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Editor and Managing Director, J. K. Burnett Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, DEC. 7, 1950

Who Would Get Hurt?

President Sygman Rhee of the Republic of Korea declines to make a request to the United Nations that the Atom Bomb be used. A dispatch quotes him as saying, in response to such a question, "If the bomb were dropped, who would get hurt? Our own people."

The president's sole concern is not with the success of the efforts of the United Nations forces. Rather he is thinking of the people of his country, both north and south of the 38th parallel.

If King Solomon were alive today he would unhesitatingly pronounce Mr. Rhee to be the true and lawful ruler of that unhappy cock-pit of a country.

A Futile Conference

It is unlikely that the tax conference between the Provincial and Federal Governments now in session at Ottawa will be productive of much success. When it was arranged early this year, the outlook seemed comparatively stable. The existing taxation agreements between the Federal Government and eight of the Provinces could be renewed, revised or extended to Ontario and Quebec with results calculable in advance. The Korean war has changed that picture beyond all recognition.

As the Winnipeg Free Press points out in a leading editorial, the necessity of arming the nation, with all that it involves, makes all the calculations of last spring obsolete. What could be done financially then clearly should not be attempted now. The Federal Government does not yet know how much money it must pour into defense, though it can be sure that its present tentative figures will prove inadequate. It does not know what taxes it will have to collect to pay for defense. Hence it does not know what money it will have available either for subsidies to the Province or for the expanded social services which the Provinces demand. On the other hand, the Provinces cannot foresee how their revenue collections and their expenditures will be affected when the nation settles down, as it has yet to do, to the grim and costly business of rearmament. In short, all Governments, Federal and Provincial, must consider world conditions as they exist and, with greater candor, inform the Canadian people of the present facts.

It is clear that the Federal Government cannot expect the Provinces, and their creatures, the municipalities, to economize so that more money may go into defense if it is not willing itself to set an example. The leadership in this difficult transition from an easy peacetime to a hard defense economy must come from Ottawa. This is about all that can be expected out of the conference now in session.

The financial agreements of 1947 are not due to expire until 1952. It would be a prudent policy on the part of the Provinces which are dissatisfied with the present setup to have the conference adjourned to a more favorable date. If that time does not arrive before the agreements terminate, we shall be having graver matters to worry about than subsidy settlements or social services.

Labor's Dilemma

Two-thirds of the time lost through industrial disputes in the past two years in the United Kingdom has been in nationalized, or state-owned industries. Labor troubles have constantly plagued the mines, docks, railways, road transport and gas plants of the British economy. Yet government-run industries represent only a fifth of Britain's industrial life. That means that labor disputes are nearly ten times as numerous in the Socialists' domain as in those sectors of Britain's industrial life that still remain free.

Before the Labor Government came to power, unions could bargain freely with their employers, with the Government acting occasionally as impartial arbitrator. Now, however, the state is both employer and supreme arbiter, and the worker finds his own union representatives are the state's agents. Arbitration is a slow and difficult process, embalmed in the red tape of bureaucracy, and circumscribed by the Government's "wage freeze" policy.

Thus deprived of their right to withdraw their labor, British workers have had resort to "wildcat" strikes. The Government blames these strikes upon the Com-

munist. Undoubtedly the Communists have been making capital out of the workers' plight under British socialism. It would, however, be unrealistic to assume that the illegal strikes in the gas industry, and in transport, were solely due to Communist agitators stirring up trouble. Now a London court has decided in favor of the Government in a prosecution against ten gas workers, and imposed heavy fines upon them for engaging in a "wildcat" strike.

In socialist Britain, the planned economy leaves little room for the problems of the individual worker.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Warning signs at some street corners are minus the warning, due to destructiveness no doubt.

The Vital Statistics Division is at long last again in a mid-town location, making it very convenient for those requiring certificates.

The now hackneyed expression applies to the unpaid officers of the P. E. Islanders Hockey Club, provisional and permanent, to whom much is owed by the many hockey fans here.

The Newfoundland without salt cod advocated by Premier Smallwood is about as probable as the Ancient Colony's disappearance in union with another Province.

Weed control holds insufficient interest for people, according to the Acting Director of Experimental Farms. It might be otherwise if there were any chance of inducing flowers and commercial plants to adopt the typical ruggedness of the weed.

The National I. O. D. E. Queen Mary's Carpet Fund has now reached \$50,000, which is half of the minimum objective offered by the I. O. D. E. to purchase the Royal Carpet for Canada.

Before the snow sets in it might be well that the City Councillors should look around their wards and see that the channels and gutters at crossings are being properly looked after, and if not, why not?

Hockey exhibitions of fisticuffs and hockey-sticks may be entertaining to bloodthirsty fans, but are not appreciated by the rank-and-file who love clean sport for sport's sake. Strict supervision of the players by the officials should be mandatory.

Island oyster dinners are slated for Montreal and Ottawa on Friday and Monday next respectively. Invitations have been issued to the Provincial great, and near great, of each province, and all anticipate enjoying a feast of oysters as well as the "flow of soul" to follow.

Photographers have powers denied the rest of humanity. For whom but a photographer would 74-year-old Dr. Arthur Beauchesne, constitutional adviser extraordinary, have climbed upon a high table in the Senate Railway committee room to have his photo taken?

Premier Smallwood suggests that the Federal Government alter a Federal law to enable Newfoundland to import draggers without customs restrictions to enable the new province to get out of a non-profitable market for salt cod and into a profitable market for fresh fish. This sounds like good business for U. S. A., Canada and Newfoundland.

MacArthur's Intelligence chief, Major General Charles A. Willoughby, reflecting that the Premier of Red China had declared early in October that the Chinese people "will not stand supinely while their neighbor is being invaded", adds that, "We now know they warned us and meant business." The wily Chinese fooled everyone by telling what he intended to do.

Pearl Harbour treachery this date 1941, just as the Japanese delegation was discussing peace terms with U. S. A. Canada declared war on Japan a few hours after that brutal sneak attack, acting in advance of most countries. The United States and most countries of the Commonwealth did not declare war against Japan until December 8. Japan's action forced the United States into the war in Europe, also. On December 11, both Germany and Italy declared war on the U. S. and the States accepted the challenge. Canadian troops then stationed at Hong Kong were immediately thrown into the thick of the fighting. Against overwhelming odds they held out for two weeks but were forced to surrender on Christmas Day when the situation became hopeless. In all, 555 Canadians including their Commander, Brig. J. L. Lawson, were killed in defence of the island or died later as a result of malnutrition in Japanese prisoner of war camps.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by responsible citizens of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

HUB CAP STEALINGS

Sir.—A growing industry is the stealing by youngsters of hub caps off automobiles. These hub caps are then sold to garages and service stations. The writer had two hub caps recently stolen from his 1950 Pontiac and was told that a young lad offered such a hub cap to a garage for sale. Garages and service stations should not buy such an article as they must know that they have been stolen, and should report such peddlers to the Police.

I am, Sir, etc. AUTO OWNER. Charlottetown

THE CORPSE SITS UP

Sir.—On June 23, 1948, Prohibition died and some rejoiced. On March 25 the burial ceremony was performed and many drew a sigh of relief. But the corpse is sitting up. There are signs of life. People are beginning to think Prohibition again. They are now convinced that Government Control is a failure. It had not been tried here and whole denominations said in the Plebiscite: "Let's try it. We give you the green light to go ahead and we take the responsibility." Now they know, as Ontario knows, that it is a failure; and they are again thinking Prohibition.

I was in Tobago, an island fifty miles off the coast of Trinidad, in 1911, and they had been burying a colored man on the top of a high hill. The road up was rough and the pallbearers stumbled. The corpse rolled out and by the law of gravitation sat up. The pallbearers took to their heels. Prohibition is not alive and walking about among us; but the corpse is sitting up. The propulsion of drinking conditions in this Province is compelling people to ask anew, "what can solve this vexing problem?" The enormous waste, the growing number of prosecutions, the drunken driving, the making sober citizens feel that those people that menace our roads should not be able to obtain liquor. The law proposes to deal with this class, but it is failing to handle the menace. Close up the outlets is the only way.

It is commonly said, "The people who want liquor will get it." For eighteen years after Prohibition was enacted people did not get liquor and this was the soberest Province in the Dominion, the best behaved and the most prosperous. It can be so again if the churches want it.

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge, P.E.I.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "PRELUDE"

Song, from thy wealth, far passing richest guess, Give us the things we are poor in, not the things Life spawns for ever with a rank excess. Thou that canst fiercely bless, Take us to founts of power, the unchoked springs Of the world's wondrousness. We need thy boons. We are shaken with storms of fate. And now, while we await The all-calm sky Tomorrow never brings, The tempest and long thunder of Yesterday Have not quite trailed away The last fringe of the midnight of their wings. War smote us hard, and the hard blows of peace Buffet our laden shoulders without cease. And busy is hate, whose wanton sickle cuts Our ripening hopes untimely evermore. And diligent is the furtive hand that shuts On Truth the iron door. Nor rest they off, being troublously awake Throughout the Earth, who, in a bleak light, stir The cauldrons of confusion, whence are borne Hither and thither the sick fumes that make Void minds their dwelling, and blur The countenance of the morning.

—Sir William Watson.

The Age-Old Story

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Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

COMPULSORY DRILLING

"The calling out of the Militia of this Island for the purpose of drilling, as has been done during the past two years, has been characterized by the President of the Executive Council as 'tomfoolery.' We believe that the President is not far astray. Last year, hundreds of our population were taken from their pursuits and compelled to undergo drilling during parts of eight or ten days. Surely the members of the Assembly will do all they can to relieve the people from this most unnecessary duty, by not voting the public money for any such purpose."

"No sane person supposes that any such drilling as our Militia have been subjected to will make soldiers of our farmers and labourers. We do not object to a moderate grant for drilling volunteers, but we most earnestly protest against calling out annually 12,500 or 15,000 able bodied men — taking them from the pursuits by which they earn their daily bread — seeing that no good purpose is ensured. If a company of soldiers is required, let it be raised, and let the men who may compose it be duly paid by the Government, but let us have no more soldiering on the 'hayfoot and strawfoot' principle." —The Islander, Feb. 28, 1868.

Tribute To Heroism

(St. John Telegraph Journal) Few people fortunately, ever have to make the terrible split-second decision that faced Colin

MacPhail of York Point, P.E.I. when he was driving his truck to the Ferry ramp at Caribou, Nova Scotia. The brake failed on a hill—the truck gathered speed as it plunged toward the ramp crowded with vehicles — and for some reason, perhaps because he didn't dare touch his hands off the steering wheel, he couldn't change gears to check the trucks heading pace. With him was his ten-year-old son. The father had to make up his mind in the flash of an instant whether to plow into the cars and people before him, and perhaps kill or injure several persons, to swerve and smash into a roadside bank and risk almost certain death for himself — and for his boy as well.

He chose death so that others might live. The small son, who miraculously came out of the wreckage with only a cut thumb while his father lay crushed and dying behind the wheel, had heard him gasp as he swung the wheel around: "I hope I don't kill anybody else." Then the awful, stunning crash.

It was a thought-provoking, sobering story of self-sacrifice that the news despatch told. The daily papers so often contain news about the opposite type of driver — the kind who kills or maims others because he is too self-centred and heedless to care about anybody but himself — that the incident stands out like a tragic but heroic beacon.

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Notes By The Way

Only eighty-six persons in Britain are left with yearly incomes of more than £8,000 after taxes, the annual report of the inland revenue department showed. In 1939 there were 6,500 in this category. The names of the eighty-six were not revealed, but most are said to be persons who made their money long before the war. It shows the extent to which taxation can carry on the leveling process. — Kitchen-Waterloo Record.

Charter granted by James IV in 1511 to mine coal on the Fordell estate, Fifeshire, Scotland, has ended with the closing of the pit. Though the main shaft was sunk in 1843, there is evidence of mining back in the 16th century. Operations have ceased because it is not considered economical to keep them going any longer. And, what was wrong with the coal mining industry in Britain is suggested by this Fifeshire pit having used, up to the last day, an engine which was 100 years old. This is a tribute to the materials and workmanship that originally went into the engine, but not to any progressive characteristics of former owners of the pit — Windsor Star.

Perhaps the most disturbing bit of news this week is that story of a little girl in Kansas City in whose lung a sunflower plant was found to be growing. Presumably, she had inhaled a seed, and it had germinated. Fortunately the plant was successfully removed by a surgical operation — but such behaviour on the part of a sunflower! Man has many enemies on this planet — animal, vegetable and mineral — the most dangerous, of course, being man himself. But he has always trusted sunflowers. He has planted them in his yard, fed them to his cattle and occasionally munched the seeds himself — all in perfect confidence. And then to find them making illegal entry into his internal organs, with felonious intent. This is too much. Besides, if sunflowers are plotting against us, what revolution may be brewing among other plants. We don't like the way that geranium is looking at us! — Edmonton Journal.

A Roll of Honor containing over 2,300 names, of which more than 100 are of Canadians, now lies in an illuminated glass case in a corner of London's St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Church. It is the Roll of Honour of the Parachute Regiment, and it was laid in its resting place

by Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery of Alamein, Colonel-Commandant of the regiment, at a recent special dedicatory service held in memory of those of the Airborne Forces who lost their lives in World War II. The Roll of Honor lies open at a beautifully illuminated page on which is inscribed the prayer of the Airborne Forces: "May the defence of the Most High be above and beneath, around and within us, in our going out and in our coming in, in our rising up and in our going down, all our days and all our nights, until the dawn when the Son of Righteousness shall rise with healing in his wings for the people of the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen." — Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

The libertarian gale having broken a window in their cage at the New York Zoological Garden in New York on Saturday, two magpies accepted this unexpected invitation to freedom and set forth in weather which might have deterred a bald eagle, a snowy owl or a sharp-shinned hawk from aerial adventure. Twenty hours later, buffeted, bedraggled and probably wiser concerning the difference between zoological security and the cloudy hazards of a great storm, the two magpies returned to their hagar, scratched at the door, and were granted a chance to dry their landing gear and repair ailerons. Just when that rowdy world where trees were crashing and cornices tumbling will be known, of course, only to the feathered friends who cagily refused to accompany them and who are perhaps now receiving their Marco Polo accounts. To try, some aphorist has said, is often better than the thing you try for. One finds it pleasant to congratulate the brave magpies on a determination they showed at a time when many larger bipeds were sitting in dry hedges close to a television set, after had come to a corner collapse. Doubtless the magpies will find envious listeners at the Zoo. Many a home-keeping boy has envied a couple of Bronx youngsters who have started West with nothing more than thirty-six cents, some cheese sandwiches and a Hopalong belt and holster. Even if such adventurers get no farther than Weehawken before they turn hungrily back to appreciate parents, it is something to have spread small wings and fled. The Zoo's magpies, we think, deserve an Audubon Society medal. — New York Herald Tribune.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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