

THE GUARDIAN

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Economics of Rearmament

The economics of rearmament pose political problems which, whether for the socialist Government of Britain or the Liberal Government of Canada, are striking in their similarity. For this, if for no other reason, Canadians can study with profit the reports of the recent Margate conference of the British Labor Party.

Prime Minister Attlee's dilemma, like that of Prime Minister St. Laurent, is to devise new expedients for economic mobilization without losing the support of his followers. The kaleidoscopic pattern of the remedies proposed by his cabinet colleagues at Margate sounds strangely familiar to Canadian ears. Mr. Aneurin Bevan, for example, believes that the way to deal with an economic problem is to launch an ideological cavalry charge, thereby scattering the enemy and, incidentally, losing the battle. In this sense, if in none other, he is the prototype of Canada's Health Minister Martin.

The British Government, like the Canadian, must try to keep wages from rising too fast. The political price for this policy imposed by the trade unions is yet another attack on profits.

Such policies, says The Economist, are not only bad economics. They are also bad politics. "Politicians can rarely remember that their loyal followers are not The People. Indeed, when electoral considerations are in order, his own devoted followers are the one set of people whose views the leader should least consider. The people who will decide the next election are not those who always vote Labor or those who always vote Conservative, but those who might vote either way."

The present Government at Ottawa might well ponder the implications of Prime Minister Attlee's plight and the comments of "The Economist."

Professional Earnings

Judged solely on the income tax figures of the National Revenue Department, law and medicine are the most lucrative vocations, ranking ahead of business, engineering, architecture and investing. The department's latest report for the tax year 1948 reveals the total declared income of 4,060 lawyers amounted to \$33,793,000, which was an average of \$8,309 per taxpayer. There were 6,990 doctors and surgeons who paid taxes on total income of \$57,838,000, an average of \$8,274 per individual.

Standing by themselves these figures may lead to inaccurate conclusions concerning the level of earnings of all practitioners in law and medicine. A Toronto exchange points out that there are many lawyers, doctors and surgeons whose earnings, after allowing for exemptions on dependents, are insufficient to put them into the income tax-paying category.

The Canadian Medical Association has computed that there are 14,000 medical practitioners in Canada, but on the basis of National Revenue totals half of them are not income taxpayers. The explanation for this must be that the earnings of many medical men are under the taxable level. Similarly in the legal profession, the number of tax returns, 4,440 filed, is considerably below the 9,316 lawyers and notaries on the rolls of the various law societies as disclosed in a recent census conducted within the profession. It appears almost 5,000 lawyers and notaries had earnings that fell short of the taxable point.

Tar Sands Research

The large-scale developments at Leduc, Redwater and other Alberta oil fields have tended to obscure the fact that Canada's greatest oil reserve is in the oilinous sands that start about 235 miles north of Edmonton. They occur in outbanks 100 to 200 feet high for mile after mile along the Athabasca river. The Federal Mines Branch has estimated their oil content at 100 billion barrels. The U. S. Bureau of Mines sets the figure much higher, at an estimated 250 billion barrels.

Before this huge supply can be exploited an economic process must be perfected for extracting the oil. Uncovered,

saturated sands extend over an area of 10,000 square miles, and it is believed outcroppings of the field cover between 25,000 and 30,000 square miles. The huge deposits are interspersed with beds of silt and clay.

Oil content of the sands varies in weight from nothing to 25 per cent with some of the outcrop areas carrying an estimated 100,000 to 125,000 barrels per acre. Already processing experiments have recovered 175 barrels of crude from 250 tons of sand, yielding 43 per cent of high-test gasoline.

Several means of extraction have been tried, but the one that offers most hope so far is the "hot water" method by which sand is agitated in hot water causing the oil to leave it and float to the surface. One of the main problems is to get the oil completely free of sand. This process recovers 80 to 85 per cent of oil present in the good grades of sand. Already a pilot plant is separating the bitumen from 500 tons of sand per day. It remains to perfect the technique so that it can be used on a large scale at permissible cost. Hon. J. J. McCann, Federal Minister of Mines, recently announced that his Department would be spending a further \$100,000 for this purpose.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The next celebration will be Christmas.

Soon there will not be a vacant corner so far as oil stations are concerned.

It must be gratifying to ministers to find so many politicians aligning themselves openly with the work of the churches.

Amherst will be comparatively quiet again for another twelve months till, and if, the Islanders return to the Winter Fair.

If anyone interested missed the opportunity of seeing the Queen's Carpet while on view here, it now means a journey to Ottawa to gratify that desire.

The P. W. C. Alumni will be a reality after its general meeting tonight, but that should be to mark its beginning rather than in any sense completion.

This is certainly the first age in which anyone could seriously propose taxation as being desirable in itself, apart from the revenue obtained, but Mr. Graham Towers' proposals have been canvassed for more than half a decade amongst the experts at Ottawa.

The Girl Guide Scroll and accompanying log book which are due here today brings greetings from individual Brownies, Guides and Rangers of the British Isles to their fellows here and in other Provinces. It was carried by hand throughout the Old Country, although the greater distances here require the assistance of T.C.A. and M.C.A.

There will certainly be many original ideas supplied by Island school-children in response to the Highway Department's request for designs for highway markers. Shields are popular in several Provinces, and Ontario marks the King's Highway with a crown. Perhaps the whole stand could be of some characteristic design rather than merely the marker itself.

Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson ("R.L.S.") British novelist and poet, born this date 1850. As a novelist he combined finished style with powerful imagination and remarkable narrative faculty; his essays and poems display originality of thought and charm of style. His works include: "An Island Voyage", "Travels With A Donkey", "Virginibus Puerisque", "Men And Books", "New Arabian Nights", "Treasure Island", "A Child's Garden of Verse", "Prince Otto", "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", "Kidnapped", "Underwoods", "Black Arrow", "Ballads", "Master of Ballantrae" and "Catriona"; also "St. Ives" and "Weir of Hermiston"; (both unfinished, the former completed by Sir A. T. Quiller-Couch).

During the current fiscal year, the Saskatchewan Treasury has been able to pay off in excess of \$2,000,000 of maturing provincial debt. By the end of the current fiscal year, that province will have paid off \$2,230,000 of the outstanding debt. The latest debenture issue to be retired amounted to \$1,426,560. These bonds were issued by Saskatchewan at five per cent in 1920 for the purpose of financing the operations of the Saskatchewan Farm Loans Board. This policy of debt retirement is part of a larger program designed to improve the credit position of Saskatchewan. That the present government's policies are effective, claimed the Treasurer, is to be seen by a constant decline in its borrowing costs. The province's most recent borrowing was done at a cost of 3.23 per cent as compared with the four and five per cent costs of a few years ago.

The Poet's Corner

LAMB

The old bellwether looked at the lamb as a gentleman looks when he mutters 'Damn!'

'If you jump and frisk, you little fool, you'll only end by losing your wool.'

When I was a lamb I always would behave as like a sheep as I could.'

'Did you! the lamb replied with a leap, 'I always thought you were born a sheep.'

The park-keeper said to the boy on the fence, 'Let's have less of your impudence!'

Off with you now, and don't you're bade, or you'll end in prison. When I was a lad . . .

—Humbert Wolfe

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

BURNED LANDS

"In some districts of the Island large tracts of the forest were destroyed by fire near a century back. The soil of these tracts is not esteemed so valuable as that whereon the original growth of timber is still standing; many parts of them are without useful timber of any kind, and a great deal is over-run with strong ferns, dwarf laurel, and other shrubs. The ferns are difficult to get the better of, they grow in some places six and seven feet high, and push their roots very deep into the earth. The burnt lands, as these tracts are called, were long thought of little or no value, from an idea that the fire had in a great measure destroyed their fertility.

"It is probable, that in general they never were so good as the other parts of the Island; the very circumstance of their original growth of timber having been destroyed by fire, shews that the predominant species upon them was such as indicates an inferiority of soil; as we now know by many years' experience, that though the fire will sometimes in very dry years, kill and partially burn the timber on our best lands, it never acts so severely on them as to injure their fertility. On the contrary, the finest crops are produced by burning all the timbers upon them. From the appearance of the burnt districts, and the number of old pine trees and stumps still remaining upon them, it is evident that these lands were covered chiefly with pine and other resinous woods, and therefore, the soil in its original state, could not have been of the best.

"Others, however, good reason to believe from a variety of trials, that the greater part of the burnt lands will pay very well for their cultivation; I have lately been surprised to see parts of them which have been long considered of little or no value, brought into cultivation at a much smaller expense than that which is possible to cultivate the forest lands for. Still it must be confessed, that in general, the lands on which the original growth of timber remains, and is such as has been noticed, as indicating the best soil, are much more to be relied upon though the process of bringing them into cultivation is much more expensive, and the necessary time greater, than is required for the burnt lands.

"A settler in indigent circumstances, who relies from the beginning for the means of subsistence on the produce of his labours, must not at first meddle with the burnt lands, but should cut down and clear away the forest, which will never disappoint him. Let him but get rid of the timber, and scorch the surface with fire, whatever seed he commits to the earth will produce him a good crop, though the stumps of the trees still remain.

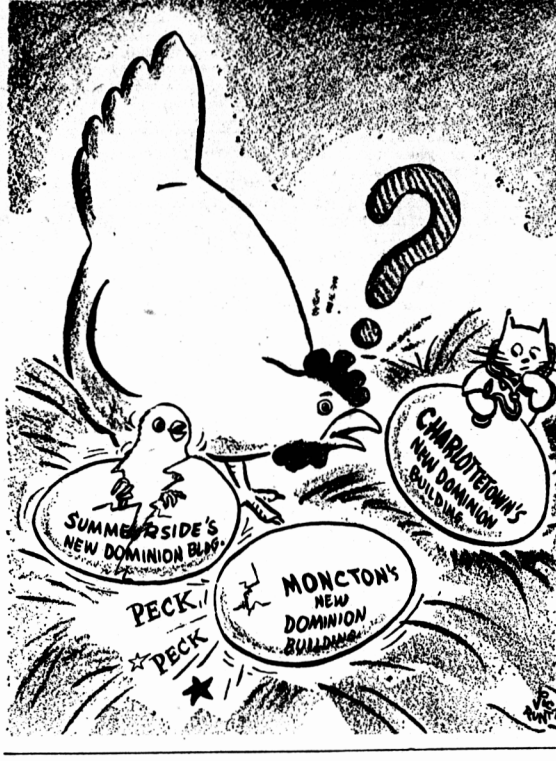
"A settler who is farther advanced, has a stock of cattle, and a capital to command labour, may find it profitable to cultivate the burnt lands, large tracts of which he will be able to render tolerably productive, in much less time than is required to get rid of the stumps of the trees, in the lands which he clears from the forest; a circumstance which forms no trifling temptation to their cultivation. At the same time it is universally allowed, that our forest lands are much easier cultivated than the burnt lands on any part of the neighbouring Continent, the surface being much easier levelled, and almost totally unincumbered with rocks and stones, so that when the stumps of the trees are got the better of, all the difficulties to complete cultivation are overcome."

—From An Account of Prince Edward Island, &c., by John Stewart, Esq., 1806.

The Age-Old Story

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature and these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

"What's The Matter With You, Old Timer?"



Reminiscing

Sir.—A few evenings ago, while ostensibly sitting at ease, but somehow or other being mentally occupied with farm problems as they exist today, my mind wandered back over the past thirty or more years, during which I have been actively associated with farmers, in an endeavor to liquidate and banish their farm problems.

While in this mind, there flashes from memory's lay-away attic, portions of a song depicting conditions as they existed on Island farms preceding and about the time of Confederation.

The author of this "song" is unknown but it is said to have been written by a young farm lad, who by virtue of hardship on the farm, was compelled to migrate to "other climes" that offered more favourable opportunity. In the succession of verses, it may be observed, reference is made to the old picnics, the difficulties they encountered, the privations endured, the imposition of an iniquitous rental levy by the land-owners who posed as Lords this and that, the revolt by the tenants, and finally the apparent relief afforded by the Confederation Pact, which was looked upon by many as a measure of providential intervention.

After an experience of approximately eighty years what do we think of Confederation today? This "song" may not be a masterpiece in its composition but it is expressive of the sentiment existing in by-gone days, and its publication may be interesting to many of the now older generation.

I am, Sir, etc., J. A. GILLIES

Prince Edward Isle Adieu

Come all ye hardy sons of toll Pray lend an ear to me Whilst I relate the dismal state Of this our country. I will not pause to name the cause For keep it close in view; For comrades grieve when they must leave And bid this Isle adieu.

There is a band within this land Who live in pomp and pride; To swell their stores they rob the poor; On pleasures' wings they ride. With diamonds fine their tables shine, They live in princely style, Those are the knaves who made us slaves. And sold Prince Edward Isle.

The Father's boy, his only joy, Must bid a sad farewell; They're parting here, no more to meet. On earth, for who can tell, Far from this Isle, in prairies wild, In countries now that's new, Content they stay, and bless the day They bid this Isle adieu.

Our daughters fair, in deep despair, Must leave their native land; To foreign shores they're swiftly borne. As I do understand, The tide it flows, they all must go There's nothing else to do; While parents grieve as they must leave And bid this Isle adieu.

Through want and care and scanty fare, The poor man drags along; He hears a whistle loud and shrill, The "Iron Horse" speeds on; He throws his pack upon his back, There's nothing left to do; He boards the train for Bangor, Maine, Prince Edward Isle adieu.

The reason why so many fly, And leave their Island home; Because 'tis clear, they can't stay here, For work to do there's none; In other climes there's better times, There can't be worse 'tis true; So woe or woe, away they go, Prince Edward Isle adieu.

In days of yore, from Scotland's shores Our Fathers crossed the main; The dark and drear, they settled here To quit the "Tyrant's" chain; With hearts so stout, they put to rout The forest beasts so wild; Rough logs they cut, to build their huts Upon Prince Edward Isle.

With ax well ground, they levelled down The forest far and wide; With spade and hoe the seed they sowed, The plow was left unried; With sickle hooks they cut their stooks, No "Buckeyes" were in style; They spent their days—their ashes Upon Prince Edward Isle.

The place was new, the roads were few, The people lived content, The landlords came, their fields to claim; Each settler must pay rent, So now you see, the turning tide That drove us to exile, Begin again to cross the main, And leave Prince Edward Isle.

But changes great have come of late, And brought some curious things; Dominion men have brought us in, The Isle with railways ring; There's maps and charts, and towns apart, And tramps of every style; There's doctors mute and lawyers cute, Upon Prince Edward Isle.

There's judges too, who find a clue To all the merchants' bills; There's school trustees, who want no fees, For using all their skill; There's law for dogs, for geese, for hogs, At this pray do not smile, For changes great have come of late, Upon Prince Edward Isle.

So here's success to all who press The question of Free Trade; Join hand in hand, our cause is grand; They're plainly in the shade, The mainland route, the world throughout; Take courage now, stand true, My verse is run, my song is done, Prince Edward Isle adieu.

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Notes By The Way

The Ottawa Journal, a newspaper that always gives a feeling of knowing what it's talking about, comes out as advocate of the potato—in pancake form. The editor, showing a knowledge of the skillet far beyond that coming from reading women's page hints to housewives only, offers a menu in phrases tempting enough to sell any but the most chronic dyspeptic on this favored Fall fare. — Neilson News.

All the world loves a bride whether she comes from ranks of the humble and the wedding is a marvel of simplicity, or she emerges from the home of the rich and the great, and the occasion be one of pomp and elaborate ceremonies—what matter it? It will be a sorry day for society should the romance of marriage suffer loss or the wedding be treated as commonplace and a mere formality. Weddings are solemn, not sad; they are impressive events and flippancy at such a time is the acme of poor taste. Every month is the bride's month these days. Roses for her path, roses for the bride!—Guelph Mercury.

The Government, realizing Viscount Alexander's worth, has asked him to stay on as Governor General for one year past the original expiration of his term. He has accepted this offer and will thus remain in Canada until April 1952. Naturally we are all pleased at this news. Nevertheless, we wonder why he is not going to remain another five years as Governor General. One year does not seem like a very lengthy extension of the term of a man as popular and respected as Viscount Alexander. Could it be that the Government asked him to stay on for five more years but their offer was turned down because the United Nations or the British Government have some even more important position in mind for him? — Lethbridge Herald.

"Counting all the little ones," says a news filler, the number of islands in the British Isles is about 5,000. It is hard to realize—so accustomed are we to thinking of the British Isles as Great Britain and Ireland with a few islands above and below them. And yet some of these specks on the map provide the Old Land with many of its most intriguing corners. There are the Scilly Isles, off Cornwall, whose fields in early spring are masses of daffodils, narcissi, wallflowers and lilies—so much of it destined for Covent Garden.

In this modern world, we hear so much about scholastic standards, abilities, aptitudes, etc., that sometimes our young people may be inclined to lose sight of the importance of character, in the preparation for life's work. Speaking recently at Tilbury, W. Wallace Muir, an official of the Ford Motor Company of Canada, Windsor, pointed out that his company emphasizes character in its search for new members of its staff. When an applicant is seeking a job, the most necessary feature is to possess a good character, he said. Unless a man or woman has that other advantage is lessened. It is of little use to hire a man to work, if he is not industrious; to give him responsibility if he is irresponsible; to place him in a position of trust, if he is untrustworthy. Perhaps never before was character so much an asset in business as now. It has not lost its value in 1950 and even a brilliant individual without character is under a heavy handicap.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

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