

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co.

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MAR. 20, 1953

City Estimates

The estimated surplus of the city of Charlottetown for the present year is \$2,659.14, which is, of course, simply a balanced budget.

Major factors in forcing the increase are: the addition of \$44,000 to the School Board's estimates, which merely take care of current operations; heavy increases in the sinking funds which should have been in effect much earlier; and increased interest charges as a result of capital expenditures and rising interest rates.

The budget on its face looks worse than previous ones partly because street repairs are charged as expenses whereas the practice had grown up of treating such costs as capital outlays.

The tax rate is a heavy burden on Charlottetown citizens and can be expected to increase. Compared with other Canadian cities, of course, we still escape lightly but it is at the cost of minimum services and minimum education.

Replacement Tire Taxes

In a post-budget announcement Finance Minister Abbott has made it clear that not only would a proposed 15 per cent excise tax on replacement tires and tubes for farm machinery be dropped, but he was going further and wiping out a 15 per cent tax which national revenue had been collecting on replacement tires and tubes for farmers' tractors.

For several years an excise tax was collected on tires and tubes sold to farmers to replace worn-out original tires and tubes on farm tractors and equipment. That tax was collected under Section 13 of Schedule One of the Excise Tax Act.

This provision of the Excise Tax Act was the subject of an appeal to the Tariff Board against a ruling of the National Revenue Department. The ruling was that replacement tires for tractors and fork-lift trucks are subject to excise tax under the classification: "Tires . . . for automotive vehicles of all kinds."

The contention of the National Revenue Department was, briefly, that the phrase "automotive vehicles of all kinds" was so comprehensive as to include not only motor vehicles but practically all self-propelled machinery. The Tariff Board after hearing the case said the department's contention overlooked the fact that in the Excise Tax Act the key word was "vehicles", other words being descriptive.

However, the Department of National Revenue apparently realized it had lost the case before the board. In anticipation of the board's ruling it took action to have the Excise Act amended while the 1952 budget was before the House of Commons, in committee. The amendment re-imposed the excise tax on replacement tires for tractors and other such equipment, which the Tariff Board had ruled could not be collected under the previous wording of the act.

It was paradoxical that this 1952 budget which was amended to impose an excise tax on replacement tires and tubes for tractors, including farmers' tractors, was the same budget which removed the customs duty under Tariff Item 618b (1) on all replacement tires for agricultural imple-

ments and machinery.

But in the rush to get the change made to the excise tax in the budget at the last session, the officials framing the amendment left a flaw. The amendment as it was worded did not cover replacement tires and tubes on trailers or other wheeled attachments towed by tractors, or fork-lift trucks. Accordingly to plug that loophole in the budget brought down at this session, on Feb. 19, the Department of National Revenue had proposed another amendment to the Excise Act. It provided for a tax of 15 per cent being collected on tires and tubes to be used on trailers or other wheeled attachments used in connection with "self-propelled machines."

Even the Finance Minister, however, apparently was unaware of the implications of the proposed change in the Excise Tax Act because when members of Parliament from Manitoba and Saskatchewan approached him for an explanation he said it was not the Government's intention to impose a tax on replacement tires for farmers' equipment. He acknowledged that confusion had developed over this proposed new tax and to clear up the confusion he made his statement in the House with regard to dropping the two taxes.

The One And Only

With the death of Stalin, notes the Montreal Gazette, Prime Minister Churchill is the only remaining member of the Big Three who directed the Allies to victory in the Second World War. This is triumph enough, to have survived the gigantic strain of leading a battered, besieged country to a smashing victory. It was definitely the ordeal of wartime leadership which was the main cause of President Roosevelt's death.

This year the British Prime Minister will be 79. Age has begun to slow him down a little, but only a little. He capably handles one of the most important posts in the world. His zest for life is immense. His wit is as keen, his language as powerful, his strategy as wise as ever. Perhaps it is time to stop labelling him one of the Big Three. Mr. Churchill is in a class by himself.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Spring begins at 6:01 p.m.

The school of experience is the school of hard knocks, particularly when it comes to driving a car. As pointed out by Dr. MacMillan in the House, youthful drivers provide the greatest problem and proper instruction for them would be effort well spent.

A current picture showing in Charlottetown deals with a real incident in which a single R.C.M.P., Daniel (Peaches) Davis, took over the escorting of 1100 Indians from a troop of American cavalry. In recording the story, L. C. Douthwaite recalls that the name of the American in charge was Pershing, later to command the American Expeditionary Force.

The friendly acknowledgement from Buckingham Palace of Mr. James Pendergast's picture of the model of Glamis Castle owned by Lt.-Col. Johnstone is typical of a new kind of royal letter. Formerly palace replies to communications were highly impersonal. Now they are apt to show interest in the writer and subject and even encourage further correspondence on particular points.

The measures taken by Britain to assist the American embargo on trade in strategic goods with Communist China are in accordance with a U. N. resolution, it is pointed out by the United Kingdom Information Office. The resolution passed by the Assembly on May 18th, 1951 recommended every member state to put an embargo on the shipment to areas controlled by the Chinese or North Korean Governments of materials of strategic value.

Ferdinand Foch, French general, died this date 1929. He fought in the Franco-Prussian war. Later he entered an artillery school and was commissioned lieutenant in 1875. By 1895 he was history instructor at staff college and his lectures were published as, "Principles of War." He also published other standard books on tactics and strategy. He became a marshal of France in 1918 and generalissimo of the allied forces in France and Flanders. His appointment marked the change from the darkest days of the war to the process of "rolling up" the German armies.

Landing Discouraged



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.

LABOR UNIONS

Sir,—On Wednesday the 18th, the Labor Union in Charlottetown were shocked at a statement by Dr. W. J. P. McMillan in the Legislature, that labor unions are the biggest menace in this country. Coming from Dr. MacMillan, who only a short time ago, at a meeting of his party in the Canadian Legion hall, said: "Never as long as there's a breath in my body will labor be crucified in this Province," it is easy to understand why labor officials rubbed their eyes and took a second look before they could believe what they were reading. The good Doctor said that unions were the next thing to Russianism. Does he believe that about the P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture, the Fishermen's Union, the Medical Association, Merchants' Association, and all other groups who are organized to protect themselves, or is Labor alone denied this right?

As far as strikes and wages are concerned, we want Dr. MacMillan and all the people of this Province to know we haven't had a strike in over fifty years and our scale of wages for our work is the lowest in Canada.

There are always differences of opinion as to what the working man is entitled to, and what the employer can pay. I think it is apparent that it is easier to increase prices than to increase wages. Competition is supposed to keep prices at a reasonable level, but the increase in the cost-of-living index which has taken place in Canada since controls were lifted indicates that competition has to a considerable extent fallen down on the job.

If Dr. MacMillan has a bone to pick with one union, why condemn all unions? Our union has been the only pillar the working man in Charlottetown has had to lean on for the past fifty years. No government in the Province has done anything for labor and the working man in Charlottetown would be working for "30c per yet if it wasn't for the Labourer's Protective Union.

Our repeated boast is that 85 percent of our members are ex-service men, and being called Russians doesn't go down with them very well; and Dr. MacMillan may be very sorry he made that statement. The Government of P. E. Island tried to outlaw unions in this Province and failed, but now with the good Dr. gone over to the enemy he may be encouraged to try again; but our union is 60 years old and like Johnny Walker we are still going strong, and we will still be here 50 years from now; and we do "earn our bread by the sweat of our brow."

I am, Sir, etc. LEMUEL T. RUSH Labourers Protective Union No. 9568 Charlottetown

The Age-Old Story

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

SIRENS READY

VANCOUVER, (CP) — Twenty-eight air raid sirens will be installed here by the end of the month, civil defence officials reported. Mounted on firehalls and schools, they cost \$20,120, of which the federal government contributes \$14,120.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) THE PICTOU SERVICE

"The Sloop Lady, with the mall and passengers, arrived here from Pictou on Friday last. The same day, the Pocahontas, Steamer, arrived from Miramichi, having been despatched from Pictou for that port on the Tuesday previous, by one of the owners, on private business. As this was considered a violation of the agreement with government, the Executive very properly refused to put the return mail on board of her, or to employ her further, until ample security was given that no such deviation should again occur. Upon this she steamed off for Pictou, with a great number of passengers, and again returned yesterday; and we understand that everything is now satisfactorily arranged so as to guard against future disappointment. We are happy to learn, that instead of twice, the owners even intend running her three times a week during the present season, which will materially facilitate the intercourse with the opposite coast, and thus form an additional inducement for travellers to visit a spot possessing so many objects of attraction as this Island presents to the tourist, and also to those who, in search of health and recreation, seek to inhale the pure air of its coasts." —Royal Gazette, May 21, 1833.

Dress For Coronation

(Ottawa Journal) Paramount Chief Mwanawina III of Barotseland, Northern Rhodesia, will attend the Coronation in London in a uniform which has a cocked hat the experts call "half military and half naval style". All this must be impressive but what we enjoy most was the news that he will carry a horsehair fly whisk when, with due pomp, he takes his seat in Westminster Abbey.

Along the Zambesi a fly whisk is important to living as winter rubbers in Ottawa and we cannot but toy with the glorious scene in old London if all the distinguished guests were as homespun as Chief Mwanawina. We could be prepared to have our Mayor carry the broadaxe he considers symbol of the Ottawa Valley, his totem even at the risk of Cockney yells of "ere comes the he-execution-er". We would have the Western members of Parliament wear their widest ten-gallon hats and the stout men from the Maritimes look like sailormen in sou-westers.

Canadians from mining areas could carry cubes of unrefined gold and Mr. Howe might be persuaded to help the nation's trade and pride with a neat basket of McIntosh Red apples (very becoming with a frock coat) or a star glittering model of a North Star airplane. Although it may be Summer, and hot, there should be some put on mackinaws for the occasion and make the colorful Heralds in their golden tunics look as dull as crows.

In this relaxed but prideful atmosphere we would certainly expect Mr. St. Laurent to wear one of the Indian headresses he can don as an honorary chief and Mr. Drew could easily put on homespun and a dogged look to portray the indomitable spirit of the Ontario pioneers, including the United Empire Loyalists of happy memory. To show that the Scottish strain had flourished in Canada we would have Premier Angus Macdonald of Nova Scotia, stubborn Scot that he is, present in full Highland regalia which naturally would lead to costumed representatives of other groups in Canada, all symbolic of the variety that sparks this country.

DYMOURCH, England (CP) — The 220-year-old inn known as "The Victoria" in this Kent town will be re-named "The Ocean". That was the original name, revealed under the date 1733 when repairs were being made.

The Poet's Corner

THE BARREL-ORGAN There's a barrel-organ carolling across a golden street In the city as the sun sinks glittering and slow; And the music's not immortal but the world has made it sweet And enriched it with the harmonies that make a song complete In the deeper heavens of music where the night and morning meet, As it dies into the sunset glow; And it pulses through the pleasures of the city and the pain That surround the singing organ like a large eternal light, And they've given it a glory and a part to play again In the Symphony that rules the day and night. And there, as the music changes, The song runs round again Once more it turns and ranges Through all its joys and pain; Dissects the common carnival Of passions and regrets, And the wheeling world remembers all The wheeling song forgets. —Alfred Noyes.

Raleigh Manuscript

(Winnipeg Free Press) Dating from the Elizabethan period, its existence unsuspected for centuries, a manuscript of considerable historical interest has been found in a private library in England. The discovery comprises documents, drawings and notes for Sir Walter Raleigh's History of the World. The manuscript was compiled by Raleigh during his imprisonment in the Tower of London, and is now in the care of the Headmaster of Winchester.

The manuscript is an admirable example of Raleigh's work. It consists of 200 quarto-size parchment pages, is handsomely bound in cream vellum and tied with ribbons of green silk. It includes fifteen maps with historical notes, and a list of the books Raleigh kept in the Tower. On the flyleaf there is a poem addressed to Cynthia—the name which Raleigh used for Queen Elizabeth. Commenting on the manuscript in London Calling, Mr. Bernard Forbes observes that each page of Sir Walter's notebook is lettered as well as numbered and has two finely drawn red margins; and the historical notes with their hundreds of Latin names are still easy to read.

Although they have come down so many centuries some of the maps appear as if they were only recently painted. They include outlines of Palestine, Persia and Egypt, brilliantly illuminated with olive green, blue, pink, vermilion and red water colors. Others are well sketched in black and white. One of the maps of North America includes a lake described as "a lake of hot water that cureth leprosy".

As Mr. Forbes rightly observes, the poem to Cynthia, in which Sir Walter gives her all the names of the maiden goddesses, is of unusual interest to scholars because, so far as is known, there is only one other manuscript of a poem by Raleigh in existence, and that too is addressed to Queen Elizabeth. But there will be great interest also in the library list of the 200 or so books Raleigh preserved "uring his thir"-n years in the Tower. Among them was the big Ortelius Atlas printed in 1570, and a book of navigation charts quaintly described as "a book of sea cards".

LONDON (CP) — A rare Canadian postage stamp, the 12-penny black issued in 1851, brought \$476 at a stamp collectors' auction here. The first timber was cut on the site of North Bay, Ont., about 1850.

Notes By The Way

The honor system seems to be spreading. It is tried in prisons, and dentists' offices are now located at street level where the patient is free to escape out the window.—Detroit News.

In a contest in the United Kingdom for the best answer to the question: "Why is a newspaper like a woman?" a lady contestant won a trip to Bermuda. Her winning answer: "Because every man should get one of his own and not look at his neighbor's." —St. Catharines Standard.

The chairman of the House Appropriations Committee of Congress, has announced the appointment of 75 business and management experts to help him trim the budget for fiscal year 1954, doubling this effort "Operation Economy." The group will work in "teams" with each team responsible for a particular agency of the government. They will report to the committee within six weeks.—Ottawa Journal.

Our esteemed fellow-citizen, Col. R. J. Birtwhistle, brings us as a curiosity a 232-page anniversary edition of the Daily Oklahoman, a newspaper published in Oklahoma City. This gigantic paper weighs 3 1/2 pounds, sells at 25 cents (the postage to Ottawa was another 45 cents), and the publishers note proudly that 1,000,000 pounds of newspaper or 500 tons were consumed in the printing of 300,000 copies — 20 carloads of newspaper, it explains. The count in trees (probably Canadian trees) is not given.—Ottawa Journal.

Out in the countryside lambs are being born, another certain sign spring is on the way. There is no more delightful herald of spring than a little lamb. At birth, lambs are leggy, awkward things, distinguished mainly for their innocent appearance and gentle mien. After a few days nursing at their mothers, however, they soon fill out into round, woolly little fellows. Of all the young animals which arrive annually on farms, lambs are probably the favorites for children. They easily can be made into pets. Indeed, often this is necessary when a lamb becomes an orphan or where the mother has more lambs than nature equipped her for feeding. Lambs are playful, scrambling and jumping about on their tiny feet. And they are cleanly, but what is most appealing about them is their aspect of innocence. In a sheep, this characteristic resembles stupidity. In a lamb it still can be regarded as only innocence.—Windsor Star.

A new-to-do-well whose brother-in-law is a minister has told us the following, with many a secular giggle. The minister, driving his family across the country to California, stopped at a gas station near Elko, Nevada, where his children saw their first slot machine. Their disapproving papa, seeking to demonstrate the one-sidedness of such devices, inserted a dime, which, he said, inserted a dime, have gone to buy them soft drinks. Well, match, this brought a twenty-dime return. The beneficiary, not knowing what else to do, began dropping the dimes back in the machine. With his fourth dime, he hit the jackpot. And there let us leave him, surrounded by his admiring progeny, and a small group of spectators, a ruined man.—The New Yorker

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