

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 1953

Sweeping Tax Reductions

As anticipated, the budget delivered in the House of Commons last night by Finance Minister Abbott followed the usual pre-election custom of tax reductions rather than increases, but the extent of these reductions is surprising and will undoubtedly be hailed with satisfaction by taxpayers in general.

As the Minister is budgeting for another surplus next year, it is to be presumed that essential expenditures are all provided for, and if this is the case production should be greatly stimulated by the assistance given in tax relief. Affected in this connection will be personal incomes, reduced by 11 percent starting July 1; corporation taxes; sales taxes on books and newsprint which have been repealed; cigarette taxes which have been reduced by 4 cents per pack; radio license fees and stamp taxes on cheques, which have been abolished, along with numerous other concessions detailed in the news despatches.

Taxpayers who are wondering how such generous handouts can be made in view of our national defence and social security commitments should pause to reflect on the huge surpluses accumulated in recent years. Federal taxes have reached a peak where they are ten times what they were fifteen years ago, with our gross national income only four times as high. Taxation at all levels took 33 percent of the nation's income last year, where it took 20 percent in 1938. The tens of millions of dollars that accrue from a few cents added by sales taxes to the price of household articles are an example of what government financing means on today's gargantuan scale.

Economists have been proclaiming that this enormous tax burden cannot be sustained indefinitely. In taking the present opportunity of reversing the tax trend downwards the Government no doubt has been thinking in terms of the coming Federal election, but it also may be credited with concern for the nation's economic health and for the best ways and means of affording tax relief.

The Budget, Mr. Abbott estimates, will put an extra billion dollars in Canadian pockets in the fiscal year starting April 1. Before the election is over there will be many who will insist on looking this gift horse in the mouth. In the meantime, there is no question as to the welcome it will receive all across Canada.

Properly Rebuffed

Islanders must have been a little staggered to learn of a proposal that Federal civil servants be entitled to a discount in purchasing groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, clothing, fuel oil and coal, a discount to which the taxpayer who did not happen to be an official would not be entitled.

Such a proposal was made to merchants in Summerside and very properly turned down by them. It would not have increased business by a pair of shoes or a gallon of fuel oil and it is highly unlikely that private citizens would have meekly consented to pay more for their purchases than officials were being charged.

The idea of the scheme is not new, of course; it has been tried in the United States, to the great disruption of business. Where an organization has been successful in getting such discounts there followed a rash of similar organizations until nearly everyone belonged to a group entitled to a discount. Even those who did not join a group insisted on the discount before buying from a firm which adopted the scheme.

The argument that officials are a large purchasing group and entitled to get what they want at a low price runs up against the fortunate circumstance that non-officials, and in this predominantly rural Province, farmers, are still in the majority and should be entitled to an even greater discount.

Riding Herd In The Highlands

Western-style cattle ranching has turned many sections of the heathered Highland area of Scotland into range, says the National Geographic Society. The Gaelic-speaking cowboys ride herd with dogs to help them and the ranch foreman sports a kilt. Scots, more accustomed to sheep than

to cattle breeding, still look askance at this "playing cowboy" on their craggy hillsides. The project, however, is serious, profitable and growing, and the Scottish government has decided to set up a special commission to stimulate cattle raising in the Highlands. Caledonia's cow country is the wilderness of mountain, glen and burn, where fences are rare. Although a few shelters are provided, the herds roam untended. Silage, a mixture of oats, peas, beans and tares grown on drained bottom land and stored in pits, is used for supplementary winter food. Local farmers regard this as a strange innovation, but silage is easier than hay to harvest in the rainy Highlands.

Scottish cowboys ride horseback but do not use the lasso or branding iron, banned by British laws concerning cruelty to animals. The beasts are marked by tattooing the ear. There are three roundups a year. As for the cattle, the traditional shaggy Highland breed is hardy but too small for impressive steaks. West Irish stock crossed with Aberdeen Angus and Shorthorns proves more profitable on the ranches.

In spite of unusual problems such as draining low, boggy areas for silage crop acreage, the Scottish ranching project seems to be successful in a small way. As one killed rancher put it, "here in the wide open spaces of the Highlands there is just the right kind of setting for the right kind of dogie."

EDITORIAL NOTES

World Day of Prayer.

Premier Jones, who heads the Provincial branch of the Governor-General's Canadian National European Flood Relief Committee, is urging fellow Islanders to contribute. All branches of the chartered banks are accepting such donations.

At the famous Smithfield Show, held at Earlscourt, London, in December, the supreme champion steer was a two-year-old Angus-Shorthorn cross-bred which sold at auction for a record price, in Britain, of £1,200 for a fat animal.

A new museum of English country life, the only national effort of its kind, is being developed at Reading University, to collect and preserve interesting relics of the past. It is suitably installed in an old country house situated in 300 acres of park and meadow land.

Despite an increase in crimes of violence Britain does not propose to bring back judicial flogging. The English people must have reached a stage of development where the rehabilitation of offenders is far more important than the satisfaction of the public's desire for vengeance.

There are now 28 countries which have membership in the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. Seven other countries have applied for membership. The sixth general conference will be held in Rome this year, beginning on June 6.

Baruch Spinoza, Dutch philosopher, died this date 1677. He made his living by teaching and by grinding optical lenses. He refused a chair at Heidelberg, the better to preserve his leisure and freedom. He is regarded as the founder of the historical explanation or "higher criticism" of the Bible and evolved a rationalistic fatalistic philosophy which conceived the universe as being infinite.

In Holland there are only 9,264 square miles of cultivable land, approximately equal to a strip 46 miles wide. 4 persons must live on each 2.5 acres. About 5,000 acres are annually reclaimed from the sea. Each year the Netherlands farmer puts 45 pounds of nitrogen, 45 pounds of superphosphate, and 45 pounds of potash into each acre of land.

In past years the Federal Government has been criticized for having a much larger surplus than budgeted for. The explanation given was the increasingly buoyant condition of the Canadian economy. Under the circumstances it is passing strange that during 1952 the gross national product reached a yet greater height yet the surplus is the smallest in some years.

It will be three years before the Sudanese choose their future political destiny and there is consequently plenty of time for Britain and Egypt to agree on what the agreement means under which the choice is to be made. Britain has kept faith with the Sudanese by providing that the country will be "completely independent" after three years of self-rule. What they will do with their independence is of interest but no longer a responsibility of Britain.

Needing A Bigger Stick



The Poet's Corner

SONNET I tell you, hopeless grief is passionless— That only men incredulous of despair, Half-laughed in anguish, through the midnight air, Beat upward to God's throne in loud access Of shrieking and reproach. Full desertness In souls, as countries, lieth silent, bare, Under the bleaching, vertical eye-glare Of the absolute Heavens. Deep-hearted man, express Grief for thy Dead in silence like to death; Most like a monumental statue set. In everlasting watch and moveless woe Till itself crumble to the dust beneath. Touch it: the marble eyelids are not wet— If it could weep, it could arise and go. —Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

Old Charlottetown

IMMENSE ATTRACTIONS "For a few evenings, at Mr. Cantelo's New Building in Charlottetown: "Charles Freeman, the American Giant, who stands 7 feet 3 inches, the strongest and best proportioned human being in the world, only 19 years of age, and capable of lifting fifteen hundred pounds with his bare hands. In conjunction, Mr. O'Connell, the wonderful Tattooed Man, whose life and adventures have been published throughout the world, and is acknowledged to be the greatest dancer the world ever produced. Mr. Risly, the original delineator of Ethiopian character, who cannot be excelled. Mr. Griffiths, the celebrated violinist, being the only person who plays the wonderful Paganini Music. Master John, the wonderful prodigy, only five years of age, whose performance has astonished multitudes of people. And Signior Showersky, who stands unrivalled in his profession, being his second appearance in this place. "The best of order will be enforced. Doors open at 8 o'clock; performance to commence at half-past 8." —The Colonial Herald, July 24, 1841.

Eisenhower's "No"

(New York Times) In rejecting the Rosenberg appeal for executive clemency President Eisenhower put the case squarely on its merits and in a way designed to increase public confidence in him. His emphasis upon the fact that we live under a government of law is salutary in a case such as this when pressure groups have tried to put us under government by slogan. Equally important is the emphasis upon the gravity of the offence and the fairness of the trial. Every aspect of our free institutions was brought into the appellate process on behalf of those who had conspired to destroy those institutions. Having been fully assured of this, the President declared that he saw no reason to set aside the verdict of the representatives of the people of the United States. This fact should increase respect for the government of law under which we live. The Communist apologists obviously wish to make martyrs of the Rosenbergs and we can expect to hear even more of this attempt, should be remembered, however, that their martyrdom was

Notes By The Way

A Pennsylvania girl, just married, has saved over three hundred of her love letters. Just the thing for laughs these long winter evenings. — Sudbury Star. The Bank of London and Mexico is going to open a branch in a penitentiary in Mexico City so that inmates may deposit money they get for labor in the prison shops. That will be added punishment for some prisoners, to have a bank so handy and no guinea with which to hold it up. — Fort William Times-Journal. The crowds that jammed in to hear George S. Currie testify before the Commons defence expenditures committee considered the performance a complete flop. So state reports from Ottawa. This brings to mind Monty Woolley's classic rejoinder to the dogwagger who peered through her lognette at him when he burped while acting as Santa Claus, "What did you expect, madam, chimies?" — Winnipeg Tribune. It undoubtedly is true most workers do have more leisure than ten or 20 years ago. But many of them haven't as much more as their work hours would indicate. Concurrently there has been another trend, eating into leisure hours. In earlier days a man normally worked long hours. But he didn't live far from his work, either in distance or time. He could get to and from work in a few minutes' walk or ride. That isn't so now in the larger cities of this continent. — Windsor Star.

Thousands of babies — if they could understand — would no doubt raise a gurgling cheer for Dr. J. M. B. Morwood, an English specialist who says babies ought to be allowed to snifle, and should not be made to blow their noses if they have a cold. Blowing, he says, may drive infection into the middle ear, whereas sniffling is "fundamentally sound." It is reassuring to know that babies with a cold who snifle are following nature's therapy. — London Free Press. The first obligation of every person is to see to it, as far as he is able, that he may not become a burden upon others. This prudent, responsible care for oneself can be one of the best he can give to confer upon others. It is very true, of course, that there are the obligations of charitable giving, and the care of those in need. But the sort of carelessness with earnings that brings a person in the end to lean upon others, when he might have supported himself, is a form of anti-social behaviour that rightly deserves to be recognized for what it is and to receive the condemnation that is its due. — Montreal Gazette.

Jailed By Mistake

(Ottawa Citizen) A young Nova Scotian, Ronald Power, was released from Toronto's Don Jail last week after serving 10 months of a long prison sentence for a crime he did not commit. His was a case of mistaken identity, for the victim of a hold-up positively identified him. Despite the personal hardship, Power is very lucky that the real culprit was found. He is luckier still that no body was shot in the armed robbery for which he was convicted. For in that event, the young man might have been hanged by now. No doubt such mistakes are made about other people from time to time. Though punishment of the innocent may be rare, the possibility exists. The victim of mistaken identity, or of wrong accusation, may be released from prison if new evidence turns up. But obviously it does him no personal good to be cleared after execution. In the case against capital punishment, the danger of a mistake is an incidental but potent argument. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Mr. FARMER LOOK

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When The Canadians Flooded Holland

(Ross Munro in the Vancouver Province) The terrible, life-taking inundation from the sea of western Holland will bring back to many Canadian veterans that time in 1900 when a large portion of the Netherlands was flooded deliberately — on instigation of the Canadians. It was in October, 1944, and the story has never been fully told. That time the flood was something the Dutch welcomed for it speeded their liberation from the Nazi army, although it destroyed the soil of many thousands acres of land for several years when the salt water of the North Sea poured over it. The First Canadian Army, on the northern flank of General Eisenhower's allied force in Europe, had captured the southern shore of the Schelde Estuary, leading into the great port of Antwerp. The Canadians also had driven the Germans from South Beveland Island on the north side of the estuary. But the Germans still clung tenaciously to Walcheren Island at the northwestern edge of the mouth of the Schelde. Until the enemy was removed from Walcheren Island, and particularly from the port of Flushing, Antwerp could not be used by allied shipping because the estuary was under German artillery fire. For several weeks, Canadian headquarters pondered the problem and finally Lieut. Gen. Guy Simonds, now the chief of the Canadian General Staff and then commander of the 2nd Canadian Corps, advanced the radical idea that the dikes on the western side of Walcheren Island, which held out the North Sea, should be breached by bomber attack. The low-lying "beach" area of the entire island would be flooded and the German garrison would be trapped. The dike Simonds referred to was 330 feet wide at the base and there was considerable skepticism at army headquarters that this fantastic scheme was even worth considering. But Simonds persisted against contrary views of higher officers than himself, and finally it was decided to "shoot the works" on this gamble. On Oct. 3, RAF heavy bombers unloaded high explosive on the dikes at Westkapelle. That evening, the North Sea was bursting through a breach in the dikes 75 yards wide. The dike eroded under the pressure, until the gap was more than 300 yards wide and within a day of so the entire central region of Walcheren Island was under water. All one could see sticking up above the flood was the top of the inland dikes running through the polders—the top storeys of buildings. It was a terrific blow to the inhabitants, although I cannot recall that any Dutch lives were lost from the flood itself. As I remember it, warning was given to the civilians ahead of time so they could evacuate. The thing that haunted most of all at the time was the impact on the enemy. German defences

were flooded and their entire position imperilled by this ingenious exploitation of the flood waters. The Canadian Army then hurried in a three-pronged attack on flooded Walcheren — from the south, across the estuary, right into the heart of Flushing; from the east across a murderous causeway from South Beveland Island and from the west from the open sea. British naval and army forces assisted in this attack and once the assaulting units got on to the Walcheren dikes they employed amphibious vehicles to manoeuvre around in the flood. By the first week in November the enemy forces began to disintegrate and on Nov. 6 the Island capital, the town of Middelburg, the centre of Walcheren, fell and the German headquarters surrendered. From flooded houses, all over the island, the Dutch flew orange banners welcoming the Canadian and British liberators and it was a day of wild celebration. The port of Antwerp now was open and ready to become the great supply base for the final lunge into the Reich. On Nov. 28, the first allied convoy steamed up the Schelde. This was no time for ceremony and there were no representatives on hand from the Canadian Army, which had made the opening of the port possible. But, fittingly enough and quite by coincidence, the convoy's leading ship was the Canadian-built Fort Cataract. General Eisenhower, then the supreme commander, said: "The end of Nazism was in clear view when the first ship moved unmolested up the Schelde. It took a man-inspired flood to achieve this success so quickly."

The Age-Old Story For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God. EXPLOSER DIES MOSCOW, (Reuters) — Death of Pyotr P. Shirshov, 48, Soviet academician and arctic explorer who reached the North pole in 1937, was announced Thursday. COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION AND ANNALYSIS G. F. HUTCHESON & SON Optometrists 53 Grafton Street

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