Guardian which I purchase daily
at the Milk St. news stand on my
way to work I was pleased to note
that steps are to be taken in re-
gard to the long discussed bache-
lor problem of P. E. I.
There is strength it looks as if the
"spinsters" will have to resort to
drastic measures in order to get
one of those illusive gentlemen to
the altar.
Seriously, the bachelor situation
on the Island is no joke and calls
for immediate action when you
see all the fine old homesteads
closed and crumbling to decay for
the want of a "woman's touch"
and all the pretty little rural
schools closed all for the absence
of the "patter of little feet."

Here in Massachusetts there is
an abundance of lovely looking,
strong, healthy, former Island
girls all between the ages of 35
and 50 who would make ideal
wives if the proper contacts were
made.
Those girls came here young in
life blinded by the prospects of
early marriages to rich Americans
few of which ever materialized
and now find themselves working
in somebody else's kitchen instead
of their own.

At a recent social party, the
proceeds of which went to benefit
an Island school, I met a girl
at present, I counted 33 girls
still young, and attractive, unat-
tached and with no matrimonial
prospects due to the fact that at
the present time there are seven
women to every man here in the
U. S. A. Having spent many happy
vacations on P. E. I. and having
a wide range of friends and rela-
tives there, I can see why any of
those girls would not jump at
the offer of going back there, and
taking their places in the rural
communities and small towns as
busy housewives and mothers to
the capacity of which they are all
well qualified. I don't believe that
any of those "marriageable maids"
are bachelors by choice but merely
to propose a plan to themselves
to be married in the presence of a
member of the opposite sex, and
it would be far more appropriate
for them to read a booklet called,
"How to get a woman and hold
her" instead of casting sarcastic
comments on "How to get a man"
which presents no problem to a
woman if she gets the proper en-
couragement.

So what do you say fellows?
Who not take a trip to Boston
and look the market over. I guar-
antee you will find a pleasing vari-
ety and instead of becoming
confirmed bachelors and woman
haters, become husbands and fathers
and build up the homes and
farms which have been left in
your keeping and am sure you
will find life all that it should
be.
I am, Sir, etc.,
AN ISLANDER AT HEART
Boston, Mass.

"CONFUSING THE ISSUE"

Sir,—Please grant me space in
your valuable paper to correct
certain statements allegedly made
by Mr. C.H. Schofield of the Cana-
dian Chamber of Commerce in
his veiled "political speech" to
the Charlottetown Board of Trade
on Wednesday evening.
Mr. Schofield stated that, "al-
ready in one province, Saskatch-
ewan, private enterprise had been
pretty well taken over by the
Government in form of state socialism
had taken its place."
This statement is incorrect.
Private enterprise has not been
driven out of Saskatchewan.
The Saskatchewan Government
has embarked upon a pro-
gram of publicly owned enter-
prise, after receiving an over-
whelming mandate from the peo-
ple, there are still considerable
amounts of private enterprise in
several fields.
There were literally scores of
"privately owned" companies
started up in Saskatchewan last
year, including the formation of
a million dollar salt industry.
Surely, Sir, a man in Mr. Scho-
field's position would be an avid
reader of the Financial Post which
has from time to time made
mention of distinctly owned com-
panies being formed in Saskatch-
ewan.
In view of this, I cannot help
but feel that the speaker's re-
marks were a deliberate misrep-
resentation of the facts not free
from political significance.
Mr. Schofield's attempts to clas-
sify the C.C.F. and Communism
together resemble the hysterical
efforts of Canadian monopolists
who have been bleeding the farm-
ers and industrial workers of the
country for years.
Bonafide free enterprise has
little to fear from the C. C. F.,
but huge monopolies and
combines, with their "price-fix-
ing" and "restricting of produc-
tion" certainly have.

Mr. Schofield's remark that
farmers in Saskatchewan are al-
legedly in default on their mort-
gage payments is untrue. (His
insinuation that farmers would
discontinue their mortgage pay-
ments, if so encouraged, is an in-

sult to the integrity of farm peo-
ple generally.)
The truth of the matter is
simply this. That in the 'thirties
some 12,000 farmers lost their
farms to the Banks and Mort-
gage Companies through no fault
of their own, but because of dry
seasons, grasshoppers, etc., they
reaped no crops and therefore
couldn't pay their mortgages.
To prevent a possible recur-
rence of this brutal hardship to
the farmer, the C. C. F. Govern-
ment has passed the following Act
in Saskatchewan:
I.e. "Any year that a farmer's
crop yields less than \$6.00 to the
acre of ground planted, he is not
required to make any payment on
principal and the interest for the
year is forgotten or written off."

Thus the Mortgage Companies
and the farmers prosper or suffer
together, according to the vicissi-
tudes of nature.
I am, Sir, etc.,
DOUGLAS H. MACBRIEN
C.C.F. Org. for P. E. I.

THE "LAW" OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Sir,—Of all the expressions,
catch-phrases, and slogans still do-
ing service for the old and
decadent free enterprise economic
system now, it would appear upon
examination, has less validity, and
so little to recommend it as this
nonsensical expression, the "Law"
of supply and demand.
And yet only a few days ago in
our own Legislature, in this most
enlightened province of Canada, a
leading member of the House
quoted this hackneyed phrase and
used it to such good effect that it
evidently silenced every member
of the Legislature. The matter be-
fore the House at the time was
a resolution asking for a floor
price in marketing potatoes and a
limitation of acreage. Now, I am
not going to discuss the merits of
the resolution. What I merely wish
to do is point out the absurdity of
the argument used by the member
at the time. According to the news-
paper report this learned and re-
spected member stated that he was
a believer in "the law of supply
and demand" and argued that this
immutable law would look after
the situation in respect to prices
and acreage and bravely stated
that all who denied the validity
of this law would align themselves
with the Socialists and Communists.

Far be it from me to attempt to
belittle or disparage the opinions
and motives of this honorable
member, who in his younger days
is reputed to have quite a reputa-
tion as a "tackler" on the football
field.
The manner, however, in which
he tackled this resolution, and
made a touch-down might serve
well enough on the campus, but I
have grave doubts for the success
of his tackling efforts in dealing
with economic matters if he per-
sists in adherence to such a rally-
ing cry as the one now under
scrutiny—The Law of Supply and
Demand.

Let us scrutinize the idea, just
a little. No one would deny that
there is ordinarily a supply of
necessary materials such as foods,
fuels, clothing, etc., usually not a
sufficient supply for all, but a
supply nevertheless. That there is
a demand, often a very strong
demand, for these necessities is
not denied. But that the connec-
tion or relationship between the
two—supply and demand—could
be so permanent and so stable as
well dignified by the word, law,
is simply fantastic and purely im-
aginatory. Of course I am speaking
now of their relationship in a hap-
hazard free enterprise, unregulated
society. And of course this is the
kind of a society the learned mem-
bers of the Legislature had in
mind at the time. Yet they appar-
ently all agreed, tacitly at least,
that such a law exists.

A force in order to be a law
must have the attributes of per-
manency and stability. There are
your readers well know several
kinds of laws. There are natural
laws, such as the law of gravitation,
always permanent and dependable;
civil laws, such as the income tax
law, always permanent and fixed
until deliberately changed; the
moral law which is always; and
every where binding. Now, how
does this illusory relationship be-
tween supply and demand which
some thoughtless folk regard as a
law compare with these laws in-
stanced above? In order to par-
ticularize we can select any article.
Let us take the butter, or sugar
or clothing supplies. These articles
have been in short supply for sev-
eral years. And consequently there
is a great demand. But where is
the law governing the relationship
of the two? There is certainly no
law or else the supply would
promptly flow right into the
vacuum, like the law governing air
or water which will immediately
fill a vacuum.

No, there is no economic law of
this nature. Unless political man-
takes intelligent action in the
matter shortages may go on for years;
in fact have gone on regularly.
The fact is that until such time
as we (the body politic) make
definite plans to regulate and
stimulate the supply so as to keep
it in healthy relationship with
consumers' demands, not until
such a time arrives can there be
any connection between supply, on
the one hand, and demand on the
other hand that merits the name
law.

Man must take an active and
intelligent part in regulating and
adjusting the two states. During
the past six years our government,
even against its free-enterpris-
principles, have done a fairly good
job of harmonizing supply and
demand. If it is now left to chance
and haphazard to maintain this
harmony in the years before us I
fear very much for the outcome.
Society is too complicated now,
and we are too dependent each
upon the other to leave things to
time and chance to decide for us.
But according to some of our leg-
islators, and even more evidently,
according to this Mr. Schofield,
who spoke before the Charlot-
tew Chamber of Commerce a few
days ago, if any person or any
legislature in Canada dares to
mention such a barbaric idea as

governmental planning in eco-
nomic affairs, then such a person
has already forfeited his right of
citizenship in a free country,
should be ostracized and immedi-
ately branded as a dangerous man,
in brief a Communist.
I am, Sir, etc.,
D. J. MULLIN.
St. Peter's Bay.

THE GRAND REGIONAL SCHOOL PROJECT

Sir,—In your issue of April 11th
there appeared an account of a
delegation that waited on the
Premier of our province on the 10th
inst. and requested of the govern-
ment of this province that it estab-
lish a regional high school in a
district that would include Char-
lottetown and twenty or more sur-
rounding rural school districts. The
delegation we are told, was com-
posed of delegates from a total of
20 or more social, religious, political
and trade and professional groups—
even a teacher's union was repre-
sented by a delegate. It was cer-
tainly the most conglomerate and
awe-inspiring delegation that ever
appeared before a premier of
Prince Edward Island, or perhaps
before any former premier in Can-
ada or the British Empire; and it
is altogether consistent with the
composition of the delegation that
it asked for a school that would
not only be high, but a high one
that would be composite also.

A serious and legally-minded
reader, however, might find himself
inclined to question if the afore-
said delegation was a logical and
consequential one to appear with a
district request before a govern-
ment elected not by social and re-
ligious groups, nor yet by trade and
professional unions, but on the
contrary, by individual voters in
geographically-defined electoral dis-
tricts. Was this delegation typical
of the old and comparatively sim-
ple political order, or did it clearly
foreshadow, not alone the new
order of public schools, to be
established, but also the new political
order, composite, conglomerate, or
whatever one wishes to call it?

Be that as it may, this awe-
inspiring delegation appeared be-
fore Premier Jones and made their
grand request, and it is much to
the Premier's credit that he did not
completely collapse and capitulate
to the delegates, and promise them
more than they could think to ask
or hope to receive. Perhaps, after
all our Premier is not such a
politically foolish premier as some
of his party friends were inclined
to think a short time ago, for it is
a pretty sure guess that outside
the proposed highly favored re-
gional school district, individual vot-
ers are now asking just what it is
that the people in this proposed
school district are asking for. If it
now transpires that they are simply
asking for the sanction of the
government in so far as that sanc-
tion is required in order that they
may unite their respective districts
into a large school unit, and pro-
ceed to build and equip a regional
high school at their own local ex-
pense, the government in the
meantime agreeing, as is usual in
the case of public schools, to pro-
vide and pay for the teachers, then
in this case there can be little valid
objection from outsiders, even if
this regional high school as now
proposed is just to be an experi-
ment. It is interesting however to
observe that the main argument
advanced by the good people of the
proposed regional school district
as to why they should have the
first, or one of the first composite
high schools on the Island, is the
claim that they already possess
superior educational advantages
and comforts of life, including the
efficient facilities for transporta-
tion of school pupils, so absolutely
necessary in the case of regional
high school—the whole argument
being apparently based on the gen-
eral proposition that "To him that
hath shall be given."

It seems to me, that it should
now be clear to the people of Prince
Edward Island, that the only safe
and practicable policy for the gov-
ernment to pursue in establishing
or fostering the establishment of
high schools of any type whatever
throughout the Island, is to insist,
as it usually does in the case of
public schools, that the prospective
high school districts build and
equip the schools at the expense of
their respective districts, the gov-
ernment merely agreeing as usual
to pay for the teachers. This policy
and this alone can save the gov-
ernment from incessant invasions
of delegations with grand local
school projects for the government,
but utterly devoid of a sense of

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The Poet's Corner

WINTER TREE
Are we not kin, O Tree? You stand
alone
In this cold stillness—desolate and
old;
You are no longer lovely who autumn
known
Spring's timid green and autumn
glowing gold.
Your bare and lifted branches seem
to plead
For other nests—for helpless beat-
ing wings;
Ah, who supplies new loving to old
need
When chilling winter comes and no
bird sings?

When to your feet the baby grass
run
Beset by winds all fragrant with
new birth,
Will you be unaware? and, have
you
To freedom from the tender bonds
of earth?
And will you feel no more Spring's
ecstasy?
Our kinship ends — I feel, I feel
O Tree!

—Lacy Gertrude Clark.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

MR. DAVIES' GAS BILL

From the Debates and Proceed-
ings of the House of Assembly, 1947
"Hon. B. Davies complained that
he had paid large sums of money
to the Gas Company for light, and
would like to see some guarantee
that the citizens are not paying
for more gas than they actually
receive. There was an instrument
called a gas meter, placed in every
house into which gas had been in-
roduced, but he believed these
meters could not be depended upon.
He had had a meter on his premises
which he found recording at a
wonderful rate, although he had
used only two lights each evening.
He complained to the gas manager
and the latter set down and changed
it. But lately it had begun to
record again, as fast as ever. He
was fully convinced that these
meters could not be depended upon
to record correctly. If a person were
to appeal to the Court against the
charges of the Gas Company, the
latter would immediately cut off
his supply of gas, so that he was
in their power if he wished to re-
tain his gas. He thought that a
clause should be inserted in the Bill
to empower the Government to
appoint an officer to ascertain
whether the records made by the
meters were correct or not, in order
that people might not be imposed
upon by being overcharged for
their gas. He did not approve of the
idea of a man selling by his own
measure. The Government should
appoint a person to see that the
meters do not record a larger
quantity of gas than they should,
and to check them when they are
found to be incorrect."

(Continued on Page 5)

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