

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1951

Men Wanted

Canada's call for men to defend freedom is now loud and clear. There may be dispute as to the Government's record in the past or as to the most appropriate means of raising the forces now required but of the need for fighting men there can be no dispute.

This country has assumed obligations to help the other members of the United Nations and Atlantic Pact countries to resist aggression. We can expect their active assistance in the event of our own country being threatened and can do no less than assume our share of the burden of common defence, the more so that it is unquestionably more satisfactory to stop aggression before rather than after our own territory is invaded.

The old fable of the unbreakable bundle of sticks and the ease with which they could be individually broken holds both a warning and an assurance for the free world to present a united front to aggression. Canada's expanding military might is a vital contribution to collective insurance against any future nomination as a victim.

The Recount Results

Mr. R. R. Bell is to be congratulated upon the result of the election recount in the Second District of Queen's, which has given him a seven vote majority over his Liberal opponent, as against six votes credited to him on Declaration Day. More than that, the inquiry disposes of any doubts that may have been entertained due to the closeness of the contest, as to the Opposition leader's position. Mr. LePage acted advisedly, both in his own and in the public interests, in calling for the recount and thus clarifying the situation.

Double congratulations are due to Mr. Frank Myers on emerging as victor in the recount in First Queen's, thus restoring to the Conservatives the six seats they held in the last Legislature. This was Mr. Myers' first bid for public office, and we imagine that none will be happier over the result than his doughty father, Mr. John H. Myers, whose long association with Provincial and Federal politics gives him the status of an elder statesman and who is held in high regard by both Conservatives and Liberals.

A Danger Signal

One of the most disturbing statements in Mr. Abbott's recent budget speech has received scant attention. It is that the productivity of Canada has not increased significantly in the last five years.

Here, notes the Winnipeg Free Press, it is necessary to distinguish between production and productivity. The total production of Canada is at its peak today and can be increased further if the nation provides the necessary energy. But the amount of goods which the average worker produces in a year has not increased in five years even though our industrial machine has been greatly increased in size and mechanical efficiency. For against the increasing capacity of the machine must be reckoned the shorter working hours and hence the limited output of the average worker.

This is explained in greater detail in the White Paper submitted by Mr. Abbott with his budget. It shows that between 1939 and 1946 the gross production of the nation rose by more than 60 per cent, reckoned in pre-war dollars. "This rapid expansion of output," the White Paper says, "was only possible through the fuller utilization of resources which were unemployed or under-employed at the beginning of the period. Starting from a position of relatively full utilization of resources in 1946, gains in real product have naturally been much less spectacular in the post-war period. Recent estimates indicate a real increase of something approaching 11 per cent for the period 1946 to 1950, excluding the effect of Union with Newfoundland. For the first three years of this period the gains in real product appear to have been just about enough to keep step with population increases. For the year 1950 however real product per capita increased by something more than 1 per cent."

The increase of 11 per cent in gross product during the last five years appears substantial until it is remembered that in the same period the industrial labor force increased by 12 per cent. Thus the pro-

duction per worker stood virtually static. Throughout the history of the last 50 years or more, the average annual output of the average worker has risen steadily. Thus and thus only could living standards possibly increase; and thus only could real wages, as distinguished from money wages, possibly rise. The economy of Canada flies a danger signal when, under the most favorable conditions, this upward trend is arrested for five years.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Rain may bring its blessings but it is fine weather which receives them.

The 14th day before polling day in the Federal by-election, June 25, will be Nomination Day, which makes it Monday, June 11.

Soon the farmer will shrug off problems of marketing and give undivided attention to ensuring another crop to find markets for.

There is a similarity between Britain's Labour Government and the symbol of the Festival of Britain—the Skylon. Both appear to stay up without visible means of support.

When Their Majesties opened the Festival of Britain recently, it must have been like visiting the Queen's old home in Forfarshire. Timber grown in Glamis was used in making the furniture for the retiring rooms of the King and Queen at the Festival on the south side of the Thames.

Ottawa's Uplands Airport is to have a runway of almost five miles. The time must be coming when table-top airports will be obsolete and the well-equipped landing and take-off strip be a gradient in part, at least, and make use of gravity to reduce excessive taxiing.

Elias Ashmole, founder of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, died this date 1692. Antiquarian, astrologer and Royalist soldier, he presented his collection to Oxford University. Among the museum's treasures are the Arundel Marbles and the Selden Marbles.

A spoiled ballot is one that is not cast but exchanged for a new one. A rejected ballot is one which was cast but not counted because of some defect. If these definitions could be kept in mind by D.R.O.'s and candidates' agents the task of making a recount would be made considerably easier and more satisfactory.

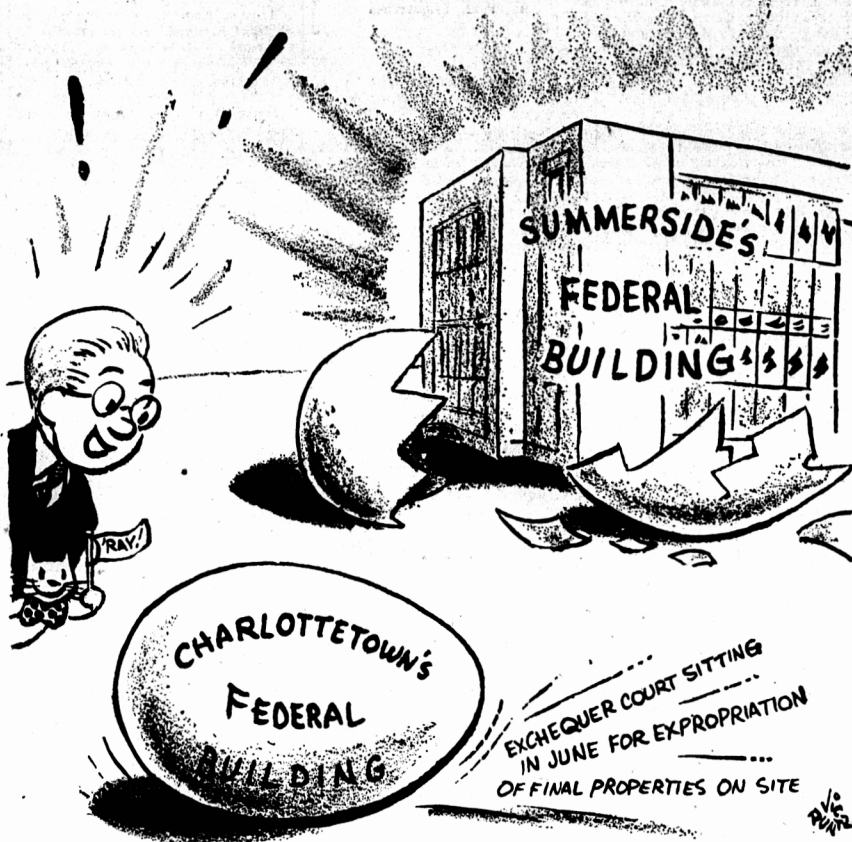
The dangerous foot-and-mouth disease is currently present in all countries of the world except Canada, United States, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland and Scotland. A recent outbreak occurred in Switzerland, apparently introduced by a shipment of potatoes, either carrying particles of infected soil, or shipped in contaminated sacks.

Returning to ancient practice. A service arranged by Selkirkshire farmers, Scotland, for the "blessing of the seeds" was conducted in Caddonfoot Parish Church, Tweedside, by the Rev. D. MacCuish. It was the second service of its kind to be held in the Borders, the first having been held a year ago in the parish church at Ashkirk, near Selkirk. Here we have blessing of the fishing fleet only.

Russia's Andrei Gromyko spoke three words of English at the Paris deputy foreign ministers' meeting Monday—for the first time since the conference started March 5. Gromyko interrupted a speech by Philip Jessup of the U. S. to say in Russian, "We have reason to doubt whether the Government of the United States actually wants a meeting (of foreign ministers.)" Jessup, replied, "Yes, oui, da," putting it in the languages of all four deputies. "Which we doubt," retorted Gromyko in English, and with a knowing smile.

The sympathy of all our citizens is extended to the R.C.A.F. and the relatives of the pilots who, it is to be feared, lost their lives on the recent flight from Goose Bay to Summerside. The plane may yet be found in the wilds of Labrador, but it is unlikely; and there is little chance likewise of a rubber dinghy surviving in the stormy waters of the Gulf. However, the authorities have not given up the search, which will be prosecuted while there is a shadow of hope. It is the first catastrophe of its kind here since the war, and it is all the more regretted that four promising young lives should be sacrificed in the initial stages of training. To all intents and purposes, these young men were on active service, staking their lives on the hazards involved in keeping prospective enemies at bay. Their relatives will have this fact to remember them by, and their country this best of all reasons for honouring their memory.

City Hatchery Behind Time



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.

GREATEST ROAD MENACE

Sir,—I read Chief MacArthur's appeal for careful driving, a timely and necessary word, for, in spite of all the lessons, there are still some careless drivers. In fact, there seems to be some who, either for lack of brains or from disregard for other people, cannot learn to drive a car. A great pity such men cannot be eliminated from the road.

The law against this offence is difficult to execute, is it? We haven't yet decided how much liquor makes a man unsafe. It doesn't take much! A little is worse than a lot. A little makes a man reckless, a lot keeps him sober. The law is hard to enforce, is it? When a man discovers he has a difficult job in hand he puts on more push. It has been suspected that the police, in some cases, are not allowed to do this. At any rate, the general opinion is that drunken drivers are not watched closely enough and are dealt with, altogether too leniently, for they are a serious menace on our roads causing more than half the fatal accidents. The Chief's appeal comes in here for help from the public to clear our roads of those careless fellows who take the pleasure out of driving.

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN. Stanley Bridge.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

STEAM NAVIGATION

"At a numerous meeting held at the Wellington Hotel on Friday, the 5th inst., Hon. Robert Hodgson in the chair, the following resolution was adopted:

"That this meeting has seen with much satisfaction the proceedings of a committee appointed to communicate with the committee named in Quebec, with the view of inducing the proprietors of the Steam Boat to allow her to touch at this Port, and to learn, if any, what number of shares would be reserved for subscription within this Island; that the committee be directed to petition the Legislature at its next sitting praying for a grant of money in aid of this object, provided the proprietors consent that the Steam Boat shall touch at the Port of Charlottetown to and from Quebec and Halifax; that the committee be directed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor praying his patronage and assistance in furthering the objects of this meeting."

"It was also agreed that the Chairman, Mr. Haviland, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Goodman, and Mr. Brecken be appointed members of the above mentioned committee."—Prince Edward Island Register, Feb. 9, 1850

Oils For The Lamps Of Freedom

(Hamilton Spectator)

From politically boiling Iran to the immense silences of Northern Alberta is a journey of thousands of miles, and no one would have thought these two regions had anything in common had not the struggle for oil focussed public attention on one of Canada's potential miracles.

Along the Athabasca River and covering an area of around 3,000 square miles, are the fabulous tar sands that hold an estimated 200,000,000,000 barrels of petroleum—far greater than the total of all known oil reserves in the world. By itself this astronomical figure means little, but in the capitals of a tense world it could mean anything. It is significant that the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company recently sent its chief geologist to examine the Alberta area. The problem of extraction is formidable—al sorts of methods, ingenious methods are being tried. But on oil depends Britain's capacity to fight any kind of a war for any length of time. It is the lifeblood of her Navy, her Air Force and her mechanized Army.

Without the tar sands Alberta is a good producer and will be a bigger one. It can't begin to stake the universal thirst for this "black gold". At the moment the United States has proven reserves of 30,000,000,000 barrels, or about 30 per cent of the world's total. From this reserve about 2,000,000 barrels a year are produced. Russia's proved reserve is believed to be around 5,500,000,000 barrels, with an annual production of 270,000,000 barrels a year. Small wonder she keeps a covetous eye on Iran, which is right on her southern border! For here is Britain's greatest source, with 45 per cent of the world's proved reserve, the most critical oil area in the world. (Before Iran nationalized oil, Britain controlled 47 per cent of Middle East production.) If Stalin embarked on war one of his first moves would be to capture these fields to feed his vast forces.

You can get some idea of how oil is used in battle by these World War II figures: 1. Allied forces, excluding Russia, used 22,000,000 gallons of oil products in conquering Germany, not including products used to transport men and materials to the scene of action. 2. The U. S. Fifth Fleet burned 630,000,000 gallons of fuel oil in seven weeks during June and July 1944. 3. An armoured battalion required 17,000 gallons of gasoline to move 100 miles, even under ideal conditions. In a most urgent sense this "black gold" is needed for the lamps of freedom.

The Poet's Corner

EXCEPT FOR BIRDS

There's rhythm in the orbit of a star. But that's a music stretched too far. To register upon the human ear. Only God and mathematicians hear. Smaller circles, spreading on the air. Are needed for such mice as we, So I declare I'm absolutely right. We'd have no way of knowing whether God is musical and likes a hymn. Except for birds. We might forget religion altogether. Except for birds. But there they are, reminding us, at dawn. God made them singers. That assures the day. His rhythms hold, although the stars are gone.

—Margery Mansfield.

Must Mind His Step

(The Letter Review)

General MacArthur, in his speech to Congress, took an impregnable position. He avoided the trap of arguing with President Truman, who was absolutely right in removing the General from office for insubordination. He let that question go by default, and concentrated on an absolutely logical presentation of the military situation. No defence against the Communist attempt to conquer the world is possible that is not worldwide. It is not possible to let Asia go and concentrate on Europe.

Announcement, on the same day, that the U. S. was organizing an Atlantic Pact with Australia and N. Z., was a complete admission of General MacArthur's argument. Unfortunately, neither Britain nor Canada has shown any sign of entering an arrangement that is of vital importance to both of them. The problem that faces the

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Notes By The Way

A man remarked the other day: "Butter went to 8 cents, didn't it? No it did not. Butter has no less. It is not self-propulsive. It does not 'go' anywhere or to any price. It did not 'go'; it was pushed. It was put there. Somebody increases the price. Either the producer gets more, or somewhere on the way from him to the consumer an addition (perhaps more than one addition) is made. Perhaps perhaps perhaps these things happen. When they happen suddenly with the price of some commodity going up in a series of quick jumps, it is probably not the producer who profits most. There is a scarcity, or a new tax, and the people who intervene between the producer and consumer take advantage of the scarcity to 'up' the price or take advantage of the tax to increase the price of goods already in stock. There have been cases recently of firms announcing that they are not doing this until fresh stock is in. Good! But let us not think of prices 'going' places. They are propelled. And in many cases they are propelled unduly. That is where controls come in—

The returning importance of sterling as a world currency is pointed up by the discussions which Mr. Eugene Black, President of the World Bank, has had in London preparatory to floating a public issue of sterling bonds in the United Kingdom. He reported to Chancellor of the Exchequer Hugh Gaitskell that there has been an increasing demand for sterling loans from the World Bank. A disturbing inference from this situation is that the United Kingdom has not been financing productive enterprises within its own spheres of influence on a basis sufficiently active to realize economic opportunities. The fact that the Atlee Government's monetary policies have been too nationalistic are given some support from these circumstances. Applications to the World Bank for sterling loans are obviously for

free world is to provide itself with military forces adequate to defend any part of the world against Communist aggression, while cleaning out Communist infiltration at home. That is all that General MacArthur is saying, and he is absolutely right. If he sticks to this, and avoids getting mugged up in U. S. political rows, he will go down in history as a great man.

investment in assured productive enterprises within the sterling area, that would speak volumes concerning economic opportunities which Britain's Labor Government has overlooked in colonial areas. And if colonial businessmen are the applicants, the applications are equally grave, as they would indicate that colonial enterprise is moving at a faster rate than Colonial Office interest in the welfare and growth of the possessions abroad. — Globe and Mail.

The creation of a department of Russian studies at the University of Western Ontario is a significant event. It presents an enlightened attitude on the part of the Canadian educationalists to the greatest problem that confronts this generation: the Western world's relationship to Soviet Russia. Its intention, of course, is to examine the background and find the facts. But instead of accepting the defeatist assumption that the issues presently separating East and West will inevitably be resolved on the battlefield, the University of Western Ontario is acknowledging, in effect, that understanding is the first step toward agreement, between either individuals or nations. As long as we are ignorant of the historical, cultural, economic, and political developments that produced the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, we cannot understand Russian actions. Our ability to predict what course these actions will take is the more limited and we conduct relations with Russia in the darkness of prejudice and fear. If Russian aspirations can be fulfilled only by war, we must know our enemy in order to defeat him. Because of ignorance of, and indifference to, the growth of the Russian republic, we underestimated its strength in the Second World War. We know now that a new colossus stands astride the Eastern world. We must learn what made this colossus in order to predict its actions and calculate its capabilities. — From Ottawa Citizen.

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