

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink." CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, NOV. 4, 1950

Champion Of Federalism

One would hardly think that it had to be stated but Justice Minister Gascon has declared that there is no prospect of Canada developing a workable alternative to its federal system, with divisions of jurisdiction for its Federal and Provincial Governments.

More important, the Minister went on to say that Canadians must keep their federal system and make it work. To do that, they must understand their system and understand the British North America Act, their constitution.

This is the crux of many of Canada's problems. We live under an involved and delicately balanced constitution. It was evolved through centuries of experience and sacrifice by the British and French peoples, by the genius and public spirit of pioneer statesmen and by the pervading influence of Canada's incomparable geography.

The constitution is, of course, imperfect. It must undergo amendment if it is to serve this nation as it should, and the amending procedure is, at the moment, a principal subject of discussion. Before we can improve the constitution, however, it is necessary to understand what it now is, a preliminary to which not enough Canadians seem willing to attend.

Canada's Trade Balances

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports a gain of over \$80 million in Canadian exports to the United States in September, 1950. Exports going south of the border in September, 1949, totalled \$115,400,000, while exports for the same month this year brought into Canada \$195,900,000.

Imports from the United States were also higher, but even after allowing for this fact, Canada's trade balances with that country were \$21,400,000 more than for the same month last year. Total trade deficit for Canada in her dealings with the United States amount to only \$73,500,000 in the first nine months of 1950, compared with a deficit of \$431,000,000 for the same period a year ago.

A significant fact is that improvement in Canada's trade balances with the United States coincides with determined efforts resting in the Federal Government's decision to relax and abandon controls and ultimately to place the Canadian dollar on the free market.

This country's improved trading position is the direct result of abandonment of belief in official circles of the effectiveness of planned economy at international level. An obvious lesson to be drawn from this experience is that the domestic economy will also respond to abandonment of Keynesian concepts of economics provided the Government is willing to lessen its grip in the domestic sphere as well.

Shaw On Politicians

One does not need to be wholly in agreement with the late George Bernard Shaw to appreciate the style and pungency of his criticisms. A case in point is the following excerpt from one of his many broadsides against politicians:

"The politician who once had to flatter kings has now to learn how to fascinate, amuse, coax, humbug, frighten or otherwise strike the fancy of the electorate; and though in advanced modern states, where the artisan is better educated than the king, it takes a much bigger man to be a successful demagogue than to be a successful courtier, yet he who holds popular convictions with prodigious energy is the man for the mob, whilst the frailer sceptic who is cautiously feeling his way towards the next century has no chance unless he happens by accident to have the specific artistic talent of the mountebank as well, in which case it is as a mountebank that he catches votes, and not as a meliorist.

"Consequently the demagogue, though he professes (and fails) to readjust matters in the interests of the majority of the electors, yet stereotypes mediocrity, organizes intolerance, disparages exhibitions of uncommon qualities, and glorifies conspicuous exhibitions of common ones. He manages a small job well; he muddles rhetorically through a large one. When a great political movement takes place, it is not consciously led nor organized; the unconscious self in mankind breaks its way through the problem as an elephant breaks through a jungle; and the politicians make speeches about whatever happens in the process,

which, with the best intentions, they do all in their power to prevent.

"Finally, when social aggregation arrives at a point demanding international organization before the demagogues and electorates have learnt how to manage even a country parish properly much less internationalize Constantinople, the whole political business goes to smash; and presently we have Ruins of Empires, New Zealanders sitting on a broken arch of London Bridge, and so forth."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Amherst Fair.

Tomorrow, 22nd Sunday after Trinity.

Summerside High School is making its presence felt as a modern educational institution.

The Trans-Canada Highway is on its way in the Province, and by Spring all should be ready for the all "steam ahead" signal.

Birch "Die-back" and the Bronze Birch Borer are reported to be playing havoc with mature Birch trees between here and Montreal. As far as appearance goes, little damage seems to have been done yet to Island birches.

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, German composer, died this date 1847. Before he was twelve he played in public and at seventeen composed "The Midsummer Night's Dream" overture. His genius is best exhibited in his symphonies and two oratorios, "St. Paul", and "Elijah."

The United States has long combined high tariffs with an invisible tariff of customs red tape to provide protection in the home market. Washington has most encouragingly announced the proposed end of the latter system but it will certainly take some time to change a system which has been built up for years with one objective in mind.

Turkey, it seems is not nearly so progressive as she would like to appear. The fact that a tobacco factory girl could enclose a marriage offer in a cigarette packet in the well founded confidence that the buyer would be a man indicates that the position of women in that ancient land is not altogether on a par with that attained in Western countries.

A Philadelphia report says eating mudpies is normal for children. If your child eats mudpies, don't worry too much about it, the Medical Society of Pennsylvania says in its publication, "Your Health", for dirt is common among children, and the practice is usually short-lived and harmless. This is just a return to the advice old-time doctors gave distracted parents, "everyone must eat his peck of dirt."

Mr. MacNaught, when he leaves from Vancouver on the 12th, will head for New Zealand and Empire Parliamentary Association there. He will also be heading into Spring, which some may find more enviable than representing this country at a meeting designed to keep states in close contact with one another, whose basic law is the Common Law of England, as well as some based on Roman-Dutch and other systems of law.

The late Bernard Shaw was a shrewd observer of Canadian affairs as well as of the world in general. In 1912 he wrote: "Premier Borden's scheme for building up a navy for Canada by putting out her ships to nurse with the British fleet at the expense of the British taxpayers, until the time comes for recalling them to form an independent navy for the Dominion, seemed to me to be a clever and altogether good bargain for Canada." And again: "Canada must be able to defend itself before it can be a source of real strength to England or to any other power. It need not cut the painter, but assuredly it must cut the apron-strings if it is to take its proper place in the world as a grown-up state."

The Labour Government in Britain, like the Trades Union Council here has no use for the Communist Peace Congress and its signatories. Organizations and individuals belonging to the British Labor Party have been warned that "participation in the World Peace Congress being held next month in Sheffield would be incompatible with membership of the Labor Party." In a letter to constituent organizations of the party, Mr. Morgan Philips, the party secretary, said "this gathering is being convened by the Communist-inspired British Peace Committee which, as announced in my circular of June 28, is on the list of prescribed organizations." The Labor Government has refused permission for some foreigners, including Ilya Ehrenburg, the Soviet journalist, to enter Britain to help organize the Sheffield meeting.

Metzger from the Realm of Sport



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

FARM MACHINERY

"A few years since, there was not on any farm in Prince Edward Island, if we except the plough and harrow, and those indispensable implements which have been immemorially in use, a single labor-saving machine. Grain was, till within a very few years, threshed by the flail, and winnowed with the hand-sieve; and we are not aware who introduced the first threshing or winnowing machine, or we would do all that lay in our power to transmit their names to posterity as benefactors of their race.

"The first horse-rake, for hay, ever used in the Island, was imported in the year 1839 by the Central Agricultural Society from the United States, having been selected by J. D. Hazard, Esq., then on a visit to that country. Since then, they have been manufactured here, and have become so common, that no farmer of any enterprise or intelligence is without one.

"The same may be said of fan-ners or winnowing machines; these, with the exception of the iron wheel-work, are made by our own mechanics fully as complete and efficient as they could be imported. The turnip-drill is of recent importation also, and the small kind, constructed to use by hand, are getting every day into greater demand. In fact, a great change has taken place in this respect within the last 15 or 20 years, and we trust that there will be a continuance of importations by spirited individuals of all these mechanical aids, which are of the first importance to every agricultural community.

"It is with much pleasure that we notice two very useful labor-saving articles which have been lately added to the number already alluded to. The first is a machine for weeding and thinning turnips, imported by the Hon. Edward Haythorne, which we have, by the kindness of that gentleman, had an opportunity to see. It is drawn by one horse walking between the drills, and on moving impels a wheel armed with small blades or knives, which cut out the superabundant turnips, together with the weeds, for equal spaces, leaving those intended to be grown at regular distances from each other in the crown of the drill. It is also provided with cutters at the side, for the purpose of removing the weeds from thence. The machine is furnished in every part with adjusting screws, to enable it to work in every kind of drill, and to leave the plants at greater or less distance apart. We hope that the agricultural population will testify their appreciation of the boon conferred on it by the hon. gentleman

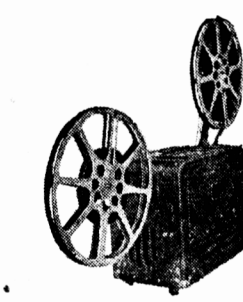
The Age-Old Story

Behold, God is mighty, and despoth not any; he is mighty in strength and wisdom... Who hath enjoined him his way? or who can say, Thou hast wrought iniquity?

COUNTRY ROAD

Carrier of an immemorial load Of mortal traffic in joy or duty And human travellers, this country road Runs a gauntlet of lonely beauty. Through wheat or corn field or meadow It weaves, over hills; curves out and in Of Summer twilight and shadow. Colling mottled, a huge snakeskin, Chipmunks scamper in roadside furrow; Or clicking, trace a wall of stone; Moles and woodchucks dig and burrow; The landscape claims the road for its own. Spring and Summer, Fall and Winter lean To snare it where the birds convene In quiet flight and minute episode. No one owns beauty in a country road.

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The Poet's Corner

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Notes By The Way -

A non-union barbershop in St. Louis said men with just a fringe on top will get a special haircut price of 65 cents. The proprietor, a man with a gleaming pate himself, said it isn't fair to charge bald customers his regular 75-cent fee. Union shops in St. Louis charge \$1.15. In Mount Vernon, Ohio, barber shops cut their price to \$1. A month ago they had raised their charge to \$1.25. - Wall Street Journal.

In Pasadena, California, this week, a woman driver made signs that puzzled a motorcycle patrolman. He stopped her and asked what her contradictory signals meant. Her signal seemed to be for a left turn, another for a right turn, and a third for a stop. But she did not obey her own signals. "Oh, I'm sorry, officer," said the lady in dulcet tones. "My nail polish wasn't quite dry. I was trying to hurry it up."

This story seems to provide the best explanation we have seen of the mysterious signals given by some lady drivers. But what can be said for the misleading signals given by men drivers who are merely flicking ashes off their cigarettes? - Toronto Star.

It does seem a little incongruous for Mama to feed baby, or dress him, while drawing casually on the weed. Would it be asking too much for the lady to lay aside the gasper while these matters of such importance to the younger generation are being attended to? As it is the infants get smoke in their eyes, and ashes all around, and it doesn't do them any real good. The truth is that babies grow fast, that in a point at all they will be borrowing Mama's cigarette; but they should not be rushed - not surely before they attain their first birthday. - London Free Press.

A few minutes ago a friend of ours phoned us in high glee. He said that while strolling up Yonge street he had paused to inspect the subway construction work. Next to him was a prim old lady carrying an umbrella and an archaic string bag filled with packages. She peered into the deep trench where hordes of men were working with pneumatic drills and spades. She gazed at the exposed maze of mains and pipes; at the power-shovels gnawing out tons of clay; at the monster, clanking pile-driver; at great cranes swinging mighty girders. She calmly surveyed every

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