THE GUARDIAN

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

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, SEPT. 20, 1949

Financial Situation Easing

Britain's move in devaluing the pound is said to have touched off the biggest world-wide round of financial juggling since the dark days of the depression in the '30's. Within a few hours after the announcement that the pound, in terms of dollars, had dropped from $4.03 to $2.80, similar cuts in the value of their currency were taken by Australia, South Africa, India, New Zealand, Ireland, Israel, Norway, Denmark, Egypt and Burma. Many other countries, including Canada, suspended dealings in foreign exchange, and last night Finance Minister Abbott announced a drop of 10 percent in the value of the Canadian dollar. This will result in a decrease to approximately $3.08 in the pound sterling in this country, which means a difference of 95 cents in our favor in purchasing British goods. This should be sufficient to stimulate trade with Britain considerably, as well with other European countries whose currency has been devalued to the same extent. On the other hand, the fact that the Canadian dollar is 10 cents below par means that our exporters of potatoes, turnips and other farm products to the United States will benefit materially. It will, of course, have the opposite effect on importers of American machinery and other commodities. Generally speaking, as an agricultural Province we are likely to benefit as much as any part of Canada by the dramatic currency changes of the past two days.

From the national standpoint, the question is not so easily resolved. Canada occupies a unique and somewhat embarrassing position as a Commonwealth nation by reason of our proximity to the United States. We do not wish to be severed commercially and financially from our British kinsmen overseas, nor can we afford to cease trading on a large scale with our big American neighbor. Finance Minister Abbott's announcement is in the nature of a compromise between extremes which would be equally undesirable, if not disastrous to our national interests.

The immediate effects of monetary devaluation on a world scale are bound to be upsetting for a time, and only time can tell whether the treatment prescribed will prove a cure or a panacea for our economic ills.

The Dundas Fair

One of the most popular events of the year is the Provincial Plowing Match and Agricultural Fair which takes place tomorrow at Dundas. This meeting in past years was known as the Dundas Plowing Match and King's County Fair, but because of its growth and the interest shown from near and far it has been given a provincial status by the Legislature.

This year's programme, as detailed in our issue of Sept. 2, makes provision for eight plowing classes, a first-class horse show, Calf Club and Ayrshire shows, and sporting events which will include step dancing, bagpipe and violin contests and a tug-of-war. The classes have been extended this year, the show rings improved, better provision made for catering to visitors, and improvements effected in other directions. An added attraction will be the Prince Edward Island Regimental Band, which will be heard in selections during the afternoon.

Last year the Fair drew an attendance of some 5,000, and this year it is expected to break all past attendance records. The public support it has received is a fine tribute to the initiative of the management and sponsors, as well as to the people of King's County generally, with whom the idea of reviving the old-time plowing matches originated as a means of raising funds for war purposes. The Fair has now become a fixture in our calendar of summer events, combining old and new features which make it distinctly unique.

Steel For Tito

When the United States decided not long ago to sell a steel mill to Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia it marked a vital shift in its foreign policy in the Balkans. For the first time since the break between Communism and the West, notes the *Winnipeg Free Press*, a Communist country was given assistance which could be valuable militarily in the future. The United States obviously was assessing Yugoslavia as a Communist country which had broken with Mother Russia for good. Having negotiated a trade agreement with Britain, applied for a development loan from the World Bank and bought a steel mill in the United States, Tito seemed to be moving pretty rapidly out of the Communist into the western orbit.

This very fact undoubtedly stimulates the present Russian campaign to destroy Tito or compel him to accept the dictates of the Politburo. Tito, in fact, is getting entirely out of hand. The possibility of Yugoslavia falling, by peaceful or other means, under Russian control once more might well make the United States pause before shipping a steel mill to a country which might turn out to be an ally of Russia in time of trouble. However, the United States is taking no immediate risk. Fifteen months will be required to build the mill and a considerable time to erect it in Yugoslavia. Two years at least must pass before any steel will flow from it. By that time it should be possible to judge whether Yugoslavia is safely out of the clutches of Russia or not. Shipment of the mill can easily be cancelled if Tito cannot maintain his independence.

The fact that the United States is willing to help Yugoslavia to make steel shows how far it is ready to go in helping all refugees from behind the Iron Curtain. The next few weeks may show whether Tito is a sound investment.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Battle of Alma 1854.

* * *

The Quebec oyster delegation which visited us over the week-end evidently had a good time at Summerside, Malpeque and the city.

* * *

There is a likelihood of the new scallop industry being developed on a large commercial basis here due to the interest manifested by the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.

* * *

The Security Council temporarily takes a back seat to the 59-member U. N. General Assembly which convenes today at Flushing. It is safe to predict, however, that the veto power in the Security Council will be one of the warmer issues.

* * *

Having two sesions of Parliament in an election year, and consequntly double salary for re-elected members, is a sound enough proposition. They certainly work as hard as in any two ordinary years.

* * *

The *Ottawa Citizen* is perhaps too close to the houses of Parliament to have a proper respect for that august institution. Its suggestion that some good gags for use in debate would be in order strikes at the very root of parliamentary privilege.

* * *

The Lieut. Governor got quite a shock on learning his mother-in-law, Mrs. Chaisson, was in an auto accident at Sussex, N. B., but lost no time in rushing by auto to her relief. It is good to learn Mrs. Chaisson is recovering in Government House from the effect of the accident.

* * *

The efforts of *Saturday Night* to correct the English of the press deserve support. We contribute the suggestion that only the guilty party should be referred to as divorced, the innocent one having done the divorcing.

* * *

The large number of business failures this year reported by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics is not necessarily a bad sign. It is only necessary to compare provincial totals, Ontario 59, Nova Scotia 2, to realize that the number of failures also indicates the number of new enterprises that have been floated.

* * *

Ontario Agricultural Minister Kennedy was very much impressed by our agricultural and horticultural development here Mr. Kennedy is an extensive fruit-farmer in Ontario, and it was pleasant to our ears to have him declare that Mr. Reeves' 30 acres orchard at Southport "was as good as anything he had seen in his life."

* * *

The devaluation of the pound sterling by almost one-third means not only that Britain will be able to sell more cheaply in the United States and Canada but that Canadian goods will cost about one-third more in the United Kingdom—unless we drop our prices to meet sterling area competition.

* * *

Economy in railway passenger service is offered by Dutch-type Diesel-electric motor trains with some passenger and baggage space in the power car itself, according to an American study. A feature of the innovation is the placing of such power cars in the middle of a train with a remote control cab at the end. A train consisting of several power units and cars could be conveniently broken up at junctions.

* * *

Mungo Park, Scottish African explorer, born this date 1771; was sent by the African Association in 1795 to explore the Valley of the Niger; returning he settled as a surgeon in Peebles, Scotland. In 1805, the Association induced him to undertake a second West African expedition, on which he was drowned at Boursa. His publications are *Travels*, and *Journal of a Mission to the Interior*.

* * *

A commission named by the Norwegian Government to investigate the present liquor-control there recommended that the total net profit of the present State liquor monopoly be devoted en toto to social and community projects. These would be headed by a nation-wide educational campaign to promote sobriety, the launching of a chain of temperance restaurants, contributions to sports organizations, and support to organizations fighting tuberculosis and nervous diseases. As the commission's report puts it, "The over-all object is to make certain that alcohol does the least possible damage."

* * *

Here is enterprise which Canada could well emulate. Early in August, after considering a favorable report by Mr. Christian Pineau, Minister of Public Works, the French Council of Ministers gave its assent to the project of tunnelling a road through Mont Blanc. This tunnel, connecting Chamonix and Courmayeur, will be about eight miles long and twenty-three feet wide. It will cost 70 million Swiss francs and require a minimum of five years to complete. During the government debate the Minister of National Defence stated that, in any case, France should reserve the right to place defensive equipment on the French side of the tunnel.

* * *

A conscientious child anxious to "make sure," may get himself in for a lot of trouble. At Cleveleys, England, five-year-old Ian Fraser, on a holiday, stepped up to a letter box with a postcard for his father. Ian stood on tiptoe and pushed the card firmly through the slot. He couldn't get his arm out. Ian yelled. His mother came running. Bystanders came running. A policeman came. So did an ambulance, with a doctor. After an hour they called the Fire Brigade. The firemen prepared to cut away the metal front of the box. But first they decided to try greasing Ian's arm and easing it out. It worked. One firm pull and the lad was free. Then the postman, who had been waiting patiently, opened the box and collected Ian's card. It said: "Having a wonderful time. Wish you were here."

The Poet's Corner

THE BIRDS

A million years before Atlantis was
Our lark sprang from some hollow in the grass,
Some old soft hoof-print in a tussock's shade;
And the wood-pigeon's smooth white eggs were laid
High amid green pines' sunset-colored shafts,
And rooks their villages of twiggy rafts
Set on the tops of elms, where elms grew then,
And still the thumbling tit and perky wren
Popped through the tiny doors of cosy balls,
And the blackbird lined with moss his high-built walls;
A round mud cottage held the thrush's young,
And straws from the untidy sparrow's hung.
And, skimming forktailed in the evening air,
When man first was were not the martens there?
Did not those birds some human shelter crave,
And stow beneath the corner of his cave
Their dry tight cups of clay? And from each door
Peeped on a morning wiseheads three or four.

Yes, daw and owl, curlew and crested hern,
Kingfisher, mallard, water-rail and tern,
Chaffinch and greenfinch, wagtail, stonechat, ruff,
Whitethroat and robin, fly-catcher and chough,
Missel-thrush, magpie, sparrow-hawk and jay,
Built, those far ages gone, in this year's way.
And the first man who walked the cliffs of Rame,
As I this year, looked down and saw the same
Blotches of rusty red on ledge and cleft
With gray green spots on them, while right and left
A dizzying tangle of gulls were floating and flying
Wheeling and crossing and darting, crying and crying,
Circling and crying, over and over and over,
Crying with swoop and hover and fall and recover.
And below on a rock against the gray sea fretted,
Pipe-necked and stationary and silhouetted,
Cormorants stood in a wise, black, equal row
Above the nests and long blue eggs we know.

O delicate chain over all the ages stretched,
O dumb tradition from what far darkness fetched:
Each little architect with its one design
Perpetual, fixed and right in stuff and line,
Each little ministrant who knows one thing,
One learn-ed rite to celebrate the spring,
Whatever alters else on sea or shore,
These are unchanging: man must still explore.

—J .C. Squire.

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

THE PINETTE MILLS

"There are few of our readers who have not seen or heard of the Pinette Mills. Whoever has travelled that road must have been struck, on the sudden turn which takes place in the road, when the church and parsonage house suddenly burst on the view, and advancing still further, he finds the vale traversed by the placid stream of the Pinette. Between the crest of the acclivity which we speak of, and the church, are situated the Pinette Mills, about a hundred yards above where the bridge crosses the stream. A new grist mill and kiln have lately been erected by William Douse, Esq., agent for the Earl of Selkirk, which, in point of workmanship, are second to none in the Island.

"On Monday last, the dam, eighteen feet in height, gave way with a sudden crash, which alarmed the whole neighborhood. The materials of which it was composed were hurried down the stream with a velocity surpassing description, and how the bridge came to resist the shock can hardly be accounted for. The deprivation of such a useful mill was a calamity of no ordinary character; but we are happy to say, that the whole population, with a unanimity which does them credit, at once hurried out and were all busily engaged in repairing the damage, so that in a short time we may expect to hear that the mills will be in full operation."

—Colonial Herald, November 30, 1839.

The Age-Old Story

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age, they shall be fat and flourishing.

Chiropodist
For Foot Ailments
CONSULT
H. J. A. BROWN, D. P.
Orthopedic
143 Great George Street
CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

What Opportunities Offer ?

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CIVIC PENSION PLAN

Sir, — In an editorial comment in Monday's paper you state: "The City councillors are seemingly convinced in their own minds and pockets that it will be time enough to discover whether their civic pension plan is sound or otherwise when, and if, later a deficit occurs."

I submit that there is no "if" about it. That there will be a deficit is an absolute certainty. To determine the amount of this deficit would be an actuarial problem beyond the ability of the Council members. However, it is easy for anyone to see that it will be large.

This can be shown by simply employing a few well-known facts and figures. To illustrate: According to the proposed plan, a male employee who works for the city at a level salary of $100.00 monthly for 30 years would at age 65 be entitled to a monthly pension of $60.00 for life. Now to get this guarantee, there would have to be to his credit $8,378.00 (Dominion Government annuity figures).

But his annual contribution of $60.00 supplemented by a similar amount from the City if invested annually at 3% compound interest will accumulate to only $5,880.00 leaving a deficit of $2,498.00. This deficit would be less if the City can invest its funds at more than 3% compound interest or if our pensioners do not live as long as do people in other parts of the country.

But the proposed scheme goes further and guarantees 50% of the pensioner's pension to his widow for life.

To determine the extra required to set up this last survivorship annuity is a problem for an actuary as it involves the life expectancy of the widow as well as the man but anyone can see that it would necessitate a much larger amount than the straight annuity, so that the above mentioned deficit of $2,498.00 would be much greater.

Let us now take the case of the female employee earning the same salary viz $100.00 monthly. In 30 years there would be the same amount to her credit, viz., $5,880.00. But the female life expectancy is greater than the male and furthermore the proposed plan allows her to start her pension at age 60 so that she must have a much greater amount to her credit to guarantee the pension. The amount required according to the Dominion Government annuities is $11,160.00 which leaves a deficit of $5,280.00 to be made up by the City.

The above cases illustrate what the shortages will amount to when the salary remains constant throughout the 30 years of service.

In the natural course of events all employees will be receiving higher salaries at retirement than during the earlier years of service, thus making the deficit infinitely worse for the plan guarantees a pension equal to 60% of the average salary for the last three years.

I could continue pointing out the defects of the proposed scheme, but the above should be sufficient to show that there will be a huge deficit to be borne by the future taxpayer.

I am whole-heartedly in favour of a pension plan for our employees but I think it should be on a sound basis from the start or at least we should know to what extent we are obligating the tax payer of the future before we pass the act.

I am, Sir, etc.,
EDWIN C. JOHNSTONE

Churches Rising In Arctic Norway

(Exchange)

When the Germans applied the scorched-earth policy to force residents of Norway's two arctic provinces southward in late 1944, they paid special attention to churches, chapels, and meeting houses. Especially in Finnmark Province was their plan carried out so completely that not one of the fifteen district churches escaped the torch. In Nord Troms and Finnmark, 26 churches went up in flames. For a populace which lives close to its church, the problem of providing adequate places of worship in this bleak area has been second only to the task of restoring shelter and means of livelihood.

According to Kristian Hansson of the Norwegian Ministry of Church and Education, recently returned from a detailed study of church reconstruction in Finnmark, building of parsonages is far advanced and construction of permanent edifices is now under way. Until recently, the lot of the Arctic pastor has been a hard one. He has shared the problems of the "barrack era" which had to proceed the constructing of permanent homes in a leveled land. Hansson tells of pastors in Arctic outposts whose barrack homes were unequal to the winter cold-where young and old alike had to wear heavy winter clothing both indoors and out.

Where distances are long and roads few, the three "church boats" have proven to be a God-send. These were put into service shortly after liberation but have so adequately met one of the Arctic minister's chief problems that they will probably be retained indefinitely.

In many districts, towns and villages were so completely destroyed that they are not being rebuilt on the same sites. In these instances, the churches too must move. The parsonage in Kirkenes is now completed and construction of simlar structures in Alta, Honningsvaag, Talvik, Karasjok, and Maasoy is now under way. Permanent churches are now building in Olderdalen, Kjollefjord and Borselv. Cost of re-building churches and parsonages in these two northernmost provinces is set at over $4,000,000.

— Notes By The Way —

Gratitude is one of the sweetest flowers that grow in the human heart. It may bloom unseen, perhaps, but not unfelt, for where it grows it enriches. Gratitude is the acknowledgment of good, wherever and however it may come. It is that thought which feels another's kindness, is humble enough to accept it, warm enough to appreciate it responsive enough to give thanks. A flower, lifting its smiling face to the rain, teaches a lesson in gratitude. The bird, singing joyously from his perch on some bending bough, or the cavorting colt, or capering kitten—all these teach lessons in gratitude. They show what it is to be grateful for good received. Gratitude is a way of thinking. It is a habit of thought. It is that habit which looks for good, loves good and magnifies good so consistently that discord tends to lessen and existence assumes the harmony that it is meant to have.—Montreal Gazette.

There is always a howl from small visioned people about expenditures on national libraries, art galleries and such like things at the National Capital but if we are to have a Capital worth being proud of we must have something much better than what we have at present in a National Gallery and National Museum. That is not all. We need a National Library, too. One glimpse of the present Parliamentary Library is enough to prove that we are away behind the times. Actually the library is a disgrace to the country. Imagine trying to carry on in quarters that were intended for Canada's needs away back in 1867. These needs, when looked at from the higher viewpoint, are urgent but they won't be provided until our people have a broader national viewpoint. If we are to have a National Capital let it be one that we can talk about with pride. If we are to have a National Art Gallery let it be of a character that won't have to apologize. — Lethbridge Herald.

Speaking of men in the middle how would you like to be a member of Argentina's, or should it be Peron's Chamber of Deputies? Those poor chaps, it would seem have to look at least four ways for Sunday. Their latest misfortune is to find themselves caught in a crossfire between President Juan Peron and his ex-movie queen wife, Eva, who is playing a sort of female Robin Hood role in the Peron set-up. While Juan dictates but definitely, Eva promotes social aid projects on the same scale upon which she tries to do everything, but big.. Argentina cannot be said to be unanimous for Eva, by any means, but she does have a very considerable and a very earnest following which she attracts and holds in diverse ways. A woman of pronounced personal magnetism, she still charms many of them into her train. Most of them, of course, come in from social aid sources. When all else fails she can be a very effective head hunter. This latter characteristic makes it tough for deputies who are "elected" the way they are down there, when confronted by a situation such as at present obtains. For President Juan has just vetoed a bill recently passed by Congress aimed at pleasing the boss's wife by granting a credit of 70,000,000 pesos to the social aid organization run by Eva. The bill could become law still if the Chamber of Deputies overrode the veto by a two-thirds vote. But the Peronistas, President Juan's party, hold a two-thirds majority in the chamber. Now what to do, what to do? And some of our members of Parliament think they have problems!—Montreal Gazette.

In The Midst of SUCCESS
You May Suffer DISASTER

Although you cannot stop the windstorm, or the lightning or the earthquake, or always the fire, you can erect an economic wall by means of Insurance.

A lifetime of gathering and saving may disappear in a few minutes. Why take chances?

The only sure safeguard is adequate Insurance, including Supplemental Covers. Consult our Agents, or write or call on

HYNDMAN & CO. LIMITED

Insurance Since 1872

Offices: Charlottetown — Summerside — Montague

ALLISON P. McLEAN—District Manager at Summerside.
CYRUS A. R. SHAW—District Manager at Montague.

Agents throughout the Province

FALL SAMPLES HAVE ARRIVED
FROM OUR MADE-TO-MEASURE FIRMS
ORDER YOUR SUIT, TOPCOAT or OVERCOAT NOW
AND ENSURE EARLY DELIVERY
J. P. MacPherson & Son
Queen St. Charlottetown

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Joseph R. MacMillan, LL.B.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc.
75 Queen Street
PHONE 776
Money to Loan Collections

Dr. J. C. Gallant, B. Sc.
DENTIST
Pickard Building
151 Great George St
DENTAL X-RAY
Phone 2667

Matheson & Peake
A. W. MATHESON, K.C.
A. H. PEAKE, B.A., LL.B.
Barristers, etc.
Collections - Money to Loan
90 Great George Street
Charlottetown

Gaudet & Hazard
Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries, Etc.
Canadian Bank of Commerce Bldg.
MONEY TO LOAN
GILBERT A. GAUDET, B.A., LL.B.
Canadian Bank of Commerce Bldg.

A. Walthen Gaudet, LL.B.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc.
Phillips Building
111 Grafton Street
Money to Loan Collections

MacPhee & Trainor
H. F. MacPHEE, B.A., K.C.
E. SOMERLED TRAINOR, B.A.
Barristers, Etc.
Riley Bldg. Ch'town.

M. Alban Farmer
MONEY TO LOAN
B.A., LL.B.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc.
Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Dr. A. L. MacIsaac
DENTIST
Dental X-Ray
Whelan Building, Room 4
175 Grafton Street
Phone 291

NEIL W. HIGGINS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Currie Building
CHARLOTTETOWN
Tel. 1636 P.O. Box 452

J. E. Burnett, LL.B.
Barrister, Solicitor, &c.
ODDFELLOWS BUILDING
134 Richmond Street
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Box 414 Tel. 2380

MORRELL AND COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Eastern Trust Building
Charlottetown
Phone 1447 Box 344

Bell & Mathieson
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, &c.
R. R. BELL, M.L.A.
D. L. MATHIESON, LL.B., K.C.
Attorneys at Law
LOANS ON CITY AND FARM PROPERTIES
150 Richmond St.
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Palmer & Haslam
A. J. HASLAM, B.A., LL.B.
Barrister, Etc.
Bank of Nova Scotia Chambers
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
MONEY TO LOAN

Dr. W. R. Carson
Chiropractor
Palmer Graduate
CHARLOTTETOWN
201 Prince St. Phone 16

J. A. McGuigan
NOTARY, ETC.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR,
CURRIE BUILDING

Frederic A. Large, K.C
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY
Royal Bank of Canada Chambers
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Successor
George J. Tweedy, K.C.

J. S. TAYLOR
Optometrist
Eyes examined, glasses fitted.
Corner Kent & Queen Sts.
Office Phone 1956—House 1013

Chas. R. McQuaid
B.A.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY, Etc.,
Eastern Trust Building
CHARLOTTETOWN
Phone 1711

H. R. DOANE and COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
OFFICES—
Halifax
Charlottetown
Toronto
New Glasgow
Truro
Kentville
IN CHARLOTTETOWN
53 Grafton St.
Phone 2080 Box 247
RANDOLPH W. MANNING, C. A.