

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, OCT. 7, 1952

Canada's Minister Of Finance

Visiting the Island today, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade, is Canada's Minister of Finance and Receiver General, the Hon. Douglas C. Abbott. Like a great many other Canadians, Mr. Abbott is aware that this country has high taxation, too high to be continued for more than a relatively brief period.

The unfortunate practical difficulty is that, although many economies could be made, the amount of reduction which is recognized as desirable can only be brought about, except as a temporary expedient, by a very considerable reduction in governmental activity. More than half of Federal expenditures are for defence, past, present or future so that any reduction in that direction depends upon a change for the better in the international situation.

About one billion of the \$4 1/2 billion budget is required for various forms of social security which people demand and which governments certainly would not think of withholding. Out of the tax rental agreements the Provinces received only some \$300 million, less than half the sum which the Federal Government itself spends in the course of its ordinary operations.

This scale of spending would probably have been impossible but for the remarkable innovation of the "pay as you go" system by which both firms and individuals keep their taxes paid up to date throughout the year, rather than being faced with a staggering bill at the end of the period. The system made possible the astonishing expansion of government activity which has taken place in recent years.

While the Minister will doubtless deal with the country's finances in his address at the Trade Board meeting this evening, it is to be hoped that his visit will also be in the nature of a brief holiday from the cares of office. No one shoulders a heavier responsibility in the Cabinet than does Mr. Abbott, and stamina as well as ability in a marked degree is required for the discharge of his onerous duties. Our citizens appreciate this fact, and would welcome him here oftener if it were possible for him to come as a summer vacationist.

Immigration On Increase

According to the latest bulletin issued by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, 16,687 persons arrived in Canada last July to make their homes here. Nearly 5,000 of them came from the British Isles, about 1,000 were from the United States and almost 7,500 came from Holland, Germany or Italy. The others, 3,590 of them, will be exchanging letters with those they left behind in lands as far apart as Spain and China.

"Included in the July intake," says the Department, "were 6,124 men, 5,522 women and 5,041 children under the age of 18." Farmers, clerks, skilled and unskilled workers, professional men and domestic servants, this "July intake" is settling into the Canadian scene from P. E. Island to the Yukon. For most of them, about 12,000, the journey ended in Quebec or Ontario; only a comparatively small number came to the Maritimes.

We are still a long way from equalling the great days of immigration before the First World War when in one year Canada could absorb nearly 300,000 people from the Old World. But last year's immigration was the greatest since those days with 194,391; and this year's total bids fair to be larger still.

Those Fundamentals

Joining with business and other organization in the complaint against present-day educational methods, The Canadian Nurse, magazine of the Canadian Nurses' Association, notes that far too many students are being graduated from high schools unable to cope with the elementary subjects.

The Canadian Nurse comments upon the "inability of many candidates to schools of nursing to spell, write legibly, or do the simple arithmetic that is essential in computing quantities in drugs and solutions. Grammar seems to be another hurdle many high school graduates cannot jump."

Schools of nursing—in an analogous endeavour with the universities and the normal schools and the business offices—have to turn to and attempt to teach their

entrance classes "the fundamentals of fractions, how to print properly, sometimes even how to spell." The schools have discovered that "it is not that the girls are incapable of doing the required sums, of writing or printing a tidy script, but that they have never been taught how."

The Canadian Nurse recommends to the nurses' associations that they make "regular and repeated appeals to the Provincial Ministers of Education" which "will draw their attention to the apparently low standard of education in basic subjects" found among high school graduates.

The Canadian Nurse also urges the nurses' associations to appeal to the principals of public schools and to home and school associations. "When parents realize," it points out hopefully, "that a life may hang on their daughter's ability to calculate the correct fractional doses in medications; they will get behind a nurses' campaign for greater stress being laid upon these aspects of basic education."

An exchange points out, however, that the disadvantage does not stop there. "This crime which is being committed across Canada in our educational institutions," it says, "is not primarily a crime against schools of nursing education, or business offices, or universities. It is primarily, and ultimately also against the children of Canada."

EDITORIAL NOTES

An American car is being produced which has only three doors, the back seat being open only towards the sidewalk. It would settle the whole conflict between good manners and highway safety if cars were made so that they could not be entered from the traffic side.

Charles Ricketts, British painter, died this date 1931. In 1896 he started the Vale Press, a series of octavo reprints for which he designed the type founts known as Vale, Avon, and King's, together with numerous engraved illustrations. He published "The Prado and Its Masterpieces", a book on Titian.

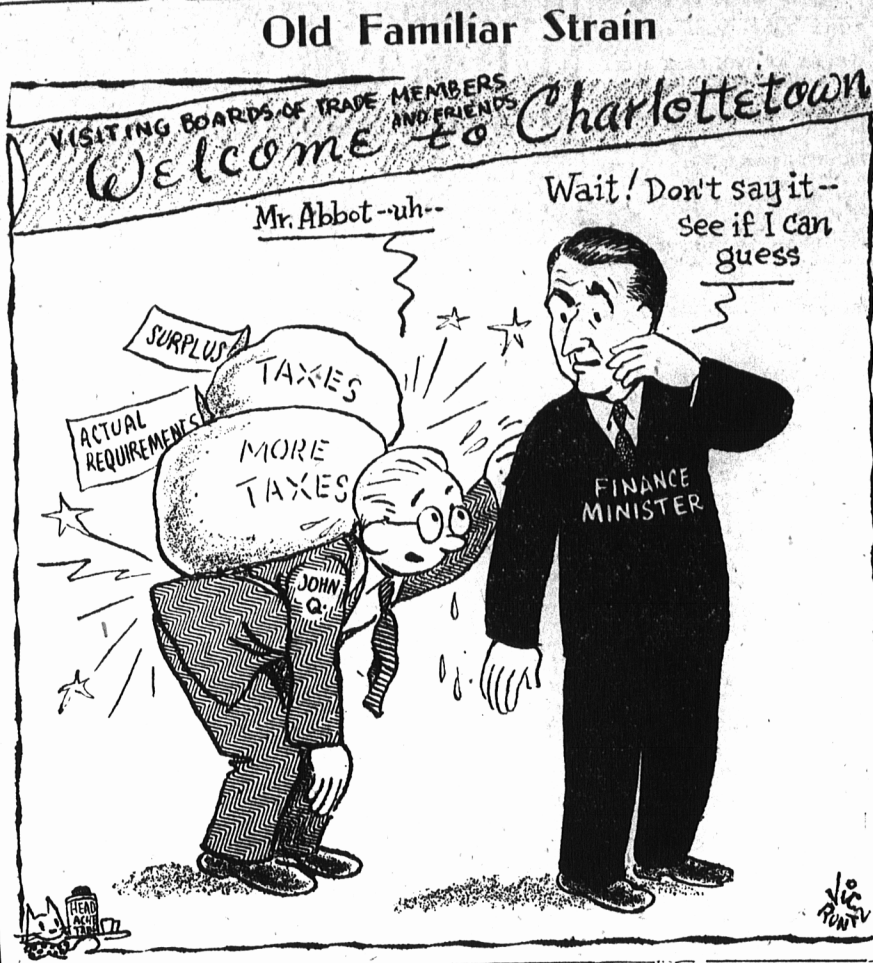
That Canadian women are not represented in greater numbers in political life is not the fault of such individuals as Miss Sybil Bennett, president of the Women's Progressive Conservative Association for Canada now visiting the Island. Her group recognizes the fact that to wield any effective influence in political life it is necessary to be active between as well as before elections.

Welcome to the delegates attending the annual meeting of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade. Their two-day sessions commence with a luncheon at The Charlottetown at which a welcome will be extended by the Lieutenant Governor, the Premier and the Mayor of Charlottetown. It would seem to be in order, by the way, to change the name to the Atlantic Provinces Board of Trade.

Despite the armistice negotiations, the Korean war continues to exact a substantial toll in terms of life. Figures given to the British House of Commons at the end of July show that in the year which followed the opening of the armistice negotiations, the United Nations forces suffered 80,000 casualties, of whom 16,000 were killed. Of the total, 48,000 were South Koreans. There were 2,500 casualties in the British Commonwealth forces, of whom 400 were killed. The United Kingdom casualties were 1,300 but the casualties in the various other contingents are not given.

South Africa's National Veld Trust hopes that one day its Green Cross will be used throughout the world as a symbol of soil conservation. Mr. T. C. Robertson, general manager of the Trust, expressed this hope in a letter which he wrote recently to Dr. Hugh Bennet, the famous United States expert on soil conservation. The Veld Trust, he wrote, was attempting to rally South Africa by the use of a symbol—a green Cross—which would signify man's determination to heal the wounds in the earth just as the Red Cross stood for the healing of the wounded human body.

With some bitterness, the Spanish Information Bulletin reports that a Spanish humorist recently wrote that one of the main assets which some European countries possess is having a strong Communist party. France and Italy have been showered with continual donations from the United States, precisely because they were countries where Communism was very deep-rooted. The greatest Spanish misfortune, the humorist contended, consisted in not having a Communist revolutionary party. As a solution, he suggested the creation of a small, pacific and well-educated Communist Party which would serve as an attraction for multi-million dollar grants.



The Poet's Corner

CATHEDRAL MUSIC I entered a dim minster, where Aisles of praise and towers of prayer Fenced me round from all the strife

Of this illegible, blurred life: And I put from me, one by one, Riddles that bemuse the Sun, And deep into oblivion hurled The undecipherable world.

And through the rich and jeweled gloom That roused some crusader's tomb, There rose and rolled a golden wave: Surged reverberant down the nave; Ravishingly, with violence sweet, Stormed the earth from 'neath my feet:

Swept me as a leaf abroad In great tides of billowing laud; And left me, amid regions far, Desolate — cast upon a star.

—Sir William Watson.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

GAME LAWS

"We are glad to see that the Stipendiary Magistrate is urging the game laws of this Province to be observed. By his orders this morning the police seized and confiscated for the use of the poor some 27 rabbits. The vendors were severely reprimanded and given distinctly to understand that on any further violation of the law, the full fine of \$5.00 for each animal would be imposed. The 1st of March is, in our opinion, none too soon to prevent the killing of rabbits. The breeding season has then already begun. Surely our people have sense to see that if these animals are permitted to be killed out this season it certainly means total extermination in a few years. There are, we believe, one or two establishments in the Island for potting hares. We trust that they are not violating the law. Magistrates throughout the country should allow no infraction of the law in this particular. This species of game are a source of profit to many a poor man, and are now apparently a source of revenue to the country. It is a criminal act on a magistrate's part, knowingly to permit the slaughter of these poor animals at this season."

—The Examiner, March 4, 1883

Farming In Europe

(Service d'Information Francaise) The evolution of agriculture in Europe in the past two hundred years is typically illustrated in France. The early feudal days, when the land was divided among the relatively few barons and other aristocratic families, left the peasants who worked the land always faced with a precarious livelihood. The great reforms following the revolution divided a great deal of the land up among the peasants, and this independence has continued as individual farms grew, until it was the boast of France that there were about 10,000,000 landowners in the population, and the mortgage was a form of insecurity almost unknown. The 20th century has seen a reversal of the trend. The division of ownership meant, in the 19th century, that the peasants were locally almost self-sufficient because they could sell their surpluses on the local market and satisfy most of their needs. The phenomenal growth of industrial groups and the vast changes in agriculture as a science have changed all this. Instead of the fear of famine, new methods and machinery make one of the dangers of over-production which places the farmer in a position of inferiority in transacting business with great organizations which are

Notes By The Way

Almost every day the scientists leave us gasping. Now, in Montreal, they have a microcalorimeter which can measure the heat of a fly's breath. Naturally, that is something we always wanted to know.—Oitawa Journal.

We refer to Canadian bilingualism. We are under-rating ourselves terribly. We're multi-lingual. In Victoria we have people who speak Chinese and English, Hindustani and English, Greek and English, Ukrainian and English, Bilingual? Collectively Canadians use many tongues. It would be preferable, of course, if more Canadians gained proficiency in the two languages which have official status. But at that, it might be better to concentrate first on fluency in one. Will all those who have mastered English please raise their right hands? — Victoria Times

The Korean war has reaped the lives of 3,000. American soldiers in the first seven months of the year. But road accidents cost the lives of 20,000 people, or seven times as many. Nobody cries out against this automobile hecatomb which there is pity for the fate of the soldier dead on the field of battle. In spite of safety campaigns and the vigilance of traffic police, accident losses constantly increase, and experts do not foresee the day when the safety of the road will be definitely assured.—Le Soleil, Quebec.

Harry Truman has no pretensions as a connoisseur of art. He refers to modern art as "daubs" and says it's all "nutty." Last Tuesday the President went to a Georgetown antique shop to buy a painting for Mrs. Truman for their home in Independence, Mo. He told the dealer he didn't know what he wanted, but he knew how

strong enough to govern the market. This, plus the great mechanization of agriculture, brought the threat that it might be necessary to abandon to some extent the small independent farms as uneconomic. In France, the first anxiety began to be felt among the independent farmers almost 70 years ago, and the first agricultural unions date back to 1884. These, as they grew, were gradually turned into co-operatives, buying the machinery and tools they needed in common. Today, more than 1,000,000 members belong to co-operative buying organizations, and they have spread into all types of production: Dairy, wine-growing, fruit, grain and vegetables. Through this system the farmers believe they can retain their individual sense of ownership and yet, by co-operative buying and selling, meet some of the problems created by mass-production in other fields today.

The British Medical Journal recently reported a case that strikes us as having a classic simplicity rare in medical annals these days. A twenty-eight-year-old British housewife turned bright yellow. Her physician investigated, and learned that she had been eating a pound of carrots a day for a year. He suggested that perhaps the carrots had turned her yellow, and sent her to a hospital for examination. There she was taken off carrots, and she quickly regained her natural coloring. What we like about this is that it suggests a simple cause-and-effect relationship we thought had gone out with Galen. No acquired tolerance, no toxic side effects, no endocrinological imbalance, no psychosomatic disturbance. Just a clean-cut situation: eat carrots, yellow; stop eating carrots, pink. We're going to speak to our doctor about that.—New Yorker.

Some say that a boy who intends to go into agriculture is only wasting his time if he pursues the study of Latin. But is it anything that opens up new horizons of thought really a waste of time? For a farmer a knowledge of practical agriculture is essential but, presumably, he has a mind to care for as well as fields to plow and harrow soil to preserve, and need to nurture. An intelligent interest in the classics might not help him make more money but it ought to help him

achieve a more balanced personality, and that in itself must be worth something. That it is unworthy doesn't matter much what a man does to make a living so long as he has within him something which helps him to live as distinct from the mere physical ability to sustain life. It is a common practice to pick out certain "practical" items and draw a circle around them. Whatever is not within the circle is assumed to be "impractical," that is to say of no use for anything but ornamental purposes and designs. The difficulty about this arbitrary arrangement is that it is unworthy, for no one is quite wise enough to say exactly at what point the practical and the impractical come to the parting of the ways. To one man a great work of art is perfectly useless. To another it is the only thing that brings him to salvation, using the word in its primary not theological sense.

Who will say that study of the great historical processes which have given life and energy to world civilizations is not worth while? Here again it is not the actual facts that count so much as the stimulus these facts provide for the over-all task of living. A pragmatic interest in the here and now is doubtless of value, but the horizons of history, there and then, are also worth considering, for there is something of tradition in every man. He is heir to all that has ever been.

There is no denying that the study of Latin is one thing that does not bring one to think can be painfully dull and akin to drudgery. But it can also be in the nature of adventure and romance. It all depends, I expect, on the kind of human touch that is involved, for the essential task of living is to lead, dried bones with living flesh.

My own acquaintance with the language of the Caesars began when I was about twelve. My teacher knew all there was to know about Latin and practically nothing about the psychology of the young. He was an old boy. About the only thing that really interested me the first year, I recall with shame, was the trim cut of the master's moustache which appeared to grow in size and glamour with every oral lesson in Latin. It never occurred to the learned man that any human being could find difficulty with Latin conjugations and the sweet cadences thereof.

On my part I was careful not to let on that it was all a very deep mystery likely to be brought out into the light of day. So there were no hard feelings between us. I will admit, though, that many of the intellectual delights of the years since then had their embryo beginnings in that early and apparently hopeless confusion which was thrust upon me.

The Age-Old Story

What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that makes of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach; Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it. But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer A WORD FOR THE CLASSICS

For some time now in the United States and Canada there has been a good deal of controversy over the public schools. Almost every class periodical that reads has something bearing on the subject. The controversy is not new. It has in fact been going on for many years. But in these days it is being given more than its former emphasis for the simple reason that people everywhere are becoming more and more interested in everything concerning education of the young.

It is well that it should be so, for certainly the schools of a country are a fair index of its strength and stability. Perhaps it is not too much to say that schools, not political institutions, create the essential patterns of any nation.

Controversy concerning the present school systems is, however, not the only thing that has to do with what might be called the classical versus the technical emphasis in modern elementary and secondary education. The trend in many quarters seems to be in the direction of more intensive technical or vocational training, the purpose of which is to equip young people with the skills that are necessary for making a living.

This, of course, is a plausible objective. As life becomes more and more complex and industry more and more mechanized, it is right and proper that a young person should, so to speak, be given the right tools for whatever jobs they will be called upon to do. This applies to a farming community as well as any other kind of society.

The Premier was recently quoted as saying that "when a boy leaves high school he should be ready to go to work, and in this Province that means either farming or fishing." It would be easy enough to find flaws in a statement like that, but, of course, the Premier was speaking in general terms. No doubt, if he were called upon to elaborate, he would be quite able and willing to point out certain exceptions in his general premise. The statement does, however, emphasize the necessity for a measure of vocational training and guidance in our schools and perhaps that is what the Premier had chiefly in mind.

Responsible criticism is not, I think, aimed at so-called "practical" instruction in the schools, but at the stimulation of traditional classical studies should be curtailed in order to make more room for the technical. This sort of assumption, if carried to its logical conclusion, might indeed make qualified technicians, but it would hardly produce good thinkers.

It is not likely that science will ever be able to perfect a machine that will be a satisfactory substitute for the stimulating processes of philosophical thought. And to encourage these processes is the sole aim, or at least the basic aim, of classical studies and training.

Some say that a boy who intends to go into agriculture is only wasting his time if he pursues the study of Latin. But is it anything that opens up new horizons of thought really a waste of time? For a farmer a knowledge of practical agriculture is essential but, presumably, he has a mind to care for as well as fields to plow and harrow soil to preserve, and need to nurture. An intelligent interest in the classics might not help him make more money but it ought to help him

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