THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1946

Another Nuisance Tax

There is much disapproval of the Jones Government's new tax on skating rink patrons. It is certainly a discriminatory tax, as it hits parents with large families, who already are being mulcted through Federal and Provincial taxes to an extortionate degree. It is also a peculiarly obnoxious form of nuisance tax, without the merit of having a precedent, and its sudden imposition by order-in-council—out of a clear New Year's sky, so to speak—has caused almost as much surprise as it has annoyance.

There was no indication at the last session of the Legislature that the Government had any intention imposing new taxes. Indeed, it is doubtful if any such suggestion would have carried even among Government supporters. Premier Jones himself, in the very brief reference he made to finances in the Budget debate, stated that "during the coming year a particular study will be made, and by next year this Government will have to make a clear-cut statement as to whether expenditures will have to be curtailed, or show where more revenue is coming from." The implication was that the Government's policy would be presented to the House at the next session, in the form of a "clear-cut statement." Why then the unseemly haste in imposing a new tax, just a few weeks before the Legislature is due to meet?

Moreover, at present Dominion-Provincial financial arrangements are quite uncertain, pending the outcome of the conference at Ottawa which has been dragging along since last October. Why impose new provincial taxes at this stage? Premier Jones informed the Conference in November that we were already being taxed out of all proportion to our earning capacity. Now he has added another tax burden, without so much as a "by your leave" to the Legislature, or waiting to hear what the outcome of his negotiations with the Dominion Government will be.

The Government, it is true, is in a hole financially. The estimated deficit for the current fiscal year is some $400,000, which, if recent Liberal precedent is followed, will likely reach double that amount. That is serious enough, in all conscience, but Government members did not seem to be unduly alarmed about it last session. Nobody but the Opposition suggested that they should economize; and certainly, there has been no evidence since of any undue leaning in that direction.

On the contrary, it is reported that in addition to the appointment in recent months of numerous new officials, the Government has raised salaries of employees all along the line. This was a nice Christmas present and well deserved in most cases; but if it is to be financed at the expense of the skating public there will be a good deal of explaining to do. The electors may well ask: Is this what Plank No. 6 in the Liberal election platform of 1943 meant, which pledged the Jones Government to pursue "a vigorous policy" in promoting health and physical fitness?

There is another thing to be remembered. The deficit this year was calculated on the assumption that the Government would have a reduction of $75,000 in liquor sales Just how Hon. Mr. Hughes, the Provincial Treasurer, figured that out he did not say; but such was the estimate. It is safe to say that instead of a $75,000 reduction, there will be at least a $100,000 increase in sales, judging by the stampede for scripts and the crowded appearance of the vendor's stores since the new liquor law was proclaimed.

It is not the youngsters, of course, who will pay this skating tax; it is the same family breadwinners who already are paying the other taxes, Federal and Provincial, and who, collectively and individually, have just about reached their limit. The Jones Government shows poor psychology in goading a jaded horse.

General Weeks' Promotion

Prince Edward Islanders are proud of the success achieved by Major General Weeks, C.B., C.B.E., M.C. and Bar, M.M. and Bar, of Charlottetown, in his appointment to the post of Adjutant General—"the biggest administrative job in the Canadian Army". General Weeks won his promotions the hard way, enlisting as a Private with the local Signallers at the outbreak of World War I, going overseas with the First Canadian Contingent and receiving his decorations and his Commission on the field. He joined the permanent force after the war, and served in various parts of Canada before his big opportunity came, with the outbreak of World War II, of showing outstanding ability as a Staff officer. Since commanding the 1st Corps Signals C.A.S.F. in 1939 he has filled one responsible wartime position after another, evidently to the complete satisfaction of his superiors, his last job being the planning of Canada's interim force and peacetime permanent army.

It is fitting that the Province which contributed the largest per capita enlistments in the war should also contribute to the country's top-ranking Army staff. In addition to General Weeks we have Major General D. E. Dewar, of Montague Reconstruction Department representative in London who is to be associated with Lieutenant General Maurice Pope (son of a Prince Edward Islander and grandson of an Island Father of Confederation) at the very important preliminary Reparations Conference to be held early this year in Paris.

Coming London Conference

The importance of the first meeting of the United Nations Organization in London next month is being recognized by Canada in the strength of its delegation. Mr. St. Laurent, the Minister of Justice, is its chairman. Messrs. J. G. Gardiner and Paul Martin will be the other cabinet ministers in attendance, flanked by a powerful group of public servants.

The meeting will be of the utmost importance. This is the beginning of the new league on which the ultimate hopes of humanity rest. The Charter is less than a year old. It is now to go into active operation and the plans and treaties which are now being drawn up by the peace-makers will be gradually, and over the years, merged into the general work of the U. N. O. Obvious care is being taken, as these immediate steps proceed, not to relegate the U. N. O. to a sphere of genial uselessness. The successive conferences that have been held—notably that at Moscow this month—have on the other hand emphasized the vital role the U.N.O. will play.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

The Jones Government is getting back to the Bell Government formula of taxing everything tangible and intangible.

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The more people housed in the vicinity of Charlottetown the better for its trade and taxpayers alike. You must spend money to get money.

* * * *

Just think of it! Elaborate precautions are deemed necessary at Truro and Debert to prevent 3,000 German prisoners escaping en route to their homeland. Evidently many of them don't want to go home, and would prefer to remain as citizens where they have been as prisoners.

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The Bishop of Birmingham, Dr. E. W. Barnes, known for his advanced socialistic views, urges state supervision of movies. "It is unwise to leave in private control an instrument so powerful in moulding the minds of the people," he said.

* * * *

Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham, Admiral of the Fleet, G.C.B., D.S.O., born this date 1883; educated at Edinburgh Academy and H. M. S. Britannia, entering the Navy in 1898; was head of the British Naval delegation in Washington in 1942; Commander-in-Chief of British and U. S. Naval units in North Africa and Mediterranean in 1942-3 First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff 1943-4.

* * * *

Evidently the Provincial Government believes that it has ample justification in taking with the left hand what it gives with the right. It has sponsored an elaborate scheme for the development of physical fitness, and now turns around and demands that the boys and girls, or their parents, pay a tax for the privilege, on the ground that "money is plentiful at the present time." On the same ground the Government could demand payment for its "X"-ray and similar health services.

* * * *

The British Minister of Labor, Mr. George Isaacs, speaking at Aberdeen on Britain's building apprenticeship scheme, said: "This is the lifeblood of the industry and it has been whole-heartedly accepted by the industry." He urged the importance of attracting the best types of youth into building as a career. Rapid training on a large-scale will be necessary during the next four or five years There is no industry offering a more promising and successful future than that of building craftsmanship.

* * * *

Canada's death rate from tuberculosis has fallen 75 per cent in the past fifty years. The 50th anniversary of the discovery of the X-ray is being observed this year. The X-ray was discovered by Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen Nov. 8, 1895. It is now universally used in the diagnosis of tuberculosis. Tuberculosis was the cause of the rejection of approximately 15,000 men and women for military service in World War II. The fact they had the disease in one form or another was revealed by X-ray examinations.

* * * *

Not many here personally knew the late Lt.-Col. R. F. Parkinson, D.S.O., managing director of the *Ottawa Journal*, but it is due in no small measure to him that our subscribers and readers generally are not paying more for their paper The Post Office Department at one time decided to increase the postage rate on newspapers, which would practically have ruled out two cent dailies from the use of the mails. The Guardian fought the matter, enlisting the sympathy and support of Col. Parkinson, who was chairman of the Canadian Daily Newspaper Association's Postal and Parliamentary Committee. The upshot was that the proposed increase was never made effective.

* * * *

The British Ministry of Education has prepared extensive plans to bring the youth of France and Britain closer to each other. The new Minister of Education, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, favours two special schemes. The first is to encourage boys and girls in both countries to link up by exchange of correspondence and to get to know each others interests and hobbies. The second scheme provides for the pairing-off of schools with the same background and interests; for example, a school in a British seaport would be linked with one in a French seaport, mining area with mining area, and so on. Plans for this encouragement of friendship with France are to be forwarded to the French Ministry of Education as soon as possible. Miss Ellen Wilkinson considers that the friendships encouraged between the schoolchildren of both countries may well continue after the pupils have left school. Both schemes include the interchange of holiday visits and of teachers in both countries.

Notes By The Way

Certainly some women will go back to the kitchen after the war. No man ever raved over a girl's wonderful riveting. — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

Holland is to purchase a whaling fleet of six vessels from the United Kingdom. A Swedish tanker will also be bought for conversion to a factory ship. The fleet will be operated by a government-supported company with a capital of about £1,100,000. Purpose of the scheme is to make Holland self-supporting in fats.

The United States should take into the reckoning of our own national interests that England is the greatest single customer of our agriculture. We should remember that England with her large import market for goods from other countries helps make much of the world into a good market for us. The United States will not get along in a world that is economically unhealthy. We should appreciate that, having been economically about the most depressed part of the world in almost all of the 1930's. True, our difficulties were not the kind that could have been mended by aid from overseas. But today it is the kind of aid Britain needs. It is the kind of aid we are especially able to give. — Minneapolis Star Journal.

The London "Union of Ceylon Tea Planters" have recently received the first "tea tablets" which should considerably simplify and cheapen the production of tea, The Cornwall Standard-Freeholder reports. They are the result of a process based on long years of experiments carried out by the "Ceylon Tea Research, Institute," which reduces the time required in producing tea from 24 hours to two hours. By means of this process—known as "P.F.T."—the tea is made into compressed tablets, which saves shipping space. The tablet-form tea is also about 50 percent stronger than tea in its present form, and allows for a reduction in price. The London organization is now going to undertake further tests and experiments with the tea tablets.

Children at 50 Glasgow elementary (primary) schools, who just before the war were relieved of homework, are "night swotting" again. The City Education committee believes that lack of homework is associated with increased juvenile delinquency. "Bad boy" offences in Glasgow have jumped since elementary homework was abandoned. About one-fifth of the city's elementary school system, representing children from mixed prosperous and poorer-class families, are to be "guinea pigs." They go back to homework so that education experts can observe the effect on juvenile crime. They will do it three nights each week for half an hour.—London Daily Mail.

Field Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery—Monty to every British soldier—told St. Andrews University students: "Napoleon and Cromwell, and, very possibly, Moses, too, were known to their men by nicknames, and used this familiarity to help their purpose." He instanced Moses as one of the world's greatest military leaders. "Note his refusal ever to risk any failure in action. He had an unbroken record of military successes. "He had the wisdom and insight into human nature to realize that the best way for a leader to gain the confidence of his soldiers is to give them victories." Footnote 1: Napoleon was called the Little Corporal after the Battle of Lodi 1796, because he was 5 feet 2 inches, young and courageous. Footnote 2: Cromwell was called Old Noll, Noll being a contraction for Oliver. Footnote 3: Moses—the name means "Drawn from the water"—was called familiarly by his peple "Meekest of All Men."—London Express.

Down in Indianapolis, a rubber company's research director foresees the day when the cow will get a good night's rest on a sponge rubber mattress, notes The Regina Leader-Post. He adds that if "Bossy," the cow, were to get a rubber mattress for rest, it would be reflected in increased milk production. This, of course, is merely a prophecy so far. But the way progress gallops these days, there's no telling but that the dairy cow is destined for more comfortable days. Once the rubber mattress has been introduced, there may be a monogrammed pillow. And hot and cold showers in every stall. Did we say stall? Why, the day may even come when "Bossy" will have a step-ladder and she will nightly mount grandly to a four-poster, rubber-mattressed bed, with soft music, and an alarm clock set for 5 a. m. Of course, at this stage, with all the cantankerousness of progress in the animal world (man included), "Bossy" will simply stop giving milk. And doubtless, after all the money and care he has invested, the farmer-owner will then be too soft-hearted to dispose of "Bossy" to a packing plant. Instead she will go on pension as a household pet.

When the first snow has fallen, the country boy goes out in the fields and woods and studies Nature's reader, a pleasant occupation with no scholastic restrictions or threats of examinations to come. In the soft, new powder are printed the characters he converts into stories, the stories of the little wild folk of the woods and what they did the night before, how they sought their food, sometimes even how they came to a tragic end, says The Boston Herald. Unless you, too, have studied this reader, you would be surprised how much print it contains, how many stories it tells, even perhaps in your suburban dooryard. The country boy quickly picks up the track of a rabbit, and sees the patches of shining wood where it has nibbled the bark off some apple tree slash in the orchard. He follows the track till he comes to a spot where the leaps grow longer and the larger hind feet go out ahead each time. The animal was startled and put on speed, his strong hind legs swinging forward for the next leap. What startled him? Who can say? But it might have been the fox who walked over this stretch of pasture. The boy knows it was a fox because the paw marks are evenly aligned like a row of dots. This fox was going quietly along with a definite objective, and the boy notes how straight a line his tracks make across the pasture, as if ruled. He tries to see how straight he can walk, and is surprised to discover his tracks wobble. He tries fixing his eyes on a distant object and not looking at his feet at all. Now he can progress almost as straight as the fox—but not quite, and not for long.

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.

P.O. THANKS

Sir,—While Christmas is always the busiest time of year for the Post Office, December 1945 brought an all-time high in Christmas mailings.

With Postal employees assured of spending Christmas Day at home, "Early Mailing" of gifts and greetings was most important to ensure delivery by the holiday. That this need was widely recognized is evident from the reports received from Postmasters throughout the country that, despite the increased volume, Christmas mails were cleared by December 24th. Transporting, separating, sorting and delivering millions of gifts and greetings during the brief pre-Christmas season is no mean task, and it was only due to the favourable response of the public and the tireless efforts of thousands of Postal employees that Christmas mails were delivered on time this year.

I am writing to express personally, and on behalf of Postal employees generally, sincere thanks to the newspapers, to business men, radio stations and the general public for their thoughtful co-operation.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. J. TURNBULL,
Deputy Postmaster General.

Our Men In Germany

("I.N.S." in the Ottawa Journal)

Between 20,000 and 25,000 Canadian troops spent this Christmas in Germany. They are the Canadian Army Occupation Force. It is the purpose of this article to set forth what they are doing, why and where they are doing it, under what conditions and for how long.

When the Allies decided Britain, Russia, France and the United States would divide Germany into four sections for military occupation, Canada was asked to provide one augmented and self-sustaining division of troops to serve in the British section, under Montgomery.

Canada was allotted a piece of Northwest Germany, roughly 80 miles square. It runs along the North Sea from Emden to Wilhelmshaven and inland to Bremen and Oldenburg.

Canada is committed to provide this force at least until March 31, 1946. But occupation may well go much longer. As yet no Belgian or Dutch troops are used for this purpose. Possibly Canadians will be relieved of this duty by troops of these countries before Allied occupation of Germany is discontinued. The Canadian troops hope so—but speculation is dangerous.

* * *

The Canadian troops, under Major General "Chris" Vokes, are in that piece of Germany to see that the will of Field Marshal Montgomery is enforced. Their main problem is to ensure continued good order.

There is a kind of German civilian government, aided by a German police force. But it is up to occupation troops to see that the rules and regulations of civilian government and police force are carried out. The government and police force, of course, operate under supreme orders of the Allied Control Council.

Canadian troops are the only occupation troops in this area. They live in barracks, most of them in the city of Oldenburg. In day and night shifts they mount guard over power plants, bridges, important industries and offices, food distribution points, stations, hospitals. They are always armed.

Canadian troops do not act as police. They do not patrol streets with rifles over their shoulders. German police do these jobs. But if the local police fail in their job, or if trouble is anticipated, a unit of Canadian troops rushes to the scene in strength. They do not go out alone.

One of the most delicate problems is the care of the vast and tragic number of displaced persons. If these people feel their suffering too much they may make trouble. And whether they make trouble with German authorities or with Canadian troops it is all one parcel of grief to the Occupation Force. Displaced persons, lack of housing, food shortage, fuel shortage, epidemics — there is no lack of danger in such a combination.

Another big task is proper distribution of food and fuel. Communications are still badly disrupted. Canadian troops don't actually transport these things but they see that they arrive where the need is greatest. It is their task, too, to see to the clearance of blocked transport lines, delayed deliveries, storage confusion.

Main trouble with the life of an occupation soldier is that it is dull. He is fed well, twice the calories of the civilian population he is caring for. But his food is not exciting. He is given education and sports programs to occupy his spare time. Concerts and other forms of entertainments are laid on fairly regularly. Leave is arranged to England, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam. But—his job is dull.

Still, reports that American troops are getting out of hand—notably in France—do not seem to have parallel situations with Canadian troops. Authorities I talked to here this week—some just back—say there has been "no trouble."

Discipline is good, they say. There has been fraternization to some extent — for the biological urge is fundamental. But by and large Canadian troops in Germany have cared for themselves and their duties in fine fashion.

Army leave centres in continental cities and in England make it possible for the Canadian soldier to get along on his regular pay. Otherwise European prices are fantastic. However, the soldier with a chocolate bar or a cigarette is said to be in a position to state his wishes and sit back and wait.

* * *

Troops for this Occupation Force were chosen first of all by their own selection. After Germany fell, questionnaires were sent out asking overseas troops if they wanted to (a) go to the Pacific, (b) remain in Germany, (c) get out of the army. Not quite one-third of the required 25,000 volunteered to remain in Germany.

The force was then built up by officers and men whose particular training or ability especially suited them to occupation work. Cooks, for example, were scarce. So, many cooks with high point scores that would otherwise have brought them home were obliged to remain with the Occupation Force. Likewise with trained officers, clerks, personnel speaking German. But there is a gradual replacing of all personnel that want to come home, as soon as substitutes can be found for them, here or in England.

* * *

In Germany, it is said, you do not hear the term "Zombie" or the letters N.R.M.A. They are not indentifiable as such in any way. They are not selected as such. Because many N. R. M. A. men had low point scores, however, a good proportion of the Occupation Force is made up of them.

No attempt was made to compose the Occupation Force of complete units, nor to have it represent regions or provinces on a relative scale. There were just two considerations in making up this force: (1) low pointers, (2) indispensables.

Actually there are not quite 25,000 in the Force right now. But as the repatriation of the Canadian Army in England proceeds there will be troops transferred from the repat machine — men who have been running the repatriation job—to bring the Occupation Force to its establishment. They will be mostly low pointers.

This Occupation Force in Germany is quite distinct from the general pool of Canadian troops overseas awaiting transport home. Most of the latter are in England, some still in Holland. By the 15th of January the pool in Holland will be moved out. By the end of January only 60,000 Canadian troops will be overseas; 25,000 in the German Occupation Force and 35,000 awaiting ships in England.

* * *

It is wise to avoid speculation on how long our troops will remain in Germany. But for the anxious and curious here are some thoughts. The Canadian Government once stated that no soldier would be kept in Germany on the Occupation Force more than two years. On the other hand the expiry date of the present commitment is March 31. Army officials have three plans in their desk: (a) what to do if the force is moved out March 31; (b) what to do if it is to stay a year; (c) what to do if it is to stay longer than a year.

The decision is not yet made. It is not a matter of Army policy but of Government policy. Indeed, it is international policy. In the meantime, Canadians are spending Christmas in Germany. Maybe this story will remind us to give them a toast of good cheer and good luck.

17-YEAR MONOPOLY

A patent gives an inventor or his heirs the exclusive right to make, use and sell his invention for 17 years.

The Poet's Corner

WANDER-THIRST

Beyond the East the sunrise, beyond the West the sea,
And the East and West the wanderthirst that will not let me be;
It works in me like madness, dear, to bid me say good-bye;
For the seasons call and the stars call, and oh! the call of the sky!

I know not where the white road runs, nor what the blue hills are,
But a man can have the sun for friend, and for his guide a star;
And there's no end of voyaging when once the voice is heard,
For the river calls and the road calls, and oh! the call of a bird!

Yonder the long horizon lies, and there by night and day
The old ships draw to home again, the young ships sail away;
And come I may, but go I must, and, if men ask you why,
You may put the blame on the stars and the sun and the white road and the sky.

—Gerald Gould, in The Victoria Colonist.

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