

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink." WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1947

Britain's Agricultural Plan

Great Britain's agricultural plan calls for an increase of 20 per cent in farm production by the year 1951-52. This plan is called by the London Economist "the most positive and also the most far-reaching item in the government's hastily assembled rag-bag of policy and expedient to meet the economic crisis."

So fundamental is this decision, the Economist believes, that the consumer must now weigh the cost of it in terms of his grocery bills. On the surface it may appear that \$400,000,000 of imported food will simply be replaced by \$400,000,000 of food grown in Britain.

Before the war, in terms of present prices, the net output of British agriculture was about \$1.6 billions, the Economist calculates. That is the value of the produce sold off farms after allowance for the cost of imported feeding stuffs.

The question which the consumer must now consider is what this extra home-grown food will cost him. The Economist believes that on the basis of present high world prices it may be no more expensive to grow additional food in Britain than to import it.

The experience of the war, says the Economist, showed that to secure a given increase in farm output, a far greater relative increase in direct costs and inducements to the farmers was required. Thus between 1937 and 1938 farm output rose rather more than a quarter but the increase in total farm costs was about 90 per cent, farm wages being doubled in this period.

A Timely Report

The National Planning Association of the United States has turned its attention, in its latest report, to the question of United States aid to Western Europe. The report, signed by some of the most distinguished businessmen, professors, farm leaders and labor union leaders in the United States, declares on the basis of its own studies that Western European countries, without American aid "will fall prey to communism and dictatorship."

Three arguments, the report notes, are used against such aid from the United States. The first is that it cannot be afforded. But the report replies "that we can afford anything better" than to allow Western Europe, in deepening distress, to collapse, for this would "plunge the world into economic and political turmoil, and would threaten the well-being of our people and the integrity of our institutions."

The second argument is that American goods shipped to Europe increase inflationary pressures at home. The report argues that the American economy already has undertaken this drain on its goods, and a sufficient programme of aid would not increase inflationary dangers.

The third argument is that American aid would strengthen socialist government in Europe. To this the report replies: "The socialist experiment in Western Europe, unlike communism in practice, has involved no infringement upon the civil liberties of the individual. This, from the American point of view, is of supreme importance. Our primary concern should be whether individual liberty is in fact protected, and not whether it finds expression under any particular pattern of economic life. If it is to be protected in any nation, that nation falls

within the area of freedom which, for the preservation of our own liberties, we are called upon more insistently than ever before to defend."

The National Planning Association, because it has no private interest to serve, and because it is composed of men from every political party and class in the American community, has a powerful effect on the nation's opinion and even on the decisions of Congress. Its present advice on foreign economic policy comes at a critical time, and may have far-reaching effect.

EDITORIAL NOTES

New Brunswick is now about the snobbiest province in the Dominion, with its belted knights and millionaire peers.

So the fuel utility order-in-council did not work—nobody but the Premier thought it would—and has been quietly rescinded.

An election must be imminent when Ottawa announces "another large surplus", and consequent presumably a reduction in Federal taxes.

It would be rather awkward were the Provincial civil service to go on strike. This is a matter the Liberal M.L.A.'s may have to consider at their caucus tomorrow.

The exchange of refugees between Hindu India and Moslem Pakistan is expected to reach a total of 4,000,000 persons, one of the great migrations of all times.

The P. E. I. government has contributed \$100 towards the \$129,000 wanted to send Canadian athletes to the Olympics. The association must have contacted the wrong people.

The present Greek government has continued the traditional practice of deporting dangerous political opponents to the island of Icaria. There are now about 11,000 such exiles, chiefly communists, on that Aegean island off the coast of Turkey.

A visitor from Oregon was highly impressed by the fine flavor of the Island food which he attributed to iron oxides in our red soil. Islanders are well aware that food tastes better over here, but for the most part have been inclined to give the credit to the company in which it is eaten.

Sir A. P. Herbert, M. P., humorist and novelist, born this date 1890; educated at Winchester and Oxford, called to the bar, Inner Temple in 1918, but never practised, joined Punch staff 1924, after serving with the Royal Naval Brigade; known as the parliamentary joker, he creates an immense amount of political fun both inside and outside of the House; has an extensive list of works to his credit, including Misleading Cases, The Trials of Topsy, Topsy M.P., Honeybottle & Co., More Misleading Cases, Tattive Towers, Derby Day, Mother of Pearl: "A highbrow is the kind of person who looks at a sausage and thinks of Picasso."

Vast plans for the reorganization and re-equipment of Britain's coal industry will be ready for implementation by the end of this year. This was announced recently by Lord Hyndley, the chairman of the National Coal Board. The programme involves a major plan for each of the Board's 49 areas, costing from \$3,200,000 to \$16,000,000 for one operation alone. It will entail the re-organization of pits, new equipment, perhaps the grouping of pits, and the introduction of the latest methods of improving production. Although the complete operation of this reconstruction programme will take several years, it is expected that substantial benefits will begin to accrue in the next year or two.

Mr. C. R. Hewitt, a former Chief Inspector of the City of London Police, speaking over the BBC about the increase in crime and juvenile delinquents in Britain during the post war years said: "The modern urge to dramatise all the news has turned the gang leaders—the master mind—into something like a psychological necessity to the sensational loving part of the public, and he has to be invented. Outside the theatre and the cinema I never met one of these Napoleons of Crime. There's always been controversy about the causes of crime, but temptation and opportunity must come at the top of any list. Public carelessness is the greatest enemy of the police. Not long ago some thousands of pounds worth of jewellery were stolen—recovered by the police; restored to the owner, and then, left by him all night in a car parked in the open. What can the police do against that?"

Believers in telepathy are receiving confirmation in their conviction from an unusual quarter, viz., the medical profession. Carnicerito, the Mexican bullfighter who died the other day after being gored by a bull in Lisbon, really "was killed by telepathy" when his hero, Manolete, the famed Spanish bullfighter, died of similar injuries Aug. 29 in Cordoba, Spain. Dr. Santos Freitas, famous Portuguese psychiatrist told his colleagues. Physicians at the Villa Vicosa Hospital where Carnicerito—"Little Butcher"—died said he had a wound 10 inches long and five inches deep. Dr. Freitas, who has made exhaustive studies of the mental effects of the deaths of great men on their followers and admirers, explained he believed the Mexican bullfighter's injuries, inflicted in a bull ring Sunday, "were the instrument only of his material death." The psychiatrist said he felt that Carnicerito and Manolete were so closely identified with one another that when the Spaniard died of bull-ring injuries the telepathic effect was such that the Mexican was satisfied to die in as much the same way as

Notes By The Way

A noiseless bag for popcorn will have to do as a stopgap, until Nature evolves a breed of movie-goers who eats meals at home. —Winnipeg Tribune.

We are still quite unable to make sense of the customs regulation which requires the destruction of seized cigarettes when they might be put to excellent service in veterans' hospitals and similar institutions. —Brookville Recorder and Times.

Boats will soon be built which will be entirely out of water at high speeds. Model tests of such designs have been undertaken at the experimental towing tank at Stevens Institute of Technology by Dr. Kenneth S. M. Davidson. The boats that are to skim over water have hydrofoils or surfaces that act much as wings do in the air-plane. Because the lift-drag ratio of the foils is higher than that of a conventional semi-planing hull they offer the possibility of attaining, with the same power, higher speeds than are possible with conventional designs.

When two young women opened a barbershop in Toronto the other day crowds collected on the sidewalk outside to peer through the windows at the feminine tonsorial artists and their customers. Toronto news reports spoke of "courageous" men who patronized the pair. This men only goes to show that Toronto has lost one of their self-confidence and independence of mind. For many years, women barbers have successfully plied their trade in other Canadian cities, and are regarded neither with curiosity nor trepidation. But so far as Toronto is concerned, if anything happens in Toronto before it's a world premiere. Happenings elsewhere don't count.—Windsor Star.

The Dutch elm disease was first observed in The Netherlands since 1918 it has killed literally thousands of the great elms in Europe, says The Atlantic Monthly. The disease is carried by the bark beetle that invades weakened or damaged small branches commonly in crochets. The young beetles develop from the egg stage in the dying tree, and when aided by a favourable wind they have been known to travel several miles, as at least two miles. Stop the beetle and you stop the spread of the disease. For this, DDT, while not infallible, is the best weapon at hand. Naturally, you do away with every infected elm regardless of its age or former beauty. For too many towns this has been a desperate remedy.

A big covered bridge burned in New Brunswick the other day, which is a pity, because it will probably be replaced but not by a new covered bridge, comments The New Glasgow News. Covered bridges are a relic of earlier days, quaint and dearly beloved by tourists. Many a Yank has pulled out kodak with zeal on spotting bridges to show his snapshots to his friends. It is hard to beat in building up the tourist trade. So it brings up the theme of why haven't the bridges of provincial governments put up a few more covered bridges? There isn't any reason why they can't be built as wide as highway requirements call for, because the barklike exterior is only involved at the base for a few, would not be large. We believe they would pay fine dividends in bringing in more visitors.

It is the shocking truth that during the first six months of this year 80 people a day have been killed by the nation's automobiles. These are official statistics of the national safety council. The fact that this is an improvement over last year, when with 11 per cent less traffic, deaths were 92 a day, is small and bitter consolation to find in a situation which need not exist, but which largely through carelessness amounts to a national disaster. In 1946, 44,420 had occurred at once in the same place the nation would be horrified traffic deaths of the last six months and shocked into really doing something about it. Last March a mine accident in Centralia, Ill., caused the country's miners to go into a period of national mourning. The dead numbered 111, the toll of a day and a half of motor accidents. In April an explosion at Texas City was headlined throughout the world; about five hundred people lost their lives, a smaller number than those killed in a week of driving. —New York Herald Tribune.

Debate a Lake Success regarding the International Conference on Freedom of Information to be held next March at Geneva illustrates one of the world's greatest needs—a dictionary in which words have definitions which will be universally accepted. Russian insistence that the conference be committed in advance to a fight against fascism turned discussion to differences in interpretations of that word. Now such words as "Fascism", "Communist" and "Democracy" depend for their meanings on where the user happens to be standing. If he is at the extreme left, all to his right are fascists. If, on the other hand, he is at the extreme right, all others are communists. Behind an iron curtain, democracy means government of the people. In front of it, the word involves government by the people. Short of Utopia it is doubtful whether a dictionary which might change this can be compiled. —New York Sun.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

EXIT BANK OF CANADA

Sir,—I was amazed when I read in Saturday's Guardian that the office of the Bank of Canada in Charlottetown was to cease functioning in the province on the 30th of this month; and dumbfounded, when further reading revealed the fact that this course was being pursued because it was being ousted from its tenancy by the Provincial Government, upon the flimsy excuse that the latter required the space occupied by the Bank for provincial tax office purposes.

We have already, in many instances, been subjected to a variety of similar indignities, imposed upon us by Federal authority and over our most vigorous provincial protests at that; but I doubt if ever before in the history of the Province has this occurred under and by virtue of misguided pressure of a Provincial Government.

Who is responsible for this latest atrocity against our status as a Province? Has it been done with the full knowledge and consent of the Executive Council? If not, action should be immediately taken by that responsible body, to whom the welfare of the Province has been entrusted for a season, to preserve our equality with other Provinces in this and other respects, at any cost.

As leader of His Majesty's loyal Opposition in the Legislature, although now in recess, I protest to this humiliating humiliation that is now being self imposed by our Government, reducing us to the level of an appendage in our community of Canadian Provinces. I am, Sir, etc.

W. J. P. MacMILLAN

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Sir,—May I offer a suggestion to the Association of Tourist Bureaus now in convention in Charlottetown.

It is generally admitted that the summer climate and hard sand beaches of Prince Edward Island are not excelled if indeed equalled in America. On the other hand we are greatly handicapped because of our tedious and second class rail travelling system.

This defect can now be largely overcome, for after this month we shall have excellent docking accommodation for ocean vessels at the Railway wharf in the Charlottetown harbour, which vessels from New York, Boston, Philadelphia and the Southern States can be received, also boats from Montreal.

At present we have not sufficient winter hotels such as would be required by the very many tourists that would come on these boats.

In Dalvey we have an excellent hotel, but small. A suggestion might be to increase very largely the size of the kitchen and dining room by building to the east end, then construct one or more sleeping houses in the nearby grounds.

A large entertainment hall might also be built on the ground floor of one of the new buildings. A special train could meet each boat at the Railway wharf and take the passengers to Dalvey in the afternoon, returning with guests desiring to leave in this manner.

As Dalvey is in the National Park the above plan should be of interest to both the Federal and Provincial governments. I am, Sir, etc.

H. K. S. HEMMING.

PEN FRIENDS

Sir,—I would like to correspond with someone of your island who can correspond with me in English. As I know no such addresses of any people in your islands I was wondering if perhaps you could help me out by giving my address to someone. I myself am only seventeen, but I would not mind writing to someone older or younger than myself if there is no one of my own age. I wish to establish a pen-friendship with someone, and exchange stamps of our two postal systems. I am, Sir, etc.

MARIE PROUDLOVE P. O. Box 112, Albany, West Australia, July 8th, 1947.

Sir,—I wonder if you would possibly publish my name in your paper as one in search of pen-pals? I am 17 years of age, have completed school and am working as a secretary. I desire pen-pals of either sex, who, upon beginning a friendship, would think enough of it to continue to help it along. My hobbies are roller-skating, bicycling, collecting old and foreign coins and stamps and reading. I love to read best of all; and last but not least, I am attempting to establish myself with correspondents in all parts of the world. Expectantly awaiting loads of letters. I am, Sir, etc.

(Miss) MARION BERNARD 16 LaPlante Avenue, Toronto 2, Ontario.

NOVEL USE SASKATCHEWAN LANDING, Sask. — (CP) — The rural council of this Prairie village is considering the use of mine detectors to locate buried culverts.

THE HOUSE YOU LIVE IN... Sun Life mortgage assurance will ensure that the house you live in will not be taken from your widow should your sudden death curtail the mortgage payments. May I help you make arrangements today? District Supervisor H. C. BOHAKER 148 Richmond Street Charlottetown, P. E. I. SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.) EARLY TURNIP CONTEST On October, 1949, a competition for the best field of turnips was held under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society. The judges reported that "James Peake, Esq., Charlottetown Royalty, was entitled to the first prize (\$3) having grown twelve tons, seven hundredweight and two quarters on half an acre, which, reckoning the bushel, as is customary, at 56 lbs., will give a return of 990 bushels per acre; and the second prize to William Swaby, Esq., of Mount Stewart, having grown eleven tons, ten hundred-weight, three quarters and seventeen pounds on half an acre, which, reckoned as above, gives a return of 924 bushels per acre." The names of the others, the unsuccessful competitors, were: B. E. Wright, Charlottetown Royalty, 804 bushels per acre; John Williams, Charlottetown Royalty, 824 bushels per acre; Judge Peters, Charlottetown Royalty, 848 bushels; Richard Bagnall, Hazel Grove, 854 bushels; George Coles, Charlottetown Royalty, 886 bushels; Wm. Bagnall, Hazel Grove, 800 bushels; Mr. Vance, Charlottetown Royalty, 776 bushels; A. Lord, New Glasgow, 800 bushels; George Lewis, Charlottetown Royalty, 740 bushels; George Bear, Charlottetown Royalty, 702 bushels; James Procter, New Glasgow, 678 bushels; James Arthur, New Glasgow, 694 bushels.

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The Poets Corner RETURN TO THE FARM We who have travelled every road to Rome. And roads to Carvissonne and Sarakland. At last return again to our own land— We have come home. Here are the fields and brook we could not spare. The plum-trees heavy with their ripening fruit. The burnished grapevine with its These breathe our air. This is the land we loved and tended well. Here we were born, here we shall someday die. Contented if we ally may lie. Asleep upon the hill. —Mary Atwater Taylor in New York Times.

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