

Lovers Prince Edward Island Lake the Dew
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"The strongest memory is weaker than
the weakest link."

PAGE 4 FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1957

Pre-Election Budget

Representing as it does the Government's major policy announcement before Parliament is dissolved and a federal general election called, Finance Minister Harris' budget speech last night was awaited with much interest. It offers numerous minor concessions, amounting to a considerable total in tax reductions and benefit payment increases; but it leaves the picture quite unchanged so far as burdensome income and corporation taxes are concerned. This despite the fact that on Wednesday Mr. Harris reported a \$282,500,000 surplus for the fiscal year ending March 31, and is again budgeting for a huge surplus next year.

The reason given for the refusal to grant substantial tax relief is inflation. The Government is so concerned about inflation that it has decided the taxpayers cannot be trusted with their own money. It feels that any deduction in income tax, for example, might only lead to more spending at a time when saving is needed. This argument would sound more convincing if the Government itself showed signs of practicing what it preaches. Last year it achieved an all-time peak in expenditures, apart altogether from the old age security fund operations which are financed by special taxes. This being election year it is anyone's guess what the expenditure bill will be when the next budget is brought down.

There is, however, a bright ray of hope in the budget's recognition of the urgent need of stimulating the economy of the Atlantic Provinces. An additional two million dollars will be paid annually in freight rate subventions on goods moving out of the Maritimes into Central Canadian markets, and aid will be offered to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (two Conservative Provinces!) in integrating their electrical systems and in building and operating thermal plants to meet power needs. The Government also intends to launch "an immediate review" of Maritime transportation problems. If these assurances materialize, they will make the budget a truly memorable one for this section of the country.

Education Committee

It is hoped that the special legislative committee on Education will fulfill the expectations of Premier Matheson by making a thorough inquiry and bringing in a report which will be really worth while. The organizations which have been pushing for an inquiry had asked for a royal commission instead of a House committee, and this was the substance of the Opposition amendment which was defeated on a straight party vote. It is the Government's contention that a royal commission would take too much time, and that results from previously appointed commissions have proved unsatisfactory. "I want the House to do the work," said the Premier, "and not pass the buck along to someone else." This places the onus squarely on the committee, headed by Mr. Large, of doing a thorough job. The committee comprises seven Liberal members and two Conservatives, which considering the fact that there are only three Opposition members in the House seems a fair distribution politically. The Premier and the Minister of Education are members ex officio.

One difference between a legislative committee and a royal commission is that no provision is made in the former case for receiving a minority report. According to Beauchesne, no signature other than that of the chairman should be affixed to the report for the purpose of showing any division of opinion in the committee, nor can it be accompanied by any counter statement from the minority, as such is unknown in British parliamentary practise. The chairman only signs by way of authentication on behalf of the committee; he should sign even if he dissented from the major-

ity finding. The House may then adopt it, reject it, refer it back to a revived committee with or without instructions, or give it the "six months' hoist" which would be equivalent to rejecting it.

Procedural methods are, no doubt, of lesser importance than the work which the new committee on Education is expected to do. Yet it is well to keep in mind the limitations which parliamentary practise imposes.

Why The Secrecy?

The Prime Minister is quoted as saying it is a fair assumption that there will be a Federal Election this year, or words to that effect. In replying to a question in the Commons, however, he said, somewhat testily: "It is not the press that fixes the date. When it is fixed it will be fixed in a constitutional manner and announced in a constitutional manner."

It is good to know that the Government is showing a fond attachment to constitutional usages. At the same time, it would be easy to defend the proposition that the press, which doesn't fix the dates of elections, is at least as close to the public as is the Government, which does, and, therefore, has a natural and legitimate interest in such matters. All that aside, it is difficult to account for a Government's—any Government's—reluctance to inform the public on election arrangements well ahead of the time required by statute. No one is simple enough to believe that the Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues do not know the exact day on which the election is to be held. In all probability, they have known it for several weeks or even several months. Why then the secrecy? What is there to be cautious about? Certainly, a party which has been in office continuously for twenty years has no great need of an advantage over other parties for organizational purposes.

In any event, whether there is anything said about it in constitutional law or not, it is a fact that opposition parties have just as much moral right to advance notice respecting elections as has the ruling party, since they, too, have responsibilities to the public. Unfortunately, this fact often appears to be ignored in the councils of Government.

EDITORIAL NOTES

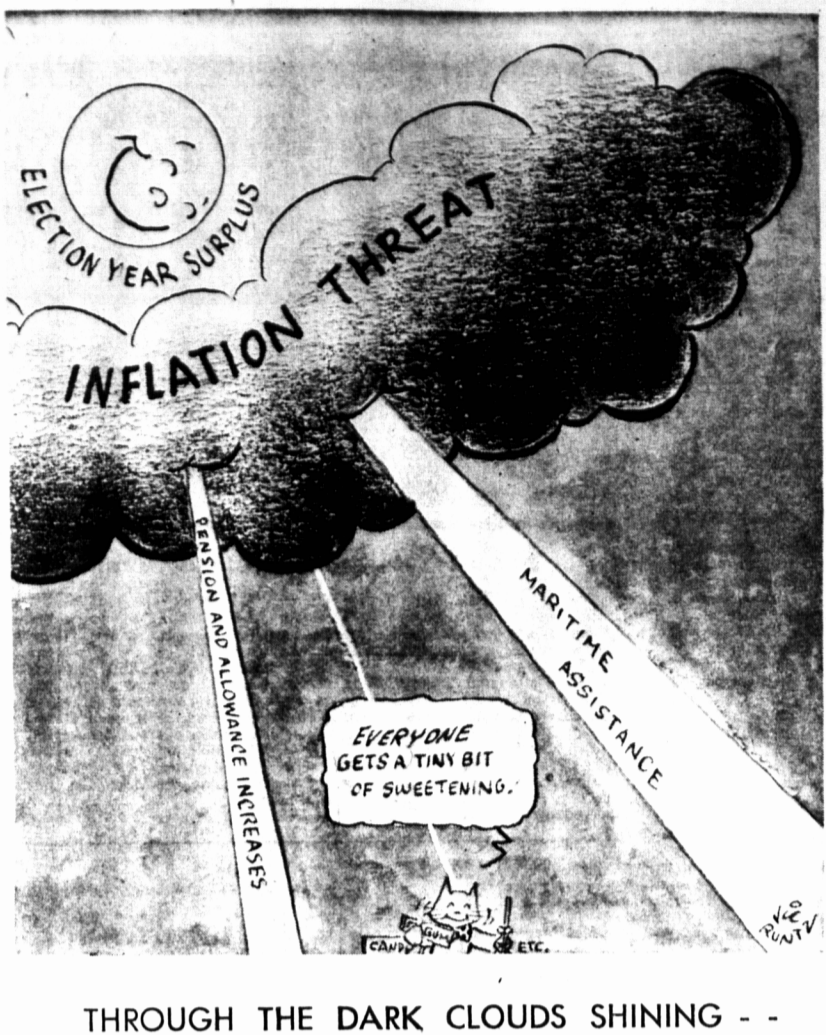
A pet store in Long Beach, Calif., is now selling crickets at \$1.98 each. This will help to ease the problem of those citizens who like the little musical creatures in front of their fireplaces.

Finland is having agricultural troubles, too. A report from Helsinki says that six members of the Cabinet have threatened to resign unless the Government agreed to increase the price of margarine and reduce the price of butter so as to stabilize the dairy industry.

The Egyptians are angered over the regrettable fact that one Arab was accidentally killed by U.N. forces when mobs started trouble in the Gaza Strip, following the departure of the Israelis. There will be more than one killed if Egypt insists on taking over the area and the Israelis decide to go back to finish the job. We shall soon see what the "assurances" which the United States gave to Israel are worth.

A former Islander who is now running a grocery store in Vineland, Ontario, writes to say that he received 250 bags of badly frozen P.E.I. potatoes. He comments: "Unless there is more care taken about frost you are killing your own markets." Anyone can see that. Wherever the fault lies, immediate steps should be taken to put an end to this bad advertisement for our chief product. No product, however good, can stand that sort of publicity.

Poor Mr. Dulles! Not only does his tongue occasionally run ahead of his thinking; he sometimes forgets the company he is in. In Canberra he told SEATO delegates that recognition of Communist China would "strengthen and encourage influences hostile to us and our allies," apparently forgetting that at least two members of the organization already recognize the Peiping regime. They must have been surprised to hear that they were "strengthening and encouraging influences hostile to us and our allies."



PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events of national interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

ATTENTION DR. DEWAR

Sir.—Dr. L. Dewar in his letter of March 5th says that the chief malady of education is "over-work and malnutrition," whatever the inference.

He also says that education faces a job today unparalleled in the history of the human race, and that within a generation the mass of knowledge held by mankind has doubled.

Now according to the dictionary knowledge means education, so Dr. Dewar has indicated that Education has made such great strides forward in the past generation that something should be done about it.

Dr. Dewar's "simple table" showing the annual cost of Education, Highways and Agriculture on a percentage basis since 1900 suggests his estimation of the intelligence of the electors of Prince Edward Island.

Had he given the amount of money spent on Education each year since 1900, as he should have done, it would be shown that the cost of Education has tremendously increased over the past fifty odd years.

In 1900 First and Second Class Teachers got \$225 a year and Third Class Teachers got \$180.00 a year, an average of \$202.50 per year, while according to Dr. Dewar's own figures the average salary of Teachers in 1955 was \$1,445.83 per year, or seven times as much as in 1900, which is another proof that this Province is going ahead rapidly in matters of Education.

Concerning School Property, all Dr. Dewar has to do is to take a drive, after the snow goes around the country and see all the beautiful school buildings with running water and sewerage, and well kept school grounds, and compare them with the little black school house, the picturesque out-building, the bucket of water carried from a neighbour's spring or well, and the tin drinking cup used by the teacher and all the pupils, and let him see for himself the magnificent High Schools throughout the Province in which pupils up to and including Grade Twelve receive instruction, thus saving their parents large sums of money formerly spent on paying for board and lodging in Charlottetown. And let him not forget that all these modern improvements have been sponsored and financially assisted by Liberal Government.

One hundred years ago a school—later Prince of Wales College—was established in Charlottetown to prepare Teachers for the Province. All students entering Prince of Wales College graduated as qualified teachers, and there was a surplus of Teachers for about seventy years. But then it was decided by a Tory Government to give Business and other courses in Prince of Wales College and soon the number of Teachers fell hopelessly short of the requirements. That is what happened.

I am, Sir, etc., THOS. V. GRANT, Ottawa, March 11th, 1957.

FAVORS COMMISSION

Sir.—Congratulations to Dr. Dewar in pressing for Royal Commission! The government is evidently trying to evade the issue because they do not want the public to realize what a terrible condition the educational system of this province is in. Educationally we are the laughing stock of North America! For nowhere in North America is less money spent per capita on education than in Prince Edward Island.

The Premier states that there is a lack of agreement among different groups concerning what should be done about the educational situation except that they all want a Royal Commission. Now what does he propose to do about it? He moves to appoint a special committee on education. It can clearly be seen what the re-

OTTAWA REPORT

Sixteen Senate Vacancies

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: Some wit in the Senate commented that, if the present spell of warm weather keeps up, there soon will be not a quorum of Senators left in Florida.

One might add that, if the present death rate keeps up, there won't even be a quorum of Senators left in Ottawa.

It was out of respect for Quebec's Senator Armand Duhaigle that the all-time Canadian ensign most recently fluttered at half mast atop the Peace Tower here. And with his death, "Deceased"

suit would be; because different groups coming to this committee would not agree in every detail the committee would be furnished with the excuse that, since everybody does not agree, we will have to wait for more agreement, and nothing would be done.

For the well-meaning to say it does not want a Royal Commission for fear it will cost more money is like a person who knows there is something wrong with him, refusing to go to the doctor for fear an operation might be needed which would cost him money.

A Royal Commission would be a small politically impartial group who would thoroughly study and evaluate our educational system. It would then make certain recommendations as to what changes should be made to make it as fair as possible to the people of this province as a whole. Such changes might not necessarily demand the spending of more money but certainly would make use of the money already available in the province.

Let's take a brief look at the Royal Commission set up under Judge Pottier in Nova Scotia in 1953. In Nova Scotia at that time the educational situation was in nearly as bad a shape as it is in our own province at the present time. Poorer communities had great difficulty in getting a teacher or could not get one at all. Children were being denied the right to a fair education. As a result of the Commission's work, teachers received a higher minimum salary, a reassessment was made of all real property in Nova Scotia and a tax of eighty cents was paid on each hundred dollars. The rest of what was needed by the district was paid by the government. This made it possible for the less prosperous districts to afford better teachers and facilities. Similarly more prosperous districts did not need as much help from the government. This resulted in a more just distribution rather than an increase of public funds being spent on education by the government.

The money is in this province. Let us not live on dreams of federal aid. Something must be done at once and a Royal Commission is the fairest way of finding out what should and can be done.

I am, Sir, etc., CITY TEACHER.

VICTORIA BRIDGE

Sir.—More than four years have passed since the Government abandoned the Victoria Bridge. To say the least, it was an action not at all creditable to them, for it could very easily have been kept in good repair at no very great expense.

As a result it has been detrimental to the business and welfare of the village, not to mention the inconvenience to at least three farmers on the farther side of the river, in going to and coming from their farms and places of business on this side because they have to go around by Hampton about two miles further than by the bridge.

Just before the last provincial election, there were rumors that the bridge was to be repaired, and another span to be taken from the North River Bridge was to be placed next to the present one. Like most rumors they came to nothing, and at the present time not a "squeak" is heard.

The people around these parts would like to know what the local government intend to do about the

I am, Sir, etc., AN OBSERVER, Victoria, P.E.I.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

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About 75 boys and girls and farmers in the vicinity of Mt. Herbert attended the Barn Day at the farm of Ings and Sons yesterday. The judging demonstrations, supervised by Mr. W. R. Shaw of the Department of Agriculture and Mr. L. W. Roper of the Livestock Branch, were conducted for the boys and girls, and talks on several subjects pertaining to Agriculture were given.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR A CHILD'S SHYNESS?

Shyness is not born in a child it is created. And all too frequently the parents are responsible. True, different youngsters are born with different temperaments, but that is only the beginning. Whether a child will develop a great degree of shyness depends primarily upon what happens during his early life.

PHYSICAL HANDICAPS

Physical handicaps, of course, play an important part in creating shyness in some children. A youngster who is crippled or suffers from rheumatic heart disease, polio or some other serious illness or frailty, quite often becomes unduly shy because of the restrictions placed upon him.

While shyness sometimes results from such physical discomfort, many times it is caused by emotional discomfort. And here is where you parents play so important a part.

CLOSE TIE

Ordinarily, a mother is her child's first close tie. He turns to her for love and sympathy before he seeks it from his father or brothers and sisters.

In fact, most children have to feel perfectly secure with an adult before they can give their affection and trust to younger persons.

How you parents react toward your child helps greatly to determine whether he will develop into "the shy type."

NATURAL INSTINCT

It is a natural instinct to try to avoid something unpleasant. Shyness is a method a child sometimes uses to avoid discomfort of some sort.

Unless he gets frequent encouragement from his parents, a youngster is apt to put off or try to avoid taking any action on any problem. And just about everything in a young child's life is a problem of some kind.

Don't force your child to retreat to the protection shyness offers. Don't make him feel inadequate or ashamed of things he tries to accomplish.

Three very important rules to follow are:

1. Don't be too ambitious for your youngster, always expecting him to do more and better than others his age.

2. Don't force a younger child to compete directly with an older one, such as giving them the same musical instruments to play. Younger children generally compete with older brothers and sisters anyway and often feel that they can never catch up.

3. Don't rebuff your child constantly. If you really love him, you'll take time to try to understand him.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

M.T.—For the past four months, I have had a sore on my gum which is getting larger. What would you advise?

Answer: The sore may be due to an infection or tumor growth. Many times tumors begin as chronic sores on the mouth. If the tumor can usually be removed by surgery.

The Age Old Story

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.

Yet there are sixteen vacancies at that job today.

And when one turns to the Lower House of Parliament, one sees likewise vacancies in the Commons extending over a year. Over 250,000 Canadians have been unrepresented at Ottawa because by-elections have not been held to fill these old vacancies. By contrast, the British Government recently caused the replacement of Sir Anthony Eden within seven weeks of his resignation.

SENATE SHOULD SERVE US

In pointing out this state of affairs, I am not belittling the worth of many of our Senators, nor overlooking the valuable role which our Upper Chamber could and should play in the government of this country. And I draw the parallel of those unfilled vacancies in our Lower House of Parliament too.

The failure to make good the representative nature of our Parliament "within a reasonable time," as required by our constitution, suggests that the role of our parliament has been emancipated to the point of being unnecessary. It might suggest that, if we can do without 16 senators and 5 M.P.s, we could equally well do without the balance of 86 senators and 260 M.P.s, and save the taxpayers \$10,000 per year for each one of them.

Or on the other hand, it might suggest that the time has come to restore the supremacy of parliament, to place the government of the country once more on the floor of parliament, and to remove it from the secrecy of the cabinet council chamber and the irresponsibility of the civil service offices where it now lies captive.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

After reading the report of Ontario's Alcoholism Research Foundation, one is inclined to believe that pickling has become big business in this province.—Sarnia (Ont.) Observer

A giant squid has been landed at Aberdeen by the local trawler, Viking Prestige. Caught off Rat-tray Head, it measures almost 42 feet from tip of the tail to its longest tentacle. Dr. B. B. Rae, of the Marine Research Laboratory, Aberdeen, who said squids were "very rare" in Scotland, described the "catch" as being of the deep Atlantic species. Records at Aberdeen referred to only one, which was washed ashore in 1948. The squid is being sent to the British Museum in London for examination by experts.—Edinburgh Scotsman

Vice-President Nixon of the United States, arriving in Ghana for the celebration of independence, was greeted by excited natives shouting "Freedom, freedom." Were they talking about Georgia or did they think Mr. Nixon had anything to do with their gift of Dominion status?—Ottawa Journal

Should we encourage individualism and cranks in our social system? They too are necessary, else progress is likely to stop—especially progress toward human freedom. But it is hard to do this today when, even in our schools, educational psychology stresses the desirability of childish traits fostering "co-operation within the group."—Vancouver Sun

because English agricultural officials believed these potatoes were the highest quality obtainable in North America. Dr. Graham Samuel, British plant pathologist, said in an interview last night.

Four crossings to Rocky Point were made yesterday by the ferry "Fairview." These were the first crossings of the 1947 season. The ferry is unable to carry teams and motor vehicles as yet, but it is expected the new steel floats, making the transportation of such cargo possible, will be in place shortly.

Snoozes in the daytime—if you are lucky enough to be able to grab them—are restful, but there are a couple of important things to remember about them. First, a nap in the afternoon may make you wide eyed when you go to bed at night. Second, napping in a chair cannot take the place of sleep in bed because, at best, it is only light sleep. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record

We worry so much about the behavior of our children, and maybe it's because they associate with the wrong kind of dog. Most of us current sterling leaders grew up with the Airedale and the bull-terrier.—Winnipeg Tribune

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