THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1945

Car Ferry Transportation

Mr. McLure is to be congratulated on having obtained from Transport Minister Chevrier the definite assurance that the Dominion Government is committed to expenditures of five and one-half million dollars on improvements at Tormentine and Borden, in addition to the new car ferry estimated to cost five million dollars. Mr. Chevrier did not go into details as to the terminal improvements, or state whether or not they involved extension of the piers so as to shorten considerably the distance which the ferry would have to travel. Last October, in reply to a question by Mr. McLure, the Minister stated that a retired member of the United States corps of engineers had been engaged to review the previous reports on the ferry terminal facilities, and had submitted certain recommendations with reference to the Tormentine terminal works. The engineer's report was at that time "still under consideration" by the Department. Presumably a policy of terminal improvements has been adopted. The vote of $250,000 for this work in the supplementary estimates indicates that a beginning is to be made shortly.

Not so satisfactory was the Minister's attitude towards Mr. McLure's contention that the Government is responsible for the prohibitive truck rates on the Borden ferry, and that this service should be treated as a national highway. Mr. Chevrier "passed the buck" in this matter to the Board of Transport Commissioners, ignoring altogether our right to the freedom of inter-provincial trade. We quoted recently in these columns the Conservative stand on this question, as enunciated at the Bracken meeting in Charlottetown last May—namely, that the increase in cost of moving farm products and other essential freight, by truck or rail, over the normal cost of moving such farm products and freight for the equivalent mileage on land, should, as a matter of national policy, be borne by the Dominion.

The Minister and his cabinet colleagues can scarcely plead ignorance to our grievance in this connection, or contend that it has any political motive. The point was made very strongly by Premier Jones at the opening of the Dominion-Provincial Conference in August, when he quoted Clause 28 of the Confederation Treaty as stating specifically that ferries between Provinces are a charge on the Parliament of Canada. Equitable treatment, Premier Jones argued, meant carrying trucks "free of charge, or almost so" on the Government-owned ferry; "ferries should be a national highway under the terms upon which we entered Confederation."

Our transportation problem will never be satisfactorily solved until this policy is adopted. In the circumstances we cannot for a moment concede that the Board of Transport Commissioners has any jurisdiction in the matter.

As for the attitude of the railway authorities, it was bluntly summed up in a letter written some years ago by a Vice-President of the C. N. R. to the then Premier of this Province, refusing to lower automobile ferry rates. *"We, as a railroad,"* the Vice-President wrote, *"cannot afford to overlook the fact that in reality every automobile we handle on the ferry is in competition with our own rail route."*

If anything were needed to show why we are so insistent on having this vital matter taken out of bureaucratic hands, the above quotation should suffice. The more one studies it, the more it will be realized why we have been so persistently checkmated and double-crossed.

Minister Of Provincial Relations?

Premiers attending the recent Dominion-Provincial Conference are said to have discussed the idea of the Dominion Government appointing a minister responsible for provincial relations — one minister to whom the Provinces could go on all Dominion-Provincial matters. The Premiers liked the idea so well that it may be brought up at the next meeting of the Dominion-Provincial conference in January.

The suggestion, says the *Winnipeg Tribune*, is worthy at least of close study. Relations between the Dominion and provinces are becoming increasingly complex and far-reaching in their effect on the day-to-day well-being of the average Canadian. The present prospect is that this complexity will endure and grow in the months ahead. The financial arrangements alone which are the chief topic of discussion at current Dominion-Provincial meetings are tremendously involved.

But more than this, the number of matters in which the Federal authorities and the provinces complement one another is on the increase. For example, labor and agriculture, education and social welfare are essentially the concern of the provinces. Does that mean that there is no place for the Federal Departments of Agriculture, Labor and Health and Welfare? Obviously, this is not the case. The Federal departments have made notable contributions to the betterment of Canadians and will undoubtedly continue to do so. But under Canada's constitution, the British North America Acts, they must work in co-operation with the provinces that have the final say in these matters — a say which they have surrendered in many instances in the wartime emergency but which will be resumed in the months ahead.

In view of the need for co-operation in all these widening fields of Dominion-Provincial relations, some method of co-ordinating the work of the various Federal departments as it concerns the provinces is certainly indicated. The idea of a responsible minister of Dominion-Provincial relations seem to be everybody's business — a state of affairs not conducive to speedy and thorough action. Perhaps it would be a good idea to make them the concern of a single, responsible person.

However, finding a Minister of Provincial Affairs who will be acceptable to all the Provinces may be no easy task.

Tax On Fishermen

Finance Minister Ilsley has indicated that he is giving serious consideration to changes in the income tax law affecting fishermen. This is not altruism on the Government's part. The present arrangements for collecting income tax from fishermen are said to be responsible, in part at least, for the delay in officially terminating wartime powers.

Fishermen are not wage workers, but self-employed workers living by the sale of their product. Wartime emergency powers were used to make their purchase and sale contracts subject to tax deduction at the source. So far as is known, it is the only instance in an English-speaking country in which sales are treated as income and made subject to tax deduction at the source. In order to continue the present method of collecting the tax from fishermen, wartime powers must be projected into peacetime arrangements, or alternatively, new procedures must be devised. The present arrangement takes toll of fishermen's incomes in years of exceptional glut, and make no allowance for the years in which the men toil much and catch little.

It is gratifying to know that Mr. Ilsley is considering a proposal to levy income tax on average earnings. Perhaps this cannot be done without extending the same right to farmers and others whose incomes are subject to wide fluctuations. In any case, there would seem to be no reasonable objection to such an obviously fair and equitable arrangement.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Stock exchange gamblers have once more become acrash — not a very welcome Santa Claus.

* * * * *

The two Prince County by-elections are not occasioning much stir, the candidates confining their efforts to personal canvas.

* * * * *

Our Federal representatives will now be able to return home for Christmas after a most strenuous session at Ottawa. For the first time for many years, the voice of this Province was heard effectively in both houses of Parliament.

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Readers are reminded to mail their cards and parcels early to insure delivery by Christmas, and to lighten the load on the post office officials.

* * * * *

Neither a brewery nor a tannery would be much of an asset here unless we had protection. Outside competitors would simply sit on our door step preventing export and demanding import below our cost of production. Investors in our flour mill of a few years ago know this to their cost.

* * * * *

Joseph Mallord William Turner, R. A., died this date 1851; the son of a barber, he also followed that trade for five years when he was a student at the Royal Academy; first he was a landscape painter in water colours and then turned to oils producing over 200 pictures; among his more famous are: Kilchurn Castle, Loch Awe, The Tenth Plague of Egypt, The Wreck of the *Minotaur, Calais Pier,* The Grand Canal Venice, Dido and Eneas, The Golden Bough, Modern Italy, The Fall of Carthage, The Building of Carthage; his magnificent series of oil paintings and drawings, known as the Turner collection, were left to the national galleries, and are considered the most exalted trophies of British Art.

* * * * *

Mr. Gardiner announces the agricultural policy of Canada as, substantially, one of meat production ahead of the production of wheat, says *The Letter Review.* We believe that this is wrong; that, in a world which is desperately short of food of all sorts, it is particularly important to produce as much food as possible, and wheat growing is unquestionably far ahead of meat production for this purpose. Then, the cold fact is that our acute problem is how to sell food at all. Our customers are poor. Surely, in such circumstances, the best policy is to try to furnish them with the sort of goods which they can afford, rather than the sort of goods which they cannot. Government trade in wheat, which is being taken for granted by most Canadians, without protest, brings one extremely grave danger which has not had much mention. It is a cold fact that, at the various times when the British Government, the Co-Operative Wholesale Society in Britain, and British millers were working together, to break the price of Canadian wheat by refusing to buy Canadian wheat as long as any other could be obtained, the safeguard for Canada was that Canadian flour, of the highest quality, was available for British bakers. Without this, it is highly probable that the British ability to push Canadian wheat prices down would have been even greater than was the case. Obviously, the British Government, committed to a programme of advanced nationalism, does not look with favour on any plan which does not give Britain the milling of all the flour which Britain consumes, and the present policy, which gives the British Government a monopoly on imports of wheat from Canada, with the kind assistance of the Canadian Government, is very likely to end in a condition in which Britain buys no flour from Canada. In such circumstances, the one method by which the high quality of Canadian wheat could be used to guarantee it a market in the U. K. is gone. Perhaps, in their devotion to Socialistic methods of trade, the Canadian Wheat Pools may like this idea, but they will certainly pay for it in the future.

Notes By The Way

Oh, yes, even as recently as the turn of the century, girls sometimes stained their fingernails, but they did so hulling watnuts. —Kitchener Record.

The Hebrews thousands of years ago, discovered the vegetable tanning process used in shoe manufacture. The woodshed tanning process was also discovered a long time ago but, unfortunately, discarded all too quickly.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The city of New Westminster is *making plans to wipe out* its entire debt of something over $5,000,000 by 1965. In each of the next 17 years it will pay $335,500 into the sinking fund and smaller sums during the succeeding three years. Then, unless it accumulates more debt in the meantime, it will be free.—Vancouver Province.

After more than a month, it is *reported that* 40,000 dock workers in Britain will return to work. They will return as beaten men with wages lost and unrecoverable. And they were beaten under a friendly government, which imported soldiers to unload the ships. The aftermath of such a strike cannot be pleasant.—St. Catharines Standard.

The Ottawa Journal discusses the use or the misuse of the word "release" as a noun. A letter was received in this office from a big business institution the other day in which the word "diaryize" was used. And that is one of the most horrid improvisations yet to come out, far worse, even, than the use of the word "contact" as a verb.—St. Catharines Standard.

Having read for the third or fourth time that Goering has been cured of drug-taking while a prisoner of war, I should like to know who on earth cares what Goering has been cured of, or what advantage there is to humanity in curing him of anything. Instead of that waste of space, we might be told when he is going to stand trial. *The drug question may not* arise very seriously after that.—From London Spectator.

Latest news on the upgrade—there's to be a special soap ration for chimney sweeps. Nobody grumbles about that—the sweeter the sweep, no doubt, the swifter and sweeter the sweep of our chimneys. Latest news on the downgrade—*we're shocked* at the queues for shoes that find no shoes to choose at the queue's end. In between we're going to get tinned puddings on points — not Christmas ones—just marmalade, mixed fruit, treacle, date, ginger, etc. Four points per pound *of pudding.* And we've surmounted the salt shortage. — London Daily Mail.

A mobile kiln that can turn out 10,000 bricks a day on the actual building site is the latest device attracting the attention of Government housing experts. The feature of the equipment is an entirely new process of electronic *heating and drying* which is expected to revolutionize the brick-making industry. Inventors estimate the cost of a *mobile plant* capable of turning out 10,000 bricks a day at a "few thousand dollars." The machine turns untreated clay into glazed brick within a few seconds. The cost of the bricks is said to equal that of ordinary bricks in the pre-war *period. They can be made* in any shape, size or color.

There is too great a tendency for men in public and semi-public positions to wrap their work and themselves in a cloak of mystery from which they emerge only when their plans are fully completed and ready to be sold to the public to the accompaniment of propaganda. That is how Fascists did business. The public wants to see those plans at birth, wants to watch them *struggling through* debate and opposition to maturity. The press, as its representative, has the right to be present whenever they are discussed, should be asked to withhold only such information as would damage a cause or a reputation. That is a *tenet of democracy.*—Calgary Herald.

Every now and again kangaroos in Australia become a pest to farmers because of their fence-jumping and crop-destroying habits. Then the farmers seek permission to liquidate some of them in organized kangaroo hunts. One farmer in Armidale, New South Wales, would have needed to be clairvoyant to carry out his kangaroo hunt according to the terms of the permit, Member of Parliament D. H. Drummond complained recently. The permit stated that the farmer could destroy not more than 10 kangaroos—provided none were females. Said Mr. Drummond: "When one catches a kangaroo, put salt on its tail and *examines* it for its biological functions, it is an easy matter—but only in rare cases can one determine at 100 or 200 yards whether it is male or female."—From Australian News Bulletin.

The Poet's Corner

THE POET'S HEART

The poet's heart grows faint in times of war,
Theirs not the signature for barbs of hate.
They sing the lovely days that went before,
The days to come, for which they cannot wait.
The poet's heart still fails to comprehend
Aggression driving men to rape and kill.
Theirs is the heart that lavishly must spend
The truest value of its utmost will.
Painting the beauty of the sky in words,
The quality of tides the seafoam's mist,
The rameless wonder of the soaring birds:
These are the things no poet can resist.
And they will sing of them to right war's wrong
And triumph in the certainty of song.

—Dorothy Quick, in The New York Times.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

PEACE ON EARTH

Sir,—Again Christmas is fast approaching and we will be commemorating the birth of the "Prince of Peace," Jesus Christ our Saviour, *who is the only* One that can bring peace to a wartorn world.

Thousands of our boys and girls are coming home and will enjoy the happiness and joy as set forth in the Christmas message "Good tidings of great joy"; and some are *coming home* to disappointments. It is not easy to shake off harrowing experiences which many of them have *seen and gone through* a living death, which is modern warfare.

In the 24th Psalm we read these majestic words: "Lift up your heads O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who *is this King of Glory?* The Lord strong and mighty; the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up; ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts; He is the King of Glory."

In this troubled world today we lift our eyes upward to Him who *sits on the throne.*

The Man of Bethlehem; The Man of Calvary; the King of Glory and we reiterate together the Psalmist question "Who is this King of Glory?"

If one would know who God is and understand something of His *work,* he must study the four gospels. For therein is Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son revealed as *Immanual, "God with us."*

Jesus was born to die. He turned aside from the ivory palaces, not that He might become an example for us to follow, but to die as the sinless substitute for sinners. He was born as Saviour, and on the Cross of Calvary the *sin of the world was rolled upon* Him.

Ever since that day, God's message to sinners has been to believe on Jesus, who died for their justification.

Is this Saviour, who entered into our world over 1900 years ago, your Personal Saviour? He came to save from sin. Christ died for sin.

I am yours, Sir, etc.,
MAY EATON

Pasadena 5,
California.

Reconversion Task

(Exchange)

Canadian industry will chalk down 1945 as the year of reconversion headaches. As the year-end those headaches were by no means over but there was at least hope in the minds of both employers and employees that the sharpest impact had passed.

Admittedly there was a difficult winter ahead. Industry as a whole *went through most of 1945 geared* to intensive war production, able to give only limited attention to *the problems that would be inevi*table when the war ended.

That end came more suddenly than industrialists, in common with others, had anticipated. It came, too, well toward the end of the year, at a time when employment normally drops off and that *added a further complication.*

The lapse between VE-Day, May 8, and VJ-Day, Aug. 15 provided a *limited cushion* in the reconversion of industry to a peacetime basis.

Direct war employment had touched its peak of 860,000 in September, 1943. By Jan. 1, 1945, it was down to 675,00, after VE-Day the trend turned more sharply *downward and from VJ-Day on the* line became almost vertical until it was estimated unofficially, there were fewer than 100,000 in war jobs at the end of November.

Augmenting this flow of war workers on to the labor market were the veterans being discharged from the forces, more than 400,000 at the end of November.

Meantime, production engineers *were making good time in switch*ing plants from war to peacetime products; but there were inevitable layoffs while equipment was changed and retooling took place. Consumer goods — new cooking utensils, refrigerators and scores of small gadgets—began coming off production lines.

While all this was going on the lines on employment graphs were reflecting a sudden change. The employment line went down while the line showing the number of unemployed rose abruptly. In mid-autumn the two lines crossed and for the first time since the *early stages of the war Canada had* more people looking for jobs than it had unfilled jobs. Those with their finger on the pulse of business and employment conditions believed it would be spring before reconversion troubles would end and Canada would be in the full swing of pre-war production.

The Universality At Christmas

(H. H. Stevens in the Vancouver Province.)

A merry Christmas! In over 1400 different languages and dialects hundreds of millions of people, scattered all over the globe, will greet one another with the ancient and *charming salutation.* In using that simple phrase, all pay homage to Him whose appearance on this earth over 1900 years ago *we again* celebrate.

The story of His advent has lost nothing of its power or sweetness as the centuries roll on, until today it is the most universally celebrated event in all history.

This year it is clothed with *unusually grave significance* because the general bankruptcy of all other ways of controlling the actions of man has become *glaringly apparent.* We now know that wars of aggression end in ignominy and chaos, and that wars of defense, no matter how high the motive, bring in their train only human tragedy, death, disease and utter discord.

His way—peace on earth through goodwill, tolerance, unselfishness and love for one's fellow man—is the only way to lasting peace, Whether it be between nations or between conflicting interests within a nation. Mankind everywhere is paying lip-service to this concept, but stops short of its complete acceptance, especially when it leads to the surrender of some *selfish interest or advantage.*

* * *

It is a rather strange and baffling circumstance that in this so-called Christian country, and indeed, within the immediate circle of one's own acquaintance, a substantial number during the Christmas season will pay tribute to Him whose birth we celebrate, yet will avoid acknowledgment of any *attachment to the Christian faith.* This has been so down through the centuries. Francis Bacon in his day was keenly aware of this strange anomaly and accounted for it in these words: "Nothing doth so much keep men out of the church, and drive men out of the church, as breach of unity."

The awesome experience of the past six years, and the disappointing *chaos and discord of these* first few months of the postwar period, is forcing mankind to a frantic search for some means of settling human disputes other than war. We now know that the atomic bomb means annihilation. To escape that inevitable fate mankind is grudgingly prepared to surrender some of his closely guarded but selfish advantages.

A study of recent international conferences discloses some trends that would be amusing were they not so tragic. The Atlantic Charter was released to the world at a time when the forces of tyranny were triumphant and Britain stood alone. We welcomed and piously subscribed to the fine Christian principles enunciated in that historic document, but no sooner had *the tide of battle changed and* it became evident that Hitler and his hordes could not win, than we veered away from its high ideals.

Then followed conference after conference—Teheran, Cairo, Moscow, Yalta— at each one of which the shade of the fine Christian spirit of the Atlantic Charter grew ever more and more dim and ethereal, until the San Francisco Conference, *where a brave attempt* was made to revive it. There it had some body and semblance of reality in the wording of the preamble to the United Nations Organizations Charter.

* * *

Since then it has been almost *wholly lost in the petty bickerings* over the form and technique of the United Nations Organization. Who are to be members of the executive committee? What is to be the set-up of the secretariat? Where shall the head office be located, etc., etc., with only minor thought or attention to rights of "men and women everywhere to live in freedom from fear and want."

Once again at this Christmas season the hundreds of millions of nominal Christians will give lip-service to "the Son of Man, the Prince of Peace," but still hesitate to make His teachings the formula for a new charter of liberty for a suffering world.

We know, deep down in our own souls, that there is no other solution and that it is *the only way.* We know it is that, or sooner or later annihilation by way of the atomic bomb.

Benjamin Franklin once said: "He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity, will revolutionize the world." It now appears that these principles may find entry into public affairs, not *through the genius of any one man* but by force of necessity through the atomic bomb.

There is one other source of hope which was described by Tennyson nearly a hundred years ago when, casting his prophetic eye into the future, he described the "nations' airy navies grappling in the azure blue," and concluded that, amidst the resulting chaos of the future, *"the common sense of most would* hold a fretful realm in awe."

That is, indeed, our real hope. The spirit of Christmas, transformed into and applied to the ordinary affairs of life. That will be the solution of the atomic bomb nightmare, the basis for a universal comity of nations, and the foundation upon which all nations may build a lasting internal economy.

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