

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
 Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office
 Department, Ottawa.
 The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
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 Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
 the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JAN. 5, 1950.

The Bacon Situation

On the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread, the new Anglo-Canadian bacon contract will be accepted by our farmers with resignation, but certainly not with satisfaction. Production costs to our Island bacon producers are about as high as in any part of Canada, and there is no immediate prospect of these costs being reduced. The new contract at 29 cents a pound, 7 cents lower than the previous contract price, is for 60,000,000 pounds only. Last year about 100,000,000 pounds were shipped to the United Kingdom, and we should have as much of an export bacon surplus this year as last. This means that a 40,000,000 pound surplus will have to be marketed elsewhere. If Ottawa lifts the embargo on shipments to the United States, we shall be expected to remove our own import restrictions on American pork products, which are selling in the United States at lower than Canadian prices.

According to an Ottawa despatch in our yesterday's issue, the British authorities were agreeably surprised at the 29-cent level obtained for Canadian bacon this year. They had expected to pay at least 30 cents. Our bargaining experts appear to have been in an over-generous mood at our farmers' expense.

Until next July, the Federal Treasury will maintain the bacon floor price at 32.5 cents a pound. This will afford temporary relief, and in the meantime it is to be hoped that some plan will be developed for marketing our bacon surplus and reducing production costs. This Province has been in the vanguard in developing superior quality bacon hogs in recent years, and we have a big stake in the future of the industry. If it is allowed to deteriorate it will not only mean losses in dollars and cents, but may upset our whole system of mixed farming on a profitable and progressive basis.

Ceylon Conference

Top economic experts of Commonwealth countries and Canada's External Affairs Minister Pearson will confer, starting next Monday, on problems of trade and finance. Perhaps the most significant aspect of it is that they are meeting at the invitation of the youngest Dominion, Ceylon, which not long ago formed part of Britain's colonial empire. When once the independence and sovereignty of each unit has been unmistakably recognized, the voice of reason makes itself heard, and the advantage of working together toward common aims no longer has to compete with the unreasoning but potent desire to discard all the trappings of imperialism. The results which come from this conference may be great or small, but they have the advantage of being the free decision of all participants.

Insurance Companies Expand

The past half century has witnessed a phenomenal development of social services in Canada, but it is encouraging also to note the great progress which free enterprise in the form of life insurance company sales has made in the same period. According to a year-end review by Mr. H. L. Guy, president of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers' Association, there was less than \$100 of life insurance in force per capita in this country in 1900. Today there is more than \$1,000 per capita. Twenty-five times more life insurance protection was put in force in 1949 than in 1899, although the population was less than three times as great.

Life Insurance purchased by Canadians in 1949 amounted to about \$1,600 millions, exceeding moderately the record amount of new protection bought in 1948. By the end of 1949 Canadians had provided voluntarily for their families and themselves protection of not far short of \$14½ billions.

In 1949 the life insurance companies in Canada practically doubled their financial support of national public health and medical research projects through the public health committee of their Association. Since 1925 they have supported such organizations as the Canadian Tuberculosis Association, Canadian Dental Hygiene Council, National Committee for School Health Research and Health League of Canada to the extent of nearly one million dollars. Last year they undertook an important additional project to provide medical research fellowships each year—one for each of the twelve medical schools in Canada.

"Of recent months," Mr. Guy states, "more and more attention has been focussed upon mass social security measures under federal or provincial control and supervision.

The life insurance industry firmly believes in the time-tested principle that citizens themselves have the prime responsibility for providing, through their own initiative and thrift, for the well-being of themselves and their families. The industry is not opposed to sound social security measures, for the selling of such services has been the function of the life insurance business since its inception. Nevertheless, in the long run, there is no financial magic: no government can produce something out of nothing; and to distribute, or redistribute, it must first take away. The public should realize that compulsory pension and medical care and hospitalization plans requiring huge outlays from federal and provincial treasuries—which must, in the final analysis, be paid for by the already heavily burdened Canadian taxpayers—could seriously cripple the national economy."

Few thinking people will disagree with this conclusion, however desirable the objectives of social welfare planning may be.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The mild weather is permitting outdoor work to be proceeded with, and the employment of many in construction work who otherwise might be shovelling snow.

The Conference of Defence Associations today begins its 13th meeting, a three-day affair at Ottawa. This association of ex-servicemen's organizations is probably the best informed non-official body on military matters in this country at the moment.

It would be interesting to determine if the heavy vote in favour of Sunday commercial sports in Windsor and Toronto would have been the same had it been expressed as a choice between a six and a seven day legal working week.

A London clergyman, Canon L. J. Collins of St. Paul's Cathedral, has advised Christians to get into the thick of political controversy. There would be no surer way of making politics un-Christian than for his advice to go unheeded.

On top of the unsatisfactory bacon agreement with the United Kingdom, Agriculture Minister Gardiner announces that the bacon subsidy will be discontinued after July 1, 1950. A surer way of reducing production in this country could hardly be imagined.

"Too little and too late" now seems to be applicable to United States aid to China. Assistance was not great enough or early enough to achieve victory for the nationalist government but it does succeed admirably in producing strained relations with its successor.

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton, British explorer, born this date 1874; went to sea in the Merchant Service, and in 1901 was appointed third lieutenant in Scott's Antarctic expedition. He commanded the British Antarctic expeditions of 1907-9 and 1914-16. Author of "The Heart of the Antarctic", "The Diary of a Troopship", and "South".

The United Kingdom Parliament has reached agreement on a Bill to facilitate the redesigning of Parliament Square, London. There had been much argument in both Houses over the details—particularly over the proposed removal of the well-known drinking fountain, which commemorates the abolition of slavery in the Commonwealth. Redesigning of the Square will be completed in time for the Festival of Britain in 1951.

A high level of national advertising and promotion is needed to protect butter from margarine sales inroads, members of the American Butter Institute were warned at their annual convention. The virtual absence of national brands of butter, while margarine interests have a number of national brands, is an important factor, it was pointed out. The need for national advertising and for promotion of specific brands of butter under self-service marketing conditions, was stressed.

Only 18 per cent of Canadians who are not Roman Catholics attend religious services regularly, Rev. John Peacock, Cowansville, Que., told students attending a short course in rural community programs at Macdonald College. He said this was largely because churches were not meeting the real needs of the population. "Since soil is basic to all our lives," he said, "the church must look to the earth." He added that church members "should see that their organizations do something about improving the soil." People who live on depleted soil are inclined to degenerate, Mr. Peacock said, but when the soil is improved the health and intelligence of people on it also rises. So no plan for making lives more abundant has much chance for success, he added, unless it is based on building up the soil.



Old Charlottetown
 (And F. E. L.)

CURRENCY DEPRECIATION

Changes in the value of currency caused a good deal of confusion in settling accounts in early days in Prince Edward Island and were viewed with apprehension by the Home Government, as appears from the following despatch from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, Downing Street, London, 3rd November, 1853:

"According to the Act of 1849, it is declared that the proportion which the currency of the Island shall henceforth bear to sterling money, shall be, as one and a-half is to one; that is to say, £1 sterling shall represent 30s. currency, and that 1s. sterling shall represent 1s. 6d. currency, and so on, in the same proportion. At the same time, it appears that, in cases of rents reserved in sterling money, it has been at all times, the practice to convert them into currency, by the addition of one-ninth of the amount so reserved, in sterling money.

"This practice originated on the assumption which at least appropriate to the real state of the case, that the dollar represented 5s. in the currency of the Island; and that the sterling value was 4s. 6d., in which case, the addition of one-ninth to the sterling rent would give in currency the full equivalent of the sterling value, so long as those relative values continued. It appears, however, that from excessive issues of paper money and other causes, a continued and rapid depreciation of the currency went forward, and that in 1843 or '4 the dollar was equal to 6s. currency, and shortly afterwards, to 5s. 3d., at which it was finally fixed by the Act of 1849, in the same proportion as 20s. sterling to 30s. currency.

"It appears that the Crown and the majority of landlords, in place of adhering to the strict rights conferred by their original leases, acquiesced in the depreciation and habitually received their rents in currency by the addition of one-ninth to the amount reserved in sterling, without any regard to the increasing depreciation. . . . If therefore appears to my Lords that although it might have been inequitable to the original landlord to have compelled him to accept the same amount of depreciated currency which he had received in sterling, yet it would now be equally inequitable to the present tenants to compel them to pay in an appreciated rate after custom.

"As if no such contract existed, and they are, therefore, not insensible to an inconvenience and injustice which may hereafter be done to the landlords of Prince Edward Island, in the case of a further depreciation of the currency beyond that in which the landlords have practically acquiesced, by the passing of an Act which shall now declare that a payment of currency, by an ad-

General Pope On Shuttle In Germany

(I.N.S. in Ottawa Journal)
 Lt. Gen. Maurice Pope, MC, is so far as Ottawa knows still operating under a sheet of corrugated iron.

This is all he can get to serve as an office in Bonn, the seat of the new German Parliament. And General Pope, mind you, is dean of the diplomatic corps there. He it was who made the principal speech the other day when the foreign diplomats journeyed from Berlin to Bonn to present their letters of credence to the new authorities.

But if General Pope is just another house hunter in Bonn, as Under-Secretary Arnold Heeney told a Parliament committee last month, he has still a comfortable suburban residence in Berlin.

Now this isn't as strange as it sounds. General Pope represents Canada in both cities, has two jobs. The only odd thing is that in neither is he our representative to the German people or the German government.

Here's the way it is in Germany as 1949 becomes 1950.

After the war Germany—all Germany—was run by Allied Control Council made up of France, Britain, the United States and Russia. Other countries sent Military Missions to that Council, not so much to aid in government as to watch Germany and attend to their national interests. General Pope headed the Canadian Military Mission.

By and by Russia refused to cooperate in the original walk-out. Russia also refused to encourage or even permit her Eastern zone of Germany to join the West in establishing a German government. Things grew tense for a while—the Berlin airlift and all that. Then the tension passed off into cold rupture.

But France, Britain and the United States decided they must set up a German government over their zones of Germany even if the Russian zone remained out. An election was held August 14 for the first time in Germany since 1933. The Christian Democrats won, under Dr. Conrad Adenauer. The Republic of West Germany was established. Its parliament is at Bonn, a Ruhr city just south of Cologne, near the West German border.

Britain, France and the United States realized that the term "Allied Control Council" wouldn't sound too pleasantly in German ears any more. Yet they had to remain in Germany, and in control of such things as foreign policy, disarmament, aviation, trade and demilitarization.

So they changed the name and nature of their main organ of control. It is now called the Allied High Commission for Western Germany and it lives at Bonn alongside the German parliament. General Sir Brian Robertson, a soldier, represents Britain; Andre Francois-Poncet, a diplomat, represents France; J. J. McCloy, businessman, represents the United States.

In this Commission resides all the control of Germany the victors feel they need without permanently crippling that vast and vital country and without embittering it to the point of dangerous enmity.

In diplomatic parlance Germany is not yet a sovereign state. She is being encouraged to develop herself to take her place in the family of nations, but under close watch. Her new government is the first big step.

The rest of the countries of the world naturally needed to change their representatives to recognize this new state of affairs. Accordingly, the heads of a number of Military Missions to the old Control Council back in Berlin went to Bonn on December 15 and presented letters of credence. Not to the German government, but to the Allied High Commission.

General Pope being the longest term in Berlin he was leading man at the ceremony. Making what dispatches would term "appropriate remarks" General Pope thus became "head of the Canadian Mission Accredited to the High Commission."

Meanwhile, however, the old Allied Control Council hangs on in Berlin, though the Russians say it is dead and has been dead since March, 1948. Any day, if there is not a Council there are three military missions of Britain, France and the United States and they are watching Berlin and East Germany as carefully as they can. There also remains a three-piece commanditaire helping to run Berlin for the High Commission. And so General Pope retains his post in Berlin—and his house. And this is doubtless all right by him, for even in Germany life is better with a house.

Some men might be stumped by the double-role assignment to General Pope. But he won't. He's a general all right, but a very civil general. He works in his flower and vegetable garden, walks his dog and romps with the most brilliant bark in his voice—but one suspects he'll care more for the civilian side of his duties, particularly now that Bonn has given them pre-eminence.

General Pope isn't alone over there. His No. 1 man, P. T. Molson, will likewise double his Berlin and Bonn, and his No. 2 man, Captain R. C. O'Hagan, will camp down at Berlin. Right

The Age-Old Story

They shall call upon My name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is My people; and they shall say, The Lord is My God.

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thousand pounds of ham, 5,000 pounds of sugar, 10,000 pounds of throat pastilles, telephones, wire- less transmitters and receivers, typewriters and adding machines, will serve to relieve the monotony of the present expedition and help to promote its success, to say nothing of maintaining the good temper of the company on their lonely vigil. McClintock in the Fox took with him ample provisions for 28 months, including preserved meats for every third day, and preserved vegetables, lemon juice, and pickles for the daily ration, "also as much of Messrs. Allsopp's stoutest ale as we could find room for." (It will be noticed that the present expedition is taking only "enough whiskey and schnapps for a nip per man on Saturdays.") But the food which sounds most curious today is pemmican, with which McClintock was liberally supplied. The Admiralty provided him with 6,692 pounds of it, which, as he explained in his account of his unsuccessful quest, was "composed of prime beef cut into thin slices and dried over a wood-fire; then pounded up and mixed with about an equal weight of melted beef fat." The warm pemmican was then run into strong tin cases and became hard on cooling. — The Manchester Guardian.

The Poet's Corner

BY THE MARGIN OF THE GREAT DEEP

When the breath of twilight blows to flame the misty skies
 All its vaporous sapphire, violet glow and silver gleam
 With their magic flood me through the gateway of the eyes:
 I am one with the twilight's dream.

When the trees and skies and fields are one in dusky mood,
 Every heart of man is rapt within the mother's breast:
 Full of peace and sleep and dreams in the vasty quietude,
 I am one with their hearts at rest.

From our Immemorial joys of hearth and home and love
 Strayed away along the margin of the unknown tide,
 All its reach of soundless calm can thrill me far above
 Word or touch from the lips beside.

Aye, and deep and deep and deep—er let me drink and draw
 From the light fountain more than alight or peace or dream,
 Such primal being as o'erfills the heart with awe,
 Growing ore with its silent stream.

—G. W. Russet.

APPRECIATION

We wish to thank our many Policyholders for their liberal patronage during the past year, assuring them that our efforts to provide a complete Insurance service will not be relaxed.

The Management, Staff and Agency organization join in extending to all, the Season's Greetings.

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