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New Brunswick Financing

The operations of the Province of New Brunswick for the fiscal year of 1947-48 again reveal the finances to be in a buoyant condition, as indicated by the annual statement of revenues and expenditures which places the latest surplus at \$2,032,418.

As in the past several years, notes the Moncton Times, profits from the sale of liquor formed the major contributing factor in making surpluses possible, because these profits represent the largest individual source of revenue accruing to the treasury from within the province.

The Department of Lands and Mines through increases in the territorial revenue showed a total intake of \$2,395,364, of which the gain was \$181,239. And the Department of the Provincial Secretary Treasurer had higher revenues of \$126,154 for fees and services to bring the year's total to \$556,953.

All the taxing departments of the Government showed increases. Revenue from motor vehicle fees and the regular gasoline tax showed respective over-runs of \$299,492 and \$408,571.

The excess of revenue over estimates is in part accounted for by the fact that production on a national scale was higher, and the Dominion subsidy, in which this factor is taken into account, exceeded the estimate by more than half a million dollars.

This will be good news to our own Provincial Government, which may also expect a windfall from this source.

National Health Week

Fifth annual observance of National Health Week has been set for Jan. 30 to Feb. 5, it is announced by the Health League of Canada which has sponsored the event since its inception.

In scheduling the 1949 observance of this most important event in the field of health education in Canada, the Health League stated that the slogan—"Guard Your Health—Know How"—once again has been selected to keynote the occasion.

It is the hope of the sponsors that every organization and individual in Canada will do something to put across the forthcoming observance of an event which is fast becoming a national institution—and that such co-operation will eventually become of such a character that it will lead to Canada becoming the healthiest nation in the world.

Literary Centenaries

This will be a year of remarkable literary centenaries. 1849 saw, among other things, the appearance of the first two volumes of Macaulay's "History of England," and of "The Seven Lamps of Architecture," by John Ruskin, who was then 30. In May the first of the monthly installments of "David Copperfield" was issued in London.

Must These Taxes Remain?

With preparations under way for the meeting of Parliament on Jan. 26, the question of the need of tax reductions is coming more and more into prominence. The sales tax especially has been the target for much editorial criticism in newspapers of all political stripes.

- Tooth paste, shaving soap, antiseptics, perfumes and cosmetics — 25 per cent.
Chocolates, candy, chewing gum and all "candy-like" confectionery — 30 per cent.
Soft drinks — 25 per cent.
Trunks, suitcases, handbags, wallets, purses and all luggage — 35 per cent.
Watches and clocks—25 per cent.
Fountain pens, propelling pencils, desk sets— 35 per cent.
Fur coats, dressed furs, dyed furs—10 per cent.
Automobiles—10 per cent.
Most, if not all, of these items under mod-

ern living standards in Canada are not luxuries to be enjoyed by the wealthy, but necessities for the mass of the people. Who can call tooth-paste, shaving soap, clocks, trucks or pens luxuries today? Even such things as soft drinks, chocolate bars, candies, automobiles, fur coats and maybe cigarettes are not necessarily luxuries. Why, then, should they continue to bear an inordinate, or emergency, burden of taxation?

For answer we shall have to await Finance Minister Abbott's next budget. He has already announced a surplus of \$375 millions for the current eight months.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow Burns anniversary celebrations.

The Provincial Government is setting its house in order, in more senses than one, in view of the coming annual session of the Legislature.

Gold discovered in California this date 1848 which led to a large number of Islanders departing to seek their fortunes on the Pacific Coast.

To test the effectiveness of its fire inspections, Toronto is trying out a "test block" inspection as a check on the general system. Not even the fire chief will know the block selected or the date of inspection.

This being probably an election year, Prime Minister St. Laurent's statement calling for the revising and bringing up to date the programme of "public investment" may be freely translated as announcing that the electorate are to be bought with their own money.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Commerce predicts that between 100 and 150 new industries from abroad will be established in Canada in 1949. There must be some of these which could with advantage be located in Prince Edward Island. Why do not our Federal members investigate and find out?

Farmers and others will say a fervent amen to British Food Minister John Strachey's pronouncement that long-term food contracts are profoundly necessary to give farmers security and to increase output. The trouble has been that the continuance of bacon and other contracts has been questioned at too frequent intervals, with a resulting drop in production and failure to supply the contract quantities.

Nine years ago, on January 24, 1940, Canadian troops serving overseas paraded for their first Royal inspection in World War II when His Majesty the King inspected men of the 1st. Canadian Infantry Division at Aldershot, Hants. A few months later, in June 1940, while under orders for France, they were again inspected by their Majesties, as they were on many future occasions.

The late Hon. J. H. Thomas, ex-minister of the Ramsay Macdonald and Baldwin British Governments, visited Saint John, N. B., when in Canada for the Imperial Trade Conference. He delighted an interviewer with his easy flow of conversation on all sorts of subjects on which he was well versed. Though leaving school at nine years of age and self-educated, he appeared to be the best informed man on public affairs the reporter had ever interviewed, notwithstanding that he sadly misplaced the aspirate.

Heartiest congratulations are extended today to two of Prince Edward Island's most prominent veteran citizens, Mr. George M. Moore, president of the firm of Moore and MacLeod, Ltd., and Mr. Charles H. Chandler, president of Fennell and Chandler, Ltd. Mr. Moore celebrates his ninetieth birthday. Mr. Chandler his eighty-sixth. Both men are still active in the successful businesses with which their names have so long been associated, and their hosts of friends will wish them many more years of continued health and activity.

The series of six-week courses for penitentiary officials being given at Ottawa are part of an educational campaign of the greatest importance. If the problem of "repeaters" is once solved, crime will no longer be a serious factor. Every step bringing us closer to a solution brings great rewards for the community and, of course, the individuals concerned. A more concentrated application of the teaching of the principles and practices of the Christian religion to the young would also help materially and profitably.

Airmail delivery of medicine is now the vogue of those who can afford the expense. A United States Embassy car was specially assigned in London to rush fifty capsules of the drug domycin from the London Airport to Singleton, Sussex, where Lady Portal, wife of the Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Portal, has dangerously ill with pneumonia. The drug, not yet released for general use, is sometimes successful in the treatment of pneumonia when other drugs have no effect. It was put aboard a Pan-American clipper in New York in response to an appeal from Lord Portal.

Lord Randolph Churchill, father of Winston, died this date 1895. He was a brilliant but unstable statesman, one time Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Salisbury government, an office he threw up due to differences with his colleagues on the Beer Tax of that date. Lord Salisbury made no comment but appointed Mr. C. J. Goschen, then an independent member sitting on the cross benches, with the result that Lord Randolph's resignation and Mr. Goschen's appointment appeared together in next morning's Times. When Lord Randolph read the joint announcement he exclaimed—"D— I forgot Goschen!" He had anticipated Lord Salisbury would have refused to accept his resignation and agree to his views on the Beer Tax. He then went lion hunting in Africa.



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.

SAVINGS ORGANIZATIONS

Sir, — In your issue of the 18th inst. appeared an article "Credit Union Movement Reviewed at Footy Club" in which the learned speaker made many very helpful statements, but maybe he might explain some things a little further. Since reading that article I have thought a good deal about what I was told by a young man with whom I worked. He was an industrious fellow and I had no reason to doubt his word. He said he was persuaded to join a Credit Union as a place to deposit his savings and that he had paid, besides his initiation fee, over \$200. Later he decided to buy Victory Bonds and got part of that amount from the Credit Union. When the next bond sale was on he agreed for more bonds and sent to the Credit Union again for money. Though he did not ask for as much as he had put in, his request was refused. He also said that he was being charged 5 per cent. interest on the money he had got.

Last Chance In Asia

The Western world is confronted by its last chance to rescue Asia from communism and save its own friendship with the Asiatic peoples. There are reports that the Nationalist Government is prepared to talk "peace" with the victorious Communist armies, and that Chiang Kai-shek is preparing to leave Nanking, the country's capital, for Canton. Communist capture of all China, which could come to pass within a year or less, would reverberate through Asia. It would be by far the greatest victory for communism since the Russian Revolution, and a potent propaganda weapon in Indonesia, Malaya, Burma, Indo-China and India.

The Age-Old Story

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea, though the waters thereof roar, and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

The Poet's Corner

TIME'S WALLET

Time hath, my lord, a wallet at his back. Wherein he puts alms for oblivion, A great-sized monster of ingratitudes: Those scraps are good deeds past, which are devour'd as fast as they are made, forgot as soon. As done; perseverance, dear my lord, Keeps honor bright: to have done, is to hang Quite out of fashion, like a rusty mail. In monumental mockery. Take the instant way: For honor travels in a strait so narrow. Where one but goes abreast; keep close the path: For emulation hath a thousand sons. That one by one pursue. —Shakespeare.

Old Charlottetown

SELKIRK ON FISHERIES

"Much is said of the abundance of fish about the Island. Cod in the offing, rock-cod, mackerel, etc. in the bays. Herring comes in about the breaking up of the ice. This circumstance will make it a popular place for the Highlanders. Shell-fish are in such abundance as to already be no inconsiderable aid to the newcomers. In the first settlement of the Island by the English (between the Canada and American wars) this is said actually to have saved the settlers from famine. They had begun by sowing on the old cleared land the French, which, exhausted by frequent croppings, did not give the return expected, and while waiting for supplies from elsewhere, they had nothing but fish to depend upon. For the present inhabitants derive little or no benefit from the fishery and follow it very little. The few fish that come to the Charlotte-Town market are brought in by the Indians.

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Notes By The Way

An American contemporary wonders why there is never any curiosity evinced over the husband of the best-dressed woman of the year. — Hamilton Spectator.

It has just been revealed that 750,000 horses were sold for food in Britain this year, with some breeds facing extinction as a result. Many more thousands were sold for the same purpose on the black market during the war and it is not unlikely that many Canadian and U. S. servicemen had more than one steak off a former Derby winner in the innumerable Soho cafes. — Timmins Press.

During the war 600 members of the French fighting services died and were interred in Great Britain. Most of them were wounded at the time of Dunkirk and died in British hospitals. Recently between 500 and 400 of the bodies which had been exhumed left Dover for Dunkirk to be buried in poor cemeteries in France, chosen by the families. — London Times.

Earl Russell, the English scientist and philosopher, can scarcely be regarded as a conservative. His ideas, in fact, have been generally held to be quite revolutionary. But it is just because of his insistence upon the value of independence of thought that he sees a repressive danger in the growing centralization of government. Lord Russell believes that there has never been in past history any large state that controlled its citizens "as completely as they are controlled in the Soviet Republic, or even in modern England." Nor will an ultimate correction of the tendency come by carrying it still further. "It may be Lord Russell's hope," that the present tendencies toward centralization are too strong to be resisted until they have led to disaster, and that, as happened in the Fifth Century when the system must break down, with all the inevitable results of anarchy and poverty, before human beings can again acquire that degree of personal freedom without which life loses its savor." The point of Lord Russell's questioning, like that of many another thinker, is not simply that freedom is the intellectual's pleasure and privilege, a sort of vested interest that is against the common good. It is the savor of life. And out of the savor of life comes the best and the most valuable of its endeavors and its achievement. But as the state grows bigger the individual must grow smaller. Not only is a higher proportion of the individual's earnings taken from him in taxes, but a greater degree of his freedom of action and even of thought is claimed in order that the state may regulate its affairs with a more complete control. The whole danger is that the individual may pay too big a price for what he gets back. The state, in order that it may become a form of robbery, whether it is of the substance of matter or the substance of mind. — Montreal Gazette.

Reduction of the number of minors who drink beer and spirits must be effected by the combined efforts of parents, schools, morality officers, vendors, courts and organizations which on occasion hold banquets. No one agency can by itself stop drinking among teenagers. Too many parents tolerate drinking in the home by teenage children. The effects of liquor on youth are as disastrous when the beverage is drunk at home as when it is imbibed in a public place. Stricter parental supervision is necessary to reduce drinking. Moreover, the high schools could help with an educational campaign combining lectures and films. In public drinking places, the vendor is forbidden to serve intoxicants to minors. The waiter must judge purely by appearance whether the customer is a minor or not, and perhaps some waiters are too inclined to give the purchaser the benefit of the doubt. Hotels and restaurants should order their waiters to be far more severe in their judgment than they have hitherto been. The provincial liquor board could help by ordering vendors to display, far more prominently than is now the case, signs warning minors that they are subject to a fine or jail term if caught drinking in a public place. Morality officers, who are doing good work in patrolling beverage rooms, might perhaps make an even more intensive effort in this respect. — Ottawa Citizen.

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ONE FOR HIS NIBS

EDMONTON — (CP) — After playing cribbage for more than 40 years, J.D. Campbell of Edmonton finally made the grade—a perfect 20-point hand. His wife dealt him the jack of spades and fives of diamonds, hearts and clubs. The five of spades was turned up.