

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1950

Later Than We Think

Britain's Defence Minister Emanuel Shinwell told the House of Commons recently that the Soviet Union has 2,800,000 men under arms, including "an appreciable number in Eastern Germany." Here is how Mr. Shinwell broke down the figures: Russia maintains an army of 175 divisions, of which a third are mechanized. She has 19,000 military planes, including jet fighters and bombers of the latest design. There are 25,000 red tanks. Russia's naval forces are considerable, including strong fleets of submarines of modern design. 13 per cent of the Soviet Union's national income is spent on armaments. Russia could double her men under arms overnight by calling up trained reservists.

Mr. Shinwell's sources of information may be assumed to be authoritative. Nor is he a defeatist who would urge appeasement upon the British or any other of the peoples of the western democracies. The information he gave to the House of Commons was nothing more nor less than the sober facts.

Pity of it is that the Canadian Government has made no effort to bring home to the people of this country the grim reality of the Soviet Union's military might. Never a word is heard from Ottawa about the importance of civil defence. The recruiting campaign still stresses the advantages of a career in the armed services rather than the urgent needs of national security.

The Canadian people need something more in the way of leadership than speeches which seem designed solely to lull them into a sense of false security. For it is later than even the Hon. Brooke Claxton, who must be in possession of the facts, would like people to think.

Another Napoleon

Napoleon was not only a brilliant soldier, he understood how to exploit his military successes. When an enemy had been routed the Little Corporal used to surprise him by offering generous terms which were almost invariably accepted. The result was piecemeal conquest of the whole of Europe.

Stalin and other Russian leaders are known to be students and admirers of Napoleon's campaigns, and it is very generally expected that the early Communist successes in Korea will be followed up by sweetly reasonable offers of settlement.

Costs On The Farm

Some people still cherish the illusion that all the farmer has to do is to plough his fields, scatter seed, and wait for the crop to be harvested. But it is not quite that simple. For most farmers nowadays have to hire help. And farm wages in eastern Canada have risen from 110.6 in 1939 to 367.3 as of April, 1950. Farmers have to buy feed for horses and cattle, and feed costs according to the April farm costs index of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics had hit the 226.2 figure. Seed has gone to 245 and building materials to 225. Machinery, gasoline, fertilizers and hardware of various kinds, all essential to modern farm operation, have shown comparable increases.

Fact of the matter is that nobody escapes the consequences of inflation. High living costs, which today afflict city folk and farmers alike, are due to the Government's policy of spending to the limit, thus keeping goods in shorter supply than would otherwise be the case.

Politics and Industry

It is the belief of economic planners in Canada as in the United Kingdom that industry ought to be under the constant direction and control of the government. Fallacy of this concept lies in the fact that the predominant interests and pre-occupation of government administrators are, in the last analysis, inevitably political, not economic.

"In the United Kingdom," says Lt.-Col. Lyndall Urwick, vice-president of the British Institute of Management, "entrusting the government of industry to the machinery of the state will be disastrous for all concerned." British industry, Col. Urwick fears, will run into grave difficulties unless people appreciate the distinction between

political and executive leadership. "Those who exercise operating authority in the state machine," he points out, "are neither trained nor organized for the executive work of conducting economic undertakings." Their approach to administration is essentially political. They are not interested in the function of administration as a process involving forecasting, planning, organizing, commanding, a co-ordinating and controlling work.

To suggest, as do state worshippers everywhere, that industry, whether it be in the realm of manufacturing, of farming, of mining, lumbering or fishing, ought to be the function of government, overlooks entirely the fact that government policies, regardless of the party in power, are inevitably directed, in the first instance, to gaining and holding a majority of seats in the House of Commons. Methods used to achieve this end, as everyone knows, are based on what is expedient rather than what is economic. The fate of industry under such a system would not be hard to forecast.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Britain declared war this date 1914.

The birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, born this day 1900. She expects her second grandchild this month, and has delayed her visit to Balmoral on that account.

Uncertainty as to changes in highway routes is of concern not only to speculators. Telephone and power line extension can only go forward when highway routes and widths are determined.

This Province does not have vast reserves of forest wealth, and for that reason it is the more important to conserve what we have. Carelessness which results in such blazes as burned wood and peat at Brudenell for a week should not be tolerated.

The prospect of beef at a dollar a pound and other meats priced accordingly is hard on the household budget. It does, however, present an unequalled opportunity for making this country and the United States sea-food conscious as they never were before.

The skunk population seems to be on the increase in spite of official and unofficial measures for its control. Perhaps a full time exterminator would have more success than private hunters concerned with turning in snouts for the bounty.

Scottish Chief W. H. Beaton is deserving all the congratulations being showered upon him on the success of the Caledonian gathering at Strathgartney. It was splendidly organized and well carried out, giving a lot of enjoyment to old and young in ideal surroundings.

An air cadet from Britain has just won the distinction of being the first boy ever to fly over the North Pole. 17-year-old Flight Sergeant Arthur Cox was among the crew of a British plane which tested a special system of grid navigation for Arctic flying.

The Railway Brotherhoods probably realize as well as anyone that strike threats before the present world crisis would have met with greater public sympathy, but perhaps they also consider that further delay would make their position worse rather than better.

Canada seems likely to fall down on her bacon and cheese contracts with Britain. In the former case the failure is alleged to be greater consumption of bacon in the home market, while in the latter, the high demand for evaporated milk in Canada. In both instances, the Government is the gainer, as it buys bacon at 32 1/2 cents per lb. and sells it at 29c, and cheese at 28c, selling it at 25c.

It is pleasant to read such tributes to our beautiful Island and its most popular authoress, L. M. Montgomery, from an enthusiastic visitor and competent writer like Mrs. Ruth Sillitoe appearing in yesterday's issue. In this and other respects "the onlooker sees most of the game", as is also evidenced by the article from Miss Moore's pen in the same issue. They show that we are not making the most of our opportunities in the development and popularizing our Province in a worthwhile way.

Miss Moore's suggestions about the development of Rocky Point should not be allowed to fall on deaf ears. If the Provincial Government remains inactive, what about private enterprise about which we hear so much, and practically do so little. The great future prosperity of the Province as a tourist and health resort, all the year round, depends on our realizing and developing its possibilities now. Miss Moore has hit the right nail on the head, and it is for us to drive it in.

The Threatened Strike

(Moncton Times) One thing that should not be permitted to occur in this threatened railway strike, is repetition of the marking-time technique the while nursing a hope that last-minute developments may ensue. In the last disagreement involving rail labor and management on Canadian railroads, during the spring of 1948, the Federal Department of Labor was extremely inept in grappling with the critical question in the period between announcement of the authorized strike and its effective date. The result then was a partial dislocation of the industrial, commercial and transportation activities of the whole nation because of the eleven-hour approach to a settlement, generally achieved just within minutes of the deadline. Surely this experience in the light of similar strike action again confronting Canada should be a lesson to point the immediate necessity of setting every piece of mediation machinery at Ottawa's command into motion now. This is a strike which should not happen; which need not happen if the rail labor organizations, the railways and the department of labor as representative of the government act promptly and with mutual goodwill to avert it.

Reindeer Controlled

(London Times) There is news that the Lapps of Norway are pressing for a maximum price for reindeer meat. Few will grudge them a rise. There is a hard life, softened, it is true, by elder down, and sweetened by the jingle of reindeer bells, yet lived much of the year in perpetual night. It is good that a little peace should be coming up for its interests, and the Lapps can, without disrespect, fittingly be called a little people, since they number less than 50,000, and few of them are more than five feet high. Well-wishers, without desiring to interfere and without any special knowledge of current conditions on the reindeer market, will no doubt be excused by the appropriate Norwegian authorities for hoping that the Lapps will secure a really bumper maximum. All the same, many will feel dismay that even as far afield as Lapland the jargon of the economists should now have raised its modern, polysyllabic, and somewhat cacophonous voice from under the Lapp counter. The economy of Lapland has been until now pellucidly simple even for the most sagacious. The Lapps depended for food upon reindeer meat and milk, for clothes upon reindeer hides, for tools upon reindeer horns, for money upon reindeer whole or in part, and for transport upon reindeer alive, whole and if not exactly kicking then at least loping along with the low, fatty, snow-flaked stride of the wily stories.

It seems that a people who until recently at least retained an old-world faith in the existence of trolls in Scandinavian mythology, a form of giant, dwarf, or imp, who regarded the bear as an almost sacred animal, and who have themselves been generally considered a good-natured folk, though suspicious, it seems of foreigners, are now to be caught in the daily imbroglio of price controls and production quotas.

A Damnable Creed

Prime Minister Atlee, addressing a Labour Party gathering of nearly 5,000 at Taunton, referred to "this eternal causing of trouble all over the world." He stated that "our defence forces have been very stretched in preventing this constant, insidious infiltration—this endeavour everywhere to overturn free institutions. "We have therefore had to strengthen our defence services. It has not been an easy task during these years to hold the balance between what goes to economic recovery and what goes to defence. "If you put too much into your armaments you may ruin your economy and make just the kind of conditions which would be favorable for the growth of totalitarian Communism. If you put too little in your defence you may fail to preserve social law and order. From time to time one has to review the balance. "We are right to build what defences we need. This fight that we are engaged in is not a fight on the spiritual field of all of us. All of us no doubt have our different views but we accept certain moral standards. We believe there are absolute moral standards by which people should be judged. That is not true of the totalitarian countries. It is not true of Fascism and it is not true of Communism. They do not accept the views by which we order our life today, and that is a dangerous thing. They put forward a creed, I think a damnable creed, a sterile creed. It is a creed to which a number of fanatics belong. That gives it certain strength. You must meet it by having a faith as great and as strong as they have.

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., Aug. 1 (CP)—Major Lloyd Hill, unsuccessful in a planned barbed trip over Niagara Falls July 16, announced yesterday that he will make a trip through the Niagara River rapids this Sunday.

Ex-Prime Minister

(Toronto Star) The death of the late Rt. Hon. MacKenzie King leaves Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen as the sole surviving former Prime Minister of Canada. Mr. Meighen no longer takes an active part in political affairs but he is the third member in seniority of Canada's Privy Council which is supposed to advise the Governor-General and his ministers. The two members senior to Mr. Meighen are Sir A. B. Aylesworth, who is in his 96th year, and Sir Thomas White, who is in his 94th year. Sir Allen, of course, is a Liberal and Sir Thomas a Conservative, as is Mr. Meighen. Mr. Meighen entered public life with a victory in Manitoba 42 years ago. When he made his maiden speech in the House of Commons, Sir Wilfrid Laurier turned to one of his ministers and said: "The Conservative party at last has found a man." Few men have had a more complete grasp of public affairs and a greater knowledge of parliamentary procedure than Mr. Meighen. In many ways Mr. Meighen was unfortunate in his public career. He could not cope with the policies and strategy of Mr. King. He was Premier on two occasions but his

The Neighbors



It's the real thing with them—they like the same radio programs.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. K. L.) RESTRICTIVE TARIFFS

"It is but thirty years since, that if a carriage other than the common cart was required, it was necessary to send to Britain or the neighboring Colonies for it. Now there are coach and wagon builders in all parts of the Island who are enabled to turn out work of the most creditable description, and as good a carriage of Island-make as any one need want, may be had, if he be willing to pay a fair price for it. And thus it will be, we trust, at no distant date, with every other species of manufacture. Our Legislature is, however, extremely short-sighted in not including steam, and other labour-saving machinery, in the list of articles exempt from duty. "In almost all cases where an attempt is made to substitute mechanical labour for manual, the experiment is attended with a certain degree of risk of failure, hence it becomes necessary to calculate the cost to a fraction, and a duty of five per cent added to the interest of the money, and various other expenses, all of which must be incurred long previous to any profit being made, is quite sufficient to make a man pause, before sending an order for labour-saving machinery of any sort, and we are satisfied that it does, and will continue to impede the march of progress. "The whole tariff requires revision. Books are imported duty free; but printing paper, types, presses, ink and machinery are all taxed, thus affording a bounty, and a very considerable one, to the foreign printer, at the expense of the domestic one. The proprietor of this paper has already imported a printing press, the motive power of which is animal labour. This is attended with inconvenience and expense, and he is about to substitute the power of steam in place of the other. Let him, however, print as many books as he will, he pays five per cent more than he could have printed the same book for in the United States. And this he must lose, as all other things being equal, the book can be sent here at a cost of five per cent less than he can afford it. "Take another instance: a fuller and dyer imports machinery for the better and more perfectly cleaning and dyeing cloth; he is charged duty on both the machinery and dye stuffs. Cloth, however, may be sent from here to Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, and when dressed and dyed, these are imported duty free. What is this but giving the Nova Scotia workman an indirect bounty? Enable, on the contrary, the Island workmen, by the aid of better machinery, to excel the Nova Scotians, and you will reverse the process and have strangers sending their cloth to be dressed here. —Hazard's Gazette, June 20, 1855

Thoughtful Neighbor

GREENFIELD, Mass., Aug. 2—(AP)—Thanks to a thoughtful neighbor, an attractive housewife at a housing project had a glaring error corrected today. The housewife had wondered why she could not see through her bathroom window. The reason: The one-way glass had been installed backwards.

Refrigeration

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Notes By The Way

New French hat styles will give women a bullfighter look. We wait for a hat that will give a woman a womanly look. — Ottawa Journal. Don't belittle the radio announcer, faced with so many Korean place names to mispronounce. — Ottawa Citizen. "But for the alertness of those Scouts, the boy might easily have died to death" said the doctor attending Keith Sharnan, Whitty, Ont., who severely gashed his foot while swimming. Scouts Bill Burnside and Bill Edwards stopped the bleeding with a tourniquet made from a growing vine, carried the injured boy on a stretcher made from their coats and two saplings. Keith is going to join the Boy Scouts. — Boy Scout News. A few years ago it was considered an asset to have stout firemen. The firemen could then adequately defend their laurels in the annual tug-of-war which used to be featured in civic gala days. The heavy fireman was also a good man to have around when the steam engine needed a little more coal, or when strong men were needed to help a fire department horse to its feet after it had slipped on icy streets. Fat policemen were never considered much of an asset, unless it was to defeat the visiting firemen in the weight-lifting contests. — Sudbury Star. One of the factors involved in the circulation of metal coins is the possession of the metal necessary for the production of the coins. An additional factor is that the value of the metal must be less than the face value of the coin, otherwise it is not hard to envision what the outcome would be. There is a low-cost metal, essentially for coins of small denomination, Aluminum is durable; it lends itself to the embossing and stamping processes. It is light, easily carried and a person with a pocketful need not shun a shaky bridge for fear that the weight of his coins will be like a millstone about his neck. — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph. Affairs of the heart are adding to the troubles of the Chinese Communists who are trying to reconcile the "old with the new" in the territory under their control, according to a story in a recent issue of the London Spectator.

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