

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1940.

Extravagance At Ottawa

Recently it was announced from the department of Finance Minister Ralston at Ottawa that the King Government, up to Dec. 31, had effected savings in ordinary expenditures to the amount of \$4,200,000.

The Financial Post reveals that the alleged reductions are entirely illusory, and shows how the figures have been manipulated.

The reason for this reduction is that items have been credited to the Department and charged against the war—thereby reducing the total money spent by the Department.

Even so, it will be claimed, there is a little bit of a reduction. Again the facts are otherwise. The comparison is between the ordinary expenditures in December by all departments other than National Defense—which were \$24,000,000—

Altogether, since the outbreak of war, the King Government has spent \$4,600,000 more on ordinary non-war business than was spent in the corresponding period of last year.

Protest against the replacement of English Catholics' sole representative in the Quebec Legislative Council by a French-Canadian was voiced at a meeting of the United Irish Societies held at the Queen's Hotel, Montreal, and the members unanimously adopted a resolution authorizing the president to make a formal protest to Premier Adélard Godbout.

An Odoriferous Case

Some dozen specific cases of governmental extravagance and political favoritism were cited recently by the Financial Post, including the purchase of a private estate in Vancouver for over \$94,000 and turning it into an officers' mess, when responsible building contractors say a suitable officers' mess could have been built for less than \$10,000 on vacant land adjoining the very property which was expropriated.

Hon. Dr. Manion had something to say about this extravagant purchase in a recent broadcast. He cited a few of the extraordinary items making up the expenditure, as follows:

For greenhouse, \$1,200; For entrance gates, \$1,400; For garden stone walls, \$5,000; For tennis court and wire mesh fence, \$1,600; For trees, shrubs, hedges, flowers, \$5,000; and the final item is: For manure pit, \$60.

The point with which the taxpayers are concerned is that at a time when economy is so urgently needed, this deal had all the earmarks both of extravagance and political favoritism, and should have been investigated by the public accounts committee of Parliament.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Notwithstanding Lent there is a lot doing these days, socially and politically.

The boys overseas are having a good time sightseeing, but oh, the weather and climate!

The Soviets are declared to be not much good out of their own country—nor in it either, it may be added.

In the very likely event of the National Government being returned, where would Prince County fit in were they to elect Mr. Ralston? A non-resident, unfamiliar with the needs and people of the County, he would prove to be of the nature of the fifth wheel to a coach.

Handel, naturalized Englishman, born this date, 1685. His greatest work, "The Messiah," he wrote in three weeks—A man of independent, upright character and artistic temperament, loving pictures as well as music; a good friend; one of the finest organ and harpsichord players of his time.

It is now only a couple of months before the Wood Islands-Caribou Ferry goes into operation, and still there is no announcement of the rates or the schedule to be adopted.

What is in New South Wales cricketing circles, a "hardy annual" has cropped up again. This is the move to have the afternoon tea interval re-introduced at grade cricket matches.

The day may come when an investor may become a part owner in the "House of Morgan," for J. P. Morgan & Co., the leading financial firm of the world is about to discard its privacy and incorporate as a public institution.

Protest against the replacement of English Catholics' sole representative in the Quebec Legislative Council by a French-Canadian was voiced at a meeting of the United Irish Societies held at the Queen's Hotel, Montreal, and the members unanimously adopted a resolution authorizing the president to make a formal protest to Premier Adélard Godbout.

Speculating on choice of a successor to the late Lord Tweedsmuir as Governor-General of Canada, the Sunday newspaper Reynolds' News suggested that the Duke of Kent is "the first favorite" for the post.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The Moscow propagandists are likely to hit tough going when they start talking about the biggest American salary of 1938.

I suspect that our prejudice against a good many kinds of food is due largely to the fact that they are cheap.

They have what it takes in the town of Merriton. The answer is lodged in one name, the name of Clark town treasurer.

Sir:—I read Pincocchio when a child and it was my favorite book. Pincocchio had such a long nose and was really so sad looking.

G. B. Burgin, an English novelist who came to Canada as long ago as 1876 and lived for some years at L'Orignal, is 84 year old and is still working on his 121st novel.

If you could only see the face of a young girl who came to Canada alone. The smiling mark would be gone. The strain of always having to be "the best" is telling on her—physically and mentally.

The mystery of the disappearance of millions of passenger pigeons from the North American continent in the eighties of the last century has never been solved.

Young friends of mine who have shined off Feet Streets rather grimy dust for well-meaning khaki, tell me a new regulation now obtains in the army regarding digging parties.

Dr. Charles C. Higgins, of Cleveland, Ohio, told a conference of the American College of Surgeons the other day that he had used a finger polish often make it impossible for a physician to tell whether a woman is sick.

The Government's War Record

Apologists for Mr. MacKenzie King's Government have been saying: "There's no case against our war record."

Following Dr. Manion's speech at Brandon last Friday night, apologists for the Government had better get some other argument.

Let us look at a few facts. Between 1935 and 1939 (as Dr. Manion pointed out) Parliament voted the Government \$188,000,000 for war preparedness.

What has become of this huge amount of \$188,000,000? Well, we know that the charges have been made by a reputable financial paper in Canada, of wastage and extravagance, favoritism, patronage, and profiteering.

Why was this? Why was it that, according to Canadian Aviation, not a single order for a war airplane was let by the Canadian Government through a stretch of nearly a year during 1938-29?

When Mr. King committed his Graf Spee act against Parliament, there were scores of questions on the Order Paper asking these things.

There was the British Government's attempt to establish air training facilities in Canada. If Mr. King had his heart in Empire solidarity, if he was fearful of war clouds, and thought the Empire and Canada in danger, why did he block that attempt?

Mr. King offered to provide the British Government with air training facilities in Canada exactly two days before Parliament was proroguing—in 1938. He made his offer when there was not a cent of an appropriation before the House to provide training facilities—and when appropriation was possible.

That is the long and short of the story. Its consequence is seen in the fact that the existing Empire air training scheme will not be in a position to turn out air pilots until next September at the earliest.

Hear HON. EARL LAWSON K.C. speak on NATIONAL GOVERNMENT Friday, Feb. 23rd. 5.15—5.30—A.S.T.

PUBLIC FORUM This column is open for the discussion of questions of interest to the Charlottetown Guardian...

The Health League Of Canada CANADA'S HEALTH RECORD FOR 1939 The people of Canada enjoyed exceptionally good health in 1939.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES—ATTENTION Sir,—I am writing this letter for the attention of the women of P. E. Island, because when they undertake to do something they generally finish it.

P.T. PROP SUPLIES Sir,—In common with many people throughout the Province I was greatly interested in the proposal of our Minister of Agriculture, Hon. W. H. Dennis, with respect to having our farmers with wood lots supply the British Government with lumber suitable for their troops.

How Are Your Eyes? If you are having symptoms of eye trouble—headaches, sore eyes or dizziness—consult a specialist.

MAC'S THE IMPROVED CONDITION POWDER FOR HORSES AND CATTLE This Condition Powder will carry off gross humors, purify the blood and give the animal's coat a fine glossy appearance.

A TIP FROM A BIRD WHO KNOWS WISE people know that frequent changing of oil makes all the difference in the wear and tear on a car.

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