

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1949

The Chignecto Canal

There is no question but that our Provincial
Government, members of Parliament, Boards of
Trade and other bodies will be prepared to co-
operate wholeheartedly with the Chignecto Canal
Committee in pushing to successful completion
the long-delayed plans for the waterway devel-
opment across the Chignecto Isthmus. It is
worth recalling that this project was one of the
provisions under which the Maritimes agreed to
enter Confederation in 1867. Though Prince Ed-
ward Island did not come in at that time, but
at a later period under our own special terms,
we were equally interested along with New
Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the Chignecto
policy, and its non-fulfillment to this day is
as much a matter of concern to us as to our
neighbours.

As noted on several occasions in these col-
umns, the proposed canal would bring this Pro-
vince 225 miles closer by water to our customers
in the United States, West Indies and South
American ports, and shipping to Boston and
other centres could be done by small coastal
vessels. It would also bring here a large steam-
ship traffic. Years ago, at a Commission hear-
ing here, the late Mr. Nelson Rattenbury, on
behalf of the Charlottetown Board of Trade, of-
fered figures to show that 15,000,000 bush-
els of Island root vegetables could be moved
through the canal annually and that the saving
to shippers in freight costs would run to \$640,-
000. At present freight costs, of course, these
figures would be much higher today.

In addition to these and other transporta-
tion advantages, it was shown at the recent
meeting at Sackville that the canal construction
could be combined with a huge development
plan of hydro-electric energy having a potential
of 135,000 horse power, which an eminent Ot-
tawa engineer recently estimated as being feasi-
ble provided a certain type of waterway con-
struction is followed. Embodied in this plan is
also the reclamation and rehabilitation of tide-
water-damaged marshes and bog lands.

The hydro-electric aspect of the proposed
canal is of unquestionable value for in no
part of Canada is an adequate supply of low-
cost electrical energy needed more than in
the Maritimes. It cannot be gained but these
Provinces would have been much better off in
every way had potential power developments,
such as that existing at Chignecto, been unde-
raken years ago. Any project which would enable
this Province to share in such a scheme would
be of paramount importance.

Now that an energizing force of Maritime
business and governmental authorities have
actively taken up the promotion of the development
of the Chignecto Canal plan, their lead should
enlist a greatly widened interest and support in
pressing the Dominion Government to proceed
with the undertaking. The press generally
throughout the Atlantic Provinces has been un-
animous in its advocacy of the project and can
be counted on to further stress the merits of the
development as well as the necessity of early
action in bringing it to fruition.

Churchill On Socialism

Though in Opposition, Mr. Churchill con-
tinues to dominate the British parliamentary
scene. His speeches are as pungent as ever, as
smoothly polished and as sharply barbed. From
The Times parliamentary reporter comes the fol-
lowing excerpt of one of his recent addresses,
which is self explanatory:

"Today the Socialists boasted that they
were the opponents of Communism. Socialists
parties in every European country had been found
altogether inadequate barriers against it; indeed,
as the Steel Bill showed, they were the hand-
maids and heralds of Communism. (Opposition
cheers.) They prepared the way at every step for
its further advance.

"Communist textbooks were full of that
theme. Of the difference between Socialism and
Communism he had said a good many years ago
that a strong dose either of Socialism or Com-
munism would kill Britannia stone dead and
of the inquest the only question for the jury would
be: Did she fall or was she pushed? (Loud laugh-
ter.)"

Excise Taxes

Whether or not income taxes are to be
scaled down at the coming session of Parliament,
it seems likely that Mr. Abbott's 1949 budget will
tackle the long-overdue overhaul of wartime, lux-
ury and excise taxes, many of which at present
hang like barnacles around the fiscal ship of
state. According to the Financial Post, these were
due to be trimmed in the Ilsey budget of 1947
but at the last minute the much-needed pruning
was sidetracked. In 1948, nothing was done be-
cause of the dilemma of new 25 per cent excise
taxes imposed by reason of the dollar-conserva-
tion program.

In the fiscal year ending March, 1947, the
Government collected \$200 millions in miscel-
laneous commodity taxes (exclusive of sales tax
and taxes on transportation, amusements and
gasoline). Most of these are a hangover from
wartime "luxury" and curtailment taxes. They
range from taxes on toothpaste to fur coats.
The Post predicts as "pretty certain" that they
will be overhauled and many of them obliterated
next spring.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Week of Prayer.

The Junior Farmers at St. Dunstan's.

The mildest New Year's day for years was
experienced Saturday, and continued over the
week-end.

The search for a better storage battery has
advanced the small step of eliminating one more
prospective. American researchers, as reported by
the magazine, Motor, have ruled out nickel-cad-
mium batteries for use in cars. Despite certain
advantages, the battery is too large, heavy and
expensive for adoption.

Bertrand Russell, or as he now is, Earl Rus-
sell, finds that the great problem facing the
world today is to turn humanity's savage in-
stincts into peaceful pursuits. "Life without ad-
venture," he said, "is likely to be unsatisfying
but a life in which adventure is allowed to take
whatever form it will is sure to be short."

The last remaining system of fixed har-
bour defences in the United States has been
dismantled. The 16-inch guns of San Francisco
are being scrapped in favour of unified har-
bour defence schemes employing surface and
undersea craft, short and long range bombard-
ment planes and underwater mines. By way of
contrast, recent reports indicate that guns are
being again mounted as part of the defences
of Halifax.

Tomorrow the Maritime Transportation
Commission meets in Moncton to make final pre-
parations for the Board of Transport Commis-
sioners' freight rate hearing in Ottawa next
week. Theoretically the Board and the Royal
Commission can between them consider every
aspect of the problem. There is a very real dan-
ger, however, that Maritime arguments will be
lost between the two.

Attention of every one is directed to the
proposal of Mr. G. Henderson Smith, Calgary,
that the three Maritime Provinces and New-
foundland should form a regional consultative
Legislature to discuss questions of mutual in-
terest, the results of which would be submitted
to the respective legislatures for approval or
disapproval. It seems a step in the right direc-
tion, and would tend to unify the Maritimes in
presenting claims, etc. at Ottawa. He suggests
that the Regional headquarters should be at
Charlottetown, as the central province.

As in Canadian universities, overcrowding
at British universities has aroused fears that
teaching standards will suffer. As a result en-
trance regulations may be revised. The present
policy of making university training open
to all young men and women able to profit by
it has almost doubled university population and
caused "quite a serious deterioration in the
standards of university life," says a report by
the university grants committee on university
development between 1935-47. "In few other
fields are numbers of so little value compared
to quality properly developed," it warns. "Acad-
emic standards once lowered are irrevocable."

Joseph Jacques Cesare Joffre, French sol-
dier, born this date 1852, died 1931; served as a
lieutenant of engineers in the war of 1870-71;
in 1885 served as captain in the Indo-Chinese
campaign, organizing the defences of Formosa
and Tongking; promoted major and decorated;
his name first became public in 1894 when he
occupied Timbuktu when he was promoted Lieut-
Colonel and received the Legion of Honour. His
further promotion was rapid till in 1909 he was
Chief of the General Staff implying supreme
command in war time, which he was in World
War I. While France and Europe seemed to be
in the direst peril; he was the one man who re-
mained cool and unflinching, and he quietly or-
ganized the "Miracle of the Marne." He was
raised as Marshal of France, a title which had
been in abeyance since 1871 and specially re-
vived for him. Distinguished for his simplicity of
character and life, alertness and clearness of
mind, and organizing power, known by his sol-
diers as Grand-pere.

Unless the recent international agreement
for protecting the world's whale herds is fol-
lowed to the letter, the great mammals are threat-
ened with extinction, according to W. T. Lar-
mour, Ottawa feature writer. Canada, he says,
must set an example to the other 15 nations
who signed the convention. "Besides keeping it
herself," he writes in an article in the January
issue of Forest and Outdoors magazine, "she must
help see to it that the others do the same."
Deploring the lack of protective laws until re-
cently, the writer says they could have easily
resulted in Canada having an important and
lucrative whaling industry. Today, whale pro-
ducts have a multitude of uses; in the produc-
tion of margarine, lard and soap, to mention but
a few. There are ten species of whales found in
Canadian waters. Of these, three are on the verge
of extinction, five are at a dangerously low
population level and two are not commercially
important. "The salient fact concerning Can-
ada," he continues, "appears to be that she
has sat back since time immemorial, unconcern-
ed, while foreign whalers pillaged our waters."
"In 1948, the one whaling industry operating off
the British Columbia coast caught less than 200
whales. In 1911, the take was 1,198. The catch
of whales in Quebec waters in 1935 was 577. In
1945 it was 66. A Newfoundland whaling station
reported 105 whales taken in 1948 against 500
in 1947." Summing up, the writer says the
slaughter of the world's whale herds is a classic
example of the predatory of modern civilization.
And today the future of the great creature is
uncertain in spite of the fact that it got an
eleventh hour reprieve by the International Con-
vention of 1946.

The Poets Corner

There was a hush upon the brow,
Evening crossed the silent stream,
No wind disturbed a single bough,
Along the brink of glassy dream.

A cooling breath came southing
through
The greying space between the
walls.
The houses on the sky withdrew,
Behind the quiet curtain falls.

Almost too exquisite to bear,
This long suspending of the bone,
Pleash supported by the air—
Walking the filtered light alone.
—Elizabeth Howell in the Washing-
ton Post.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CONFEDERATION ORATORY

I always regarded Hon. David
Laird as one of the wisest and
most convincing speakers of his
day. I remember one occasion
when political feeling ran high that
he seemed to be at his best. It
was Nomination Day, and the
hustings was erected on Market
Square. The great question under
discussion was that he
had secured at Ottawa as a condi-
tion of the Island entering the Cana-
dian Confederation. He tried to
show that the offer was the best
that could be obtained and that it
ought to be accepted.

Atomic Trains

Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph)
In 2048 "our trains may be pow-
ered by atomic energy and driven
at supersonic speeds," according to
a vision of railroading a century
hence set forth in Chicago at the
recent burial of a time capsule
marking the 100th anni-
versary of mid-western rail transporta-
tion. The outlook was given by R.
Williams, president of the Chicago
and North Western Railway, whose
"Pioneer" locomotive made the first
rail run from Chicago just 100 years
ago.

The capsule, which "stops the
clock" for the future, contains a
photographic documentation of opera-
tions as they exist today, and
written predictions by designers
and news analysts on how the
trains will look in 2048. The two-ton
concrete tube, it is considered by
atomic scientists to be safe from
anything but a direct atom-bomb
hit.

Recognizing Israel

Extension by the Canadian Gov-
ernment of "de facto" or provision-
al recognition of the State of Is-
rael will seem to most Canadians
to be a combination of common
sense and human justice.
Israel was proclaimed on May
15, 1948. During the seven months
that have elapsed, the State of Is-
rael, in the opinion of the Canadian
Government, has given satisfactory
proof that it complies with the
essential conditions of statehood.
These essential conditions are gen-
erally recognized to be external in-
dependence and effective internal
government within a reasonably
well-defined territory.

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BACK TO NORMAL.

Israel is there. For us to continue
to pretend neither is there would
argue us unknowing.
One sentence of the official
announcement of Canada's recognition
should not be overlooked by the
Israeli Government nor by her sup-
porters in this and other lands. Rec-
ognition, says Canada, is extended
"in the hope that it may be possi-
ble to settle these and all other
outstanding questions in the spir-
it of the resolution adopted by the
General Assembly of the United
Nations on December 11, 1948."
The December resolution set up
a conciliation commission of three
members to take over the duties of
the U. N. mediator and called upon
the Jewish and Arab Governments
themselves to negotiate and work
out their own agreements "with the
view to final settlement of all ques-
tions outstanding between them."
It is to be hoped that as Israel
gains the world's recognition (Can-
ada is the 19th state to fall in line),
she will act more respectfully to-
ward the U. N.'s resolutions and re-
quests, temper her natural national
fervour with a more painstaking
care of the spirit of U. N. Canada
welcomes her to the family of na-
tions, but the recognition extends
responsibilities as well as privileges
and Canadians will hope they are
accepted.

A U. S. Tribute

(New York Times)
The British Throne is an institu-
tion most Americans find it hard
to understand. It is full of contra-
dictions. Its occupant is often as be-
loved as though he had been elec-
ted by an overwhelming vote, yet he
is chosen by the accident of birth
alone. The British national anthem
is a prayer for his preservation, he
is treated as though he were in fact
a ruler, yet his Ministers tell him
what to say. Tradition clothes him
like a coronation robe, yet within
the tradition he and his close rela-
tives are the more popular if they
behave like a typical British middle-
class family. So long as the Com-
monwealth stands — the British
Commonwealth, as King George ex-
plicitly called it in his Christmas
radio broadcast — he is by the same
token King of each member nation.
But he is King by consent, obtained
without personal election, for, as
Ireland has just demonstrated, he
can be deposed in his self-governing

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Agents Throughout The Province

Notes By The Way

Man is learning to fly faster, kill
quicker and work slower than he
ever did before. — Quebec Chron-
icle-Telegraph.

Cost of living has quit climbing
up. Now people are watching for
the old trulism, what goes up must
come down. How soon or how long?
—St. Catharines Standard.

One of history's most hazardous
experiments will take place next
season in Boston, where an Austral-
ian cricketer has joined the Braves.
—Edmonton Journal.

Hon. James A. MacKinnon's as-
surance that the Federal Cabinet is
giving serious consideration to the
inclusion of an appropriation of
some \$4,000,000 for a Macdonald
Hotel extension in the Canadian
National Railways 1949-50 budget,
is welcome news for Edmonton.
—Edmonton Journal.

It is very much to be hoped that
there will be no further stories
from London, of the kind spread
by the Sunday Pictorial, with their
charming suggestion that Princess
Margaret may be developing into
a "playgirl." The Sunday Pictorial
belongs to that class of newspapers
once described by Lord Salisbury as
being beaten by the Germans in the
first place if the Russians hadn't
been helped by U. S. It's all very
vague and helps to explain why
officials are confused. — U. S. News-World Report.

By material standards, Russia is
one of the poorest countries in the
world and one of the most back-
ward. There's no shame in that,
none at all. A poor Russian, who
never bathes, may be closer to the
Kingdom of Heaven than a rich
American who spends half his life
in the tub. The shame comes
when people who should, and pre-
sently do, know better, say that it
is the Americans who have no tubs,
and the Russians who luxuriate in
them. The shame is not in the
truth, but in the lie. — Calgary
Herald.

Here are a few typical examples
of the prices that were asked in
London this Christmas: nuts, 80
cents a pound and upward; crack-
ers, \$2.25 a dozen and up; boy's
bicycle, \$48; any respectable look-
ing doll, \$8 and up; turkey — on
the black market — \$24 and upward;
whisky, also on the black market,
\$20 around the West End for 25
ounces, but plenty of gin and rum
at \$8 a bottle; nylon stockings, \$3.75
a pair if you're lucky, but \$6.25 on
the black market. Frozen fruits,
apparently \$1 for 25 ounces, cherries,
\$1.50 for 25 ounces, pears \$1.25 for
25 ounces. Any respectable-looking
compact, \$8 and upward. — British
United Press.

For the benefit of any reader who
happens to be a good husband but
a poor bridge player, the Printed
Word offers as a gift the secret of
one friend's salvation. To please
his wife he had agreed to join an
informal four-couple bridge club
last Fall. Each week the two
tables met in each other's homes
and just as regularly this poor fel-
low lived through three hours of
torment. It was a month before he
found that one of the other hus-
bands felt as badly as he did about
it all, but when they made this dis-
covery they went into action. Now,
each bridge night, one or the other
of them finds he has to work
late, or go to a lodge meeting or
entertain some visiting clients. Us-
ually the wife stays home, too, and
the six others settle down to a
quiet evening of poker, which is
tactfully suggested by one of the
three reluctant husbands in attend-
ance. — The Printed Word.

When you think about it, it's a
strange sort of world. Russia, barely
three years ago, was the big U.S.
buddy. At Yalta and Potsdam she
got almost anything she asked for,
with few questions asked. Three
years later Russia is the enemy.

ABOUT WEARING CLOTHES
WEARING CLOTHES WELL IS JUST A MATTER OF
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UALITY.
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QUICKIES BY KEN REYNOLDS

Illustration of a man and a woman, with a caption:
"When Polly died, my wife found a taxidermist in
Guardian Want Ads — and had her stuffed with a radio!"