THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

"No Recommendations!"

"A wise old Owl lived in an oak;
The more he saw the less he spoke
The less he spoke the more he heard,
Why can't we be like that wise Bird?"

Apparently this was the interpretation of its terms of reference adopted by the LeBlanc Royal Commission which held sittings last year all over New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, inquiring into illegal lobster fishing in these Provinces. The public was under the impression that the purpose of the Commission was to find a solution to the problem, the existence of which was already well known to everyone concerned in the lobster industry. But the public was mistaken. The Commission, it would seem, just sat to gratify curiosity, to give jobs to deserving democrats, and incidentally to waste the taxpayers' money. Parliament has been told that it was only "a fact-finding body", and had made "no recommendations," good, bad or indifferent.

During the protracted academic investigations of this Commission the chairman, Mr. Justice LeBlanc of New Brunswick, drew $25.00 a day living expenses; the Commission counsel, Mr. H. F. G. Bridges, of New Brunswick, drew $30.00 per day salary and $10 a day living expenses; and a stenographer, also of New Brunswick, drew $5.00 per day salary plus an unspecified amount for living expenses. Altogether, the Commission, cost the taxpayers nearly ten thousand dollars, and the net result, so far as Parliament and the public is concerned, was nil.

This Province, as the Rowell Commission was told, is being starved in the matter of assistance from Ottawa for necessary unemployment relief and public services. Yet Ottawa can find ten thousand dollars to spend on a perfectly useless Commission to travel all over the Island and the neighboring Province, putting up at the best hotels and living on the fat of the land.

How much better if this money had been distributed among our needy fishermen, thus removing, to some extent, the temptation to fish illegally in the future?

Another Promise Broken

The Rowell Commission heard convincing evidence of the Mackenzie King Government's failure to implement Liberal unemployment relief pledges in this Province. There was also another pledge, embodied in the official Liberal platform, to reduce taxation. How has this promise been fulfilled? Since 1935, when the Government took office, excise taxes have increased by over $40,000,000, income taxes by over $36,000,000, sales and other taxes accordingly.

Where is all this revenue going? To balance the budget, it may be said. But the total net funded debt increased by $77,800,000 during the last fiscal year, notwithstanding the niggardly scaling down of unemployment relief payments.

It would be interesting to see, in a statement of Federal Government finances, the cost to the country of winning by-elections for the Liberal party. How many millions were expended in those constituencies throughout Canada where political exigencies arose during the past two and a half years? That, conceivably, might be something for the Rowell Commission to inquire into. It has a much more practical bearing on Dominion-Provincial financial relations than the National Policy, which Hon. Norman Rogers himself says could not be disturbed without disrupting Confederation. Ten pages of quotations from Mr. Rogers academic thesis on the National Policy is embedded in the Campbell Government's brief before the Rowell Commission, but not one word about Liberal by-election expenditures or the increased taxes imposed, for this and other purposes!

Educational Values

A penetrating article "In Praise of Useless Education" appears in the current issue of *Forum*. The writer, Mr. George W. Alger, confesses that his education was acquired "in the days before the cafeteria system in education came into vogue," in the United States. It consisted of huge doses of the Classics, a curriculum of studies "now as extinct as the great auk." It was based on the notion that education was something to live with rather than something to live on, and it failed to concentrate on sharpening the acquisitive instincts of the students. Hence its value, in terms of cash, was inconsequential. But, says Mr. Alger:

"Since we are not too well satisfied with education and its results today, since we are not so sure that we have a civilization particularly worth while, and since we are reconsidering today a return to what used to be called the humanities, it may be useful to look back a generation or two and see if there was not something in the older ways of training youth which was worth keeping and which was too hastily discarded. It was an education which had a dignity and a quality of elevation in its purposes and ideals which went with the graduates on leaving the academic halls and stayed with many of them throughout life.

"Emerson says, 'Culture corrects the theory of success.' If that is at least in part the purpose of culture (and I think it is) and if a false or inadequate theory of success is a major part of the trouble with our world today, it may be that the relation of colleges to those intangible standards which make culture is more important than many other matters which are supposed to be more practical."

It was not merely Greek and Latin and the great classic minds in literature that the old-time students absorbed, says Mr. Alger. What was back of it all and through it all was a somewhat austere and stoic theory of how life should be lived, taught by humble scholars who believed in it and in the importance of what they taught as the true fabric of living. They were men to whom what we call practical problems would have been bewildering. They knew their limitations. "They were the academic angels who would have feared to tread where some of their successors rush in today."

All educators agree, Mr. Alger argues, that education should fit youth for life—but what life? "There the old educators of my youth would find themselves in conflict with the tendencies of the contemporary teacher. To them the Greek ideal of life—the special virtue of man as man, his place in the scheme of things, with himself more important than the mechanics of his discoveries, his practical technics—was, next to the Christian ideal, the most important thing in the world. . . .

"Higher education, as I see it now, has got rid of them both. It is not happy about the result. Its main puzzle seems to be how to find a working spiritual substitute for them. This is a belated tribute to the displaced theologian professors who taught my generation, a tribute which the ghosts of these grim old men must greet with a tired smile, lurking somewhere in the shadows of those small colleges whose character they once made."

Editorial Notes

Great London floods this date 1730—Westminster Hall inundated.

* * *

We have had some severe weather here, but it might have been worse. Rouyn, Que., and White River, Ont., have recently been treated to 50-below-zero weather, while Birtle, Man., was a little behind with 48. Winnipeg and Regina had 40 below at the same time.

* * * *

Is it too late to submit to the Rowell Commission two new briefs—one on the tunnel, and the other on converting the whole Province into a Diesel bus service, with the Federal Government keeping the roads open in winter? Both these schemes would save money for the Federal Government and improve conditions for Islanders and visitors.

* * *

Standing committees of the House of Commons include the following Island representatives: Mr. Peter Sinclair, Privileges and Elections, Miscellaneous Private Bills, Parliamentary Restaurant; Mr. A. E. MacLean, Agriculture and Colonization, Marine and Fisheries, Printing; Dr. Grant, Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines, Public Accounts, Industrial and International Relations, Library of Parliament.

* * * *

The United States supplied the bulk of the farm implements and machinery imported during December, the amount from that country being $845,328. The total was $874,075 compared with $509,453 in December, 1936. Internal combustion traction engines valued up to $1,400 each accounted for $528,779, and parts $201,567. Total imports of farm machinery during the nine months ended December were $13,834,322 compared with $7,404,414 in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

* * * *

The old time friends here of the Hon. Wesley Frost, United States Charge d'Affairs in Chile, and for sometime consul here, will note with satisfaction that he has come into the limelight recently though signing on behalf of his Government, what is described by the English press of Chile as "The Chilean-American Commercial Modus Vivendi." He signed the treaty with Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs Don J. Ramon Gutierrez. When Mr. Frost was consul here he came into the limelight by sending to Washington one of the most reliable reports on the new domestic Silver Fox industry up till then prepared and published.

* * * *

Within the ranks of the Liberal Party there are many contradictions Mr. A. A. Heaps (C.C.F.-Winnipeg North) told the House of Commons the other day, speaking in the Address debate. "You find those in favor of a low tariff fighting those who want a high tariff; you find those who are in favor of the Quebec padlock law in conflict with those who are opposed to it," he said. "There are those teeming contradictions within the ranks of one party and it takes an extremely careful and clever leader to hold all these divergent elements together." Finance Minister Dunning asked: "What do you do with the fellows that disagree in your party?' Mr. Heaps replied: "We have differences, but those who have differences have the good sense to get up and say so. In the ranks of the Liberal Party, however, there is always something dangling in front of members to keep them in line." He added this might be a judgeship or senatorship.

* * * *

People wondered why Secretary of State Hull went to such trouble denying the existence of any secret pact with Britain. Here is the explanation. Professor Gilbert Murray, 72-year old chairman of the League of Nations Union, stated at a public luncheon he had "reason to believe we (Britain) have given the American Government assurance that we are ready at once to support them in any action they may take facing any risk." To the astonishment of his audience at the National Liberal Club he had then added "the trouble is that that was a confidential communication by the Government, that most people here don't know it, and that the great American public doesn't know it and doesn't believe it." Later when shown U. S. Secretary Hull's disclaimer, Prof. Murray said: "I agree there's no vestige of agreement. I didn't say so. I didn't put my remark any higher than saying, as reported, that I had reason to believe we'd given the American Government an assurance. My authority for saying so was the report published in one English newspaper a fortnight ago of a statement by a supporter of the Government."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Grandfather on the Tenth Concession was a plain-spoken man who seldom indulged in anything but fact and hard logic, but when the weather was under discussion it seemed he was moved to depths seldom plumbed. He would recall that in his younger days when the land was but newly cleared the cold would be so intense that the nose would freeze daily. That freezing would become such a common thing that it was at last decided it was useless to thaw the nose out at all and so the old-timers would just leave their noses frozen during the Winter and attend to thawing them out when Spring seemed inclined to move in and control the situation. —Peterborough Examiner.

All the peaceful forces of the world have acted as if they were utterly impotent to stop one nation, not a very strong one at that. Our own case is typical. We instruct the British military commander at Tientsin, with 700 men behind him, to reject the Japanese demand to enter the British Concession there. We accept the certain risk that it "means war" if Japan tries. We make it plain that we will defend Hong King, a position we do not refuse to adopt because that equally may "mean war." Yet we will not co-operate with a number of other powerful countries in imposing economic sanctions against Japan, though we know Japan would have to call the war off if they were imposed. We will not exchange guarantees of military assistance with other nations, though the risk of Japan deciding to attack half the world is manifestly less than the risk that she will attack a single nation. Other nations are equally irrational and supine.—London Daily Herald.

Life is one disillusionment after another. Coming out of Grand Central yesterday carrying a large bag, a taxi driver hailed me from across the street. "Hey, buddy, let me give you a lift!" I explained I was going only two blocks. "Oh, that's all right, buddy, hop in: it won't cost you anything." Well, I didn't think this sort of thing ought to be discouraged. Arriving at my destination, I did my best to express my appreciation. "Oh, don't mention it," said the driver. "You see, I can't make a left turn at that corner where I picked you up unless I have a passenger." A.as!—New York Times.

In future certain aerodromes will be fully staffed and equipped to deal with infectious diseases. At these "sanitary aerodromes", as they are to be called, all aeroplanes arriving from abroad, together with their crew, passengers, and cargo, will if necessary be examined and detained in isolation. Such a course will be considered necessary if any one on board the plane has died during the flight except as the result of an accident, if there is a suspected case of infectious disease, if the plane is coming from an area infected by virulent epidemics or, curiously, if "during the voyage death not attributable to destructive measures has occurred among rats or mice in the aircraft."—Manchester Guardian.

After visiting the distressed areas of Britain, it is our belief that sensible German manufacturers should contemplate starting operations in the new industrial districts which are rising from the ruins of these parts. German industrialists would undoubtedly profit by the facilities offered in these areas, and, by moving in new plant for manufacture in Britain, could avoid high customs tariffs.—Angriff Berlin Exchange.

After all, what were the results of city managership at Niagara Falls. That city has been under supervision by the Department of Municipal Affairs for some years, and will continue so for the next five years, having defaulted on principal payments but not on interest. This hardly goes to show that city managership is perfect. In fact, it is much too big a job to entrust to any single individual.—St. Catherines Standard.

It is known that the Food (Defence Plans) Department has drawn up a scheme for food distribution and rationing, but not whether this Deparment has done anything to organize supplies. There seems therefore to be a case for greater publicity about what has been done, for wider investigation into what could be done to increase home production, and for a decision in good time upon the question of storage. None of these measures is an alternative to the vigorous pursuit of rearmament, for much of their efficacy depends upon the protection which the defence forces can give. As Sir Thomas Inskip hinted, priority may well have had to be given to the expansion and equipment of those forces. But the public has recently and repeatedly been assured that this primary task is well under way, and it may well be possible to direct the main impetus of reorganization towards matters which are secondary in time, though not in importance, in any comprehensive scheme of national defence.—The Times, London.

By and large Canada has a civil service marked by loyalty and integrity. Its standard of efficiency will rise as political influences are eliminated.—Financial Times.

Britain has never yielded an inch of her Empire, and those living under her administration do not wish to leave it. Social differences under British rule hurt the native's pride, but he knows that the British are more humane masters than the other colonial administrators — with the possible exception of the French. Under the cloak of Nationalist opposition in India, for instance, there is a fair amount of understanding and gratitude for the better side of British administration. — Exchange.

At the moment it is doubtful whether Hitler is the real, or at least the active, ruler of Germany. More and more wrapped in his own obsessions, more and more oracular, more and more pursued by dreams of power that express themselves in projects for perpetuating his memory in monumental architecture, more and more immersed in moody silence (though sometimes broken by outbursts of passionate speech), Hitler lives more and more in his dream world and in accordance with his pseudo-divine attributions rather than in the world of practical affairs. The real ruler of Germany at the moment is General Goering. It does not follow that some day Hitler will not reemerge and determine German policy afresh, or it may be that Dr. Goebbels, now in eclipse, will be at the full again. General Goering, is, for the time being, the resultant force of many confused and varying forces. — Manchester Guardian.

Winnipeg Journalist Trails Commission To Island Province

One of the newspaper men accompanying the Rowell Commission to Charlottetown was Mr. J. B. McGeachy, of the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) whose editor-in-chief, Dr. Dafoe, is a member of the Commission. Mr. McGeachy's account of the second day's sitting in Charlottetown follows:

CHARLOTTETOWN, Feb. 11—Hon. Thane Campbell, Premier of this draughty out hospitable island, took all today to finish his Government's case to the Rowell Commission. Deputy ministers are still to be heard and then Dr. MacMillan, leader of the Tory Opposition, is to have a few minutes in court—a new idea contributed by P. E. I., to the etiquette of the inquiry. This will take Saturday morning.

Evidence here could have been completed handily this afternoon but the Islanders wouldn't let the Commission go. Nova Scotia got four days. Why should Prince Edward Island be fobbed off with two? Apart from that, the Commission is a tremendous event here, attracting crowds and getting as high as five pages in one issue of a Charlottetown paper.

Anyway, Mr. Campbell decided the Commission should stay the week-end and with that in view put on today the first filibuster of the inquiry, discreetly dawdling over minor points and repeating himself as often as he politely could. It was a good performance, so smooth that Chief Justice Rowell let the Premier run on with little interference. For once the standards of brisk efficiency were let down and Island pride was saved. A good bargain.

Manitoba has set the style of provincial briefs so far. The pattern adopted at Winnipeg has been copied elsewhere. First, the Province indicates how it has been hurt by national policies. Then it presents a claim for relief from certain duties and for more help from Ottawa, proving that its taxes are severe, its expenses modest, its teachers under-paid, its citizens hard up, and its social services inadequate. Manitoba even put in that its weather was bad. As a tourist centre, P. E. I., left that out but otherwise followed the formula.

The national policy of protection, Mr. Campbell says, has caused P. E. I., loss of money and people. Like Mr. Macdonald of Nova Scotia, he has a notion this province could have done better as a free-trading colony on its own. A sinister sentence in the brief notes how convenient a base Prince Edward Island would be for smuggling into the Dominion. But Campbell didn't stress this point, accepts Confederation for better or for worse, has no hope now for drastic revision of Canadian tariff policy. His facts and figures on the provincial budget were cogent. The government here seems to be run inexpensively. Salary of the Premier, who is also Attorney-General, is $3,000. Deputy ministers get $2,000 to $2,500. School teachers' salaries are as low as anywhere, except Saskatchewan. P. E. I., has no mothers' allowances or technical education, pays a maximum of $15 a month, instead of the normal $20, for old age pensions.

Mr. Campbell proved that the Island is economical. Furthermore, it levies 22 taxes, including a horse tax of 50 cents a horse, a dog tax of one dollar a dog, a tax on billboards to preserve scenic beauty and other odd items. Levying these taxes, the province balances its budget now but falls $600,000 a year short of providing the "adequate" service described in a model budget. Everybody got a would-be-raise in this budget, even the skunks and owls. Bounties for catching these fauna boosted $500 in the Island Utopia.

The Island, then, wants larger grants from Ottawa. It also wants Ottawa to pay for unemployment relief, old age pensions and other social services, but did not volunteer to give up without reservation income and estate taxes—a reservation clearly indicating Mr. Campbell did not think out the implications of the Western case. But the Island apparently does not expect any immediate boost in federal aid. Asked by Chief Justice Rowell where the Dominion would find the money, Mr. Campbell said he reckoned his proposal would have to wait for better times. The Premier indicated gently, replying to the Chief Justice, that Maritime union was a lost cause. Talking about duplication of Dominion and Provincial services, he made a new point. Mr. Campbell says the worst example of overlapping here is in handling liquor cases, a statement which agrees with rumor. A bootician here is commonly an offender against two laws, Dominion customs and provincial prohibition. Mr. Campbell wants this problem, peculiar to coastline provinces, cleared up by giving the enforcement of the tariff law to provincial attorneys-general. Chief Justice Rowell appeared to suspect that this might have a bad effect on the Dominion revenues. Having spun out his remarks over the whole day, the amicable Mr. Campbell took a short examination from Mr. Macgregor Stewart, K. C., Commission counsel, on some major points. It was brought out, for instance, that the Island's mischances with its land deal back [illegible] basis of a complex agreement for Dominion aid, were entirely its own ill luck and not Ottawa's fault.

The weather-beaten, healthy-looking audience trooped out into a brisk gale which seemed positively balmy after yesterday's blizzard.

The Poets' Corner

IN ABSENCE

Each flower I smell brings memories of you;
I cannot pluck a violet from the grass,
Nor a last frosty rosebud can I pass
But the scent recalls your garden in the dew.
Each time I lift my eyes up to the sky
Where clouds seem painted white against the blue,
Made deeper by the leaves they glow far through,
I listen for your footfall gliding nigh.
Each poem that I find of purer fire,
Or finer melody or piercing tone,
Has beauty marred or lost when read alone,
Till echoes of your voice chant it entire.
But when I hear church music soaring true,
Then I draw near the essential soul of you.

—(Geraldine P. Dilla in the Dalhousie Review)

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.

THE WONDER BEAN

Sir,—Ever since a noted Chinese savant sang the praises of the soy bean as a food, over 3,000 years ago, it has been one of the main staples of that nation and today nearly one half of the total population of the world is using it in their daily diet. Modern science, however, having found upwards of 100 uses for it, it is sometimes called "The Wonder Bean."

Of the twenty varieties, some succeed better in a warm climate, others, as the Mandarin, Minsoy and Soysota, flourish best in northern regions.

Though little known here till a few years ago, it is rapidly becoming one of the major crops of the United States, over 12,000,000 bushels having been raised last year.

It is of enormous agricultural, economic and commercial value and now occupies a permanent place in crop rotation on many farms in New England as it has been found to enrich the soil and restore it to its original fertility. On account of its high protein content, so necessary for stock and milk production, soy bean hay is fed profitably to all kinds of live stock and makes an excellent winter ration for cattle, sheep, and horses. Soy bean mash is very good for fattening hogs and conditioning poultry. The bean, moreover, is singularly immune from the ravages of insects.

Of interest to the farmer's wife is the fact that the Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D. C., issues a booklet of fifty five recipes for the preparation of delicious dishes from the bean.

Further information may be obtained by writting the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for Farmer's Bulletins numbers 1520, 1605 and 1617. The charge is five cents per copy. The recipe bokolet may be had by simply writting for it.

If the practical farmer of P. E. I. wishes to have richer soil, better crops, finer stock and increase his income, it would seem that the cultivation of the soy bean should merit consideration.

I am, Sir, etc.,
F. T. DAY

PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT

Sir,—Intelligent temperance people are not deceived by the comedy-farce so frequently staged in attempts to exculpate the Campbell Government from the foul odors emanating from their law enforcement muck heap.

That we have become the laughing stock of Canada is evident from the comments and deductions from our police reports and statistics, by the liquor forces in mainland sympathetic newspapers.

In contrast with our City Council (of the past), we have the outspoken Aldermen of Sydney, N. S., on this subject. There is no contrast as between the MacDonald Government of N. S., and the Campbell Government of P. E. I., as to the blundering and neglect of our prohibition laws, but there is a marked contrast between the acceptance of that blundering by the Civic Governments of the two cities. And in Nova Scotia they have that extolled Liquor Control Law.

In Sydney, Alderman Sullivan complained of violations. City Solicitor replied they could lay informations but enforcement was in hands of R. C. M. P. Mayor Slaven advised that the R. C. M. P. was not up to full strength. Commissioner MacMillan advised that applicants for positions on the force should be teetotalers.

A resolution expressing dissatisfaction with enforcement was ordered to be drafted by the Police Commission.

Is our City Council to be outclassed by that of Sydney, when they know the same disgraceful conditions prevail? It is no excuse for them that because the prohibition federation are stilled in insomnia, or pussyfooting the government with occasional dabs of soft soap, that they too have no call for action as representatives of a temperance community.

I am, Sir, etc.,
PROHIBITIONIST

THE WAY TO DO IT

Sir,—Supplementary to my last on balancing civic budget, may I recall an incident of several years ago.

A newly elected reform mayor in St. John, N. B., endorsed by his Council, appealed to citizens to paint up, improve their holding, beautify with neat fences, lawns and floral display, and pledging that no additional taxes would be levied on such improvements.

A city truckman spoke to me at that time, saying,—Last time I painted my house it cost me only $25, but they assessed it $200, extra. I would like to paint again, but can't face another $200, tax raise.

In the press I cited this as an example to our Council, advising them to do likewise. The reply was, —We want revenue and can't do it.

There is a mad fallacy in such a conclusion. To a superficial mind, and it must be intensely superficial, that, because no apparent revenue is discernible, it is non-productive, is groundless.

An improved and beautified city is more attractive to tourists, and from these city and province derive substantial revenues, in gasoline, mercantile, and mechanical income.

To do these things provides employment absorbs merchandise, enabling merchants and industry to pay taxes, and some of their arrears. Labor, in receipt of pay for work performed, is better able to pay poll taxes, now so much in default, to purchase supplies from stores and coal yards, a further assistance to merchant tax payers, all helpful to civic and public treasuries.

Additional to this, by making the unemployed independent of public dole, from their own earnings, they are relieved of that much money paid out in dole relief.

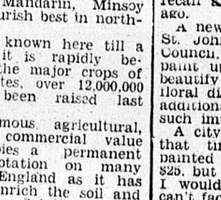
Another "way to do it" is by diverting relief money to provide work for the unemployed, instead of the past method of contriving expensive projects, wherein $3,000. out of every $5,000. is spent in material and overhead supervision expenses. It is made more of a grab bag for adventurers than a genuine application to providing work for those in need.

My suggestions are so far a few only but well worthy of consideration, and there are plenty more in the background.

I am, Sir, etc.,
BALANCE THE BUDGET

They're Shielded from want...

This man played a part



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STRAIN ON YOUR EYES

Eyes used for close work — particularly if lighting is not correct — are subject to a greater than normal strain This brings the patient discomfort if there is present any appreciable refractive error and shows itself in headaches, sore eyes, etc. A person has no way of knowing the degree of strain on the eyes until they are examined

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