

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, DEC. 4, 1951

Plea For Joint Action

One of the recommendations recently made by the industrial development committee of the Maritime Board of Trade is of more than ordinary importance. It calls for the establishment of a tri-Province commission to plan and direct the development of electric power in the Maritimes.

While the respective provincial governments well know that few public service needs surpass in importance that of greater electrical development, the insular complex which has become more marked in these provinces—especially in New Brunswick—will be no easy barrier to surmount towards achievement of a government-sponsored tri-province power commission.

Notwithstanding the alibis we have always been accustomed to hearing from Maritime provincial administrations when a joint project of mutual benefit to all was put forward, neither New Brunswick nor Nova Scotia can present convincing or conclusive argument that the developing, pooling and distributing of electric power in the mainland and Island provinces is not suited to our requirements or would not be advantageous to all concerned.

Here in Eastern New Brunswick we have for several years now been deprived of very necessary power needs simply because the Electric Power Commission, mighty short of energy as it well knew, maintained an obstinate attitude against supplementing this low voltage territory by tieing-in with the Maccan generating station just across the Nova Scotia border, where electricity in sufficient supply was for sale.

A case such as this furnishes incontrovertible proof—if proof were needed—of the eminently logical recommendation being put forward by the Maritime Board of Trade for the development and operation of electric power services in the three Provinces under unified direction and administration.

If the Maritimes are to advance, as they really should be advancing, a great deal more could be accomplished through joint action of the Provinces than will ever ensue through hewing to a policy of insularity or, if you like, narrow provincialism.

Here is something in which our farmers as well as industrialists are vitally interested. By co-ordinating their efforts with those of our Boards of Trade, far-reaching results might be achieved in this long overdue movement for Maritime power development.

Disappointingly Small

Figures have just been released by the United Kingdom Information Office at Ottawa dealing with the 1950 flow of migrants in and out of Britain, travelling by sea, as compiled from the Board of Trade Journal, published in London. They show that Canada attracted less than 12 per cent of the British emigrants who moved to Commonwealth countries last year and registered a far lower net gain of British immigrants than either Australia or New Zealand.

The total flow of emigrants to Commonwealth countries is given as 112,934 persons, with 13,434 moving to Canada, 54,184 to Australia, and 11,562 to New Zealand. With the return movement of immigrants to the United Kingdom taken into account, however, the net population gains of these countries stood as follows: Australia, 47,019; New Zealand 7,472 and Canada 6,464.

As divided between the three countries, then, more than 77 per cent of the net gain went to Australia; more than 12 per cent to New Zealand; and less than 11 per cent came to Canada.

Since Canada over many decades was viewed as the favored land of promise by Britons moving to other countries within the Commonwealth, this latest showing both will occasion surprise and stir questioning as to the effectiveness of Canada's immigration policy in relation to the United Kingdom.

Part of the explanation of the 1950 trend, notes an exchange, lies in the fact that New Zealand and Australia are sterling area countries, offering some currency advantages to British immigrants. Additional-

ly, both countries have arranged transportation on terms that offered a powerful attraction. Even so, Canadians are bound to look with some doubt upon the effectiveness of their own country's immigration programme so long as it attracts such a small proportion of Britons migrating from the United Kingdom.

Pulpwood

Efforts by pulpwood buyers to raise the standard of pulpwood being shipped from this Province should prove beneficial to the farmer as well as to the shipper. When immature trees are cut for pulpwood the quality of the shipment is lowered but, perhaps even more serious, the forest products of this Province are being wasted.

By planned cutting a wood-lot may be made to yield a high level of income to its owner, while the wood-lot itself increases rather than decreases in value.

Wholesale slashing of everything in sight means loss of markets, loss of future income and perhaps even loss of the topsoil.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is tempting to sell feed when high prices are offered as was the case this year, but decidedly imprudent when it means having to buy at even higher prices.

An official colour film is being prepared by the National Film Board to commemorate the Royal Visit. It is to be hoped that unlike the newsreel it will include this Province.

Two Federal-Provincial conferences are in progress at Ottawa, the agriculturists wondering how to sell our products abroad and the tourist industry trying to bring in visitors to consume them here.

The report from Ottawa that Mr. MacNaught is slated for the Cabinet will meet with general approval. He should have held a portfolio long ago. As Secretary of State he would adorn the office.

The latest—and largest—in British-made luxury auto for export is the Berkeley "Statesman", which can sleep six and has kitchen, lounge, showerbath and toilet. It will take the place of a summer bungalow or compete with a railway sleeping car.

A bicycle shown at the recent Cycle and Motorcycle Show in Earls Court, London, can be converted to a tandem by inserting a centre section held in place by four bolts in dovetail joints. One person can complete the conversion in a few minutes.

Some day it is going to dawn on the rulers of the free nations that being free is a necessary prerequisite to having enough wealth to provide their citizens with a decent standard of living. As the late Dr. Adam Smith justly observed, (says The Letter Review), "Defence must come before opulence."

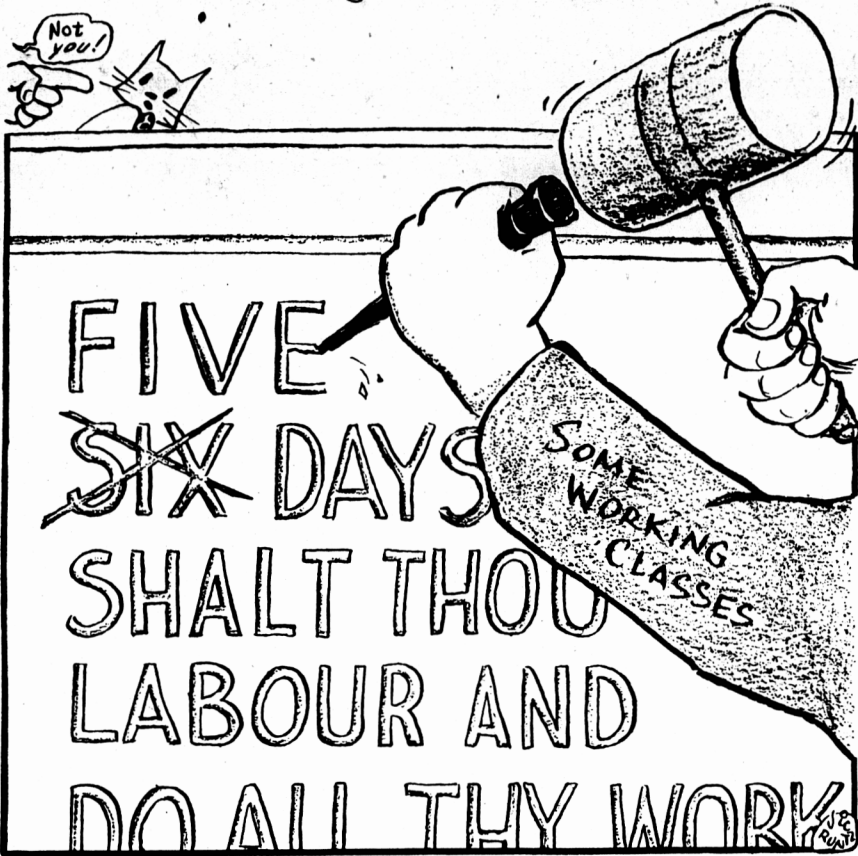
A word to the wise University co-eds. McGill Placement Service, which finds jobs for students and graduates of the university, had a word of cheer in their report for everybody except women graduates; foresaw bright employment prospects for male graduates in every field. But it saw no increased demand for women graduates unless they can type and take shorthand.

Cardinal Richelieu, French statesman, died this date 1642. A bishop at 27, he turned to politics and was soon the supreme power in France. He devoted his power to subjugating the Huguenots and the nobles. The former were beaten but granted toleration, the latter largely reduced to the status of court parasites. The French academy was founded by him.

Mr. Kickham, M. P., in his letter in yesterday's issue assumes full responsibility for himself and other Island Liberal members for the change in King's County mail service in response to the petition of the Boards of Trade at Souris and Montague. He feels sure the change is approved by the vast majority of those concerned, and that in the course of time everybody will be satisfied.

The Post Office Department announces the receipt of information from the United Kingdom Postal Administration that the reduced charges for gift food parcels from Canada to the United Kingdom have been withdrawn and furthermore that their land handling charges on all parcels have been increased. The special rates on gift food parcels were originally introduced to give concessions to Commonwealth mailers similar to those enjoyed by the American public because of the Economic Co-operation Agreement. It is stated that with the suspension of E.C.A. to Great Britain, the basic reason for the special gift parcel reduction no longer exists.

Going It One Better



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.

SEEKING PEN-FRIEND

Sir,—I am writing to you because I want a pen-friend in Prince Edward Island. I am 16 years old and my interests are reading, painting, animals and swimming. If more than one person writes to me I can find pen-friends for them. Any age from 12 to 16.

I should like my pen-friend to live in the country and to be not too clever as I am not. I hope you will be able to help me find a friend.

I am, Sir, etc.

JENNIFER BROWN

The Rectory, Evandale, Tasmania, Australia.

CHRISTMAS JOY

Sir,—I noted with great interest your editorial in the Dec. 1 issue of The Guardian concerning the great forthcoming festival of Christmas. As the season of Christmas comes and goes each year, we notice that it is becoming more and more commercialized, as you suggest, more removed from what it really should be.

For some, it is a time of hurrying from one store to another, getting their "Christmas shopping" done. When the great climax of Christmas Day comes, they are too signified to ponder on its great significance. It is a time when stores enjoy great sales. It is a time when workers look forward to a few holidays from the busy hum-drum of their occupation. Unfortunately, also, for others it is a time for "pleasure." It is a time to which they have looked forward, for having that big "binge." They have heard someone say that Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy, and so they choose this means to be joyous.

In this hustle-bustle of today, it is an excellent idea for each of us to stop to think of what Christmas has come to mean and contrast it with what Christmas ought to mean. Does the preparation which we make for Christmas and the way we celebrate Christmas day indicate that it is the birthday of the Savior of all mankind? It is a feast of joy, yes, but joy in its right sense. In the midst of our Christmas festivities, can we depict the true meaning of this great feast? These are thought-provoking questions which we should ask ourselves at this time of year.

I am Sir, etc.

INTERESTED READER, Malpeque Road, Charlottetown.

The Poet's Corner

STARS

Now in the West the slender moon lies low, And now Orion glimmers through the trees, Clearing the earth with even pace and low; And now the stately-moving Pleiades, In that soft infinite darkness overhead, Hang jewel-wise upon a silver thread. And all the lonelier stars that have their place Calm lamps within the distant southern sky, And planet-dust upon the edge of space, Look down upon the fretful world. And I up to outer vastness unafraid, And see the stars which sang when earth was made.

—Marjorie Pickthall.

Notes By The Way

An interesting bit of minor research is being done at the University of Iowa to find out why water pipes clank. They might go a little farther and find out why it always happens at crucial moments: when a play on the radio is at its climax or the soloist is hitting her top note, for instance. (Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.)

The president of the Missouri Dental Association has told a convention false teeth are on the way out. Unfortunately it will take 100 generations for the dentists' ideas on tooth exercise and care to take root so effectively that everyone will keep his natural teeth.—(Ottawa Journal).

A man who suffered from "Hansen's disease" has recounted his memories in the United States. He was afflicted 21 years ago and placed in an institution with all contact with the outside world removed. He lost his sight. He lost his fingertips and could not read Braille. He was in despair. Then came sulfone and the assurance of the victims of "Hansen's disease" no longer need fear deformity or blindness, but the treatment was too late to save his sight. Yet he was able to win release as an "arrested patient" and he went out into the world to plead for understanding of those who like himself had been snatched from the claws of death and were permitted to rejoin their kinsmen. He is clean. We join in his request for understanding of those cleansed. "Hansen's disease" is the name they now give to leprosy. — Ottawa Journal.

Hardware merchants all told the same story. The makers of paraffin heaters could not get enough steel for the job; few, if any, were being supplied, and those were already spoken for by more far-sighted customers. All one could do was to call back next month any time, and hope. There was little more to offer than hope, and not much even of that.

So, once in a while, comes a little bump in the road that might otherwise seem deceptively smooth enough to give us that sense of authority that really isn't there. It brings home the realities of a situation more effectively in a matter of seconds than lengthy Parliamentary pronouncements could in months.

For the rest, time has tended to assuage the pain of disappointment at finding that even when the war ended things were not going to be as rosy as we either hoped or expected. More than six years have passed since then, and in that time we have come to accept that if life is to be tolerable we must make the most of the conditions we have found imposed on us (regardless for this purpose of their cause). And so the shortages of this or that, the disappointments and the annoyances have become somewhat symbolic of the age: not normal, perhaps, but customary.

Now and then, however, the abnormality of the situation is spotlighted. It would seem that if we need something, and have the means of buying it, opportunity is all we require to go and get it. If, when the opportunity occurs, our objective still excites us because what we want is just not to be had, the real meaning of austerity comes home to us. A ready example, drawn from personal experience, is to be found in the difficulties of ensuring domestic warmth during the summer.

Coal is rationed, electricity and gas is not cheap to burn, and so many people are turning to an old friend of many years' standing—the paraffin heater—as a means of spinning out the coal we can obtain, or the electricity and gas we can afford. But, alas, the old friend is not so easy to find when he is wanted. This simple and inexpensive domestic appliance has become one of the first casualties of the relatively new (at least as far as many people are concerned) steel shortage. We had heard about the metal famine, of course, but it had not seemed quite as close to home as, say, the beer and cigarettes shortages of a few years ago, until the first winds that her-

alded the onset of winter blew it so to speak, right indoors.

Hardly a day goes by that we do not hear of a fire, and not much even of that.

Such developments, based on group action and democratic control are necessary before any national or international problems can be solved. An integrated program that will help and permit people to "build bridges" to the shores of security and enlightenment must be offered, and must be practicable. Many less practical "Utopian" solutions have been offered—but their chances for success appear very limited.

For instance, some people believe that a strictly "cooperative commonwealth" is possible. We have often heard this offered as an eventual solution. But what is a cooperative commonwealth? Cooperatives, as such, are necessary, but can only be a factor or an economic yardstick in our social

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

FERRY BOAT DISASTER

"The ferry boat plying between Canso Point and Charlottetown was upset on Tuesday, the 25th inst., in a squall of wind about midway between the two places and immediately sank on board of which were John Francis Murphy, Hugh Curry, of the West River, and Neil Curry, of Nine Mile Creek. The former three persons after being in the water for nearly an hour—having two oars of the boat to assist them—were picked up by a boat from Warren Farm. The latter person, Neil Curry, while swimming for the shore, unfortunately sank and was drowned. We understand that Curry was a very steady and industrious man, and leaves a wife and small family to mourn their loss.

"Immediately upon the accident being known in Town, Mr. Terry, very promptly and kindly lent the steam boat Isla to a number of gentlemen for the purpose of rendering assistance, but the boat did not reach the place of disaster in time to be of service."

—The Islander, July 26, 1850.

The Age-Old Story

We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part Two (concluded) (All Rights Reserved)

GROUP EFFORT REQUIREMENTS

Science and specialization may mean progress in some fields such as agriculture, fishing, etc., but there is a danger in specialization and efficiency, too; especially in such fields as education. We must be able to choose between the advantages and disadvantages of complete specialization. For instance, the trend in higher education today is to get away from the liberal or general education, and to emphasize specialization.

This is very much in evidence in the United States and is being widely adopted in Canada as well. Young men and women attending college today all too often look for the practical courses. They specialize in one particular field and know only that; they are equipped for one narrow walk in life. They become like machines; when faced with problems that require good, clear thinking, they are not prepared to deal with them properly, nor are they able to arrive at sound conclusions.

This is not the type of person we need in our day, when Communism is so rampant. We must have people who can think for themselves, who will not be swayed by another man's mind and opinion without first using their God-given faculty of reason, to discover whether the other's opinion is true or false. But, of course, people need training in that faculty, too, before they can use it properly; they need a well-rounded, liberal education. Unfortunately, this is not the type of education the majority of our "educated" people possess.

Another conclusion which cannot be denied in this day and age is the increasing necessity for group effort and the use of the cooperative technique by young people starting out in life. It has always been held that group effort has a greater chance for success than individual effort. From primitive days man has had to join forces with other men in defense of his life and in his quest for food, clothing and shelter. But today, more than ever, group action is essential.

Many a young man graduating from high school or college wants to devote his life to business, farming or a trade. But usually he has not enough capital or help to establish himself. Even farming, not to mention other fields of endeavor, requires such an outlay of money today that only the few well-to-do individuals can start alone a modern farm sufficiently equipped to assure reasonable success. He would need about \$5,000 to buy a farm and almost that much to equip it. The days of the 50 acre or 80 acre farm equipped with a team of horses has gone out with the "Model A's". So, the prospective farmer or the home businessman discouraged, hies off to the industrial fields to get a job.

But if he had looked around before he made his final move, he would have been able to find quite a number of young people like himself who were willing to farm or go into business, but who had not sufficient capital to do so. Group action, co-operation, is the answer here; had they been thinking, these fellows could have pooled their small resources and worked as one. They would probably be able to buy and equip a business in various lines of production, processing or distribution. And what means more to the individual, they would be working in their chosen field, and perhaps making that personal contribution which each individual owes to the general welfare of the community.

Let us now discuss the details and possibilities of applying these conclusions.

We must have a workable arrangement whereby the consumer cooperatives can and will work with producers' organizations to develop small industries and other necessary cogs in the wheel of the people's economy. In the marketing and distribution of food products, there cannot be central marketing boards of a workable and permanent nature unless there is, as a basis, a sound, efficient and widespread system of local cooperatives. The control and the responsibility must remain with the people and a complete understanding must be developed among the various groups.

Primary producers, miners and farmers, for instance, do not want the highest possible price, they want stability and security. And they are usually anxious to have the consumer or customer obtain the best quality at the lowest possible price. Thus, in order to effect orderly distribution all local groups must work together. In short, if we are to have a national and international system of orderly distribution, especially of the world's food stuffs, we must first have a sound and efficient local system.

We must be more efficient in our production, especially in agriculture which comprises the smallest group in the economy. We cannot and should not expect the consuming public to pay for the inefficient production of food. This may involve the radical re-organization of our system of production, and seems necessary for two reasons: first, to keep the most efficient and the best qualified young people on the land, and thereby bring agriculture up to a standard of attraction to other industries; and second, to eliminate the unreasonably high overhead costs which are now involved in completely equipping each small farming unit.

The pattern outlined previously of a few large-unit farms, and second, the cooperative method for the hiring, operation and services of the large machinery for small units would help to solve this problem. This question involves even more than that. There must be new techniques in rural education, in cooperative credit, and in insurance, which will allow young men to invest in farms and which will protect them while so doing.

We must accept the fact that trade unions are necessary too, as a protection for our whole economy. If labor suffers, farmers suffer, and vice versa. There should be a system whereby each group, through its respective organization, should be able to meet—and guided by written formulae based on the actual costs of production—come to agreements on wage levels, price ranges, and future negotiations.

Let us now discuss the details and possibilities of applying these conclusions.

Recommended Reading

Black, J. D.: Future Food and Agricultural Policy. Bromfield, Louis: Malabar Farm. Cronin, John F.: Economic Analysis and Problems. Giesinger, Egon: Coming Age of Wood.

Hare, R. R.: Farm Business Management. Haythorne, and March: Land and Labor.

Kains, M. G.: Five Acres and Independence. LeBourdais, D.M.: Canada's Century. Newton-White, E.: Canadian Restoration. Symons, Harry: Friendship.

(To be continued)

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