THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1934.

THE RHODES BUDGET

If evidence were lacking of the steady progress toward economic recovery which Canada has been making in recent months, it was abundantly supplied in Parliament yesterday when Hon. E. N. Rhodes, Finance Minister in the Bennett Government, introduced the Budget, outlining the financial situation for the year, and reviewing the prospects immediately ahead.

Chief among the optimistic announcements of Hon. Mr. Rhodes is his estimate of a surplus of $8,800,000 on ordinary revenue over expenditures for the fiscal year 1934-35. This greatly improved financial position is predicted without addition to existing rates of taxation, and after material reductions have been made in the tariff structure.

It is now possible, Mr. Rhodes was able to announce, to reduce the sugar tax to one cent per pound. A number of exemptions are made under the Sales Tax. On all imports under the British preferential tariff the special excise tax has been reduced by one-half. The stamp tax on postal notes of $1.00 and under is reduced to one cent. It has been possible also to make reductions in 24 items under the Customs tariff.

While the demands upon the treasury have not permitted any general lowering of the rate of taxation, it is felt that the reductions, remissions and adjustments that have been worked out in the Budget will provide substantial relief to the taxpayers.

Mr. Rhodes was able to cite voluminous figures showing a steady trade improvement, both in exports and imports, the recent proportionate advance in volume of trade being hitherto unprecedented.

The total deficit for the past year, of $135,200,000, represents an improvement of $22,500,000 over the previous year, a fact which is accounted for by wise government economies. There are, of course, many huge expenditures, such as interest charges, pensions payments, unemployment relief grants, etc., which were absolutely unavoidable. But in controllable expenditures, since the fiscal year 1930-31, Mr. Rhodes was able to cite reductions totalling over $81,000,000.

The Finance Minister emphasized, among the principal factors in Canada's improved economic situation, the success of the trade agreements negotiated by the Government with Great Britain and other Empire countries.

Altogether, the Budget marked a red-letter day in Parliament, signifying as it did the definite turn of the tide towards stability and prosperity for Canada, after an era of world depression unprecedented in modern times.

AT MELBOURNE

Ambitious preparations are under way for the celebration of the centennial of Melbourne, Australia. The site of the city was first seen, according to some authorities, by a white man when Julian Batman, a settler from Tasmania, on June 8th, 1835, rowed up the river Yarra, to the head of the tide water, and noted that "this will be the place for a village." It seems possible, however, that the great English navigator, and explorer, James Cook, who in 1778 explored the west coast of North America, and who also about that time surveyed the St. Lawrence and Newfoundland, saw the site during his expedition to the Southern Pacific about 1775. William Dampier is believed by other authorities to have visited the place during his expedition to that region about 1700.

The first hut was put up, not by Batman, who had bought from the aborigines a tract of land, but on September 1st, by another party of settlers under John Fawkner, who arrived during Batman's temporary absence in Tasmania. The city proper lies on the northern bank of the Yarra, covering two spurs of the central plateau, and the long shallow valley between them. Its area is about 8,000 acres, and its population in 1932, 1,028,300. It is surrounded by 23 suburban municipalities. Melbourne was the nearest port to the gold fields, which suddenly enriched Victoria, and to the extensive agricultural areas north of the main range of the Dividing Range of mountains.

The enterprise of the people of this antipodean city, and the large place occupied by Captain Cook in their history is evidenced by certain features being arranged for their centennial celebration. Notable among these is the moving from Great Ayton, England, to Australia of the house built by the father of Captain Cook in 1755, and which has been taken down and packed into 1,000 wooden boxes. The house will be re-erected in time for Prince George's visit to Melbourne, the coming Autumn.

Evidence that the explorer, who first raised the Union Jack over Australia, stayed in the cottage, exists in the form of a letter dated January 30, 1772, and written by Captain Cook to Captain William Hammond of Hull. Here it is said he visited his parents before his second voyage. The land on which the cottage stood was made a gift to Victoria by the vendors of the house, and became a people's park. To mark the centenary, a monument is also to be erected to Captain Cook by the Victoria Government, on Cape Everard, the first Australian land sighted by him.

B. C. OYSTERS

Prince Edward Island is not the only part of Canada in which the policy of oyster bed leasing is being adopted successfully as a means of rehabilitating the fishery. In Ladysmith harbour, one of the main oyster-producing areas of British Columbia, a large section is under lease for oyster culture and at present 75 acres are being cultivated.

Many of the native oysters in Ladysmith harbour, states the Fisheries News Bulletin, were killed off by sharp frosts three or four years ago, but diligent effort has brought the industry back to a point where quantities of oysters of this variety are being shipped to market. In addition to the native oysters, Pacific or Japanese oysters have become well acclimatized to the area and natural propagation took place during the past two summers.

During 1933 about 913 barrels of oysters were marketed by the Ladysmith producers, with the Pacific variety making up the greater part. A larger quantity could have been sent to market if sales opportunities had been more favorable at the time and owners of the beds are now endeavouring to make arrangements to dispose of part of their future production to canneries.

Another main oyster-producing area in British Columbia is Boundary Bay. The provincial output, states the Bulletin, includes some Eastern oysters (Prince Edward Island oysters?) as well as those of the native and Pacific varieties, and in 1933 the total production was slightly more than 1,800 barrels. This as compared with Prince Edward Island's production for the year of 6,650 barrels, New Brunswick's 10,200 barrels, and Nova Scotia's 3,260 barrels.

TRADE WITH CHINA

In the decade 1921-30 China took 1.03 per cent. of Canada's total exports. In the fiscal year 1933 this increased to 1.60 per cent., the largest on record if the two abnormal years 1926 and 1929 are excepted, writes Mr. B. A. Macdonald, Assistant Trade Commissioner in Shainghai, in the Commercial Intelligence Journal. This percentage does not seem large, but there are only seven countries which take a greater percentage—the United Kingdom, the United States, Holland, Belgium, France, Japan, and Germany. China alone has risen in importance from fourteenth place in 1931 to eighth place in 1933, or with Hongkong, from ninth place to seventh place, exceeding even Germany. If exports of grain were subtracted, Canadian exports of remaining commodities to China rank after those to the United Kingdom, the United States, and Japan, and further appreciation of the significance of the China market to Canada is shown by the fact that exports to China (including Hongkong) are greater than exports to the whole of South America, or to all the British West Indies plus Cuba. The change in the emphasis in Canada's export trade from the Atlantic to the North Pacific (that is, Japan and China) has already proceeded to a degree not generally realised.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Elsewhere in this issue is republished, from Hansard, the text of the questions raised in Parliament by Mr. A. E. MacLean, with regard to the proposed Dominion highway work and car ferry rates on automobiles. It will be noted that Mr. MacLean refers to the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Provincial Legislature, and also to statements made by Premier MacMillan that the highway work would be started this season. In the Canadian Press report which appeared in Saturday's Guardian, Mr. MacLean was represented as advocating such work without reference to the information given locally, and as if he were introducing the subject for the first time. The Hansard text removes the ground for criticism of his remarks in this connection.

Notes By The Way

We all know that gentle, honest Mark Twain was one of the most truthful men who ever lived; yet being a humorist, he loved to say things to make people laugh, and so, therefore, to help them forget their troubles. Once he stated that truth was the most valuable thing we possessed, therefore we should be economical with it and tell as little of it as possible!—Geo. Matthew Adams.

A curious situation has arisen at Regina, Saskatchewan, where school teachers are as politically minded as farmers or ranchers, and where the election fever is again beginning to spread. M. J. Coldwell, Farmer-Labor leader and principal of a Regina school asked the trustees for leave of absence to campaign for his party in the forthcoming Saskatchewan general election, and the board refused his request. Thereupon Mr. Coldwell submitted a second request, accompanied with his written resignation, which was to be accepted unless the leave of absence was granted. The board has now refused to grant the leave or accept the resignation.

Things seem to be shaping for generally more cordial relations with Russia, and her admission to the League of Nations is even spoken of as a possibility in the near future. If only Russia would discountenance plotting against established governments by the Third Internationale, other nations would gladly welcome her into their regular councils. It is futile to keep up the pretence that the Soviet government and the Third Internationale are independent of one another. Technically, this may be so, but exactly the same men control both and make capital out of the difference that is quite imaginary. However, there has been less open interference with other systems of late, though it is suspected that underground work is still very active. The more Russia can be drawn into the society of nations the better for all concerned.

All talk of curbing the searching and inventive spirit of man is vain. It came with him into the world, and if it were destroyed he would be man no longer but a decadent creature. He must go on and discover new forces and adapt them to man's needs. If he makes discoveries and inventions faster than the mass of mankind can use them to make all life fuller for all people, and there comes a time when they seem to involve hardship, it is the business of the people to ensure a fair distribution of the benefits. They must be prepared to abandon theories and methods of an earlier time when that is necessary.

The New York Herald Tribune remarks: "It is a fact that Great Britain has not gone Bolshevist; and the parallel, Roosevelt, Kerensky and Lloyd George, is rather a striking one. Kerensky passed transitorialy through the smoke of a system already laid in ruins. Gentlemanly radicals like the President and Mr. Lloyd George set out only to introduce a few improvements into systems still standing very solidly. It is true that when these proposed improvements are analyzed it generally turns out that to get them installed the system would first have to be demolished, but the result is rarely the demolition of the system. Rather it is the quiet abandonment of the improvements."

Those who continue wailing about the direful effect of the wheat agreement on Western Canada simply do not know what they are talking about. The truth is farmers would be better off by sowing to flax and oats and barley the 3,000,000 acres more or less by which the wheat acreage should be reduced. To fulfil Canada's obligations under the wheat agreement it is not necessary to leave a single acre of the present cultivated area idle. Western agriculture would be on a sounder basis if this acreage were turned to the production of oats and barley, with a rising market available for flaxseed as well.—Winnipeg Tribune.

The British Air Ministry will extend the light airplane club movement. Eighteen clubs are at present qualified to receive state support in the form of a payment of 25 pounds for each pupil who takes the "A" or amateur pilot's license after at least ten hours' flying in club airplanes, and of 10 pounds for each member who renews his license after not less than three hours' flying. Sixteen thousand pounds is ear-marked for these payments in the air estimates for the year ending March 31, 1935. Payments are authorized to a maximum of 25 clubs.

Minnesota is probably the most socialistic state in the American Union. There the powerful political party is neither the Republican nor the Democratic, but the Farmer-Labor, represented in the United States Senate by Henrik Shipstead. He has been there for two terms, and there is no prospect of his removal for he seems perfectly to embody the majority opinion of Minnesota farmers.

It was mentioned the other day the curious fact that three Roosevelts—T. R., Franklin and Theodore Jr., had served as Assistant Secretary to the United States Navy. A fourth might be added in the person of Thodore Douglas Robinson, whose death was reported yesterday. He was a nephew of President Theodore Roosevelt, and also a first cousin of the wife of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

CALCIUM OR LIME HELPFUL IN SKIN AILMENTS

A few years ago some middle aged and elderly patients were given some chloride of lime or calcium chloride (not the commercial chloride of lime) in order to make their blood become more sticky, as normal blood should be.

After the blood was brought to a proper consistency, it was found that some old varicose ulcers on the legs of some of these patients had completely healed.

Immediately some syrup containing about fifteen grains calcium chloride to the desert spoonful was given to other patients with varicose leg ulcers and the results were so excellent that the physician Dr. M. H. V. Cameron of Toronto gave the complete details to his medical brethren.

It would seem that it is only during the past few years that the value of lime in various ailments—heart, skin, teeth, bones—has become known.

Drs. G. I. Umansky and A. P. Stepanowa, Vienna, recently called attention to the changes that occur in the potassium and the calcium content of the blood in different skin ailments, and when the relationship or proportions change from those considered normal, skin disturbances occur.

First they found out the normal averages in healthy persons and then made tests on three patients with acute eczema and on two having a simple swelling and inflammation of the skin.

In each of these patients the amount of potassium and calcium in the blood was found when the symptoms were at their worst, then again when the weeping of the eczema and the swelling of the skin was about gone (either of its own accord or due to the treatment), and the third time after the complete disappearance of the skin disorder.

It was found that when the skin condition is at its worst, there is always an increased amount of potassium in the blood and occasionally a decrease in the calcium. As soon as the swelling disappears the potassium decreases and the calcium increases. When the skin is all clear again, the potassium and the calcium return to normal.

Of what use is the above knowledge to us? It means that to prevent many skin ailments, foods in which there is considerable lime should be eaten; foods rich in lime are milk, oranges, beans, eggs, cabbage.

Further, in eczema and other inflammations of the skin the use of lime—lactate or gluconate—internally should bring about a cure more rapidly.

Down Sheep

(London Spectator)

Shepherding is one of the oldest arts of civilized man. The sheep has fed him and clothed him from the time, in northern latitudes, when he first forsook his caves. And England, more than any other European country, is the land of sheep and shepherds. Before the Norman Conquest, we were exporters of wool. Now, we are by far the greatest of importers. But with all our experience of shepherding, which we share with many dry sub-temperate countries, one branch of sheep-farming is peculiar to ourselves, the folding of sheep on arable land. One may say that the introduction of the turnip on the fallows during the eighteenth century revolutionized European farming, but in England alone was the art of folding sheep on those fallows developed. At this present time of year, the lambing-fold is to be seen all over the down lands and the Eastern Counties. There is no scene to compare with it, the shepherd living in the fold night and day, the fold itself a snug series of individual lying-in compartments, dining quarters and recreation grounds, all built of hurdles and straw. The very names of these folded flocks are redolent of open upland and arable—South Downs, Hampshire Downs, Oxford Downs, Dorset Downs, Suffolks and Ryelands, to name a few.

This sheep-folding is expensive of labour, say, one shepherd to a flock of 150 ewes, with help at lambing. Today, whenever we cannot apply a machine to do four men's work, the men, and their craft, go. We cannot mechanize sheep-folding, and so, more and more, we tend to give up the Down breeds, with the laboriously controlled moving of their fold every day, for the ranging breeds from the North, which with wire-netting strung round the field, can forage for themselves, and need only be looked at and thrown some fodder in the evening. It is not so much in these times a matter of displacing men by machines, but of getting rid of expensive men, and their whole craft, where no machine can be applied. It is a pity. A great part of the glory of the Downs will be gone with the shepherd and his fold of sheep, if, in fact, they finally disappear. Something may intervene. The folded flock belonged to a time of big families who liked big joints of mutton and lamb, to a time before it was discovered that artificial manures could produce as good corn as the dung of the sheep. The small family, and chemical manures, are thinning out the Down flocks, so expensive of labour and so unadaptable to mechanism.

STOP EQUAL WAGE DEMONSTRATION

(By The Canadian Press)

LONDON, April 17—On the ground it was a "fancy dress" parade and prohibited by law, police recently turned back a procession of women wearing the working clothes of their various occupations, intended as demonstration in the "equal wage standard" campaign.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

COOPERATION ESSENTIAL

Sir,—The investigation by the Agricultural Committee of the Legislature, and subsequent correspondence in the press, has, I feel, emphasized the need of the Federal Government providing much greater frost-proof storage than we now possess for our potato crop, and one selling agency for the marketing of our certified seed potatoes.

Six or a dozen salesmen invariably create a buyer's market, resulting this year in our Cobbler seed being sold at a lower price than was received by the growers of Maine. It should not be forgotten by those who are now trying to obtain a controlling share of this trade, that the Potato Growers' Association (the farmer's organization) have been largely instrumental in developing the market for our superior seed potatoes in the United States. Valuable missionary work has been done by the Manager of this organization for a period of ten or twelve years.

Clothed with the imprimatur of the Provincial Govrenment, Mr. Boulter as Deputy Minister of Agriculture, was given a business and social standing in the neighbouring Republic, denied the commercial salesman, and rapidly expanded this valuable market. And now it becomes the business, not only of the seed growers of this Province, but all other citizens, who are also indirectly interested, to endeavour to prevent a repetition of such destructive price-cutting as was carried on last fall.

It is not, however, on obtaining the seed market alone that the Association has saved the farmers of this Province many hundreds of thousands of dollars but on the purchase also of their fertilizer and spraying materials. Previous to the advent of our Association, the writer by comparison learned that fertilizers were selling from four to six dollars a ton cheaper in Nova Scotia than we were compelled to pay in this Province. Since this organization began to function, however, this condition has frequently been reversed. Only this winter we had a striking example of the benefit of the P.E.I. Potato Growers' Association competition in holding down the price of fertilizers to a reasonable cost.

A company or their agents, who manufacture a special form of granulated Superphosphate, for dairy stable use, offered to give six months credit, to supply this fertilizer in October 1933 at $20.00 a ton, or at May first, price 1934 less one dollar discount or cash on delivery. On February 20th, a further invoice was sent to customers, stating that "as this Dairy Superphosphate was not paid by December 1933, the price is now adjusted to meet the 1934 schedule which is one dollar a ton higher in accordance with agreement made at time of sale, meaning the price has advanced from $20.00 to $21.00 a ton, or $3.00 a ton higher than the P.E.I. Potato Growers' Association are quoting for 20 per cent Superphosphate

How much higher the price might be fixed if it were not for the influence of our Association, would depend on what the general manager, the assistant general manager, and the assistant to the assistant general manager of such soulless corporation, in conference assembled agreed they could bleed from the farmer without killing him completely. Remember brother farmer, that with every ton of fertilizer you order elsewhere, you weaken or lessen the purchasing power of your organization. Others are now selling just as cheaply, because they are compelled by your Association prices to do so. If because of the loss of your business, the influence of this organization is lessened, you will be the loser. The value of all our farmers co-operative marketing organizations, should be judged in the light of the influence they exert on others in the trade. Imagine the position which you as a producer, or individual salesman, would be placed in if these organizations ceased to exist!

Loyalty to your Association, is loyalty to your brother farmers. In such union there is strength.

I am Sir, etc.

FARMER

MARKETING CONTROL

Sir,—The grave dangers confronting this province through the operations of the Natural Products Marketing Act cannot be too carefully considered, if mistakes and losses are to be avoided.

At last night's meeting of the Board of Trade here it was freely admitted that we did not understand the Act—nobody did, and there was a general disposition to take a chance, feeling that Ottawa would take care of us, or that the Ottawa Control Board could be depended on, or that we could tell better after the Act has been in operation. But Ottawa does not appear to know any more about it's functioning than we do.

If we were assured of a regular outlet to the United States the matter would not be so serious, but lacking any long term trade treaty with the States covering potatoes, we have absolutely no assurance of that market, and if it were closed to us, as is possible, and we were dependent on Upper Canada for an outlet, then the operation of the marketing act with the dominating control vested in Ottawa might easily put this Province out of the potato business or lose our Upper Canadian connections.

There can be no comparison with the system of marketing potatoes from this Province as compared with Ontario, and therefore no uniform system of control would be workable. Practically all our potatoes are shipped by rail or water through regular trading channels affording simple, effective and economical control, whereas in Ontario practically all potatoes are marketed by truck direct from the farmers to the retailers and in many cases to the consumers, and it would be a physical impossibility to effectively control. Somewhat similar conditions prevail in Quebec. It would require a policeman on every truck operating in potato hauling or trading in Ontario or Quebec to control their operations. In our own case we could have effective supervision and control at very nominal cost whereas in Ontario and Quebec the supervision would be exceedingly cumbersome and costly and absolutely useless and ineffective. It was easier to enforce prohibition in the States than to enforce marketing control in Ontario and Quebec so far as potatoes are concerned. We have no chance of winning out if the cards are stacked against us, and we cannot afford to pass away marketing control of our potatoes to Ottawa without being in danger of seriously jeopardizing our whole future. Ontario and Quebec have us beaten 30c to 50c per bag on marketing costs already and we cannot afford to give them any further advantages.

Everyone would welcome a marketing control board here if it would improve marketing conditions, stop consigning of potatoes and turnips unsold and result in better prices to the farmers, but no one wants to step blindfolded into a deal which will place the marketing of our potatoes beyond our control, and result in experimentation by a control board at Ottawa which might not be familiar with our local conditions, and which might be influenced by Ontario and Quebec because of their larger potato acreages and heavier representation.

Would it not be wise to make haste slowly, to let our Provincial marketing control board operate with complete control of potato marketing for the first year under the supervision and guidance of the Federal board at Ottawa. There would be little or no risk attaching to such an experiment and it could be made self supporting by a suitable charge per car against all shippers. During that year the Federal Control Board would have become established and better acquainted with our requirements and if more benefit could accrue by allowing Ottawa to take complete control of our marketing, this could be done. If this Province and New Brunswick operated for one year along these lines and co-operated with each other, wonderful results would be possible and no one could be hurt.

But the whole deal is a very serious one and a mass meeting of the farmers, business men and bankers should be held to discuss the matter and lay before the Federal Government their ideas.

I am, Sir, etc.

A. MALLINSON

Charlottetown, P. E. I.
April 18, 1934.

The young man who had been calling so frequently on Mabel at last went to see her father.

"It's a mere formality, I know," he began, "but we thought it would be pleasing to you if it were observed in the usual way."

Mabel's father stiffened. "And may I inquire," he asked," who suggested that asking my consent to Mabel's marriage was a mere formality?".

"Mabel's mother," the young man replied.

The Poets' Corner

NIGHT-PIECE

Lady, the world is old, and we are young.
The world is old to-night and full of tears
And tumbled dreams, and all its songs are sung,
And echoes rise no more from the tombed years.
Lady, the world is old, but we are young.

Once only shines the mellow moon so fair;
One speck of Time is Love's Eternity.
Once only can the stars so light your hair,
And the night make your eyes my psaltery.
Lady, the world is old. Love still is young.

Let us take hand ere the swift moment end.
My heart is but a lamp to light your way,
My song your counsellor, my love your friend,
Your soul the shrine whereat I kneel and pray.
Lady, the world grows old. Let us be young.

—[illegible]

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