

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17, 1951

Issues At Washington

Thoughtful Canadians have been following with some concern what seems, at first glance, to be the re-birth of isolationist sentiment in the United States.

The political discord manifest in recent despatches from Washington and other United States centres goes far deeper than that. For it has its origins not in the mistakes, real or imagined, of Secretary of State Dean Acheson, but rather in the transition from a liberal to a conservative cycle of politics.

Political unity is apparent only in one phase of American affairs. That is defence policy, where the sole issue is the adequacy of defence measures at present in hand.

Likewise, as defence costs mount, Congressmen of both parties are questioning with deep seriousness the Truman administration's insistence on pressing forward with the social and reform legislation that has characterized the Fair Deal during the last five years.

Finally, there is the significant fact, that for the first time in more than a decade, a leader has emerged from the ranks of the Republican party; a leader with sufficient prestige to challenge the Democratic party's right to govern.

Canadians need to exercise caution in jumping to conclusions about developments in the American political scene. Perhaps the best guide to an understanding of what is happening in the United States rests in an observation of the strategy, tactics and policies of Senator Taft himself.

Open Roads

It has come to be accepted, and properly so, that snowstorms disrupt traffic in this Province only a matter of hours except, perhaps, when nature has really outdone herself to pile drift upon drift.

Good and plentiful snow-moving equipment do the work of opening up the highways, but it is modern roads themselves which make it possible.

The Thermometer

According to the Economic Intelligence Service of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, a chemist was assigned to a job in a munitions factory where he began to create a dangerous explosive.

youth of simple mind, the chemist explained that the temperature of a thermometer on a vat of chemicals must remain below a certain point to prevent an explosion.

Back from lunch an hour later, the chemist found the boy bent over a wash basin carefully rinsing off a small object.

And, as the Chamber of Commerce remarks, any resemblance between this story and the use of price controls to cool off the inflation thermometer is purely coincidental and precisely correct.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Everybody talks about inflation but nobody does anything about it, except that is, merchants holding mid-winter sales.

Defence Minister Claxton arrives in Halifax today, commencing a four-day visit to two of the three Maritime Provinces.

When everybody who is anybody says it, it must be true—we are at the beginning of one of the most prosperous periods in our history.

Evidently about the only matter delaying the official call of Premier Jones to the Upper House, is agreement as to who is to succeed him in the Premiership—Mr. A. W. Matheson or Mr. Darby?

Senator Gordon B. Inor of Halifax suggests as a reform of the Upper Chamber that members be elected for a ten-year period, and then retired on a living allowance.

The Micmac weather prophet who has predicted an early end to winter has much to learn about prognosticating. The first principle is always to warn of a long hard-winter.

Style designers would be wise to go slow in this matter of producing extremely sheer clothing for women. The stocking manufacturers carried the idea to the point where their product could not be seen at all, and look what the ladies did about that in Summer.

The new twelve-sided nickle is ultra-modern in representing a nickle foundry but at the same time its many-sidedness combined with what appear to be a row of huts, manage to give an impression of antiquity that goes back to days when coins were hammered rather than minted.

Benjamin Franklin, American statesman, diplomatist, and author, born this date 1706 and lived till he reached the age of eighty-four. During his lifetime he received many literary distinctions, and published several political pamphlets and writings on economics.

The Progressive Conservative Opposition in the House of Commons is readying an all-out blast at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to be loosed in the coming session of Parliament.

According to a CP despatch from Ottawa, early reports show that some 118 local committees across Canada have collected a total of \$1,010,984 in the 1950 Christmas Seal Campaign.

The latest addition to the series known as The Mark Lescarbot Books of New World Poetry, launched in Halifax some years ago under the able editorship of Mr. Andrew Merkel, has been received and is of special interest to Maritime readers.



Is This So?

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

TREACHEROUS FLOES

From an account of his crossing by ice-boat from Tormentine to Prince Edward Island in the first week of March, 1852, by Lieut. Colonel Sleigh, "late of Her Majesty's 77th Regiment"; continued from yesterday's issue:

"It was a strange feeling, when drawing the ice-boat along on the runners, and proceeding at the rate of three miles an hour, to know that the field upon which we stood was passing with the current away to the south at the rate of five miles an hour. Thus we were propelling the boat north-east, while the tide was carrying us toward the south-west."

"The experience of the conductors of the boat is here called into active requisition, as what with snowdrifts and the banks of icebergs on either side, the horizon is frequently obscured to a circle of perhaps a quarter of a mile in extent. The compass will show the position and course, but the travelling masses of ice put all calculation out of the question; and the knowledge of the tide's tremendous power on the floating surface the traveller trusts himself, confused, perplexed, and frequently causes serious doubts as to the real position of the boat."

"One great danger in going too far to the southward arises from the difficulty of getting back to the shore from whence you started, as a half-mile below Cape Tormentine, Bay Verte opens, and if you are five miles out in the Straits, and to the southward of the Cape, then, to regain the shore, you have before you twenty miles of Bay Verte, or twenty-five miles in all to traverse."

"During the previous winter, one boat's crew, commanded by Tom Allan, got into this difficulty, and were for thirty-six hours out in the Straits, lost and bewildered. At sunset they turned the boat over in a sheltered position in the recess of an iceberg, well to the lee of the wind; snow fell and covered them in and with the assistance of the crew, paddles, and sails, cut into chips with a knife, and frugally and carefully piled, a slight fire was kept burning all that dreary night, and the smoke from it assisted in keeping warmth and life in the bodies of the little forlorn band. Their escape from death and destruction was a marvel which no one can explain, save by referring it to the interposition of a merciful Providence. Tom Allan had several of his fingers and toes frozen off, and on reaching the shore three out of five of the survivors shortly afterwards died from the effects of the exposure."

Federal Lead Needed

(Globe and Mail)

In the functioning as well as the drawing up of the Trans-Canada Highway agreement, the Federal Government left much to the discretion of the Provinces. They were to decide "the shortest practical route" in their respective areas, the condition being that the various routes connect at Provincial boundaries to make a continuous road.

Government, the same as railroads and air lines. Yet the effectiveness of such a move would be measured by the highway facilities available. Regional decisions cannot be depended upon to serve the national need in this respect. Saskatchewan, for example, with comparatively few defence industries or bomb targets, might place the Trans-Canada well down in its list of priorities. Yet in an emergency that missing link would slow the cross-country movement of goods and military forces, and thus hamper the national effort.

That position overlooks realities. It is the Federal, not the Provincial, authorities who must decide national security priorities. Much responsible opinion, Ministerial and likewise, has been expressed that the Trans-Canada Highway is important to national defense. The history of the Alaska Highway bears some testimony to that. The railroad strike of last August supplemented it in negative fashion by revealing how vulnerable is the nation in transportation.

In an emergency, it would be less vulnerable with adequate, integrated roads to employ the full resources of the motor transport industry where most needed. These have grown to major proportions, with 600,000 trucks and trailers, and a payroll of 650,000. If national security demanded it, they would be subject to mobilization by the

The Age-Old Story

(Globe and Mail)

Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

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Notes By The Way

A loud snorer halted proceedings in an English court when he drowned out the argument of counsel for the defence. To use a legal term, the sleeper was probably just resting his case — Hamilton Spectator.

When former President Hoover recommended making the Western Hemisphere a "Gibraltar," could he have noted that one of the dictators now asks that the original Gibraltar be surrendered to him? — Christian Science Monitor.

Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, says that the horse and buggy was much better for courting than the automobile is. Old Dobbin would at least not head for the nearest ditch when the reins went slack. — Hamilton Spectator.

The new national pension of \$40 a month is expected to go in to effect in another 18 months or two years. But by that time, what will \$40 be worth? As much as today? Now is the time, when a "new deal" in old age pensions is planned, to institute a long-over-due reform: Tie the basic pension to the cost of living, with adjustments to be made every six months at least. — Edmonton Journal.

Did someone at the BEC have a twinge of conscience about the Christmas Journey that preceded the King's broadcast message "to all my people? That all-inclusive family note was conspicuously absent from the relay from South Africa, which did not so much as mention the colored peoples of the Union. But from South Africa we were taken straight to a native children's hospital in West Africa, where greetings were spoken to "all Africans." — London Public Opinion.

Two items of news have reached Fort William which should cause some embarrassment, make us sit up and take notice. A story from the old country points out that in a small Glasgow factory a manufacturer is making and exporting dozens of pairs of Indian Moccasins to Canada and the U. S. A. He is under the impression that these are being worn on the reservations by Indian "braves", but as a matter of fact they are being bought by holiday-makers as curios. The second item comes from Japan. It tells us that the Japanese are manufacturing a hand-warmer for sale in Canada. They used naphtha or high-grade gasoline to make a preparation which can be placed in pockets or in gloves, and which will keep the hands warm at 25, 30 or 40 degrees below zero. Why are these moccasins and hand-warmers made in Scotland and Japan instead of Fort William? Could it be

that there is more imagination and initiative in Glasgow and Tokyo than there is in Fort William and Port Arthur? — Fort William Times-Journal.

Apparently the Province of Ontario has agreed to go along with the Dominion Government in the planning of contributory old age pensions payable at 70 years for everyone without a means test. It is to be hoped that the necessary amendments to the British North America Act may be passed on to the British House of Commons and passed in time for action by our own House of Parliament at the coming sessions. One reason for hurry in the matter is growing disinclination of many employers to keep people working after 70 years of age; though many of them would prefer and are able to work after three score years and ten, and make their own way. — From Niagara Falls Review.

Soft spirals of smoke curl lazily out on the breeze, The birds sing their evening prayers in each leaf-hidden nest. And lovely the flame and the gold edging of the trees. How sweet is the world when this day makes ready for rest. — Agnes Foley Macdonald in "Once and Again"; the Maru Lescarbot Books of New World Poetry.

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The Poet's Corner

ONE DAY'S ENDING Light, like the flash of a flame in the sunset sky, The sudden, swift dip of a wing as a gull sweeps by, The grey-green water warmed with a touch of rose, The boats, coming in with the tide at the long day's close, The weather-stained wharf and the salty smell of the sea, The tangled strands of seaweed edging the shore, And brown-legged children shouting in youth's high glee, A mother, eyes shaded, watching them from her door.

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