

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1857)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office
Department, Ottawa.

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JAN. 13, 1949

Miscalculated Timing

Washington has announced that Canada has lost a cool twelve million dollars in ERP funds through inability to complete her 1948 bacon contract with the United Kingdom.

The sum was authorized by the Economic Cooperation Administration for purchases in the last quarter of 1948 during which an additional 29 million pounds of bacon was added to the U. K. contract.

Canada's difficulty, notes the London Free Press, arose from Britain's decision in mid-year of 1948 to cancel her beef contract and instead to make increased purchases of bacon.

Altogether, it has been an unhappy example for both Canada and Britain, of miscalculated timing. Had Britain been prepared to take additional bacon when Canada had supplies available...

The middle underscores the need, as Agriculture Minister Gardiner pointed out a week or two ago, for a new basis, a new approach to the whole problem of marketing, a new attack to break the American dollar dam restraining the flow of supplies to needy nations.

But perhaps the prime lesson to emerge is one directed at agriculture itself — that the Canadian producer must realize that the easy market is no longer available. The time has come when he must, with the assistance of Dominion and Provincial governments, look for new markets.

Unpaid Tax Collectors

More than one person in Canada, suggests an exchange, will have a bit of respect for that small-town jeweller in Ontario who is still refusing any longer to be a tax collector for the Dominion Government.

But there are other unpaid tax collectors besides; the gasoline dealers collect about three times as much in taxes as they do in mark-up from which they must pay expenses and get their living.

Veteran's Employment

A praiseworthy step has been taken by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs to help employment of ex-service men and women who have been ill with tuberculosis.

In the first place, it is pointed out by the Department, those still under treatment are coming on to the labour market almost four years after victory, and they do lose the advantage of the terrific wave of gratitude which assisted so many veterans in their rehabilitation problems.

Their second major difficulty is the fact that their disease is not well understood. Too many employers feel that there is a terrific restriction in the positions which they may fill.

When these veterans, still in hospitals or still under treatment, go on the labour market there should be a better understanding of their disease and their difficulties, and some recognition should be given to the fact that they are veterans too, even though they are knocking at the door for employment four or five years late.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Another international "incident" safely circumvented.

The Grand Jury's report on the Provincial Infirmary demands immediate attention. It is unpardonable for the Government to permit 209 inmates where there is proper accommodation for only 75.

The Royal Commission on prices is expected to complete its report by January 25th. It seems likely, however, that as in so many reports of Royal Commission, it will be of more historical interest than practical use in keeping down the cost of living.

John Scott, 1st. Earl of Eldon, died this date 1838. Violently Conservative, he conducted high treason prosecutions against Horne Tooke and his collaborators, opposed emancipation of Catholics, and the abolition of capital punishment for minor offences.

Readers who enjoy "Notes from Another Island," by "Anson" (who spent a considerable period of his R.A.F. training here) will be specially appreciative of his contribution in today's issue. It analyses and explains the why and the whereof of the average Englishman's austerity endurance.

A Canadian airman has made his contribution to international good will. George Truman who planned to carry snowballs on his non-stop flight from Toronto to Miami, Florida, decided against that cargo on learning of the Florida blizzards. The gesture might have been misunderstood, he felt.

British Agriculture Minister Tom Williams seems to be unduly alarmed at "Europe becoming dangerously dependent on supplies of North American grain." His warning that "failure of a single harvest in North America might threaten a world food supplies," does not take into account that the storage qualities of Canadian wheat excel all others.

The "escalator" clause in the 1947 Dominion-Provincial taxation agreements is proving of value in our present expanding economy. Reports from Ottawa indicate that as a result of population increase and boosted gross national production, it appears that total payments to the Provinces will increase from about \$78,000,000 in 1947-48 to some \$84,000,000 this year.

The criticism of the Chief Justice on the administration and enforcement of the new Temperance Act may be due to faults in drafting and enactment of the measure rather than faults on the part of the respective magistrates from whom judgment appeals have been taken. It is not unusual in the case of new legislation that it only really becomes effective when practising lawyers submit on appeals to the Supreme Court errors and misunderstandings which have escaped the attention of the draughtsmen and members of the Legislature.

Can influenza be controlled? Children whose mothers had German measles during pregnancy need no longer be harmed by the disease, Dr. Douglas Thomas, senior vice-president of the British Medical Association in Australia announced in a speech in Melbourne. He said Professor F. M. Burnet, of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne, and his assistants had discovered how to prevent the disease affecting unborn children. (Children whose mothers contract German measles during pregnancy are sometimes born deaf or suffering from spastic paralysis.) Dr. Thomas also said that Professor Burnet was "within measurable distance of being able to control influenza."

About 1904 to 1910, boys were quitting school to get jobs calling train crews. In a year or two these boys became spare firemen and spare brakemen. Today, says The Printed Word the home-town paper is reporting their retirement, full of years, honors and cinders. They had rather good pay in 35 years or so and not many of the 1948 batch of pensioners can have much first-hand knowledge of the twelve-hour day and the 31-day working month. On the whole, they've likely done better, materially, than have the lads who journeyed to high school at the county seat and went on to be doctors or something else high falutin'. One such, however, was noticed recently to have been honored in a group of government physicians. In this activity he is reputed to be an excellent bridge player, whereas many a chap whom he knew as a youth has had great experience at euchre. Without Culbertsons to advertise it, euchre probably is the most generally played card game on this continent. At any rate, it is pleasant to know that the railway pensioners cannot be eched out of their pensions although the finesses of inflation may leave them bewildered.

"Of all Pitt's speeches (said Mr. Wilson Harris over B.B.C.) one will be eternally remembered. It was his last and his shortest, so short that I can quote it here without taking up a minute of my time. Mr. Pitt, as Prime Minister, was attending the traditional Lord Mayor's banquet in the City of London on November 9th. In the year 1805. The battle of Trafalgar had been fought nineteen days before, and the news of the victory, gravely discounted by the death of the British commander Nelson, had just reached London. The Lord Mayor, proposing the Prime Minister's health, described him as the saviour of Europe. Mr. Pitt rose and said simply this: 'My Lord Mayor, I thank you for what you have said. But Europe can be saved by no single man. England has saved herself by her exertions, and will, as I trust, save Europe by her example. He never spoke again in public, and in ten weeks he was dead.'"

Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England — It's just about a year now since these notes first appeared in the "Guardian." Have we changed much in that time? We over here in the Old Country, I mean — have we much to show that is different from anything in January, 1948? Probably not, for we don't change very quickly, and that's something which is often pointed out as being to our detriment. We like to take our time about our developments, so that a single year is not likely to show anything very sensational — at least, nothing of a lasting nature. Things happen in plenty, of course, even. We learn from the time-matters which seem to be of tremendous importance, but soon afterwards we seem to forget them or at least let them slip to the back of our mind. And at the end of things, matters seem to be pretty much the same as before.

What of the twelve months, then, that have gone by since I began these notes? Well, I've always tried to confine matters in this column to the ordinary folk's view of things, and to the ordinary folk the view doesn't seem to show much variation.

Most things are rationed as severely as they were a year ago. If we have a bit more of this, we seem to have a bit less of that to balance, so we come out even. We learn from the Government's announcements that we have made some progress along what they call the "Road to Recovery" (an idea for a new Crosby-Hope-Lamour film) but the figures which they produce to prove it takes a lot of digesting. Talk of thousands of millions of pounds has only an academic interest for most folk. Nobody doubts that it is a good thing that our exports are so good, but Mr. Ordinary Chap can't help feeling it would be a sign of much more progress if the price of his cigarettes could somehow get a bit closer to the pre-war shilling level. Instead of the present day (three-and-six about 55 cents) if he can get them!

That's like us. History is being made all around us, yet we are less than a year away from the difference between 1948 and 1938; most people make that the basis of comparison between what is good and what is not so good. There was probably a good deal wrong with 1938, but somehow it has an angelic glow of a year of plenty, viewed from 1948.

So we are content to take the big things for granted, reading about them in our papers and then filling our minds with their memories. A major international crisis that takes us to the very brink of war; changes in our internal social legislation; the news of such things lives as long as the radio comes and they still talk about them. It's not that we are just not interested; it is simply that these things don't seem to be knocking on our own doors, so to speak, and until they do there are more urgent things to think of.

And it is the more urgent things which haven't changed much in the last twelve months. It is still an urgent problem for the housewife to try to introduce a bit of variety into the family menu on a budget that doesn't allow very much for luxuries. It is a problem for the young man who wants to get married; he'll need some cash for that, and he won't find it easy to save, the way the Income Tax Department squeezes him as long as he's single; and his girl friend has worries, too — it needs a lot of careful planning of ration coupons to get together enough bits and pieces to start a home, even if you can get a home.

These things were much the same when the first "Notes" were written a year ago, and they still are now. Each party had a cask of rum which was carried around in buckets and drunk like water from a tin cup.

By the census of 1789, Lots 39 and 40 had a population of 211 with 36 families. The largest households were: Duncan McEwen 12; Don Peyton 11; John Duke 10; Angus McDonald, 9. Among the other families at that time were those of Charles Sanders, Wm. Weber, James Dingwell, John Moore, Thos. Webster, Dav. Anderson, James McIntyre, Rod. McDonald, A. McVarrish and Wm. Robbins.

A prominent citizen at a later period was Dr. John Jardine, a native of Ecclefechan, Scotland, who had been a schoolmate of Thomas Carlyle. For many years he cured the ill and settled the disputes of the Moreau community, being a member of the Magistrate's Court before we had judges to preside.

Nearby the Jardine homestead, a little eastward from the station, is a cellar, the site of the residence of a certain Captain Cole. We can find out little about this gentleman, except that it is supposed to be the site of the residence of the British Army and that the late Hon. J. C. Pope was named after him.

From an article by the late Mr. H. D. McEwen, 1901. The Age-Old Story. Though ye have lain among the pots, ye shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold.



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MORELL WORTHIES. Morell is located on the north side of the Island, thirty miles from Charlottetown and but one mile from the shore of the Gulf at St. Peter's harbour, one of the best fishing centres of the Province.

Previous to the year 1753, while under the dominion of the French, this was the location of the capital of the Island and quite a large trade was carried on with that country. French soldiers were quartered here and the old town was built up by fishermen.

Some years ago, the chapel bell was placed up on the farm of John Sinnott, Esq., near whose residence was the site of the old French church. Along the banks of the lakes and rivers in the vicinity, and the bay of St. Peter's, are yet to be found hundreds of "French cellars," sole reminders of the homes of the Acadians.

In August, 1767, when the Island was divided amongst certain persons having claims upon the Crown, this lot (40) was bestowed upon certain companies who had established themselves here.

Later, together with some adjoining lots, it fell into the possession of Charles Worrell, Esq., a native of England and president of the Legislative Council of the Island in 1825. Mr. Worrell's residence was a few hundred yards north of the present railway station and was a mansion of importance in those days.

He returned to England many years before it is said, lost a fortune of £40,000 in his venture. J. B. Cox, Esq., father of Julius and Constance Cox of the P.E.I., was his successor, and carried on a large business as farmer, merchant and shipbuilder for many years. He employed hundreds of men the year round; in winter, cutting and hauling timber, and in summer, farming, shipbuilding and trucking goods to and from Charlottetown.

In the 1850's this was a busy place. All the plans for the ships were saved with a whip saw and wooden nail (trenails) were used. The payment was chiefly in supplies as money was of little use. Old people yet delight to relate years about the "good old days" when tea was 4s 6d a pound, and rum 2s 6d per gallon. To drive to Charlottetown after tea was only an "outing"; now it is considered a fair day's work for a horse. Country houses were but a few miles apart and they all sold rum. A person could get "full" for ninepence, but big heads were not so prevalent as now. Open houses were kept by candidates at elections. Each party had a cask of rum which was carried around in buckets and drunk like water from a tin cup.

What's Your Name, Sir? Of What Condition Are You, and of What Place? He made the disturbing discovery that he had catapulted from No. 2 priority to a Grade 16 rating. The Governor-General and Prime Minister St. Laurent (the latter absent) held places 1 and 2. In third place were the members of the Cabinet arranged in order of seniority. The Lieutenant-Governors of the Provinces occupied places 4 to 12. The Archbishops and Bishops, according to seniority took 13th place followed by other church dignitaries in 14th place.

Mr. King Loses Precedence

(Arthur Blakely in The Gazette)

"An Epilogue of Discourse, to Make Plain Some Obscure Precedence." Ottawa, Jan. 7. — This capital started off the New Year right with an interesting, if relatively unimportant, crisis involving official "precedence."

Precedence is defined by one authority as "the priority of place, or supremacy in rank, in the conventional system of arrangement under which the more eminent and dignified orders of a community are classified on the occasion of public ceremony."

The definition could add, but doesn't, that the question of precedence has caused so much strife in historical times — involving the "more eminent and dignified orders" in countless indecorous scenes — that it is assumed that such disputes were known in the Old Stone Age.

"He Hath an Abstract for the Remembrance of Such Places." It has been evident for some weeks that William Lyon Macgill was in no haste to relinquish certain of the prerogatives attached to the office of Prime Minister but not, regretfully, for that member of Parliament for Glangarry. It had been credibly reported that he had evinced signs of distress one day when he was unable to get through immediately by phone to a former private secretary.

Mr. King was said to have regarded the move as an affront and to have taken determined steps to restore the status quo. The guard was restored on the grounds, it appears, that the elderly M.P. for Glangarry had borrowed valuable documents from the public archives to assist him in writing his biography and that this necessitated a measure of protection.

It had been noted that when the circumstances of his retirement dashed Mr. King into the background during the ceremonial signing of the Newfoundland terms, Mr. St. Laurent had been at pains to share the limelight with his old chief.

"What's Your Name, Sir? Of What Condition Are You, and of What Place?" He made the disturbing discovery that he had catapulted from No. 2 priority to a Grade 16 rating. The Governor-General and Prime Minister St. Laurent (the latter absent) held places 1 and 2. In third place were the members of the Cabinet arranged in order of seniority. The Lieutenant-Governors of the Provinces occupied places 4 to 12. The Archbishops and Bishops, according to seniority took 13th place followed by other church dignitaries in 14th place.

The Chief Justice of Canada was next, and then came Mr. King's post with "Former Prime Ministers of Canada," according to seniority as members of the King's Privy Council for Canada; provided that they have been Prime Ministers of Canada for at least one year.

Notes By The Way

Canadian soldiers shipped 83 cases of toys made by themselves in army hobby workshops to brighten Christmas for some 3,000 British children. The work of mercy started by the troops while they were stationed in England in wartime is still being carried on. — Oshawa Times-Gazette.

This year's estimate of the population of greater Vancouver, in British Columbia, is 467,000; while that of Victoria with its adjoining Oak Bay, Esquimalt and Saanich is placed at 103,000. Thus, considerably more than half the population of British Columbia is concentrated around two cities. — Ottawa Citizen.

We think funeral services tend to be too doleful. We'd like our own to be much brighter and happier — and brief. There are particularly sad cases, of course, as when a little child is killed in an accident, or when a mother of a little family dies. But when a person of middle age or over is being buried, it is carrying out one of the laws of nature. Personally, we have lived an interesting life and, we trust, a useful one, and when it is finished we can have no complaints. And we don't want our friends to be going around with long and doleful countenances. — Ferguson News-Record.

A good resolution which a lot of people could make, with profit not only to themselves but to those with whom they associate in business and other relationships is to need a travel permit as well as passport and visa. His portmantrou would be inspected on both sides of the Channel to see that he was not taking contraband currency out of England or contraband cigarettes into France. Or, more likely, he would never be allowed to set out at all. When he explained to some government bureau that he was going on a journey where he would purely sentimental he would probably get a look as black as his silk breeches. Austerity would have triumphed and the world would have lost one of the lesser masterpieces of English literature. — New York Times.

"We'll Borrow Place of Him, Sir, by Your Leave." At one point, it is reported, the M. P. for Glangarry suggested that the absence of Prime Minister St. Laurent from the levee offered a promising solution to the impasse. He hinted that it would be quite regular for him to re-occupy, as it were, the place which he had only recently vacated in the absence of its new holder. Distracted, and presumably embarrassed, protocol authorities were not impressed by this proposal. The table of precedence reserved Place No. 2 for "The Prime Minister of Canada," and no other. Mr. King was not Prime Minister of Canada.

"Thy Case, Dear Friend, Shall Be My Precedence; As Thou Got'st Milan, I'll Come by Naples." One of the more interesting aspects of the controversy, which showed every indication of going north even as the appointed time for the beginning of the ceremonies drew close. Involved the mention of the names of two other important political figures. One was Arthur Meighen, the only other living former Prime Minister of Canada.

It was pointed out that the selection of No. 16 place by former P.M.'s, had been made by Mr. King's own Government at a time when it applied to Mr. King's own Government. It was pointed out that it is assumed that such disputes were known in the Old Stone Age.

"Here Take Your Place; Marshal the Rest, as They Deserve Your Grace." Either by accident or by design, (most theories favor the latter) this most vexing problem of precedence was solved just when the authorities on protocol were bracing themselves for the worst. Five minutes before the levee proper began, Mr. King was invited to present himself before the Governor-General in an ante-room and here His Excellency and the man who had once been Prime Minister exchanged New Year's greetings privately.

Since this obviated the necessity for the Glangarry M. P. to take any position in the formal procession, it left the table of precedence (and Mr. King's dignity) unquestioned. Subsequently, the whole of the ceremony was held in a better place; but travellers must be content.

"All the greatest landscapes have been painted indoors." That seems surprising at first sight, but no doubt it is true. At any rate the assertion has high authority behind it, for it is made by Mr. Winston Churchill in a small volume, "Painting as a Pastime," published this week by Odhams at 10s. 6d. Since the letterpress occupies only 24 pages, the book might occasion some comment, but there are added admirable reproductions in color of eighteen of Mr. Churchill's works, including the "Goldfish Pond at Chartwell," which attracted so much attention at this year's Academy, and some particularly effective Mediterranean sketches. The book is not new. It consists of reprints of his essays which were published as long ago as 1932 in another volume from Mr. Churchill's pen. The main content is an engaging, but I am afraid illusory, painting. It is the ideal distraction for the busy man, and a corrective of the turgid according to Mr. Churchill. Everyone should try it; almost everyone could do it. I wonder if, so, almost anyone could lay his brush or write Masterpieces? If not, Mr. Churchill says "Difficult! Fascinating!" and who am I to gainsay him? — London Spectator.

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The Poet's Corner

Like to the falling of a star. Or as the flight of eagles are.— Or like the fresh spring's gaudy hue. Or silver drops of morning dew. Or like a wind that chafes the flood. Or bubbles which on water stow: Even as is man, whose borrowed light Is straight called in, and paid to night. The wind blows out, the bubble dies; The spring entombed in autumn. The dew dries up, the star is shot; The flight is past—and man forgot.—Henry King, Bishop of Chichester. (1592-1669).

SOUTHERN TIMBER BARON RIDGEWAY Ont. — (CP) — Timber baron Earl Detsenbeck doesn't have to go far to his forest holdings. Together with four other men, he works a 20-acre stand of hardwood not far from his home.