

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1947

Compulsory Closing

The sponsors of the movement to have all grocery retailers close at 6:30 each evening with the exception of Saturday, are earnestly endeavouring to improve a situation which is unfortunate in some respects, but their solution cannot be taken seriously.

If there is a retail grocers' association, such association is quite within its rights to enact by-laws requiring members to close at certain hours. Any grocer finding himself at variance with the majority is free to withdraw his membership.

It might help to take a look at the future if such legislation did become law. "Bootleg grocers—informers—imported spies—raids—grocery enforcement officers—padlocks—fines—and jail sentences for law breaking grocers."

Guess He Meant It

While we have no desire to thresh old straw so far as Premier Jones' anti-Union speech at the Legion hall is concerned, it is worth recalling—now that the Legislature is about to meet—that the following statement, for some reason or other, was deemed to be of sufficient importance to be placed as paragraph 5 in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Legislature last year.

"In these troublous times, it appears to be an advantage that no effective Labour organization exists on Prince Edward Island. Labour seeks monopoly which may be compared with the monopolies of capital. Both are not savoured by the primary producers of my Province who are in the great majority at present. It is fully expected that a national labour code may eventually be established. Up to the present only a labour code for war industries has been effected. Collective bargaining, minimum wages, hours of work, vacations with pay, and other regulations may eventually be legislated, but my Government feels those should be national in scope and that a small Province such as ours should not attempt to legislate for these things at this time."

Particularly to be noted is the statement in the Speech that "Labour seeks monopoly" and the inference that the primary producers are opposed to labor organizations. Evidently this thought has been in the Premier's mind for some time. Those who were taken by surprise at the Legion meeting, remind one of the people who were surprised at Hitler's demands after Munich. If these same people had read Hitler's book "Mein Kampf" they would have known that Hitler meant every word he said. In the same way, reading the Premier's Throne Speech of a year ago, one can see that he was much more serious than most people may believe him to have been, when he voiced his anti-union sentiments at the Legion hall.

Canada's First Automobile

According to the Sherbrooke Daily Record in a 50th anniversary special edition, Sherbrooke, Ontario, claims the honor of having seen the first automobile built in Canada. It was in the Spring of 1897, we are told, that George Foss turned out a "horseless carriage" which he called a Fossmobile, and with Foss at the wheel the machine "delighted the inventor and amazed the citizenry by slowly but successfully climbing up Catholic Church Hill."

The Record prints a picture of that historic climb up Catholic Church Hill—a frail-looking machine on rubber-tired wheels with wire spokes, the engine in front, the driver alone in the single seat. It was a long way to the modern motor car, but the start had been made.

Always In Debt

Are we on the debit or credit side of affairs so far as the United States is concerned? The annual report of the Bank of Canada tells the sad story. Here it is:

Canada has had a deficit in her current account transactions with the United States in every year from 1926 to 1943. In 1944 and 1945 there were small surpluses caused by special wartime factors. The average deficit over this twenty year period was \$165 millions a year and the largest deficits (for example \$437 millions in 1929) occurred in years of peace time prosperity. The only peacetime years in which there was an approach towards balance were years of unemployment, stagnation and low imports, such as 1933-6.

Unless some developments occur which would produce a major change in the character of our trading relationships with the United States it will be normal for Canada to have a deficit in its current account balance of payments with the United States, and this deficit is likely to average higher in the future than it has in the past. Other things being equal, the rise in world prices from the pre-war level will increase the absolute size of the deficit. Moreover, the more successful we are in maintaining a high level of employment and in-

come, the greater our tendency to import from the United States is likely to be. The trade figures of recent months are a tangible reminder of this tendency. Our imports from the United States in the fourth quarter of 1946 were about \$430 millions as compared with less than \$500 millions in the whole year 1937 and less than \$900 millions in the whole year 1929.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The City Council appears reluctant about handling the corner grocery situation. By delay it may be too late to obtain the necessary legislative permission.

April 1st is to be hailed not as All Fools' Day, but as Sugar Boost Day, for that is the date fixed for the 14 per cent increase in the individual sugar ration supply.

Will the Jones Government refrain from imposing a gasoline tax now that the Federal Government has abandoned it, or will the Premier seek to add to his revenue the amount which Ottawa considers necessary?

It can be done, but how? With a population of 58,400, Rochford, Essex, England, had no recorded cases of drunkenness in 1946. This, too, in just about half the population of this Province.

Henrich Karl Marx, German socialist, born this date 1818; son of a Jewish lawyer, became converted to Protestantism, and took his degree in Philosophy at Berlin in 1841; three years later he met Engels in Paris, with whom he associated and collaborated till his death; he published the first Communist pronouncement in 1847; but expelled from Prussian territory, afterwards settling in London where he remained for the rest of his life.

Salada Tea Company sales in 1945 exceeded the previous peak by four million pounds. In 1946 they exceeded that peak by 2,500,000 pounds. The company, wrote: "We attribute these very gratifying figures first of all to the quality of our tea and second to what we believe to be a sound advertising policy. The most important feature of our advertising has been daily newspapers." Salada use 87 Canadian daily newspapers.

The remark of the Quebec Liberal Leader, Mr. Godbout, that Quebec should make an agreement with Ottawa, was modified by the suggestion that the Provinces should retain succession duties. Evidently the Provincial Liberal Party in Quebec is not prepared to fight Mr. Duplessis on the Dominion-Provincial issue, or else Mr. Godbout has information that Ottawa is prepared to withdraw its demand for control of succession duties. In that event, it would probably not be difficult to get a taxation agreement between Quebec and Ontario on the one hand, and Ottawa on the other.

G. M. Y. writes to The Times: "When paper is more abundant The Times might revert to an older form of birth announcement, as thus:—Richard at the Grove declares that on the feast of S. Nicholas in the fourteenth year of our Lord the King that now is, Margaret daughter of Robert came running out to tell him that she now had a brother, for which she thanked God. And John Everard was with Robert in Holt Forest, hunting the fox, when William Workman came up and said 'Sir, will you hear the news?' and Robert said 'Fair friend, what news?' and he said among them all: 'A son was born to Robert last night' and Robert gave him forty pence."

Mr. Charles Jordan Jones, K. C., Woodstock, N. B., has been appointed judge of the county courts of Carleton, Victoria, Madawaska and Charlotte. He will fill the position left vacant by the death of Judge M. L. Hayward of Hartland. The new judge comes of a distinguished legal family. He has for many years been a well known practitioner as was his father, the late W. P. Jones, K.C., long regarded as the leader of the New Brunswick bar. His brother, Mr. G. Y. Jones, is a practicing barrister and is judge of probate for Carleton County. Judge Jones graduated in arts from the University of New Brunswick in 1900 and was admitted to the New Brunswick Bar three years later. He was made a King's Counsel in 1935. In 1937 he was president of the New Brunswick Barristers' Association. He is at present a member of the council of that body. He is also town clerk and solicitor for Woodstock.

An amusing yarn is told about the "Waterloo Beesches," planted in Stratfieldspays Park (the seat of the Duke of Wellington) after the Battle of Waterloo. It seems a lady by the name of Mrs. F. Landen wrote to the Duke requesting permission to see the beesches, but unfortunately the Duke was no longer as mentally alert as once he was, or the lady's writing was uncommonly difficult to read. Whatever the reason, Wellington read "beesches" as "breaches," and "Landen" as "London," and murmured, "Whatever can the Bishop of London mean by wanting to see my Waterloo breaches?" No doubt the Bishop was no less surprised to receive the great soldier's trousers!

Australia will restrict the importation of luxury cars and other luxury goods from dollar countries, Prime Minister Chifley announced in Canberra last week. He pointed out that the dollar shortage placed the United Kingdom in a difficult position for rehabilitating her industries and rebuilding her export trade with dollar areas. Mr. Chifley continued, "After the epic fight put up by Britain and the difficult economic situation she is now facing, we feel we are duty bound to co-operate and help her all we can: We can do this by restricting dollar purchases where possible. The people of Australia are not suffering like the people of the United Kingdom. Therefore, we can save dollars on luxury purchases like certain types of cars." Mr. Chifley would not indicate what types of goods other than cars would be required.

Notes By The Way

Canada has officially invited Russians to take part in the development of north polar regions. Now when a Canadian mission of military men and scientists settle down in Siberia, that will be the day! — St. Catherine's Standard.

Every day a large number of people in this country are rendered homeless as a result of fire. Stupid at any time, this becomes little short of criminal when there is a critical shortage of housing, and few fires are other than preventable.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

When the United Nations reviews the Palestine problem the world will be able to pay tribute to the forgotten Tommy Atkins and his misunderstood and thankless task. There are many aspects of British policy in Palestine which call for less for censure than for sympathy and understanding. — Winnipeg Free Press.

More men are wearing plain knitted ties, we learn from a press report. This brings up the question, why wear ties at all? One of the most foolish customs is that of men who bind their necks almost to the strangling point with various kinds of fabrics, says The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix. Some of the gaudy ties that one sees are almost as ridiculous as the women's hats that strike your eye in the Easter parade. Men who laugh at the things women are pleased to call hats might do well to take a second look at their ties.

The 1947 pennies are now coming into circulation and they are bright and golden. So ends a minor "debasingment" of the currency, says The Manchester Guardian. Since 1944 the Royal Mint has darkened all pennies before issue—a deliberate act of denigration done in the knowledge that the bright penny is hoarded and usually given to children to save. Ordinary photographic "typo" was used to reduce striking pennies to save coppers for munitions, and it was in response to sustained public demand that striking was resumed three years ago.

By implication, if not by direct word, the United States has indicated Pacific islands she now holds will be turned over to United Nations trusteeship as soon as that organization sets up effective world security machinery. It is well understood these islands will be retained only so long as they are necessary to American, and therefore Pacific, defence plans. These islands are weapons of American security every bit as much as the atomic bomb. It would be insanity to surrender either the A-bomb or the islands to the care of the United Nations without iron-clad assurance their use will be safeguarded.—Denver Post.

It is our consideration opinion, based upon a long study, and supported by the opinion of many experts in whom we have confidence, that there is extremely little in the comic strips which appear in the respectable dailies to cause perturbation in the most solicitous parental breast. On the other hand many of the comic books are vulgar, sexy, productive of an admiration for crime, and destructive of the sense of difference between good and evil. They constitute a new type of danger in our society because of the new factor introduced by the fact that children today have far more spending money than they ever had before and are subject to far less parental control in the spending of it.—Saturday Night.

In these days a robin comes frequently to the tree. He suggests some home-builder sizing up the ground, weighing values and advantages before making his choice of location and bringing to it those labors that go into nesting, says The Victoria Times. There is keen scrutiny in the birds eye as he cocks his head this way and that gauging possibilities. There seems to be something presidential in the attention he pays to his spot. For here, beside the lawn, to the surface of which heavy watering will bring succulent earthworms, he may settle and raise his family close to a natural lair. Here, when the miracle of bloom touches borders and beds, he will find floral beauty equal to the cheering happiness of his song. Perhaps the mute evidence of the old nests tells him these things as he seeks out the pieces where he will make his home, free of those worries of supply and labor which burden his human admirers.

On February 19, 1897, in the village of Stoney Creek, Ontario, the Women's Institute was founded. From a handful of women (and one man) the idea spread far and wide across Canada until now there are 3,000 Women's Institute branches with 70,000 members in the Dominion and the Associated Countrywomen of the world have carried its ideals to lands beyond the seas. Mrs. John Hoodless, of Saltfleet township, felt that there was room for a Women's Institute. Accordingly Adelaide Hoodless is regarded as the founder of the Women's Institute movement. She actually got the first group together. The Women's Institute has grown steadily. It has proven its value through the years and sponsored a wide variety of projects. In the field of health it has worked for better medical service and hospitalization for rural areas, for such matters as drinking fountains and hot lunches in schools. It has brought culture in various forms to the rural regions, sponsoring plays and music festivals.—London Free Press.

The Poet's Corner

SONNET—TO HIS LOVE

Mark when she smiles with amiable cheer,
And tell me whereto can ye liken it.
When on each eyelid sweetly do appear
An hundred graces as in shade to sit.
Likest it seemeth in my simple wit
Unto the fair sunshine in summer's day:
That when a dreadful storm away
Is fled,
Through the broad world doth
spread his goodly ray:
At sight whereof each bird that sits
on spray,
And every beast that to his den
was fled,
Comes forth afresh out of their
late dismay,
And to the light lift up their drooping head,
So my storm-beaten heart likewise
is cheered,
With that sunshine when cloudy
looks are cleared.

—Edmund Spenser.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

STAGE COACH DAYS

"I came to Charlottetown in the month of February in the year 1855. The means of conveyance to and from the City to which the occasional passenger usually resorted was then the mail stage coach in summer and the mail stage sleigh in winter. In the rear end of both coach and sleigh there was attached a sort of hurdle to which the mail bags and other baggage were strapped. Inside the coach and sleigh there was a room for six or eight passengers. Attached to the conveyance there were usually two but sometimes three or four horses. The driver carried from his shoulder a tin trumpet which he blew frequently to warn ordinary travellers to get out of the way of Her Majesty's mails.

"An old farmer living in New London told me that he had occasionally come to town drawn by a large, strong and swift heifer, and returned the same day with supplies for his family. But such means of transport were out of date before I came to town. The whole country was then but partially cleared for cultivation. West of Miscouche it was for the most part still under-wood; and in the settlements of Muddy Creek, Fifteen Point, Egmont Bay and on to Tignish there were still in much the larger number log houses of primitive construction.

"Throughout the winter there were loads of firewood and ship timber brought into Charlottetown on all the fine winter days, and also into Summerside and many other parts of the Province at which several shipyards in and near Charlottetown, and Summerside was then little more than a shipyard and shipping place for produce."

(From an address, about 1900, by the late Mr. W. L. Cotton, veteran editor of the Examinator. Courtesy of Mr. R. L. Cotton.)

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.

COMPULSORY CLOSING

Sir.—Dr. Dougan is correct, leave the small stores alone, a store proprietor that wants to make the City Council the goat is not a small store keeper; he wants to take it easy and squeeze the little fellow out. Next thing they will want the farmers to stop work at 6:30. "What a joke."

I am Sir, etc. CONSUMER.

CLOSING HOURS

Sir.—I note that a meeting was held by our City Council on the subject of small stores closing, and it was suggested that by-law or otherwise all stores should be closed at 6:30 p.m. This law might be all right for people with the means to buy what they want before this hour, but the man with a large family who is living from hand to mouth is often not in this position. What would such people do if they needed a quart of milk or a loaf of bread for their children between 6:30 and 9 or 9:30 the following morning? If the large stores think they can make enough money and carry on a good business without working day and night, they should not try to prevent the others from doing so. The poorer people are entitled to have the kind of service they require.

I am Sir, etc. VERNON J. McINNIS, Great George Street.

SILVER CARE is Easier! Ideal SILVER POLISH. Advertisement for a silver polish product.

Mr. Attlee on The Breakdown of the Anglo-Egyptian Negotiations

(United Kingdom Information) In the United Kingdom House of Commons on March 11th the Prime Minister was asked whether he had any announcement to make on the recent statement by the Egyptian Prime Minister on the causes of the breakdown of the negotiations for the revision of the Anglo-Egyptian treaty. Mr. Attlee replied: "The statement issued by the Egyptian Prime Minister on the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations stated that the final breaking off these negotiations might be attributed only to the inability of Egypt to obtain satisfaction on the following two essential points. One, evacuation of British troops from Egypt. This evacuation must be immediate, complete and not conditioned by a treaty. Two, maintenance of the unity of Egypt and the Sudan, self-government for the Sudanese and the restoration to Egypt of her rights in the administration of the Sudan in order to further the preparation of the Sudanese for self-government."

"This declaration can best be judged in the light of the agreements reached between M. Sidky Pasha and the Foreign Secretary in London last October. These agreements provided for mutual arrangements for defence, arrangements for evacuation and for the Sudan. The agreements were initially by the two statesmen in London and were submitted to the Egyptian Chamber of Deputies on November 25th, 1946, and received a vote of confidence. Thereupon the Egyptian Government informed His Majesty's Government on December 1st that they were ready to sign the treaty and the two annexes dealing with evacuation and the Sudan. The Foreign Secretary in his statement in the House of Commons on January 27th made quite clear the sole reason why signature did not in fact take place, namely the endeavour of the Sudanese to mean that they could rely on the support of His Majesty's Government to deny to the Sudanese complete freedom of choice when the time came for them to choose their future status."

"The British Government had already agreed as part of the above arrangement to complete the evacuation of British troops in Egypt by 1949. This is not an excessive period for the winding up of immense commitments built up by the British Army in Egypt, which was its main base for the war in which British arms saved Egypt from being overrun by the Nazis. "As already indicated by the Foreign Secretary in this House, the British Government are also in favour of eventual self-government for the Sudanese, who, when the time comes for them to choose their future status, would not be debarred from choosing complete independence or some form of association with Egypt or even complete union if they wished. It is not true therefore to say that 'British policy is directed towards inclining the Sudanese to secede from Egypt'."

"The Egyptian statement says that the Sudanese are a people of the same race, language and religion as the Egyptians. I should point out that the Sudanese comprise many races and types, Nilotic, Hamitic and Negroid besides Arabs. Furthermore, out of approximately 7,000,000 Sudanese more than 2,500,000 are not Muslim nor Arabic speaking."

"It is also stated that the Sudanese will only be able to express their views freely when British troops have evacuated the Sudan. British troops are in common with Egyptian troops are in the Sudan at the disposal of the Government for the defence of the country. It is incorrect to say that the presence of either British or Egyptian troops makes it impossible for the Sudanese to express their views freely."

A Misleading Index

In its March 3 issue, Time Magazine reports that Canadians "took a quick peek at a new Wartime Prices and Trade Board survey of United States and Canadian prices last week and fell all over themselves patting their own backs." The purport of the news piece was that the Prices Board check showed Canadians that they were much better off than their neighbors to the south because basic commodity prices were lower.

It is to the magazine's credit that it projected its report a little beyond Ottawa's blandly reassuring analysis, to add: "The WPTB survey... did show that food prices averaged considerably lower in Canadian cities than in comparable United States cities... Clothing and home-furnishing prices were 'very similar' in both countries. Even so, as WPTB told it, the cost of living in Canada seemed a lot lower than it was in the United States. The catch was that WPTB had not told all. In fact, it had closed its eyes to some other prices. It did not mention the higher price for gasoline, the extra \$100 to \$300 or more for automobiles, the higher price on manufactured goods... There was no mention of shoes... The survey also made no mention of Canadian wages (35 per cent lower...) nor Canadian taxes (1-2 times as high...)"

It is "the catch" with which this newspaper, in company with many others, finds grievous fault. The cost-of-living index as it has been applied is neither accurate nor informative. It deals only in staples, making no allowance for countless items which are to a greater or less degree required by every family. It ignores the increase in the price of many things the average man must use—gasoline, tobacco, day,



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100 Pairs Men's Wool Worsted Trousers Greys. Blues. Browns

- Exceptional Value
Handsome Shades
All Sizes

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HENDERSON & CUDMORE WHERE QUALITY IS SURE

alarm clocks, where in many cases new taxes represent the entire price increase.

For some curious reason income taxes are completely left out of cost-of-living calculations. Why this should be so is in no sense clear, because the payment of income taxes is not optional. They are the first take on every pay cheque. The importance of this charge is shown up in comparisons with the United States, to employ a favorite device of the Prices Board. If United States commodity prices are higher, the United States Government leaves the wage earner a much larger part of his salary.

In Canada a married man with two children pays \$183 income tax on a salary of \$3,000. He pays \$463 on \$4,000 and \$1,581 on \$7,500. In the United States the same man at \$3,000 pays \$46 less tax; on \$4,000 he pays \$153 less and on \$7,500 nearly \$800 less. Washington is now considering a reduction of 20 per cent, thus widening the gap still further.

As any one but the statistician seems to know, the household budget is not computed according to gross earning power before taxation. The real salary is what is left to the wage earner to spend to live and to meet fixed obligations after the Department of Revenue has taken its bite. The cost-of-living index may have some value in determining a national subsistence level, but nothing more.

Newspapers Most Read

(Brantford Expositor) A U. S. trade organization for the book publishing field recently made a survey of popular reading habits. The findings are of interest. They show what everyone knew in a general way, of course, namely that newspapers, the radio, magazines and moving pictures all play important parts in entertaining, informing and educating the public. But coming down to cases, the survey reveals that, despite the impression sometimes given that every one listens to the radio every day, the newspaper-reading habit

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is still the strongest of them all. This is how The Kitchener Record sums up the poll verdict: "Covering an equivalent number of persons with grade school, high school and college educations, the results of the study in the United States showed that an average of eighty-five per cent read the newspapers daily, seventy-four per cent listened to the radio some time every day, forty per cent read magazines daily and that only twelve per cent attend the movies on any given day. Among college graduates, ninety-three per cent were daily newspaper readers." The statistics follow is still an impression, the newspaper is still an important part of the leading part of the news and information, including advertising information. The radio has its place so have the other media. Taken together they are, in the main complementary rather than competitive. An freely operated, as they are in this country and in the United States they afford the people a new and better example of freedom of speech and of expression.