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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1950

The Provincial Budget

Provincial budgeting has become an increasingly complex affair, and the Legislature and public generally are indebted to the new Provincial Treasurer, Hon. Mr. Darby, who in his maiden speech in the House last night gave a very lucid and comprehensive picture of our financial standing, including details of the year ending March, 1949, an interim statement for the current fiscal year and a review of the estimated receipts and expenditures for the coming year.

The overall picture is not a bright one. A surplus on current account was recorded last year, another one is forecast for this year and still another one for the coming twelve months. But the net liabilities are now increasing to the tune of over a million dollars annually—the estimate for next year is \$1,138,821—so that by March 31, 1951, we shall be over fifteen million dollars behind. Our present net debt is approximately \$150 per capita,—"still one of the lowest in Canada," the Minister says; but let us not forget that we lack the vast resources which the larger and wealthier Provinces possess.

Highways and public health and welfare services account in large part for the mounting expenditures, and there is reason to expect that these costs will continue to increase in the immediate future. Analysis of the accounts may show that economies could be effected in some departments, but the fact remains that unless we get substantial additional revenue from Ottawa there is little hope of achieving a balanced budget.

We are still, Mr. Darby reminds us, "reasonably solvent"; but how much longer can we continue so at our present accelerated pace in the opposite direction? That is the question with which the Minister did not attempt to deal. Unfortunately for him and for us, it goes to the root of the whole problem.

On The Ottawa Front

Not a word was breathed or a question asked about it in the Legislature, which was told last week that there was no referendum shortage in this Province; but the wires have been humming for the past two days following Mr. McLure's complaint in the House of Commons and the protests of our Potato and Turnip Marketing Association and the publicity given the affair in these columns. The Legislature didn't worry; but our Liberal M. P.'s did, and Mr. Cullen did, and they acted with commendable promptitude once they realized what was at stake. Now we are getting the cars, and pronto!

There are other matters to which the Legislature, having "missed the bus" on this issue, might well direct its attention. These also are matters concerning which Mr. McLure has had occasion to complain, regarding the inadequacy of information supplied by the Transport Minister.

It was announced by the Minister last October that properties on the site selected in Charlottetown for erection of the new Federal building would have to be vacated by April 1 of this year. Notices of expropriation had been filed, and notices to vacate were being forwarded to the property owners "at once." To date, however, the Minister does not apparently know whether tenders have been called, or even whether the plans and specifications are ready.

In the matter of the Wood Islands ferry service, it was reported from Ottawa in January that the Maritime Transport Commission had recommended a new million-dollar ship and the taking over of the service by the C. N. R. In reply to a question by Mr. McLure as to whether the Government was acting upon the latter proposal, and if so, when, the Minister on February 27 filed the equivocal reply: "The answer at this time is no."

On February 15 the Canadian National Railway filed a brief with the Provincial Government, outlining its proposals for obtaining highway bus and truck licenses in the Province, and of operating such services in lieu of certain existing railway services on Prince Edward Island. In a reply tabled in Parliament on March 6 to a query from Mr. McLure, the Minister said he was "unaware of any such movement" on the part of the railway. He added that in any event the C. N. R., "or for that matter the Federal Government", would have no jurisdiction over provincial highways.

Premier Jones, however, in his letter of February 22 in reply to the railway brief,

pointed out that the Supreme Court of Canada had already ruled to the effect that it is within the jurisdiction of the Board of Transport Commissioners to regulate rates of motor services owned by railways although no machinery presently exists for the administration of such regulation; also that in Ontario the railways had raised the issue of taking over from the Provincial Government and transferring to the Board of Transport Commissioners, commercial transportation on provincial roads and highways.

One can imagine what a furor would be raised in some of the other Provinces if requests of their representatives for information on matters of this kind were treated in an offhand fashion.

It's nice to get by with as little friction as possible, with as little disturbance as possible to all concerned. "The sluggard saith, yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands in sleep. . . There is a lion without; I shall be murdered in the streets." The late Premier Lea had a more virile philosophy. As he used frequently to say: "The wheel that does the squeaking is the one that gets the grease."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Twenty-five days till Easter.

The danger season for ice is with us again. Under a hot sun the ordinary rules for determining the depth of ice necessary for safety simply do not apply.

The R. C. A. F.'s new twin jet long range fighter, the CF-100, is as yet unnamed. There will probably be many names suggested but perhaps Tomahawk has the edge both for sound and connotation.

The Provincial Budget was the centre of interest last evening when Attorney-General Darby made it the subject of his maiden speech in the Legislature. Rarely, if ever, has a new member been entrusted with such responsibility, and he did himself credit.

The Commonwealth Gift Centre in London has published figures of gift food sent to Britain in bulk in the years 1940-49. Canada heads the list with the gigantic total of 54,821,324 lbs. This figure does not include the large number of gift parcels sent privately to Britain.

The City Council has its hands full with important new business, all affecting citizens as a whole, and which will entail considerable outlay to be collected, for the most part, in taxes. It will result in much needed improvements. The proposed revision of assessments will no doubt stir up renewed interest in civic affairs.

The Harrow division of the British Medical Association has passed a resolution to withhold services "except for necessary medical attention" unless the British Government raised their scale of fees by July. The resolution raises the intriguing question, "What other professional services do the members render?"

The returning St. Dunstan's debaters have acquitted themselves with distinction. Runners-up for the Canadian University Debating Championship they were nosed out of top place by a former member of Parliament and a campaigner for Defence Minister Brooke Claxton. The two to one split of judges indicates that the lead of the seasoned winning team was of the slightest.

General Andrew Jackson, seventh President of U. S. A., born this date 1767. When the State of Tennessee was formed he helped to frame its constitution. In the war with Britain he obtained a command in the U. S. Army, occupied Pensacola, and defeated the British at New Orleans in 1815; was appointed Governor of Florida six years later, and elected President of U. S. in both 1828 and 1832.

Manitoba has introduced legislation to stop husky and sled dogs wandering at large in Northern settlements following reports that one youngster was killed and several others injured. Strictly on third or fourth hand information, it appears that the dogs rarely will attack human beings as long as they remain on their feet but a man or boy who falls is apt to be regarded by the half-wild creatures as another dog to be attacked with impunity.

The 1950 Poetry Contest, of the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Authors Association, will be held from March 15th to April 30th, 1950. The contest will be as follows: (1) Lyric—1st prize \$50.00; 2nd prize \$25.00—For the best lyric in English, not exceeding 40 lines, on any subject. (2) Sonnet—Prize \$25.00—For the best sonnet in English on any subject. (3) French Poem—Prize \$25.00—For the best poem in French, not exceeding 40 lines on any subject.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

P. E. I. ASSOCIATION'S STAND

Sir,—In answer to the letter of Mr. E. D. Reid (manager P. E. I. Potato Growers' Association) in regard "The Association's Stand", which appeared in this paper lately, I would like to ask one question.

I am a potato dealer and was at the potato dealers' meeting when the "Potato & Turnip Marketing Association" was formed, and I would like to ask Mr. Reid if he stood opposed to the formation of the Marketing Board, as proposed under the Federation of Agriculture, or did he remain seated, being in favor of it, when a vote was taken at that meeting?

I am, Sir, etc.

POTATO DEALER.

OLD COINS

Sir,—With reference to the correspondence on old coins, I have in my possession a copper coin dated 1775, the time of George III, with the King's head on one side, and Britannia on the other in perfect condition. I have another dated 1830 with Queen Victoria on one side and a horse and rider on the other. One which applies more directly is a copper coin of 1855 bearing the inscription "Prince Edward Island" and "Self Government and Free Trade". I have a cent piece dated 1865 with Queen Victoria on one side, and a Crown on the other.

It might be well to have a collection of such coins made for a museum before they are scattered and lost.

I am, Sir, etc. MRS. JOHN McMAHON. Bonshaw.

Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON England:—Now that it is a case of looking back on the election what do we find? Most people, I think, will agree that it was a very quiet, very orderly business, at least in comparison with some—if not all—elections in recent memory.

Certainly there was nothing like the amount of "mudslinging" which we had to endure in 1946, for instance, and that was all to the good. Communists, addressing street-corner gatherings, were the ones who seemed to be most excited and most violent in their denunciations of the other parties, and the fact that not one Communist got a seat in the new Parliament seems to point a moral.

During the campaign period argument and discussion had free rein, the candidates addressed their meetings and were heckled. The faced questions from people with serious problems on their minds and from others who seek harmless amusement in trying to "catch somebody out"; and from smart-alecks who like to demand an answer to the unanswerable. Tempers now and then became somewhat frayed when people with opinions and convictions equally earnest met face to face, but surely it would be a bad thing if earnestness were lacking?

Hyde Park had even more amateur politicians than usual, all with something to say to anybody who would listen, and there are usually plenty of people who will listen, just to pass away the time on a crisp Sunday morning in Spring, even if they don't believe a word of what is being said.

Right up until the last day, supporters of candidates called on residents in their areas and asked if their man could rely on one's vote. You had no compulsion to tell him if you didn't want to, and if you though he was supporting the wrong man you were perfectly at liberty to tell him so. Or, more than likely you would invite him in and let him do his darndest to convert you to his way of thinking.

Many a knotty election problem, and many of the nation's troubles, were resolved by men and women of all classes and all political beliefs in that most popular of all parliaments, the local pub, where anybody can have his say and keep his throat perpetually well oiled simply by ordering "the same again"; and where, in the very best traditions of democracy, the fiercest of arguments is composed in an instant by standing your opponent a drink.

"A pint for my friend here," you say. Your friend—even if you had never seen him before. He will drink your health, and buy a pint for you in return, and you go your separate ways, each convinced that the other chap is wrong, dead wrong, but that he's a decent bloke for all that, and no hard feelings. Now it's all over. Whatever excitement the General Election did cause seems to have quickly passed away and people are, as usual, carrying on with the routine business of living.

All over, until the next time, and the indications are that we shall not have to wait five years for another election. The political commentators are practically unanimous in their belief that the present Government will not last a year. They could be wrong. In any event, the ordinary men and women are not worried either one way or the other. Temporarily, at least at the time of writing these words, politics are out of fashion; if you want an argument you can still have it, but you are more likely to find it in a discussion of the possibilities

"Where is My Wandering Boy (Girl) Tonight?"



(NAME OF THIS FOR OUT-OF-TOWN STUDENTS WHEN PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE GETS ITS DOMAINS.)

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

WELL LAUNCHED

"From the Shipyards of Messrs. McKenzie and McKie, New London, on Monday the 21st inst., a very superior copper-fastened ship, called the 'Superior', of the burthen of 572 tons, new measurement. This noble vessel glided into her destined element in beautiful style, amid the acclamations of admiring spectators, who assembled from all parts of the country to witness the scene. She is built entirely of Juniper, and for good workmanship, strength of material and beauty of model, is believed by competent judges, not to be surpassed by any vessel ever built in British North America." —The Islander, July 30, 1845.

The Poet's Corner

THE SELFSAME SONG

A bird bills the selfsame song, With never a fault in its flow, That we listened to here those long Long years ago.

A pleasing marvel is how A strain of such rapturous note Should have gone on thus till now Unchanged in a note!

—But it's not the selfsame bird— No; perished to dust is he . . . As also are those who heard That song with me. —Thomas Hardy.

The Age-Old Story

The Lord has comforted His people, and will have mercy upon His afflicted.

THE SPORTING THING

ROCHDALE, England — (CP)—Watching a greyhound race, bookmaker Leonard Kershaw had \$160 (\$498) stolen from his bag. He said later: "I challenge the thief to have 16 £10 bets with me and ease his conscience. Failing that I hope he spends the money wisely."

Of this soccer feat that winning the Cup Final.

Despite the comparative rarity of thick steaks and other gastronomical delights Food Ministry authorities are fond of telling us that we get more to eat than before the war, measured in terms of calories, proteins and other unsatisfying words. This seems to have got on the nerves of a local shopkeeper who, having closed for lunch, hung a notice on the door of his shop saying: BACK AT 2.30 — GONE FOR CALORIE INTAKE.

No Known Grave

(The London Times)

"There be of them that have no memorial." After all the loving care with which the Imperial War Graves Commission has labored to enclose the dust of the fallen in tranquility and beauty for ever, there remains a multitude who fell and the tide of war called them, leaving no record or trace to show where their bodies now lie.

Yet these, no less than those others of the marshalled graves, are all alike lamented, alike to be remembered; and it is part of the trust imposed on the Commission to ensure that their name also liveth for evermore. An announcement published recently shows how, for the greater part of their company, provision for due honor has been made.

Of the three services the men of the Navy are perhaps most fortunate in the grandeur of their unmarked resting-place.

The names of those whose bodies have gone the immemorial way of their calling will be recorded at the three great manning ports of the Navy, beside those of the men who went before them a generation ago; and there will be smaller memorials elsewhere on shore for the merchant seamen who served with them, for the Royal Naval Patrol Service and for the Fleet Air Arm. The men, no less directly dying for their country, who went down in merchant ships are the most important of the groups whose commemoration has yet to be determined.

The Royal Air Force is the loneliest of the services, and in it the mystery of men's fate may be most impenetrable. Of many it is known only that they went out to do their duty and did not return. These whom death scattered, none knows where, memory will reunite by bringing together their names in five great companies, recording them on monuments at the famous scenes of combat in Malta, El Alamein, and Singapore, and two in the motherlands of England and Canada.

For the soldiers whose bones must be supposed to lie on a hundred stricken fields, in the ground they conquered or died defending the wise decision has been taken to preserve the record of their sacrifice on tablets set in the military cemeteries nearest to the scene of their campaigns, among the graves where their own comrades rest.

The list of the sites almost compasses the globe with the battle honors of an army that we beaten to the ground, and survived and rose again, and fought on to victory. The tablets will be set up in Norway and Normandy and the Low Countries and at Dunkirk, in the Egyptian Desert and East Africa and Madagascar, in Syria, Iraq and Persia, in Malaya and Hong Kong; while memorials yet to be considered will eventually honor the defence of India and Burma.

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Notes By The Way —

Buy your alligator bags at Belem, which is likely to be your first port of call. Belem is a natural outlet for Amazon products and you can get good alligator bags there for about \$12. They will cost more when you get to Rio de Janeiro. Other souvenirs available in Belem that you will like are stuffed humming birds, for about a dollar, jaguar skins for around \$8, and if you like stuffed life-like alligators you can get one for about \$10.—Brazilian Trade Bureau.

During the next two months, Vancouver Island bulb growers expect to send 5,000,000 daffodil blooms to Eastern, Canadian cities. In commercial terms that represents a substantial amount of business. But the benefits of this increasing trade go beyond the actual cash that is put in the pockets of growers, handlers and others concerned in the shipments. Every bouquet that leaves Victoria carries with it some of the best advertising any community could obtain. The sheer beauty of the blossoms themselves guarantees a friendly reception for the message they bear. It is a whisper that carries right across Canada—Spring has come to Victoria—Victoria Times.

Truly we are a curious people! We do so many strange things. When a Government agency wants to build a set of apartment blocks to house service personnel in Ottawa, it specifies brick. When it wants to erect similar buildings on the shores of Halifax Harbour, it specifies concrete. But Ottawa can draw an abundant supply of cement from a large plant just across the river in Hull—while here in Nova Scotia with an abundance of brick and tile and wood, and no cement plant, concrete construction is decided upon. It adds up

to something. . . but not to logic and reasonable conclusions at a time when everything that possibly can be done should be done to keep our own workers in employment. Here in Nova Scotia we have all sorts of building materials, except cement. And cement is specified.—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Two hundred learned scientists recently gathered in New York, turned their attention to what has been a burning question for the average male animal all down through history: Why does a man go bald? The rhinoceros was brought into the discussion by Dr. R. J. Block of the Department of Biochemistry of the New York Medical College. He reported on the comparative chemical content of horny tissues (including hair) from a variety of animals. "In many ways they are remarkably similar," Dr. Block reported, "though there are differences that might be attributed to the varying uses to which such materials are put." The rhinoceros horn is very tough, he reported, explaining how difficult it was to get a piece of horn from a live rhino for analysis in the laboratory. Dr. R. J. Myers of the Department of Zoology of Colgate University reported the rate of growth and the life span of the hair of an average man as measured in several laboratories. Dr. Myers' calculation was challenged by another member of the group who pointed out that the figures indicated a man could not grow hair over six inches long.

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