

The Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1936.

Budget Forecasts

According to the Ottawa correspondent of the Financial Times, Finance Minister DUNNING's budget speech will be set to the tune of higher taxes and lower tariffs. The latter were promised by Liberal campaigners in the federal election contest, but the promise was accompanied by the assurance that lower tariffs and lower taxes went hand in hand. We shall soon see how this prophecy works out.

According to the Post writer, an increase in the sales tax from 6 to 7 per cent. has been seriously considered but doubts are held as to the effectiveness of such a move as a revenue producer.

The income tax, however, is to be "stepped up." Calculations have been made as to the increase in revenue which would result from a reduction of the exemption from \$2,000 to \$1,500 for married persons and from \$1,000 to \$750 for single. This change is being seriously considered; also a cut in the exemption for dependents. Likewise the higher brackets of the income tax are under scrutiny. Particular attention is being paid to the gaining of more revenue from those with so-called unearned incomes. This division in incomes was made by the BENNETT Government and is likely to become more marked after the forthcoming budget. Postage rates are very much under fire. The rates are likely to be stepped up all along the line with emphasis on the second and third class categories.

Instead of withholding reductions in the rates of duty under the British preferential schedule until the 1937 Imperial conference, the Government, it is predicted, will make a gesture toward freer trade in the forthcoming budget. The preferential tariff on textiles, particularly on cottons, will be cut. Other tariff reductions will apply to gasoline, steel products, and a wide range of raw materials and implements of production used by such industries as automobile, furniture, magazine publishing, leather goods, etc.

There will be a substantial list of increases in the intermediate tariff because of the U. S. trade agreement. When the intermediate tariff was extended to the U.S. it was found there were numerous items on the free list, such as cut flowers, potatoes, etc. The U. S. government was asked to select the items in which it was particularly interested and bind them under the pact. Apart from these items, the Ottawa government retained a free hand to adjust duties as the need arose. There will be numerous adjustments but, in the main, the increases will be calculated to yield revenue to the treasury rather than to protect domestic industry.

Old Age Pensions

According to the report of the Superintendent of the Old Age Pension Commission, there were 1610 pensioners receiving payment last year, the amount paid being \$192,199.55. Of this amount, however, \$8,149.85 was paid to the trustees of the Provincial Infirmary for maintenance of 38 inmates on the pension list; another \$7,560 represented saving effected in the maintenance cost of 28 inmates who accepted the pension and left the institution; while an additional saving of \$32,200 less the amount of Dominion contribution, is calculated on the basis that each of the 1610 pensioners would have been entitled to direct relief at the rate of \$5,000 for four months of the year.

"Every care," says the Superintendent, "has been executed in administering the Old Age Pension Act justly and impartially, and in all cases careful estimate has been made of the real and personal assets of the applicant, and a thorough investigation made into each and every application before a grant has been authorized.

"There still appears to be a tendency on the part of children to evade their responsibility for the care of their parents, and to trust the burden on the public. This is not the purpose of the Act, and in determining eligibility for pension or the amount of pension, the ability of the children to aid their parents under the provisions of the 'Parents Maintenance Act' has been taken into consideration by the Commission.

"There is an opinion held in some quarters that the Old Age Pensions are being paid to persons who do not urgently need the money and, therefore should not be in receipt of the grant. It is not the function of the Old Age Pension Commission to laud or criticize the Act, but to administer its Provisions justly and impartially. We would, therefore, point out that while it is a fact that there are a number of pensioners that are not so needy as to require Poor Relief, nevertheless under the Provisions of the Dominion Old Age Pensions Act, they are clearly entitled to some pension. The Act has fixed certain standards and persons found otherwise eligible whose circumstances as defined by the Act and Regulations fall below that standard are legally entitled to a pension in such amount as their circumstances warrant. Whether such standard is too high for present economic conditions is a matter on which exists a great different of opinion.

"There can be no doubt whatever that the payment of Old Age Pensions in this Province has brought a considerable measure of comfort and security to many very worthy old people, and even the maximum amount being paid is not large, when considered in relation to their former standard of living, it nevertheless means in many instances the difference between living in charity and Poor Relief, or on a standard permitting bare existence, with a reasonable degree of comfort and security in their declining years."

Editorial Notes

Island artists make quite a creditable display at the Art Exhibition now being held in the HARRIS Art Gallery.

There should be a building boom with 80 per cent. of the cost available to be repaid over a period of 20 years, and lots galore advertised at practically "given away" prices.

HITLER has now been proclaimed by GOERING as "Supreme War Lord." That was the designation given the Kaiser, and see what it led to!

It looked as though there were millions to burn in the auto business when a typographical error in Saturday's issue was accountable for the report that somebody had won a \$15,000 door prize, whereas the winner could lay his hands upon but \$15.00.

Something to appal us—it is possible to have two appendices and, of course, two operations. An Edmonton (Alta.) boy was rushed to Hospital for an emergency operation, when it was discovered he had two—one good, one bad—an inch-and-a-half apart. To save further trouble the doctor took them both out.

Mr. Dooley" and his philosophy was once the most popular feature in leading newspapers both in U. S. A. and Canada, but latterly only a few weeklies have given it place. The producer, Mr. FINLEY PETER DUNNE, has just passed away in his sixty-eighth year. He belonged to Chicago and spent all his life in journalism in that city, publishing several of his Dooley features in book form.

There was substantial justification for the criticisms by N. B. Supreme Court bench of the reporting of the BANNISTER tragedy. The fact of the matter was special representatives of American "yellow" journals appeared on the scene, and set the pace; and some Maritime newspapers could not resist the temptation to follow suit. But in the interest of Canada's clean journalism as well as of justice the tendency must be severely repressed.

Hon. C. H. CAHAN has been attacking the Japan trade pact on two grounds. First, it was granted by the Prime Minister, who made no mention of the existence of a Parliament in Canada, while the second ground of criticism was that the Tariff Board would have the power to make final decision on any appeal regarding valuation for duty purposes. But Hon. J. I. LESLEY vigorously defended the pact on the ground that it was necessary to facilitate trade between the two countries which had suffered in consequence of the BENNETT Government policy.

In connection with the award of prizes to architects for the best design of low-priced houses for the average home-owner, wonder if any of them could be built for \$1,200. The New York Herald-Tribune publishes a sketch of an attractive one story house approved by the Federal Housing Act officials, and says it was "developed by the technical division of the F. H. A. in answer to the President's demand for a home for the low-income man. The price provides plumbing, heating system and electric wiring."

The net debt of Canada (after sinking funds, etc., have been taken into account), is \$397 per capita. The net debts of the various provinces per capita are: Alberta, \$167.71; British Columbia, \$210.08; Manitoba, \$99.04; New Brunswick, \$146.01; Nova Scotia, \$117.84; Ontario, \$110.261; Prince Edward Island, \$52.70; Quebec \$60.00; Saskatchewan, \$189.38. Our financial position is therefore outstandingly the best in Canada, but even with that, the combined debts of the Dominion and Province represent \$450 on every man, woman and child here.

With reference to the serious loss of fox pups reported this year, a fox rancher of extensive experience informs us that last year he lost 109 pups, ranging from four days to two weeks old from the same cause. Investigation showed, he says, that this deathrate was due to the vixen's milk being contaminated through having been fed on cheap prepared foods. He this year fed raw meat, cod liver oil, brewer's yeast, and bone meal, preparing the vixen for her young, with the result the supply of milk was all that could be desired. This food is also recommended by Dr. JOHN JACK, Experimental Farm, Summer-side.

Ruling that a physician has the right to express an opinion on scientific facts, Justice T. DENNISTON in Manitoba Court of King's Bench directed St. Boniface Hospital to pay three month's additional salary to Dr. OMER G. NAGUE, whose case was previously referred to here. Radiologist at the institution, Dr. NAGUE was given a month's salary and dismissed from his post last November for expressing an opinion to a reporter over the phone on "mercy deaths." His claim for a year's salary was only partly allowed in the judgment announced. Asked if he thought most doctors favor legalized euthanasia Dr. NAGUE replied: "Fundamentally—in their minds—I think they would."

A Convention has been called at Niagara Falls to select a Prohibition Candidate for the Presidency of the U. S. A. Mentioned as likely to head the ticket are LEIGH COLVIN, of New York, who has been at various times candidate of the dries for Vice-President and United States Senator; WILL D. MARTIN, of New Jersey, and CLINTON N. HOWARD, of Rochester. In the background is "WILLIE" D. URSHAW, of Georgia, a redoubtable foe of the liquor traffic, who in 1932 polled 59,656 votes for President, and who will be likely to run again without much urging. On May 6 a platform will be announced, to be followed on the next day by nomination of the ticket which will try to restore conditions as they were in the days when one-half of 1 per cent. of alcohol divided the lawful from the illicit.

Notes by the Way

There can be no illusions to-day about the safety of any country not prepared to take its part in its own defence. The territories of Germany were lost by the most powerful military nation in the world by an unfavorable turn in fortune's wheel as by a misconception of the forces that might at one time or other be arrayed against that country. Following the war, the boundaries of the countries of Central Europe were defined anew by an external authority. Italy has sought to justify her invasion of Abyssinia by the plea that she requires the resources not being properly utilized now by the Ethiopians. Rulers of over-populated countries seeking an outlet would make neither apology nor explanation if they thought they were in a position to acquire possession of territories not effectively occupied.—Melbourne Argus.

The Prince as King will be a different man from the Prince as Prince he has long displayed qualities to ourselves. Many of the King's subjects have done as much for ex-soldiers as he has through Toc H. and the British Legion, or as much for the youth of the country as he has through the Jubilee Trust? How many have manifested as personal an interest in the unemployed as he has through his visits to Tyneside and other suffering areas? Yet in all these fields it is open to everyone not indeed to do what the King has done, but at least to do something. Two of the keystones to King Edward's character are reality and simplicity. None of us but would be better for more of them ourselves. Happy is the country whose sovereigns are not merely rulers but examples to their people, and unworthy the citizen to whose life such examples make no difference.—The Spectator (London).

The London Morning Post points out that "hurry on the part of motorists, bicycle riders and pedestrians causes more accidents than almost anything else. This human urge to save a few unimportant minutes has always existed and probably always will.—Brantford Expositor.

This Colony would be glad to be relieved of the problem which the frequent advent of runaways from the French penal settlement always brings. To escape from French Guiana is evidently not difficult and fugitives not only come to Trinidad but are constantly going across the border of Brazil to Para, or Paramaribo in Dutch Guiana. It was an exasperated Braz official who remarked, in an interview with an American newspaper correspondent the other day, that he thought "the French don't care whether the men get away or not. They are a nuisance to us as long as they remain in their territory, and there is certainly no reason why we should wish to help them avoid recapture. On the contrary, if the French were to negotiate or establish a procedure by which they could be quickly taken off our hands by some regular process of law, it would be a relief to this Government and a public alike.—Trinidad Guardian.

Between the English-speaking peoples there are no major and enduring causes of discord and every reason for increasing harmony. We want the same kind of world, and are each seeking our own share of it. We both believe in the same fundamentals of government—democracy expressed through representative institutions and liberty rooted in the rule of law. We both believe that war is a destructive anachronism, and that the first and greatest of political objectives should be to eliminate it from the world system. It is a fallacy to claim that because there is an Aryan group of languages, there also is an Aryan race. Such a philological fallacy can easily develop into a very dangerous group of super-patriotism. In our racial inheritance we have the raw material out of which we have to construct our civilization, but it is with our minds and with speech as an instrument of the mind that we have to accomplish our task.—Sir Arthur Salter.

I believe that long speeches are detrimental to public health—to the health of the speaker and still more to the health of the audience.—Lord Tweedsmuir.

We may be certain that the Reich is not bankrupting itself for nothing and looks for value for its money. And where, it might even be asked, is there a richer prize, more tempting to a lean and hungry folk than in the huge and almost defenceless territories and vast and ill-defended commerce of the British Empire? Only the short-sighted and the unreflecting can suppose that German intentions are revealed by the acts which are at the moment directed against France or by the words which are at the moment directed against Russia. We shall be wise to reflect that the real purpose is probably guided by the consideration of where lies the richest prize and where lies the weakest prey. For these reasons we suggest that our best policy now is to stand by our friends and to look to our defences.—London Morning Post.

With prevailing low prices for wheat in recent years there seems to be a growing tendency in the Middle West to depend less on that cereal and more on raising and farming and the trade in cattle. The more rapidly this tendency develops, the better for the whole of Canada, and especially the prairie provinces.—Chatham News.

The current issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association gives a statistical study of 2,921 cases of appendicitis treated at the Cincinnati General Hospital. It states that more than 98 per cent. of the deaths were due to complications resulting from perforation of the appendix before submitting to operation.—Kitchener Record.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

GETTING HEARING AIDS THAT ARE SATISFACTORY

One of the mistakes physicians, including myself, seem to be making is in stating that certain individuals are deaf when, as a matter of fact, they may have some degree of hearing. We are told that when there is partial deafness only we should say that he or she is "hard of hearing."

As a matter of fact hard of hearing is a more correct method of describing the condition. Besides, when we thus describe a patient's condition, there is not the same hopelessness about it.

It is stated that there are only 50,000 really deaf people in the whole United States, with about the same proportion to population in Canada. But the number of hard of hearing (partly deaf) is hundreds of thousands.

The fact that many of those who are hard of hearing can be helped by hearing aids is very gratifying, because an individual who hears little or nothing of conversation, music or voices on screen, radio or stage is apt to become moody or melancholy.

However there appears to be differences in the amount of help that these hearing aids can give and differences also in the service rendered by the different manufacturers. You can readily see that if an individual, hard of hearing, spends money for a hearing aid which becomes unsatisfactory in a short time, or if the manufacturer gives poor service when the aid needs repairing, then he is apt to believe that all the hearing aids are little if any good.

In Great Britain the National Institute for the Deaf is doing valuable work in protecting the public against fraud. It has issued for the information of the "deaf" a booklet entitled "The Choice of Hearing Aids."

The deaf are advised in the first instance to the medical advice as to whether an aid is likely to be beneficial. The Institute maintains a list of firms on which the deaf can rely for guidance and fair dealings. These firms have agreed to allow an extended trial at home of any instrument subject to payment of only 5 per cent. of its value. Thus the deaf are avoided being gulped by misleading advertisements and circulars firms who refuse this home trial and who decline to make any adjustment if the aid so proves unsatisfactory. The Society for the Hard of Hearing, New York City, will give similar service to those seeking value and service.

The Poet's Corner

SI JEUNESSE SAVAIT

When the veil from the eye is lifted The sea's head is grey; When the sailor to shore has drifted The sirens are far away.

Why must the clearer vision, The wisdom of Life's late hour, Come, as in Fate's derision, When the hand has lost its power?

Is there a rarer being, Is there a rarer sphere Where the strong are not unseeing, And the harvests are not sere; Where, ere the seasons dwindle, They yield their due return; Where the lamps of knowledge kindle

Where the flames of youth still burn? Oh, for the young man's chances! Oh, for the old man's will! Those flee while this advances, And the strong years cheat us still.

—Edmund Clarence Stedman— 1833-1908.

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PUBLIC FORUM

BILLY

Sir,—Sorrowfully I pat Billy's nose these days. Just a little while and the roads will be open and Billy will bring me to town no more.

Dear Billy, I have known handsomer horses, but never one that looked at me with such an understanding and humorous twinkle in his eyes. The first time he turned his head completely around and regarded me with a long and appraising stare. I thought it was an accident. But when it happened several times during each drive, and when the stare became a slow, kind look of recognition, I was sure Billy was saying "Howdy, are you all right up there, not cold or anything?" and a warm current of friendship passed between us that helped make my little adventures of the rides to town.

Now, in spite of his sympathetic nature, Billy is not a horse to be imposed upon. He is indeed the most endearing mixture of willingness and proper consideration for his own rights and comfort. When the road was smooth, and only as long as it continued smooth, he would be induced to give a dignified imitation of a tree and bitterly spit a bit of rough, Billy slowed down to a respectable walk—and where it was slippery, or where ugly cracks showed themselves, he simply stood still, and rested and took time off for meditation.

Indeed, he is a gallant, self-respecting gentleman, is Billy. There is half a white star on his forehead, and much good blood in him, in spite of his broad back and clumsy feet.

I'll miss those rides woefully. There is a certain sense of mastery in manipulating a car, but can there ever be that friendly interchange, those little almost human contacts, that exist between a driver and a gentle horse like Billy? It is small wonder that horse-owners on the island resent and bitterly fought for years the coming of the automobile. Some no doubt feared the loss of life and property that the car would bring about (there has proved to be an astonishing lack of accidents on the island), but more hated to see their beloved horses supplanted by a mere mechanical device.

Perhaps too, there were some like myself, who were foolishly old-fashioned, and felt that the only way to note each change in the sky and earth and water, in the trees and grass and flowers, in the color and song of birds, was to drive unhurriedly, peacefully, behind a staid old horse like Billy.

Anyway, Billy dear, foolish or not, every once in a while, I'll slam the garage door shut on the too efficient car, and once more, you and I, will drive to town on a real joy ride!

I am, Sir, etc.

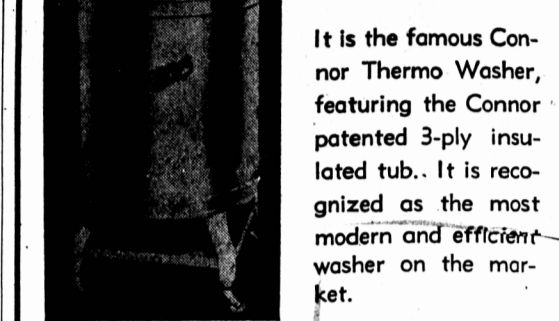
GEORGINA POPE.

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Effects of which she developed arthritis, which dread disease she has suffered for years, bearing it bravely, but becoming more helpless each year, though she always kept up a cheerful spirit, always hoping the climate out in Arizona would combat the disease. I had a letter from her in December brave and cheerful as usual. I pray that Almighty God may grant her His Eternal Rest, and let light perpetual shine upon her. I am, Sir, etc., GEORGINA POPE.

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