THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, JULY 29, 1946

Penny-Pinching Spendthrifts

Our hard-worked and poorly paid rural mail carriers have received notice that the small bonus paid them in war years is to be discontinued and they will presumably have to contract on pre-war terms if they wish to continue in their jobs. This is a sample of the penny-pinching "economy" practiced at Ottawa, where, having boosted their own salaries by $2,000 annually, our parliamentarians are now engaged in putting through a bill to boost judges' salaries all along the line. The suggestion that the judges could wait for another year, until old age pensioners and other unfortunate classes were taken care of, finds no favour with Justice Minister St. Laurent. All his colleagues in the Cabinet, who are so much afraid of inflation if farm prices are increased, will of course vote with Mr. St. Laurent to give the judges what they want. And they will of course stand shoulder to shoulder with Mr. Ilsley in insisting that the taxpayers continue paying for a war-inflated civil service out of all proportion to our peacetime needs.

This great army of bureaucrats which was placed on the public payroll during the war appears only too willing to stay there. A year after V-E day, they are going almost as strong as ever. Mr. J. M. Macdonnell gave the House of Commons a few statistics about them which are worth repeating. Since 1939 the civil service has increased from 70,000 to 150,000 government employees. Since the war's end the incredibly small reduction of 900 in this army of 150,000 has been made. A real cause for curiosity concerns the present activities of many of the other 149,100. Thousands of jobs of stenographers, clerks and controllers must have disappeared with the ending of the Department of Munitions and Supply and other war services, but on the basis of Mr. Macdonnell's figures the civil servants linger on, drawing their pay.

An illustration of what is happening while the rural mail carriers are losing their bonuses is provided by a Civil Service Commission advertisement for a director of public relations for the Department of National Defence for Air, at a salary range of $3,900 to $4,500. The fact that the position was advertised by the Civil Service Commission indicates that the job is to be permanent though it is about as necessary in peacetime as a fifth wheel to a cart. When the peacetime Air Force has news to give out the newspapers can be depended on to go after it. That applies to other government offices as well. All that live newspapers ask is a fair field and no favors in news gathering; not government handouts, which are usually larded with propaganda. As one exchange opines, it looks as though this peacetime public relation director's main duties will be to see that the swivel chair officials and officers in the department get their names in the papers on every possible occasion.

On the basis of the tax rates now in effect the payment of eleven taxpayers earning $2,500 a year will be required to pay the salary of this one director of public relations in the Air Defense Department. How many rural mail carriers' bonuses it would pay is something we haven't worked out. And this is but one item in a long list of unnecessary expenses that is keeping the taxpayer's nose to the grandstone, and making Mr. Ilsley's statement sound pretty silly that the Government is doing everything possible to curb expenditure.

P.E.I. Farm Income Higher

In the official compilation of cash income received by Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products in 1945 the combined totals of the nine Provinces are shown as $1,685.8 million, compared with the record of $1,826.5 million received in 1944 and which represents a decrease of $140.7 million or 7.7 per cent. The 1945 income, however, was $276.2 million higher than for 1943 and $963.5 million above the figure for 1936. When supplementary payments are included, income for 1945 totalled $1,692.3 million as compared with $1,844.2 million in 1944.

While the overall total declined, it is noteworthy to record that in five provinces an increase was registered and Prince Edward Island was in this category, the others being New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. By Provinces the cash farm income for 1945, with the 1944 figures in brackets, is shown, in millions of dollars, as follows: Prince Edward Island, $16.4 ($13.7); Nova Scotia $26 ($27.9); New Brunswick $35.1 ($33.3); Quebec $228 ($221); Ontario $449.3 ($404.1); Manitoba $153.4 ($176.7); Saskatchewan $414.8 ($543.8); Alberta $289.1 ($338); British Columbia $73.7 ($68).

The cause of most of the total decrease in farm cash income last year was attributed to much smaller marketings of wheat, barley and hogs in the Prairie Provinces. On the other hand the increases in income recorded came from eggs, poultry, meat, oats, tobacco and cattle and calves. And it is interesting to note the principal groups of farm products that provided the 1945 cash income, which, with the 1944 figures in brackets, is given in thousands of dollars as follows: Grain, seeds and hay, $506,565 ($677,395); vegetables and other field crops $117,064 ($107,812); live stock $589,565 ($570,785); dairy products $268,467 ($268,305); fruits $33,193 ($39,113); eggs, wool, honey, maple products $96,834 ($90,769); miscellaneous products sold off farms $27,240 ($27,794); forest products sold off farms $35,010 ($35,134); fur farming $11,368 ($9,386).

With average crops it is anticipated, according to official sources, that farm income for 1946 will be maintained at about the same level as in 1945. This is a most encouraging prospect.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Citizens are beginning to count the days till Old Home Week.

* * * *

The country schools seem to have done better than the city ones at the P.W.C. entrance examinations.

* * * *

Children learning Latin by correspondence must be akin to floating the *Charles A. Dunning* on water shown on a chart. Right in theory but wrong in practice.

* * * *

It is worth noting that while progress and civilization induce Turkish women to foresake pants for petticoats, the self same progress and civilization obliges Anglo-Saxon women to rise from petticoats to pants.

* * * *

Perhaps the boost of from $1,000 to $5,000 in judges' salaries will be, like those of members of Parliament, free from income tax. If not, why not?

* * * *

If everybody using coal were to do now as was done in pre-car ferry days, lay in their winter's coal by October, there would be less need to worry. People with cellars have storage, and the coal merchants will no doubt extend the credit.

* * * *

Should the Federal Government act on the suggestion of the Law Society, and add an additional Supreme Court judge at the expense of the County Courts, probably the County with the least crimes and offences would be the victim and its judge the victor.

* * * *

Canadian politicians in Britain are evidently pro-centralists and anti-provincialists. Both Viscount Bennett and Mr. Beverley Baxter told the House of Lords and House of Commons respectively that Canada, viz. the Federal Parliament, should be allowed to make its own constitutional changes, which would, of course, wipe out the B.N.A.A. altogether.

* * * *

A new angle on the detention of juvenile delinquents in the common jail was given in Victoria, B.C., when Mayor Percy Meorge received a letter from Miss Mary-Anne Johnson suggesting that juveniles should be detained in separate quarters because of the danger of the young criminals misleading innocent, harmless drunks. She urged the city council to have separate quarters provided as soon as possible, because "drunks on the average are harmless individuals with no bad instincts but a craving for liquor." She questioned, "Is it fair or decent that he should be forced into association with these juveniles, most of them adept at crime and many of them with several convictions?"

* * * *

William Wilberforce, English philanthropist, died this date 1883; was a member of the House of Commons for forty-five years, and enjoyed the reputation of being the leader in social reform, exercising the greatest influence of any one not in office, supporting Catholic emancipation and parliamentary reform, the abolishing of lotteries and of climbing boy chimney sweeps; and last, not least, the great object of his life, the abolition of the slave trade; he introduced a bill for this purpose in 1789, which was defeated, and for seventeen years he re-introduced the measure until it was at length carried by a majority of 114 to 15; at his death he was buried at a public ceremony in Westminster Abbey, where he rests close to his old parliamentary friends, Pitt, Canning and Fox.

* * * *

Here is enterprise worth recording even if it is away "down under." A South Australian firm, Wiles Manufacturing Ltd., has contracted to supply UNRRA with $162,000 worth of plows for use in Albania. The managing director of the firm, Mr. K. J. Wiles said in Adelaid production of the plows has already started, and it is expected that the contract will be fulfilled early in November. It was the Wiles Company which solved the Australian fighting services problem of feeding men on the march. Early in the second world war, they evolved a mobile steam cooker which was capable of turning out hot meals for three hundred men in a short space of time. These cookers proved invaluable in the south-west Pacific and in the Middle East.

* * * *

Tax collections for the first quarter of the current fiscal year, made public by Revenue Minister McCann show increases for all items except excise tax, which decreased $31,832,151 and resulted in an over-all decline of $17,274,483 in total collections compared with the same period last year. Department officials attributed the major share in the decline of excise tax collections to the extension of exemptions from an eight per cent tax to include farm and other productive machinery, effective last Jan. 1. Income and customs-excise collections for April, May and June totalled $595,587,685, a decline of $17,274,473 from the first quarter of the 1945-1946 fiscal year. Income tax collections, totalling $403,553,936 were up $5,295,526 compared with the previous year, while customs-excise collections at $192,033,749 were $22,570,009 lower. Following is the break-down of customs-excise collections with a comparison with the first quarter of 1945-1946:

Customs duties ..	43,048,453	+	5,909,800
Excise tax	104,579,674	=	31,832,151
Excise duties ...	44,182,485	+	3,315,010
Sundry collections ..	223,136	+	37,331

Notes By The Way

Children in the New York City area are personally experiencing inflationary bites into their spending allowances— lollipops have gone up 23 percent in price. Formerly selling at one cent each, the price last week was three for 10 cents. —Toronto Star.

King George of Greece remains a lonely exile, and there are others on the outside looking in. But watch Leopold of Belgium wangle a safe return! Incidentally, what happened the stock market boom to get Carol of Romania back? And where are Carol and Lupescu? —St. Catharines Standard.

Col. Edgar Mingo, for many years connected with the St. John's Ambulance Association, had a very practical suggestion when he called for a program to handle accidents on the highways and bathing beaches and a campaign of prevention. As he pointed out, wonders have been worked to reduced accidents in industry— why not elsewhere?— New Glasgow News.

We always like those stories about persons who get lucky hunches on horse races. There was a man in Winnipeg who made a purchase at a store, and when he got home, he noticed the number of the sales slip was 444. The purchase totalled $4.00. A racing enthusiast, he promptly dashed to the park and bet on No. 4 in the fourth race. That's right— it came in fourth. —Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

A newspaper writer bemoans the fact that unification of Germany seems a long way off. The longer the better. Look what happened after Bismarck and pals unified Germany before. —Brantford Expositor.

The British Society of Individualists is taking some comfort these days from the fact Britons are now permitted to wave handkerchiefs at a ship at sea or a flying airplane. Soon, the society hopes citizens will be able to buy ther own funeral shrouds without surrendering coupons. These are only two of the 80,000 restrictions on individual and corporate freedom authorized during the war and the society, its roster of members bristling with titles, is fighting for immediate removal of every one or them. "We want the restoration of liberties which were filched from us" said Russell Sidebottom, former official of the Ministry of Information and now editor of the society's publication. "For an example of the things we are opposing I give you this— it takes 103 Government forms to get a bottle of milk on the consumer's doorstep. Among other things, you can't use mussels for fishing bait." —British United Press.

Latest blast against the British Royal Family from Walter Winchell, staccato-voiced columnist and radio broadcaster. In his frantic 15-minute Sunday night program Winchell said he wouldn't oppose the proposed U S loan to Britain if he could be assured that none of the money went towards the $3,000,000 annual salary paid to the King. Even a first-year economics student should be able to poke holes in that argument. Any "salary" paid to His Majesty is paid in pounds, not dollars. England has billions of pounds in her treasury, but pounds are no good outside the sterling area. She needs the U.S. dollars to trade in America—not to support the Royal Family. It might be easy to laugh off the whole Winchellian nonsense but American radio listeners, senators and congressmen among them, are all too often influenced by columnists and commentators who happen to be mis-informed, as Winchell was in this matter, their influence is unfortunate — London Free Press.

We suspect that the lamented passing of William S. Hart may have been hastened by the spectacle of crooning, guitar-playing, dudishly attired young men attempting to fill his boots and saddle as cowboy heroes of the modern screen. We also suspect that his understandable sorrow might have been lightened by a small news item which appeared, unfortunately, on the same day as his obituary. The story told of 10,000 veterans in his adopted state of California who waited— some of them 24 hours— for a chance to buy 1,588 surplus jeeps. These young men doubtless became acquainted with the jeep during their days in the service and knew it for what it is —a jarring, bruising, belaboring, tooth-loosening invention, sturdy, tireless and practically unstoppable but definitely skittish, especially when rounding corners. In short, a broncho on wheels. Yet even after having ridden them, these veterans still wanted them. We think it would have proved to Mr. Hart's satisfaction, as it did to ours, that the old, hard-riding pioneer West isn't dead after all. —Calgary Albertan.

Throughout the confusing famine stories and the President's flood pronouncements of recent months there has been no clear statement of who needs what and where it can be obtained, nor what this country is expected to provide. The proposal to reduce German rations to the dangerously low figure of 1,000 calories a day comes in good grace from the food minister of England, where last month's rations were cut to seven ounces of fat a week and one egg and where the waste of bread was termed "an anti-social act". In famished parts of Yugoslavia the ration was reported to be 720 calories. It may be that the "Allies first" idea will speed the conservation movement here: we hope so. But we believe it will deepen uncertainty and add to dissatisfaction with Washington's fumbling food policy. —New York-Herald Tribune.

Pardon us while we shed a few crocodile tears, remarks The Minneapolis Star-Journal, for the major league baseball owners who are so amazed and hurt at finding themselves confronted by competition. And from Mexico, of all places! Having bartered players around like so much cordwood within their own carefully guarded microcosm, the mogols of sport now find there is more to the world than 10 cities. The Mexican League has entered the bidding— but high. Unfortunately, the Latin loop may not last long if the sudden Mexican prosperity— built on big war profits, black markets and American tourists— should collapse. Yet it is intriguing in a pastime which has become all but fossilized, everywhere except Brooklyn, to find somebody with brass and gold enough to sass back at such guys as Larry MacPhail.

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.

GRAIN SHORTAGE & LIQUOR

Sir,—In a recent issue of The Guardian I read with pleasure a letter suggesting bread rationing. We have read so much of the desperate famine conditions in the world yet have done so little that I was beginning to lose faith in a practical christianity.

We are told to treat others as we should wish to be treated, yet what have we done to help those who, through no fault of their own, are dying from hunger, or are subsisting on a diet of roots, stems and clay!

We, the best-fed people in the world (and who can deny it?) spend 300 million dollars a year on beverage alcohol when millions are starving for bread!

Think of it—turning precious wheat into poison when God intended it to feed His children! Do we deserve peace and prosperity?

Following is an extract from the "Farmers Magazine": "How are we Canadians measuring up in this world emergency? Is it enough to be satisfied because we are meeting the food commitments made by our Government?"

If we find ourselves in another world war, by how much will it be our own fault? As individuals let us do our part by approving bread rationing.

Let us send our names (on cards as requested) to Mrs. Guinevere Earle Grey, 95 Walmsley Blvd., Toronto, Ont., and at the same time let us request our Government to co-operate by cutting down the grain used to make beverage alcohol.

I am, Sir, etc.,

OBSERVER.

Kinkora, P. E. I.

Labor Barons

(Financial Post)

Today's reality is that trade unionism has grown to such a stature has so successfully acquired privileges and avoided responsibilities, that society finds, for its own protection and the protection of trade union members themselves that it must take a new look at this mighty institution.

Some union leaders now hold in their own hands power that lets them defy, with virtual impunity, government and the overwhelming body of public opinion. They have become stronger than government itself. They tie up and debauch a whole nation's economy. Those with closed shop agreements, can doom to impoverishment individuals who question or reject their leadership, at least until the worker learns to make his living at some other job. And with or without a closed shop, the union leader has his very highly organized teams of "pressure boys" who use various forms of "putting the heat" on "troublesome" union members; in making life extremely miserable for the worker and his family.

The labor leader can instruct his army to halt production regardless of the effect on the community as a whole, on other workers, on managers and shareholders. He can order his army to damage and wreck and prevent access to property, and neither he nor his union is liable to penalties for so doing.

Unions grew as minority groups fighting in a generally hostile world for certain well-defined objectives —more pay and better working conditions.

With their development as giant international corporations, with powerful heirarchies of professional executives, they have become very different things.

Obviously the interest of union executives may frequently be different from that of the union member. The member is interested in his own wages and working conditions. But for the union executive the modern union has become a giant instrument which he can use in the pursuit of many diverse interests, his own power his own job security for instance. Almost inevitably political ends get tangled with union ends.

Thus the union member finds himself a pawn in big power plays. He finds himself pulled out on strikes in which he has only a hypothetical interest. It has been estimated that it will take until 1953 for General Motors workers in the U.S. to be as well off as the company's original offer would have made them.

The state, representing the whole people finally asserted its authority against the feudal lords with their private armies. The state long since asserted its authority over business and how it might operate, combine and conduct itself in its relationships with the rest of the community. The reckoning day for the labor barons is approaching.

The Craze For Brain Trusts

(By John Pudney, BBC Overseas Short Wave Service)

(Mr. Pudney, recently demobilized from the R A F., is the author of the memorable poem in the film "The Way to the Stars")

After having spent five years in uniform, mainly outside England, not the least of the pleasures of civilian life is the rediscovery of the old country.

As a writer before the war, I used to travel around Britain a good deal and I had a good general idea of what went on. During the war I saw glimpses, I suppose, of about forty other countries. Now, in this first spring of peace and civilian life, I am rediscovering my own place with some relish.

I am reminded of the old Music Hall crack "How the old place has changed; everything seems the same".

The way of life here in England is fundamentally the same but superficially there are many changes most of them directly due to war conditions. You have heard all about them— the food rationing, housing shortage, the austerities and the discomforts.

With all these wartime rigours, however, I notice certain changes in the mental outlook and I will just describe one of them because I think it is characteristic of something which has happened to the credit of the old country.

There is nothing particularly novel about a brains trust in itself and nothing characteristically British, but what strikes me is the number of brains trusts one encounters up and down the country and in civilian life. There are political brains trusts, farmers' brains trusts, literary brains trusts. One of the most popular things any section of the community can do for its own entertainment, instruction and propaganda is to have a brains trust. I have not been seeking them out— they just happen all round me.

Recently I was myself serving on a trust got up by our Literary Society in Sevenoaks in Kent. The distinguished woman preacher, Dr. Maud Royden, confessed to a packed house her preferences for detective stories. We argued about the amount of reading which anybody should do in any one day; we discussed the effect of the cinema upon the upbringing of children. This was a small town show: I make no claims for our performance. I mention it simply because the hall was packed and because the audience entered into the affair with such attention and with so many questions. Such an event, I believe, would have been most unlikely in the 'thirties.

Another event which now takes place regularly amongst us would, I hazard, have been inconceivable in the 'thirties. In the long low saloon bar of that Georgian hostelry the "White Hart", standing on the edge of the wooded demesne of the Palce of Knowle, a brains trust meets once a fortnight. A brains trust in a pub. Now I have the honour to be the Questionmaster at this saloon bar entertainment so you must not think I am blowing my own trumpet if I say that I can speak of it with some authority. The idea of having it arose from those traditional friendly arguments held among the customers. My old friend Mr. Hazel the landlord, is by no means an intellectual but he's travelled widely in his youth and likes to hear a good argument. When he and the customers put up the proposition of an organized trust I will confess that I had my doubts, because we as a nation are very much against organised activities within the very bastions of freedom which is the bar of the local. I wondered if the customers would not resent organised discussion. I feared that the proceedings would be mostly frivolous.

But now I must report that we have sat there in the tobacco haze and fug of Mr Hazel's bar with pints before us, discussing the atomic age, co-education, United Nations Organizations, the shape of the world to come, the shape of women's hats, health, food —anything in fact whih is no party politics or religion.

The trust varies slightly from time to time. Very often I have sitting beside me Mr. Evans of the Water Works, Mr. Richards, a baker, Mr. Liversedge, a farmer, and the Scots doctor who of course, must be anonymous. They have two minutes each.

Then the audience has a go. Then somebody on the trust replies. I see to it that the questions vary between solemnity and humor. I am proud to say that there has never been an occasion upon which any member of the trust has failed to express an opinion.

The audience is significant; local men and women; young men back from the Forces, farming people, casual customers who have come in for a drink and who stop to argue. The trust doesn't hold up the business of the house, but everybody in that audience participates and these typical English people have lost all their shyness. Women as well as men join in the discussion cogently and naturally. There is plenty of humour but the point I must emphasize is that they are also earnest. They are no longer shy of talking seriously in public.

I believe that the people at home have lived through about twenty years of life in these five or six years which have just passed. They may have suffered greatly while so many of us have been away but the ordinary people in their minds are more vital, more intelligent, less afraid of speaking up for themselves. And these qualities in people give me more pleasure than anything I have seen as a civilian in England.

The Poet's Corner

O FLYING FISH

O flashing bit of silver on
The turquoise sea; now here, now gone,
Now flying in the tropic dawn;
Here leaping, sailing,
Dashing through a shining wave
Like some strange treasure from a cave,
With nothing to restrain you save
The south wind's wailing.

O Flying Fish, O Silver Toy,
Do monsters of the dark employ
Their strength to drive you from the joy
Of deep-sea dwelling?
Or tell me, is it but the sheer
Delight of soaring, turning here
That brings you high above this clear
Blue crystal swelling?

—George Gray, Arabian Sea, in the New York Times.

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