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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1949

Retail Sales Increase

There was more than double as much money
spent last year in Canada's retail stores as in
1941. The fact emerges from a survey of the
Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which announces
that the turnover of retail stores had a value of
\$7,276,400,000 in 1948, as compared with \$3,436,
000,000 in 1941. The previous peak was \$6,562,
900,000 in 1947.

This \$7,276,400,000 figure, the Bureau's re-
port says, is really below the mark, because it
only relates to those business concerns which op-
erated steadily between 1941 and 1948, and does
not take into account the new firms which came
into existence during the period. If it did, both
the total for 1948 and the ratio of increase
since 1941 would be considerably higher.

The retail sales by Provinces are given below
for 1941 and 1948:

Table with 3 columns: Province, 1941, 1948. Rows include British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Maritimes.

Increased prices must be reckoned with to
get a correct picture of the volume of this re-
tail trade, which of course has not expanded any-
thing like 100 per cent since 1941, but is perhaps
up 30 or 40 per cent. Even at that, these records
mark distinct progress.

The Soviet Catfish

At a recent luncheon in New York Dr. Ar-
nold Toynbee, noted English historian, warned
that the "cold war" with Russia was something
we would all have to live with a long time, and
that we should seek to take a long view of iron-
curtain troubles. The thing to do with them was
"to live with them with good nerves, play our
cards right and have enough staying power."

Judith Robinson in the Port Erie Times-Re-
view tells how Dr. Toynbee illustrated his argu-
ment. He knew a fisherman in England, he said,
who brought his catch of herring home alive from
the fishing grounds in a trawler fitted with
tanks. In every tank this fisherman kept a cat-
fish. Some of the other fishermen disapproved
of the catfish idea. They considered it danger-
ous and even subversive. Catfish, they could
prove, were not hermitic in their ideology.
Catfish, they argued, ate herring. Catfish should
not be at large in a well-conducted herring-tank;
they should be removed and sent back where
they came from.

Mr. Toynbee's friend the fisherman went
right on keeping a catfish in every herring tank.
He recognized the strength of his critics'
theoretical position but he had found by practi-
cal experience that the catfish paid. They ate
some of the herring, he admitted it, but they
kept the rest alert, active and in fine condition.

That, to a man with a long view and good
nerves, appears to be the function of Commun-
ists in democracies. "Communism," Dr. Toyn-
bee says, "is the catfish in the western herring-
tank."

Federal Financing

In retrospect the present national budget
can be seen as an important turning point in
our financial and political history, says the Win-
nipeg Free Press. It marks the abandonment,
for the foreseeable future at least, of the cyclical
budgeting theory. By that theory the nation
was to accumulate surpluses of revenue over ex-
penditure in good times and reduce debt so
that, in bad times, it could afford to incur de-
ficits and increase debt. By this means excessive
public purchasing power was to be reduced in
periods of inflation and increased during peri-
ods of deflation. Good times continue now, the
national income is at an all-time high. By the
cyclical theory we should be accumulating large
surpluses and reducing debt. But the present
budget provides for no real surplus. The antici-
pated surplus of \$87 millions in the present year
is insignificant and may not be achieved. The
Government has laid down a military programme
which will cost \$375 millions this year and \$572
millions next year. The increase in this one item
alone is calculated to wipe out any surplus in
1950 and perhaps involve a deficit, unless the
national income, and hence the yield of present
tax rates, increases sharply. In other words,
the short period of large surpluses, the fashion
for expanded government spending, the elbow
room which we have enjoyed recently has passed.
From now on any significant increase in
spending must be paid for by higher taxes, un-
less we propose to incur further debt. We are
down to rigid national housekeeping when it
will be difficult to make ends meet. These facts
should govern future plans for the expansion of
public services. That the people of Canada
would like further expansion in many directions
is undeniable. Such expansion in the field of
social services, for example, is highly desirable
in itself. But if it is to be attempted it must be
paid for by more taxes, whatever form they may
take.

There remains, of course, the alternative of
economy in some existing field of expenditure.
If our total spending could be reduced by any
significant amount that saving could be applied
to expanded expenditure in some field like social
services without any increase in taxes. No politi-
cal party has yet proposed any significant re-
duction in any department of government. On
the contrary, the pressure on every department

is for larger expenditure, and expenditure is
growing almost everywhere, through the three
wings of government. For the taxpayer no hope
appears here.

There is the further fact that as one of the
only two prosperous members of the Atlantic
Pact Canada is compelled in honour and in self-
interest to embark on military expenditures
which have not reached their peak by any
means. Next year's military budget of over half
a billion dollars (more than the Federal Govern-
ment spent altogether before the war) is only
a sample of the bills to come. When the United
States Congress proposes to raise its military
budget even beyond the President's fixed limit,
and this on top of the Marshall Plan and the
cost of re-arming Europe, we can see what lies
ahead of the Atlantic community if it is to de-
fend itself.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Mutiny of the Bounty this date 1789.

Both the Progressive Conservatives and the
CCFs now enroll members of their prospective
organizations.

Five years or so from now we should have
quite a number of good speakers of both sexes,
able to hold their own in discussions on public
affairs.

S. James Church members are to consider
plans for the re-modelling internally of their hall
on Fitzroy Street to make it more convenient for
congregational purposes.

At one time new paint and the care of one's
premises were an indication of what profits had
been earned. Today they are a better guide to
what profits may be expected.

The big stick policy seems to have been suc-
cessful in dealing with Russia's Berlin blockade.
When the time comes for negotiation, the corol-
lary to that policy is to speak softly.

Since the visits of the Prime Minister and
the Rt. Hon. Trade Minister Howe to the West
the unemployment situation has improved we are
told by Canadian Press. Naturally so on the eve
of an election.

Parking meters have not met with success
in the Ontario town of Hanover. A special dele-
gation of businessmen complained that the meters
were detrimental to trade, which had fallen
off sharply since the trial period began.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors
was recently warned of a world-wide tendency
toward official secrecy. "Our duty," they were
told, is to "act as the eyes of the public and to
keep the eternal spotlight of publicity on all ser-
vants of the people — including the military."

It is a sound principle to give people credit
for acting from the best motives, but tax cuts,
exchange concessions and old age pension in-
creases all happening immediately before elec-
tion inevitably suggests that not their merits but
their popularity was decisive.

The Northumberland Ferries resume their
service between here and Caribou Sunday, which
is a sure sign Spring is just "round the corner".
It would have been highly satisfactory had infor-
mation that a third steamer would be available to
join the Dunning and Prince Nova, but no such
luck. Neither is there any indication that an aux-
iliary Car Ferry will be available at Borden.

A speed-up in plans for a 20 per cent in-
crease in Britain's grassland yield was announ-
ced recently by the Committee on Industrial Pro-
ductivity. The success of this scheme which in-
volves an increase of capacity for producing in-
trogenous fertilisers, will mean a saving to Brit-
ain of at least \$160 million in dollar imports
yearly and the feeding of an extra four million
people on home produce.

The Commonwealth Conference of Prime
Ministers, and our Minister of External Affairs, in
London have reached a satisfactory conclusion to
their deliberations, which includes leaving the
door open to professed republican states to remain
in or get out of the Commonwealth over which
the King is the constitutional ruler. Thus is free-
dom expanded and democracy sustained. The
Commonwealth is not breaking up; it is becom-
ing more and more vital and assured.

John Gjaever, of Norway, one of the leaders
of the joint Antarctic expedition being undertak-
en by Britain, Norway and Sweden, visited Brit-
ain recently to inspect the part of the equipment
being supplied by the United Kingdom manufac-
turers. On his return he declared that he was
"overwhelmed" by Britain's achievements in the
field of Polar equipment, particularly in the use
of new materials like plastic and nylon. He was
particularly impressed by some sledge-runners
with plastic base which can hardly be worn out
and can run on any type of snow. Britain has also
made a new Pemmanic in block form which, as
Gjaever says "will solve the food problem in a
revolutionary way."

Signor Benito Mussolini, Italy's one-time
dictator, died this date 1945. Known as Il Duce
(The Leader), he was born July 29, 1883, and
was in office as Prime Minister until July 21,
1943, when the Fascist regime was abolished. He
was captured by Italian partisans while attempt-
ing to escape the Swiss frontier and put to death.
Fascism stood originally for a national anti-Com-
munist movement, and culminated in dictatorship.
The name was derived from the fasces, bundles
of rods, with axe in centre carried before high
magistrates in ancient Rome as a symbol of au-
thority, and were intended to symbolize the growth
of the movement in bands and groups. The uni-
form contained a black shirt, which was imitated
in other countries, including England and Que-
bec but in neither instance was the movement
attended with any significant degree of popular
support.

The Poet's Corner

EPITAPH
I never cared for Life: Life cared
for me.
And hence I owe it some fidelity.
It now says, "Cease; at length thou
has learnt to grind
Sufficient toll for an unwriling
mind.
And I dismiss thee — not without
regard.
That thou didst ask no ill-advised
reward,
Nor sought in me much more than
thou couldst find."
—Thomas Hardy.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MARRIAGES MADE VALID

The question of the validity of
marriages performed in the early
days of Island settlement was, in
the words of the Royal Gazette of
January 3, 1826, "a subject hitherto
not altogether unembarrassed
with difficulties." These difficul-
ties were solved in one bold stroke
of the Colonial Legislature by an
Act which the Gazette hailed as
meriting "entire approbation, be-
ing founded on reason and ex-
pediency and with just views of the
equal rights of all citizens in a state
calling itself free." The measure
provided:
That all Marriages which have
heretofore been solemnized within
this Island by any Clergyman, or
Minister of the Gospel officiating as
such, or any Justice of the Peace
or any Lay Person, either by virtue
of license from any Governor,
Lieutenant Governor, or other Com-
mander in Chief of this Island, or
by Publication of Banns, or other-
wise, where such Marriages have
been solemnized in the presence of
one or more credible witnesses, and
when the parties so married have
cohabited together, shall be, and
the same are hereby declared law-
ful and valid, and the issue of all
such marriages are hereby made
legitimate to all intents and pur-
poses whatsoever."
Another Act published in the
same issue of the Gazette received
no editorial notice, though it de-
scribed some. It repealed an old
iniquitous statute declaring that
"Baptism of Slaves shall not ex-
empt them from Bondage," and pro-
claimed "the abolition of Slavery for
ever hereafter in this Colony."

New German Occupation
Statute Based On
Evolutionary Principles

(W.N. Ewer)
Constitution making in Western
Germany has run into trouble.
The "party" clash of Social Dem-
ocrats and Christian Democrats
has become mingled with the is-
sue which faces the makers of any
Federal constitution. How much
power shall be given to the cen-
tral authority, and how much to
the constituent states? The Chris-
tian Democrats are for wide free-
dom for the states; the Social
Democrats for a closer unifica-
tion.
And, unfortunately, this again
has become confused with the in-
sistence of the Allied Military
Governors on certain recommenda-
tions in the draft of the constitution
produced at Bonn.
The crisis is serious and the
way out not yet clear. But it
should be noted that basically the
dispute is an internal German one.
It is only indirectly connect-
ed with the new "Occupation Sta-
tute" which defines the future re-
lations of German and Allied
authorities.
That Statute has had, on the
whole, a favourable reception from
the Germans; of course with the
exception of the Communists, who
see in it, as in almost everything,
a dastardly plot against the Sov-
iet Union.
An unfavourable reception would
have been indeed a disturbing
symptom. For the new Statute
completely transforms the rela-
tionship of the Allied authorities
and the German authorities.

Until now, the Allied Military
Governments set up in 1945 have
been the only legal authority. All
power has been in their hands.
Such German administrative, legis-
lative and judicial organizations
as exist have been created by, and
have remained responsible to, the
Military Governors. They have
been organs of the Allied Military
Governments which have exer-
cised supreme and unlimited
powers.
This is now, to be entirely
changed. In form, "supreme auth-
ority" is still vested in the Brit-
ish, American and French Govern-
ments. But in fact it will in
most matters be transferred com-
pletely to the German organs of
Government which will be set up
under the new "basic law".
"The Federal state and partici-
pating Laender (constituent
states) shall have, subject only to
the limitations of this instrument,
full legislative, executive and judi-
cial powers."
It is true that on paper the
limitations are still considerable.
The Allied High Commission will
have the right to veto any legis-
lation passed either by the Fed-
eral Legislature or by the Pro-
vincial Legislatures. There is a list
of "reserved" subjects over which
the High Commission retains
control for the present. And full
Allied authority can be resumed
if that is "essential, to security or
to preserve Democratic Govern-
ment in Germany".
But all this simply means that
— as is indeed obvious — the new
regime is experimental. The West-
ern Germans are being put to the
test. Only four years after the end

PROVING IT CAN BE DONE



AND NOW I AM
RULER OF THE
QUEEN'S
NAVEE!
TEACHERS'
CONVENTION
WHAT?
NO
APPLAUSE?
ONCE AT THE BOTTOM AS
POORLY PAID SCHOOLTEACHER, THROUGH DIRT OF HIS OWN
EFFORTS, HAS RISEN TO BECOME MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
TO SAY NOTHING OF SECRETARY-TREASURER AND PREMIER.

"Same Appeal In
Both Languages" ?

(The Gazette)
Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent, as
leader of the Liberal Party, has
now made clear how he stands in
relation to the Progressive Con-
servatives and the C.C.F. In his
opinion, the Liberals and the Pro-
gressive Conservatives have little
common purpose. But between
the Liberals and many of C.C.F.
sympathizers there is a sound
basis for close co-operation.
In his tour of Saskatchewan,
Mr. St. Laurent issued a plea to
C.C.F. supporters to unite with
him to bring the Progressive Con-
servatives to defeat. But the pro-
posal made was by no means one
for a marriage of political con-
venience without any bonds of
mutual affection or of principle.
On the contrary, he suggested
that such a union would be no
more than the open recognition
of an inherent difference in po-
litical philosophy. He put it, in
short, as follows: "The difference is
not one of direction at all. It is in-
creased in speed."
In appealing to C.C.F. voters in
Saskatchewan, he described them
as being only "Liberals in a hur-
ry." But even his reference to
their haste was not really a cen-
sure. In fact he asked for their
union with the Liberals partly on
the grounds that they would have
a good effect upon the Liberal
Party by accelerating its pace to-
ward the common goal. "I don't
mind Liberals being in a hurry,"
he said, "but I'd like them to
keep the rest of us Liberals mov-
ing."

In this plea there is an echo
of the voice of the Biblical Macedo-
nian who cried: "Come over and
help us." But it may be not un-
reasonably asked whether there
are not within the Liberal Party
a considerable number of persons
who may not look with enthus-
iastic favor upon having their pace
set by C.C.F.'ers. Whatever the
practical advantages of C.C.F.
support may have been in the
past, such persons may possibly
feel that it has its limitations.
The suggestion that the real goal
of Liberalism is socialism and
that it ought to proceed thither
at a swifter rate of progress, is
one that may not entirely com-
fort with their heartening ex-
pectation that under Mr. St.
Laurent the Liberal Party will
be assured of a moderate and
stabilizing leadership, and that it
was, in fact, moving a little more
towards the right.

Such statements by the Liberal
leader will be of particular in-
terest in the Province of Quebec,
from which the Liberal Party de-
rives nearly one half of its fed-
eral members. It is somewhat dif-
ficult to believe that the Province
of Quebec looks upon socialism
as only quickening Liberals.
And it is perhaps even somewhat
more difficult to feel that Quebec
desires close co-operation with
those of C.C.F. sympathies, on
the grounds that they would be
able to bring the Liberal Party
to power.

It was all been in accordance
with the general policy of not only
permitting but encouraging, at
times almost compelling, the evo-
lution from dictatorship to self-
Government.
And the new Statute linked with
the new constitution marks a fur-
ther and very big step in that evo-
lution. It can only be rightly un-
derstood and appreciated in that
context.

It is not the final step. The pro-
cess is to continue. That is, in-
deed, specifically laid down in the
Statute. After it has been in oper-
ation for a year the Allies will ex-
amine its working "with a view
to extending the jurisdiction of
the German authorities in the
legislative, executive and judicial
fields".

How rapidly the remaining
stages of the evolution will be
passed through it is not easy to
foresee. It now depends mainly
on the German people and their
leaders: on how they use the op-
portunities now given to them.

The Age-Old Story
The Lord preserveth the strang-
ers.

Notes By The Way

Professor Harold Laski, a British
radical visiting the United States,
has word that two addresses he was
to have given before the University
of California have been cancelled.
Perhaps this is a sign of the times
—an indication that universities are
coming to a sharper understanding
of their responsibility. — Ottawa
Journal.

Most frequent cause of fire in
hospitals and other public institu-
tions is unregulated smoking. Pati-
ents in bed and male attendants in
the course of their duties smoke at
all hours of the day and night. In
some of the older buildings and
wards, especially, this constitutes a
hazard which none can gainsay.
Surgical patients, lacking full con-
trol of arm and bodily movements,
are permitted to light matches in
bed, perilously close to sheets and
papers, and smoke at will. This
despite the fact that they may be
drowsy with sleep or sedatives and
liable to lose consciousness while
smoking. — Vancouver News-Herald.

It surely is a remarkable fact that
in spite of the tremendous casual-
ties of war and the outflow of emi-
gration to other lands, the popula-
tion of Great Britain has increased
by 2,250,000 since 1939. It is esti-
mated that the present population
of the United Kingdom is 50 mil-
lion. One factor accounting for
some of that increase, of course, is
the influx of thousands of refugees
during the war. Many of those peo-
ple who fled for refuge during the
war, many of them Poles, have de-
cided to remain in Britain and many
of them already have become ab-
sorbed in the general population.
That is one reason the British peo-
ple are so tough. During the cen-
turies many people have fled to the
British Isles, making the British
people a blend of many races all
making their contributions to the
general cause. — Niagara Falls Re-
viewer.

Two of the basic principles of
crime prevention have long been
stated as promptness of trial and
adequacy of sentence. The knowl-
edge by a potential thief that he
will be tried as shortly after de-
tection as possible and that the
sentence will be in keeping with

some an effectual means of hur-
rying the Liberal Party towards
the left. If this were really the
case, it would seem probable that
the Province of Quebec would by
now have expressed this tendency
by electing at least one C.C.F.
member.
Quebec, it may be assumed, will
be interested, among other things,
in the fact that the C.C.F. is
frankly the party of centraliza-
tion. For in its national conven-
tion the C.C.F. declared its desire
and intention to reorganize Do-
minion-provincial relations, so as
to give an enlarged power to the
central government.

But Mr. St. Laurent when he
was elected at the Liberal national
convention last August, did not
then suggest that his party was
of a like mind. "The Liberal
Party," he said upon that notable
occasion, "is, and has been, tradi-
tionally the party of provincial
rights, and our party must not
depart from that tradition. I do
not think it has. I am sure it
never intended to."
But if Mr. St. Laurent now pro-
poses closer ties with C.C.F.'ers,
he must also propose that his
party move in a centralizing di-
rection, and do so more speedily.
For the issue of centralization is
not something that is only inci-
dental and casual to the C.C.F.,
and which it regards as a matter
of comparative indifference. On
the contrary, it is the logic and
the necessity of its doctrine.

It will be of interest to observe
what will result when Mr. St.
Laurent appeals to C.C.F. sup-
porters in Quebec to co-operate
with the Quebec Liberals in order
to win their common objectives.
That such an appeal will be made
in Quebec can hardly be doubted.
For Mr. St. Laurent in the
House of Commons on January 31
said: "...they (the people of
Quebec) will not be very much
impressed by the procedure of
making one appeal in one lan-
guage in one part of the country
and quite a different appeal in
another language in other parts
of the country. We have always
been able to put forward the
same policy and to make the same
appeal in both languages."

There is something very pleas-
ant in the thought that the War
Assets Administration may now
transform an island fort into a
bird sanctuary. We speak of
course, of Great Gull Island, about
to become a wild-life outpost of
the American Museum of Natural
History. Fort Michie, built there
in 1897 to guard the eastern en-
trance to Long Island Sound, is no
longer a war asset. It was, in fact,
marked down to the museum at 100
per cent discount, so that its mar-
tial purpose may be transformed,
not to plough-shares, but to such
superlatively peace-time purposes
as the counting of terns and the re-
tracing of the extinct Great Gull
mounds. The island, whose rocks
make a more natural setting for
gulls than for guns, is already
well known to museum researchers.
Though the terns were driven off
by the Army (whose modern effi-
ciency also exterminated a unique
species of field mouse), good near-
by fishing should bring them back.
For gulls, perceptive creatures, will
shortly realize that, haven is again
offered. They may not grasp at
once why leg bands sometimes go
with havens, but no doubt will co-
operate, glad of the freedom of sea
and air and rocks miraculously re-
stored. — New York Herald Tri-
bune.

ODIHAM, Hampshire, England—
(CP) — The stocks, used for pun-
ishment centuries ago, will be re-
tained as ancient monuments in
this town where R.C.A.F. squad-
rons were stationed during the
war.

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