

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. CIRCULATION Total City Zone 3,768 Retail Trading Zone 8,457 All Others 824 Total Net Paid 13,049

Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett Associate Editor, Frank Walker "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1951

Growing Civic Expenditures

The position of Canadian cities and municipalities was graphically illustrated in figures presented to the Senate finance committee recently by Mr. J. H. Lowther, director, public finance division, Federal Bureau of Statistics, in the committee's continuing probe of Federal 1951-52 estimates.

Between 1939 and the end of 1949, the latest available period, Mr. Lowther's compilation showed that while the total revenues of Canadian cities and municipalities increased by some 62 per cent, their major single source of revenue, real estate and personal property taxes, increased by about 57 per cent.

The following comparative figures gives an idea of what is happening the cities and municipalities:

Total Federal revenues, between 1939 and the end of 1949 rose from \$480 millions to \$2,411 millions or by some 400 per cent.

Total Provincial revenues in the same period rose from \$258 millions to \$826 1/2 millions or by about 200 per cent. Of that increase, provincial tax revenue rose from \$172 millions to \$517 millions or by 200 per cent.

As to the cities, their revenues rose in this period from \$321 millions to \$524 millions or by some 63 per cent. Their real estate and personal property taxes yielded some \$433 millions of the \$524, having increased from \$275 millions in 1939 or by 57 per cent.

To cover their rapidly growing expenditures some of the cities and municipalities put on direct sales taxes. Such revenue rose from \$4 1/2 millions to \$16 millions in the period. Various other minor taxes rose from about \$23 millions to \$47 1/4 millions, licenses, permits and fees rose from about \$7 millions to \$12 3/4 millions.

But in the 1939-1949 period, annual provincial subsidies to the cities and municipalities rose from \$4 1/2 millions to \$10 millions.

Lobster Size Limit

It will be with some relief that fishermen here learn that the new Massachusetts size limit for marketing lobsters will not be effective until Dec. 1 instead of July 1 as originally planned. The difference is not great between the old and new measurements, an increase from three and 3/16 to 3 1/4 inches carapace measurement.

That bottom 1/16th inch group of the present "market" lobsters, however, represents some thirty or forty per cent of the lobsters being shipped from here to the American market and but for the postponement of the new limit there would have been a considerable slice taken from this summer's earnings of Island lobstermen.

Not in Canada

No price cutting war threatens in Canada such as has been on in the U. S. since big city department stores under-cut on goods on which manufacturers had fixed retail sale prices. The reasons, as pointed out by an exchange, are two-fold:

The Canadian Combines Investigation Act is different from the U. S. Sherman Anti-Trust Act which holds illegal any agreement among a combination to fix prices, higher or lower. The Canadian Act holds that such price fixing is illegal if it is aimed at "restraining or injuring trade or commerce." The key Canadian words are: "Which combination, trust or monopoly has operated or is likely to operate to the detriment or against the interest of the public." Canadian prosecutors have found that difficult to prove.

To get around the Sherman Act, U. S. manufacturers in 44 of the 48 states induced legislatures to pass "fair trade" acts.

Essentially these provided: Manufacturers could enter into agreements with retailers in the same state with respect to prices, and those who had not signed such agreements had to abide by those prices. It was that latter provision that the U. S. Supreme Court held violated the intent of the national Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

In Canada, it has been generally sufficient for the Combines Investigation Act.

commissioner to warn corporations where their price agreements seem aimed against the public interest in trade and commerce. Canadian manufacturers, especially in the electrical goods business, fix the retail prices of their product, allowing retailers a discount.

No test has ever been attempted in Canada to prove that such retail price fixing agreements with manufacturers are injurious to the public interest. The manufacturers claim they are necessary to protect retailers against some stores selling their goods from time to time below cost as "leaders" in selling others; also, that they are necessary to make possible uniform advertising of prices across Canada, a protection to the consumers.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Almost everyone enjoys band music and Charlottetown is fortunate in the presence here of the famous R. C. A. F. central band.

At 1:25 tomorrow morning the sun reaches its most northerly mark and summer begins in the northern hemisphere. For the pessimist, days start getting shorter.

The city schools close tomorrow and anxious parents who wonder what they will do with the children will find that the youngsters can find lots to do for themselves.

With ship refitting and aircraft servicing added to Charlottetown's industrial activity there should be a continuance of the present low rate of unemployment.

The German fleet interned at Scapa Flow was scuttled this date 1919 by order of Vice-Admiral von Reuter. Many of the ten battleships, fifteen cruisers and forty-six torpedo-boats have since been salvaged.

Welcome to the Junior Chamber of Commerce delegates from all over Eastern Canada. Their annual conference will have work to do but may it also be said that a good time was had by all.

The slump in auto sales is blameable more on the credit restrictions than on taxation. But the reaction is on the factories, and unemployment follows.

According to the Monthly Commercial Letter of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Canada's imports from the U. S. amounts to 67.2 per cent, while her exports total 65.3 per cent. From the Sterling Areas the imports are 21.1 per cent, and the exports 20.3 per cent. Other countries, imports 7.4 per cent, and exports 9.2 per cent. So it will be seen that our trade practically balances in each area—we buy as much as we sell.

No indication so far has been vouchsafed by the Government, but it seems preparations are being made for a voluntary tax in lieu of the abolition of the "Means Test" for old age pensions at seventy. The Prime Minister states that a special fund will be instituted into which "all who can" will pay to finance the seventy and over pension scheme. The trouble since the beginning of time is that "all who can" will not pay except under compulsion.

In the blood. A fighting team of four brothers from Clear Lake, Man., have enlisted in "E" Company of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles for service with the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade. The Reid brothers plan to stick together. Three of them share a total of 13 years previous service with the Active Force of the Army. Sons of Robert Reid of Clear Lake—he has five boys—they are L/Cpl. William Reid, 27; L/Cpl. Archie Reid, 22; Rifleman Neil Reid, 21; and Rfn. Clarence Reid, 18. William enlisted in the Royal Winnipeg Rifles during the Second World War and later transferred to the PPCLI. Archie also served with the "Princess Patricias" and Neil is a former artilleryman. Clarence, too young to enlist during the war, says he won't be left behind this time. He's sticking with his three big—and capable—brothers.

Canadian Fisherman, June, reports that the Inspecting Officers of the Department of Game and Fisheries for the Province of Quebec, have attended recently a two weeks course at the Fisheries Training School of Grande-Riviere, Gaspé. The following subjects were under study: The theory and technology of fish salting and drying, the technology of fresh, frozen and pickled products, the technology of canning and the control of freshness, and cleanliness in the processing and curing plants, fishery legislation and inspection. Canadian Fisherman states that "The canning and processing plant managers will be invited to attend a similar course in the near future and the Honourable Dr. Pouliot is of the opinion that this teaching programme will prove in the long run to be very profitable to the whole fishery industry."

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A Letter To Our Children



PEN FRIEND WANTED

Sir,—I am wondering if you can help me in what may be a somewhat unusual request—that is, whether, through your paper, I could be put in touch with someone living in Prince Edward Island with whom I could correspond. I have had a deep interest in the Island ever since reading the novels of L. M. Montgomery, "Anne of Green Gables", etc., etc. If possible I should like to correspond with a girl around my own age—24—who is interested in music, books, travel.

I am, Sir, etc., MARY BISHOP (MISS) 61 Prince of Wales Mansions, London, S.W. 11, England

SOUL OF THE WORLD

Sir,—Ever since Cain slew Abel, there has been a contest waging between faith in God and unbelief. We took more notice of the issue when Hitler made claim to be God. In the last five years we have seen many millions of people taken in behind the Iron Curtain. Not wishing this to go on, we have brought it to a "show down" in Korea. But we are learning that military might, though needful, is not enough to convince the enemy that we mean business. Some say let us pray to God to make wars to cease. Others go further, and send messages to our statesmen, to encourage them and assuring them of our prayers. In the Epistle of James especially, we are reminded that faith and pious words are dead things, unless we bestir ourselves and do something. According to Matthew, 25, Jesus will not say—"Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom and so forth, because you have prayed for my little ones and for these my brethren and you have said—Lord; Lord; But it will be because we have done the will of 'My Father'."

I wrote before of Paul G. Hoffman who has served two and a half years at the head of E. C. A. (Economic Cooperation Administration). Four different fronts are brought into play. But the information front, the political, the military are all tied up with the Economic. The military front is the giving of financial assistance to each and every one of these 16 European countries to arm themselves in case of invasion. The political front is the endeavor to get cooperation between these European States also in case of invasion, and also for mutual benefit in the way of free trade and exchange of goods.

I would understand that the information front is educational. For instance each country is asked to send students to the United States to learn the latest in agriculture, manufacturing and scientific discovery. In economics, each country lays down so much money and E. C. A. covers that with an equal amount. This is helping them to help themselves. The idea is to get the factories running, the land producing, the people working, the army building up, the young people learning the courage and good will increasing.

Beside these 16 countries, I am told that China got some help previous to the South Korean invasion, but it was too late and too little. It consisted in intervention between landlord and tenant farmer, in getting rent of land reduced from 75 per cent of crop to 35, also going out in the fields to help the Chinese farmers to work better ways of working. We pray for the time when love and harmony shall cover the earth as the waters the deep. And we say Jesus shall reign where'er the sun doth his successive journeys run. Also His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom. Doubts of this arise in many minds, as we see religion going into eclipse before greed and unbelief; at home and the use of the Atom Bomb suggested by leaders in churches and State.

But to get down to "brass tacks", I notice that the cost in money to the United States for the Second World War will have been one and one quarter trillion dollars by the time the last veteran receives his last pension cheque. And Mr. Hoffman estimates that to spend 50 billion dollars yearly for 10 years to avert another "war" would be...

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) FIRST LACROSSE GAME "The Charlottetown Lacrosse Club played their first game at the Government Park grounds yesterday evening at 7 o'clock. Being the first game of Lacrosse played in the city, a large crowd gathered on the ground. During the game, which lasted for about half an hour, good play was exhibited by members on both sides. The Club has now thirty-six members and seems to be in a flourishing condition. The following are the officers: H. C. Brownell, president; H. Hazard and W. C. Hobkirk, vice-presidents; Daniel Davies, Jr., secretary and treasurer; A. A. MacLean, Mal. MacLeod, T. Robins, S. D. Fitzgerald and A. Devine, committee."

FARMING AND FERTILIZING

Sir,—In continuation of my letter in your Forum, June 19th on this subject I would like to say that the use of Chemical Fertilizer in our modern methods of farming has become so universal a practice that to attempt farming without it, would seem a waste of time and effort. Yet the cost is so excessive that it seems to constitute one of the greatest gambles in our farming operations. It has already been the cause of unbalancing financially a greater number of farmers than that of any other expenditure.

At prevailing prices, fertilizer buying as at present followed in practice is simply ruinous, and a hook-up between users, Department officials, and manufacturers should not be delayed. Every avenue leading towards lower cost should be explored without fear, favor or prejudice, and methods of application apart from what now is customary might be investigated with profit. Today we have fertilizer offered as straight chemicals for home mixing, and as mixed fertilizers ready for use. We have liquid fertilizers which are a chemically blended essence and highly recommended for various jobs by the manufacturers, as well as by skilled chemical technicians. With the first two we have years of experience, and acquaintance, with the latter it is not much more than being introduced.

Our present practise of dosing the entire fertilizer complement for the season in one application for "root" feeding has been followed for years with varying degrees of success, but today there are experts who recommend systematic feeding of growing crops, as in the case of animal life, with top-dressing applications and foliage and stem feeding, when appearance of the crop indicates a need. And so the story might be prolonged. Each theory has its advocates, but the farmer does not always know.

The solution for the present excessive costs may be tied up somewhere within the bounds of this word picture and someone should take a lead to prove or disprove these various contentions. Heresay will not be of much value, there must be proof. Fertilizing our fields for more abundant production in this age seems an absolute necessity, and yet when cultivation of these same farms originally commenced such was not the case. What is the reason? Why the changed conditions. It may well be remembered when land was first called upon by man to produce crops, it was in a splendid state of fertility. Nature had seen to that. Chemical values extracted annually from the soil by the only crop of that time—the forest—was returned as regularly and in even greater measure.

It remained for man to denude the land of its natural fertility, down through the years, without making regular or sufficient replacement deposits. Now it is his necessity to provide this barren soil with ingredients or plant nutrients that will make crops grow and it is so much more expensive than the way nature did it. To solve the problem of expensive fertilizing we must adopt a system as nearly like unto what nature would employ as ever we possibly can.

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

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION and ANALYSIS

G. F. HUTCHESON & SON Optometrists 53 Grafton St.

SHEEP BREEDERS' ATTENTION!

The Sheep Breeders' Association of Prince Edward Island is handling your wool for you at the highest market price. Last year this Association through the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, paid from 15 to 20 cents more for wool than the travelling buyer with his truck. This year the same situation could possibly repeat itself. There is no fixed price being offered you by drover buyers. Your wool can be secured. 10, 15 or 20 cents per pound extra means a lot of money saved. A difference of 20 cents on your wool means \$400.00 per ton that you have lost.

DON'T SELL YOUR WOOL THIS WAY Ship it to your Sheep Breeders' Association, Charlottetown—freight collect. An advance of 80 cents per pound will be paid promptly—and later a further substantial payment will be made.

The Sheep Breeders are supporting the Sheep Industry. For those who ship their wool a special price has been arranged on Cooper's Sheep Dip, Phenothiazine tablets for internal parasites, and Docking and Castration equipment. Call for your requirements. The Association will also assist in the placement of rams—Who would you rather patronize; a buyer who has no interest in your industry, other than securing your wool at a price level profitable to himself; or the Sheep Breeders' Association which guarantees the highest market price, and provides you with supplies and assistance necessary in the health and improvement of your flock? Think it over, and send your wool to your own P. E. I. Sheep Breeders' Association, Charlottetown.

Notes By The Way

Most doctors are as attentive as they can be even to unreasonable fussy and chronic nuisance patients. The men of the profession do not care to take chances. On the other side, having in mind the many calls made on a doctor's time and skill, patients or their relatives might make things easier for all concerned by exercising a bit of thoughtful intelligence, as, for instance, by not calling a doctor out in the middle of the night, or even at his meal hour unless a real emergency exists. This intelligence, fortunately, is exercised in the great majority of cases. Besides, the telephone is a convenient aid for quick consultation and advice, and a brief conversation with the doctor can often allay alarm and conserve effort. —Brantford Exploster.

It is unfair to indict Father for laziness when he grumbles about watering the lawn. Knowingly or not, he is merely being scientific, and in trying to escape the chore, is acting in the lawn's best interests. As a recent research study at the University of Pennsylvania shows, and as Federal District Commission practice proves, the less a lawn is watered, the better it thrives. In fact, excessive watering damages a lawn. The scientific reasons are simple, and should be easy for Father to remember and enumerate next time his turn to water the lawn comes up. Heavy soils become water-logged from excessive summer watering. The deeper roots suffocate then from lack of air. Moreover, beneficial soil bacteria cease to function without air, and the grass then lacks both air and nutrition. In consequence, the grass languishes. But not, unfortunately, the weeds and clover. In these circumstances they flourish. The soil doesn't normally occur until late June or early August. Then, watering should be done about every ten days, depending on rainfall and soil conditions. When a lawn is finally watered, it should be soaked sufficiently for a moisture penetration about four inches. Frequent light watering

—a practice only too widespread, as it saves the conscience of the indolent—only encourages surface rooting, resulting in weak plants subject to winter kill and to weed and clover infestation. A dry lawn, on the other hand, need occasion no alarm. It means deeper roots and stronger plants.—Ottawa Citizen.

Eye, in timeless Eden again. Never feels the autumn rain. Basket at her side, she toils Over brown and ochre soils And measures from a muddy hand The lime, the leafmould, and the sand. Pleased to put her bulbs to bed With showers rocking overhead. About her on the wet wind fly Last summer's letters of good bye. The patient brotherhood of trees Wait bleakly for the earth to freeze. But dedication can forget The carnal world of cold and wet The visionary, unaware Of dripping jacket, blowing hair, Among imagined hollyhocks And, absent from the body, dwells With unborn Canterbury bells. —Elizabeth Bohm

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