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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1946

St. Andrew's Dinner

While the anniversary of St. Andrew fell on Saturday this year, the customary St. Andrew's banquet is being held by the Caledonian Club tomorrow night, and there is every indication that the attendance will be one of the largest on record. That is saying a great deal, for there is a lot of history associated with this grand old function.

It is interesting to note in this connection, from the articles republished on the early history of Scottish Associations in Prince Edward Island, how the same family names appear, generation after generation, as leaders in St. Andrew's Day activities. The unbroken chain goes back to our earliest Scottish settlers, who loved their native land with an abiding passion, and transmitted this sentiment to their kith and kin of today as their noblest heritage.

On occasions such as this, Scotsmen feel most intimately the bonds uniting them with brother Scots the world over. In honoring their patron saint they like to recall the traditions of their race and to derive fresh inspiration from the recollections. Too modest themselves to claim all the virtues which they possess, they are willing to accept the valuation placed upon them by others, as evidenced in the positions of trust and responsibility which they have been given in every quarter. Prince Edward Island is no exception to this rule, and indeed there has been no period in our history when it was not a sought-for distinction to be invited to join in the world-wide toast to "The Day and a' who honour it."

Inflated Government Payrolls

The tale of the junior clerks employed by the Federal Unemployment Insurance Commission and their resentment at an order to wash office windows probably has been heard by most people now. According to reports, Fred J. White, superintendent of the Commission's operations from the Great Lakes to the Pacific, noticed during a recent inspection trip that office windows were dirty and that junior clerks did not appear to be busy. So he sent out an order that, in their spare time, the juniors should wash windows.

Many people may feel that office clerks should not be required to double as window-washers, but the moral of the episode, to the *Edmonton Journal's* way of thinking, is not to be found in a discussion of who should do that work, but in the fact that the junior clerks had not enough office work to keep them busy. In short, too many of them are on the payroll.

Nor is this over-loading of Government payrolls confined to juniors only; it is true of most departments and most categories of service. Consider these official totals of employees on Federal Government payrolls: August of this year, 152,288; a year ago last August, 149,543; August of 1944, 138,303. An increase of the civil service, permanent and temporary, was to be expected during the war years, but that it should be continued a year after war's end is inexplicable.

In Ottawa, it is said that department heads are reluctant to cut down their inflated staffs, fearing that employees may not be able to find other jobs easily. The people of Canada, who are taxed so heavily to pay these surplus Government workers, should be able to judge for themselves the soundness of such an argument.

What Federal, provincial and municipal governments should be most concerned with now is to change as many as possible tax consumers into tax producers as rapidly as possible. Only in that way—by eliminating all waste in Government—can the workers of the nation be relieved of a part of their heavy burden of taxes.

Water And Wealth

A phenomenal sugar beet crop has been harvested this year in Southern Alberta, drawing attention again to the value of irrigation in a community's economy and to its use in making a semi-arid region produce abundantly. The *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* reports that farmers on 30,000 acres of irrigated land in the Lethbridge district expect to gross $5,000,000, or about $167 an acre. Thirty thousand acres of wheat on ordinary prairie land at the average yield of 16 bushels an acre (the long-time average for Canada) with wheat at $1.25 a bushel would gross $600,000 from the standard crop. Poor land in dry areas would, of course, produce much less. There is a vast difference between an income of $167 an acre and $20 an acre.

Irrigation projects have been suggested for the Saskatchewan and Qu'Appelle river valleys and the Federal Government has had studies under way for some time. Experiments have been made on the light land of the Pike Lake flats south of Saskatoon, and it has been shown that good results can be achieved with irrigation in the production of vegetables and alfalfa.

United States Bureau of Reclamation records show that the average gross return per acre on irrigated farms under its projects were more than two and a half times those received by farmers the country over. Compared with Western dry land production, the advantage of irrigated farming was still greater.

The disadvantages of irrigation farming have been pointed out: Capital cost in building dams and digging ditches, expense and labor in operation, time and care involved in such farming. These are admitted drawbacks, but there is evidence to show that only one-fourth of the irrigation farmer's income is used for operation, taxes, labor and supplies. Three-fourths is his net return, which goes into the commercial and industrial trade stream. With this in mind, results of the Government's surveys will be awaited with interest.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

The last and, usually, the merriest month of the year.

* * * *

Lobsters represented 65 per cent of the total landed value of Prince Edward Island's fisheries catch in 1945, or $1,503,000 out of $2,309,000. In weight, the lobster catch was a little less than 8,116,000 pounds.

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By a vote of 19-2 Toronto city council has approved submission to voters at municipal elections on January 2 of the question of whether they favor introduction of cocktail lounges in Toronto.

* * * *

A leading merchant described the fire at Davis and Fraser's as probably the greatest disaster to befall Charlottetown in fifty years. The loss of life, the loss of an abattoir, cold storage and employment for some 100 odd men at the beginning of winter is of very considerable moment to a city the size of Charlottetown.

* * * *

Do people chew tobacco and spit any more? Apparently not, judging by the following Associated Press despatch: "Cuspidors no longer are required in New York places of business. The board of health today deleted a sanitary-code section stating that 'cuspidors in the proportion of one for every two persons employed' must be provided by firms with 10 or more employees."

* * * *

Sir Aretas William Young, Lieut.-Governor of Prince Edward Island 1831-1835, died this date in Charlottetown in the latter year. As a soldier, he had served throughout the Napoleonic wars, in Ireland, in Egypt and on the Peninsula. He subsequently saw service in Trinidad where he was in 1826 appointed Protector of Slaves. Five years later he was gazetted Lieut.-Governor here.

* * * *

A hearty welcome will be extended to Mr. T. M. Morris on his return to the city from Halifax to manage the Queen Hotel under its new proprietorship. He is well and favourably known here, and the Queen is the old, reliable inn frequented by travellers, tourists and boarders for generations, brought up-to-date under the skilled management of the late Mr. Harry Brown and Mrs. Brown.

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The R. C. A. F.'s benevolent fund, now more than $3,000,000, will benefit through reduction of R. C. A. F. stations to a peacetime basis. Some closing canteens voted their entire surpluses to the fund. Others gave substantial portions. The fund, built up through the war through contributions of one per cent of canteen gross sales, is to aid members and former members of the R. C. A. F. in distress. Money is available from it in the form of grants or loans.

* * * *

Getting the jump on the new Republican Congress, President Truman has set up a special six-man commission to plan a purge of Communists and other "subversive" persons from Federal payrolls. Republicans have called for such action, along with many Democrats. The commission which the President created will report to him by February 1 on what new legislation or other steps may be necessary. It will serve also, of course, as an excuse for a considerable reduction of the bureaucrats who have risen in numbers and might since the New Deal came into existence.

* * * *

A revolutionary new car, which has already attracted considerable attention over here, was shown in London recently for the first time. This is the six-cylinder "Black Prince", a luxury car which is claimed to provide for the first time in the civilian motoring history a form of transmission which eliminates both gear lever and clutch pedal. To start the vehicle, the driver merely releases the brake and presses the accelerator. To stop it, he only has to remove the pressure from the accelerator and apply the brake. With the elimination of the clutch pedal and gear lever, the number of main controls is reduced from five to three—steering wheel, accelerator pedal and brake pedal. There is a fourth control—a small switch with "forward" and "reverse" positions but this is operated only when the car is standing still. The "Black Prince" has a coachwork wholly of aluminum, built in a single unit, shielding not only the passenger accommodation but also the engine and radiator block.

* * * *

The American home of Mr. Thompson Seton, author, who recently died, contained an original Indian totem pole and a Judgment Seat, and he devised there a number of the games particularly associated with the Boy Scout Movement, of which he has some claim to be the originator. He organized a sort of holiday camp for the poorer boys of New York on the Indian model and himself invented a number of the best games. Most of them were described in his *Birch-bark Roll*, which was by arrangement published simultaneously with a similar Boy Scouts handbook in England. "I was once asked," writes Sir Wm. Beach Thomas, "if I would help to arbitrate in some dispute over these books that arose between him and General Baden-Powell. One of the chief difficulties about any co-operation between the Boy Scout movements in the United States and England was that the American public were perhaps supersensitively careful that the Boy Scout movement should have no sort of connection with the military; and Baden-Powell, in their view, had the misfortune to possess army rank. Among the gifts that made Seton an even better lecturer than writer was exceptional skill as a mimic. He could imitate with extraordinary skill the calls of the animals he had studied in the wild with such lively affection."

Notes By The Way

"Report Prospects Good for Turkeys" says a headline. What it means is really just the opposite to that. —Ottawa Journal.

We nominate the ordinary hen for a blue ribbon. It's still doing the best job of sitting around and making it pay. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

Hollywood has outhollywooded itself. One of its hog-dog stands is selling its wienery wares at $1.00 a throw. And some people in Canada keep clamoring for the removal of all price controls! —Brantford Expositor.

Evidence that the world is out of joint is found in the Kat River citrus area of South Africa, where oranges, are assuming an oblong shape. Spinach, however, still remains a rugged individualist. —Hamilton Spectator.

The growing influence of the state on our private lives—if the state will permit the use of the word "private"— causes misgivings to others besides Mr. Eric Linkletter. The civil service seems almost the only job with a future. No fewer than 2,000 will be required in Scotland alone to operate the new national insurance scheme, it is announced this week. So the numbers of non-producers grow as each new piece of legislation goes on to the statute books. It is an alarming prospect. —Edinburgh Scotsman.

In recent years the government has been begging the public to build houses and apartments. Mortgage money has been offered by the federal housing authorities at low interest rates but there has been no hurry to take advantage of it. One reason has been that people have become dubious about the wisdom of owning real estate. The tax burdens on property and failure to obtain adequate returns on the investment have convinced people they should place their savings elsewhere. —Toronto Telegram.

From Norway comes the story of a famous novelist who was invited to the preview of a new three-million dollar picture. "I liked it" he said at, the conclusion of the showing "Who wrote it?" "You did" said the producer. "It's based on your last book!" "I never would have known it" admitted the writer "I think it has the makings of a fine novel. May I use it?" "I guess so" said the producer "but you'll have to give us an option on the film rights". —By Bennet Cerf in the Saturday Review of Literature.

In bringing new efficiency to the farm the machine has also brought new hazards. That fact was underlined recently by Louis J. Taber, past master of the National Grange now president of a farm insurance firm. He reported that in 1945 his firm paid more claims for deaths from farm tractor mishaps than from battlefield wounds. The lamentable statistics are no reflection on the farms labor-saving machinery, but rather those who operate it. The answer to the problem lies with the farmer himself. It should require no ambitious selling campaign to persuade him that safe farming is the best farming. —Omaha World-Herald.

An offer to Edinburgh Corporation of Mussolini's sword, captured in Italy, as a museum piece, has been declined by the Lord Provost's Committee. A letter by the 78th (Lowland) Field Regiment R. A. Association suggested that the corporation should accept it for safe custody and for display in a museum or elsewhere, though it would remain the property of the regiment who would be entitled to the use of it for regimental and other functions. The committee decided to refuse the offer on the ground that the individual concerned was not one to whom they wished to pay the compliment of preserving a souvenir.— Edinburgh Scotsman.

A year or so ago a new jail was opened at Tortworth, in England, and officials called it "a remarkable experiment in penal reform." It has no walls, nor iron bars, not much to prevent a dissatisfied guest from walking out, although those confined there include criminals serving long terms. Recently several prisoners escaped, but were picked up and returned to custody. The London Express interviewed one of them, a chap who once tried to murder a policeman, and he said: "Why do you keep us in a place like this? Give us high walls and prison bars and a bit of discipline; then we know where we are". Another prisoner had a similiar complaint. "There is no discipline here" he declared. This seems to us a remarkable state of affairs, and we pass it on for what it is worth. Perhaps we should consult the men most concerned before we change the traditional appurtenances of our prisons. —Ottawa Journal.

In the four years 1938 to 1941 57,436 babies under one year of age died in Canada and 3,806 Canadian mothers died giving birth. This is a greater death toll than was suffered by Canada in her fighting forces in all four years of the First World War. The record has improved over the past 25 years of course, but are we content with it? Those who point with pride to the reduction in infant deaths from 102 per thousand live births in 1921 to 55 in 1944 should go on to compare this with the record in other countries. Here are the figures: Sweden, 29; New Zealand 29; Switzerland 36; Australia 40; Netherlands 40; the United States 40; England and Wales 49. . . . and Canada 55. If some people are satisfied with the overall Dominion record, what do they say about the differences between various parts of the country? The number of children out of every 1,000 born alive who died before their first birthday varied in this way: British Columbia, 40; Ontario 43; Prince Edward Island 44; Alberta 46; Saskatchewan 47; Manitoba 49; Nova Scotia 53; Quebec 68; New Brunswick 78. —Royal Bank of Canada.

Scottish Associations In P. E. Island

(Old P. E. I. Magazine)

VII

At the session of the Provincial Assembly of 1881, the Caledonian Club was incorporated. The committee appointed to apply to the House for the act of incorporation consisted of the chief, Hon. A. A. MacDonald, the President, John A. McDonnell, vice presidents A. McNeill and Angus MacDonald, treasurer J. W. Morrison, recording secretary R. J. Campbell, John S. MacDonald and Robert Shaw.

About the close of the year 1882 a committee to get up an entertainment for the relief of the poor was appointed, consisting of Hon. A. A. MacDonald, Joseph A. MacDonald, J.W. Morrison, Capt. S. McRae, John MacPhee, Robert Campbell, A. MacNeill and John S. MacDonald.

In August of the following summer the field sports were held at Charlottetown and grossed over $886. But even more successful was the gathering of 1883, when the gross receipts amounted to $1,065.59. Several of those who competed in the games went to the celebration which took place soon afterwards at Pictou, and were successful in winning several prizes.

In July, 1884, the chief of the club (Hon. Andrew A. MacDonald) was appointed Lieutenant Governor. At a meeting of the Club a committee was nominated to draw up a complimentary address, which was presented to him a few days afterwards. Later in the year a literary society in connection with the Club, was organized for the study of Scottish history and poetry and the discussion of leading questions of the time.

* * *

In August, 1885, a special meeting of the Club took place for the purpose of appointing a committee to present an address to Bishop McIntyre on the occasion of his silver jubilee, "the bishop being a prominent Scotchman" as stated in the minutes of the Club.

On account of the smallpox epidemic of 1885 the usual St. Andrew's dinner did not take place. The members met in their club rooms on St. Andrew's day, the first day of the club year, and after the installation of officers, adjourned.

The most important event of 1887 was the celebration of the Victoria Golden Jubilee. In this celebration the Club took a conspicuous part and forwarded an address to be presented to the Queen.

An illuminated chart descriptive of the coat of arms and tartans of the different Scottish clans was presented to the Club by Sir Louis H. Davies in 1890.

In August of the following year the games took place at Summerside. It was the first occasion on which they were held beyond the suburbs of Charlottetown.

In recognition of his valuable services in preserving the Gaelic language and literature, the Club contributed towards the publication of a volume of Gaelic poems published by the Rev. Mr. McLean Sinclair.

* * *

In connection with the field sports of 1892 there was erected on the grounds on which the games took place a memorial pioneer hut, in commemoration of the Scottish pioneers. This hut was constructed of unhewn logs. It was equipped in primitive style, with clay-built chimney, moss-stogged walls, thatched roof, old-time windows; also with sleeping apartments, furniture, kitchen utensils and other articles of use in those days, such as the hand cards, spinning wheel, distaff, spindle, reel, winder, quern, husking block, tobacco pouch, handsieve, winnowing fan, lamp, etc. also specimens of early farm implements such as wooden harrow, crooked space, basket or hamper for carrying burdens, flail, reaping hook, drinking shell, dug-out canoe, etc. old time pieces, ancient relics, such as snuff-boxes, silver horn and wooden spoons, old books in Gaelic, day books, manuscripts, etc., all illustrative of past Scottish customs and usages.

(To Be Continued)

The Poet's Corner

WOOD-SMOKE

Sharply on the crisp autumn air
it rose
Above the city's constant reek and
fume,
Such redolence as country twilight
knows
When hills are russet and a purple
plume
Curls over chimneys, pungent,
clean and sweet,
That fragrance drifted briefly
down the sky
From some tall rooftop to the
crowded street
Where no leaves rustled when the
wind went by.

Substantial walls dissolved and we
were lost
In the blue haze of evenings which
foretell
The silence and the loneliness of
frost.
There was remembrance in that
musky smell,
Old as the wood-fires built when
oak and beech
Kindled a warmth beyond the winter's reach.

—Leslie Nelson Jennings, in Christian Science Monitor.

500 FALL FAIRS

Approximately 500 fairs are held annually in Canada.

NEW ZEALAND'S SHEEP

New Zealand has more than 31,000,000 sheep.

Lobsters From Hatcheries?

(Saint John Telegraph Journal)

Charlotte County lobster fishermen this season are realizing how Mother Hubbard must have felt when she looked in the cupboard. They peer into one trap after another and discover that their catches are disappointingly meagre. To make it worse, what lobsters they do get are often small — in some areas only fifty to sixty per cent of the lobsters are above the minimum size that the law permits the fishermen to keep, and the rest have to be dropped back into the sea.

Why are the lobsters so few and so tiny? Observers venture a variety of conjectures, such as the possibility that this year just happens to be the bottom point of a reproduction cycle, the same way the rabbits and foxes and grouse are less numerous at intervals of several years. Some fishermen say that the volume may pick up as the season goes on, because they always find that the smaller lobsters, which crawl faster, get into the traps first. But other fishermen aren't so optimistic, and are even talking of giving up lobster fishing for good.

So naturally there is quite a keen interest along New Brunswick's coastal shores in the lobster hatchery operations being carried on by the New England states. Lobsters can't be artificially hatched and reared so easily as trout or salmon. The eggs which are laid by the female lobster stick to the mother's tiny legs and are hatched there, and whether scientists can develop a technique to do the same job synthetically, or to help the female lobster raise a bigger family, has been a controversial topic for years. Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island and other states have been trying it, but the results so far have not been assessed fully. Now Massachusetts is establishing two lobster hatcheries in time for the distribution of fry next year, with the hope of increasing the fishermen's yearly average harvest from two million to four or six million in the next decade.

No doubt Canada's fisheries research experts are keeping close watch on the outcome of these experimental projects. Lobster hatching was attempted in this country some years ago but was dropped because the methods turned out to be unfeasible. But lobsters are such a top-ranking revenue-producing branch of the fisheries, with canning as an important secondary industry, that any potential means of expanding the catch should be explored fully.

Oysters Au Naturel

OYSTERS AU NATUREL

(Windsor Star)

Just what an oyster buffet has to do with an inquiry into Indians does not matter, but that is what Mr. Donald F. Brown, M.P., encountered in Prince Edward Island, when he and his Parliamentary Committee went to find out what to do in the interests of the Indians in the Garden of the Gulf.

When Mr. Brown started for Rustico, he drove with Hon. J. A. Bernard, Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island, and Hon. Mr. Justice A. E. Arsenault, a former P.E.I. Premier. Both men had armed themselves with what Mr. Brown took to be stilettos, but which later turned out to be oyster knives. At Rustico, which nestles in a valley between the hills and looks far out across the broad Atlantic, the Committee on Indians was treated to oysters.

Down there, the oysters are served right from the barrels. Mr. Bernard and Justice Arsenault unlimbered their oyster knives and proved adept at opening a live oyster with one motion. Then, they just held up the half shell and let the oyster slither off the shell and down their throats. It was a gustatory delight which Prince Edward Islanders enjoy to the full. Out of the sea and into the mouth, all in one streamlined motion.

As for Mr. Brown, he followed along. But, he thinks that the Prince Edward Island oyster treats would be ever so much more delightful, if he could just mix a little Essex County ketchup with the oysters. There's an idea there for unity of the Island and Essex County products. Maybe someone will use it to further national unity.

GUARDING PUBLIC HEALTH

So that Canadians may live better, safer and longer, health watchdogs stand at the very thresholds of biological science. Canada's soldiers of disease-prevention guard the quality and safety of everything for eating and drinking and of ingredients of drugs and medicines. National Health authorities are working with the family doctor, the specialist and the scientific explorer, in clinic and laboratory, for a healthier humanity.

Loans For War Veterans Not Available Ending Framing of Regulations

(Montreal Gazette)

Although an Act passed during the last session of Parliament provides for assistance to veterans entering business or a profession by means of loans, local banks yesterday stated that the new procedure is not yet in force. Many veterans, under the impression that loans were now available under the Act, have been applying lately to their banks or to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

An official of he Canadian Bankers Association told The Gazette that before the banks can inaugurate loans under the terms of the Act, detailed regulations have to be worked out, passed by Order in Council and then printed and distributed to all banks and their branches. This procedure, particularly in establishing suitable regulations, he pointed out, is bound to take time although there is "every appreciation of the urgency" to many veterans.

* * *

A spokesman of the Department of Veterans Affairs indicated that the regulations being formulated in Ottawa are expected to be ready soon and that veterans should be able to make application before the year is out. In the meantime, he advised, ex-sevicemen should wait until the Act is formally brought into force, which will be widely publicized, and then open negotiations with their own bank first.

The only part D.V.A. has in the transaction, he pointed out, is to certify to the bank concerned that the applicant is a veteran and is eligible for a loan. The only veterans not eligible are those who have already received assistance under the Veterans Land Act.

The Act, known as the Veterans' Business and Professional Loans Acts, provides that a veteran may apply to a bank for a business or professional loan up to two-thirds of his proposed total expenditure, but not exceeding $3,000. The purpose of the legislation was to encourage banks to provide additional funds at a comparatively low rate of interest, and for suitably lengthy periods to aid veterans in this type of reestablishment.

* * *

Veterans will be able to apply for the loans to buy a business or a partnership in a business, but not shares in an incorporated business; to buy or repair machinery, tools, instruments or other equipment for their business; to construct, repair or alter any structure to be used in the carrying on of their business; or for any purpose as prescribed which may be deemed to benefit their business.

With a maximum period of ten years in which to repay the loan at a maximum rate of interest fixed a five per cent., the Act defines business as including trade, industry or profession. The loans on which the banks may claim the Dominion Government's guarantee must be made within five years of the date of the Act coming into effect.

The banks are guaranteed by the government against loss up to 25 per cent of the aggregate amount of loans up to $1,000,000 and 15 per cent thereafter. They may also follow the normal lending procedure but the recent Act permits the banks to take additional lending security.

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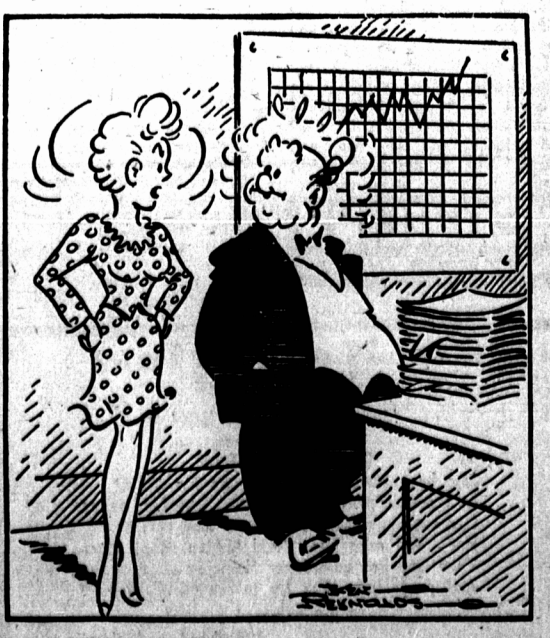
QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds



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