

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1951

Agricultural Manpower

The trek to the big cities from the land is a continuing but not constant phenomenon. In hard times it is almost negligible and may even briefly be reversed.

One answer is to replace the vanished countrymen with immigrants and that serves to relieve the situation but without removing the cause. The fact is that life can be easier, hours of work shorter, wages higher and opportunities for recreation and education more readily available in the city than in the country.

If immigrants are used to keep down the standard of living of farm labour, their coming merely speeds up the migration of the native to the beckoning city. If immigration of farm labour is to bring worth while results we must make sure that the newcomers are well paid and enjoy satisfactory working and living conditions.

Plutarch Up-To-Date

A Washington exchange goes back to Plutarch for a parallel point on the crisis centering upon General MacArthur. Caesar had endangered a truce with the Germans, and the great historian of antiquity quotes Cato as addressing the Senate in these words: "We have reason to thank the Gods, for that they spared the commonwealth, and did not take vengeance upon the army for the madness and folly of the general."

Plutarch adds: "Hereupon Caesar wrote a letter to the Senate, which was read openly and was full of reproachful language and accusations against Cato, who, standing up, seemed not at all concerned and, without heat or passion, but in a clear and, as it were, premeditated discourse made all Caesar's charges against him look like mere common scolding and abuse. Proceeding then to go into all Caesar's political courses and to explain and reveal his whole conduct and purpose from its commencement, he concluded by telling the Senate it was not the sons of Britain or the Gauls they need fear, but Caesar himself if they were wise, and this discourse so moved and awakened the Senate that Caesar's friends repented they had had a letter read which had given Cato an opportunity of saying so many reasonable things and such severe truths against him."

Is Mr. Abbott Next P.M.?

Arthur Blakely writing in the Montreal Gazette says:

"Finance Minister Douglas C. Abbott may have brought down his last Budget. It's pretty generally known around the capital that he feels that it's time for a change. In all probability, he will get one before too many months. The change might come as part of the big Cabinet shuffle that has been pending for so long.

"Canadian ministers of finance usually have to work much harder at their jobs than most of their Cabinet colleagues. Only rarely (usually in an election year) are they permitted the luxury of a "sunshine Budget." More often, they are the purveyors of bad news. Before it is packaged in gift wrappings and delivered to Parliament, each Budget has to be scrutinized for political as well as economic effects. Parliament usually demands that it be justified on both grounds. This can be difficult.

"Abbott has held his present portfolio since December, 1946. Earlier, he had been an interim Minister of National Defence (Army). He took over, as Minister of Finance, from the Rt. Hon. J. L. Isley, now Chief Justice of Nova Scotia. At that time, Mr. Isley had had the post since 1940. The finance portfolio, tough enough at any time, was even tougher through the war years. Mr. Isley wasn't the same man when he moved over to the Ministry of Justice, briefly, prior to his retirement from political life.

"While it is probably true that Mr. Abbott has not had as many sleepless nights as his predecessor in office, he's had his share of weighty problems. And during wartime, Mr. Isley didn't have to worry too much about the political aspects of his budgets. Mr. Abbott has. This may be another reason why he thinks he's done his time.

"Just where the Minister of Finance would go from there, is an interesting matter for speculation. He could retire to his

excellent law practice in Montreal. But he's still a young man, politically—he'll be 52 May 29. And Prime Minister St. Laurent would likely be reluctant to see him depart. There have been suggestions that he might return to his first Cabinet post, as Minister of National Defence. This is a big job, getting bigger. And it has the advantage of offering a change of scenery. The Department of Justice might also have its attractions.

"And when Prime Minister St. Laurent decides to retire from public life—and he will have to chart his plans shortly if they are not already drafted—the Liberals will have to look about for another leader. As of this moment, the two names mentioned most frequently as potential successors are those of Mr. Abbott and of External Affairs Minister Pearson. If the Minister of Finance has anything like this in mind, he's keeping it very much to himself. But most Liberals agree that it would be an interesting contest—assuming that the P. M. retires, that is."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 5th Sunday after Easter. Rogation Sunday.

It may be the Federal by-election in Queen's will take place in July.

Civil defence, including preparedness in first aid instruction, can now receive the attention which it requires.

This week-end there will certainly be more fishermen than politicians and the trout, though wily, provide much pleasanter sport than the elusive voter.

Tonight most of North America goes on Daylight Saving Time, except certain areas including urban centers of this Province. In the country, of course, everyone heeds the sun and becomes an early riser.

The Mutiny of the Bounty occurred this date 1789, near Tahiti. Lieut. William Bligh and 18 loyal seamen sailed the ship's launch 3,618 miles to Batavia without loss of a life. The mutineers fled to Tahiti and Pitcairn Island.

Islanders can now discuss the retail sales tax as an academic subject, secure in the knowledge that the Government has been returned to office after making it clear that no such levy is contemplated.

In a felicitous phrase Prime Minister St. Laurent described the C. C. F.'s as "Liberals in a hurry." By inference, on the analyses of Thursday's vote, he would describe Progressive Conservatives as "Liberal standpatters."

Canada has shipped 142,641 beef cattle to the United States last November, the Trade Department reported in a return tabled in the Commons. A total of 15,691 dairy cattle and 2,235 calves have been shipped during the same period.

Women will soon be back in the services, Defence Minister Claxton has announced. They did much during the last war to solve the great headache of military leaders, how to keep fighting, sea-going and flying strength up in proportion to the total number of men on ration strength.

Premier Jones would be the first to disclaim credit for setting any new record in this Province by winning three successive general elections. He shares this distinction with the late Hon. W. W. Sullivan, who led his party successfully at the polls in 1879, 1882 and 1886, holding office until November, 1889, when he was elevated to the bench.

As of Britain, we may claim: It is the land that freemen till, That sober-suited Freedom chose The land, where, girt with friends or foes, A man may speak the thing he will: A land of settled government, A land of just and old renown, Where Freedom slowly tumbles down From precedent to precedent.

Opportunity to graduate from status of politician to that of statesman is now open to several provincial premiers (says The Letter Review). The opportunity may be seized by one or all of those who have said that they will not impose a turnover tax if amendment of the B. N. A. Act should throw the field of indirect taxation open to the provinces. Consistently, these premiers should now take the further step of vetoing the proposed amendment. By doing so they would be keeping faith with the people who elected them, and also they would be showing that they have an appreciation of what the good of the country requires. The people of all provinces are rightly opposed to the amendment. No premier has a mandate to support it. Especially, no premier has a mandate to help the premier of any province to oppose the wishes of both electorates.

The P.E.I. Election

(St. John Telegraph Journal) Premier J. Walter Jones, gruff cutspoken scientific farmer, has again led the Liberal Party to victory in Prince Edward Island, as he did in 1943 and again in 1947. Many elements determine the outcome of an election and Mr. Jones' blunt but friendly personality was unquestionably one of them. Agriculturists predominate among P. E. I. voters and he appeals to them, not only because of his outstanding record as a fur rancher and cattle breeder but because he does not hesitate to call a spade a spade.

He has been frank enough to intimate publicly that he would like a Senatorship as his political reward, yet this has not prevented him from criticizing the federal government. He has consistently stood up for a better deal for his Province, demanding such things as better and cheaper transportation. He has strongly denounced the treatment accorded this region under Confederation, and before Newfoundland joined the union he warned Newfoundlanders to get all the terms down in writing, in a form that could not be repudiated, so they would not suffer from the discrimination that had retarded the growth of Prince Edward Island.

There were relatively few issues in the campaign that preceded yesterday's balloting. The Progressive Conservatives, under the leadership of Mr. R. E. Bell, E. C., concentrated most of their ammunition on the condition of the roads, which Mr. Bell described as "mud canals." A bit of fun was injected when the Minister of Education, making the rounds of his constituency in a jeep, got hopelessly stuck in sticky clay.

Mr. Jones countered this line of attack by promising improved highways. P. E. I. Government expenditures are currently ninety dollars per head of population per annum, against fifty-eight dollars in Ontario, where per capita income is much higher. Mr. Jones did not say where the funds for the highway program would come from, but presumably he has a sales tax in mind, since he is one of the Premier's who is in favor of a constitutional amendment to enable provinces to collect a tax of not more than three per cent from retailers on their sales. For some reason, the Progressive Conservatives said little about Mr. Jones' taxation plans, and this was not a major factor in the contest.

The Progressive Conservatives were the only real opposition, since the C. C. F. had just five candidates for the thirty seats in the P. E. I. Legislature and they, as usual, fared poorly.

The Jones government did not have to seek a new mandate until 1932, and many wondered why Premier Jones had decided on an election at that time—especially since the roads, at this season, are at their worst, and the market for potatoes, Prince Edward Island's chief crop, has been the poorest in years. But the Premier, apparently, felt sure of his hold on the electorate, and the ballot boxes have vindicated his judgment.

The Poet's Corner

THE FIRST PLOUGHING

Calls the crow from the pine-tree top

When the April air is still, He calls to the farmer hitching his team

In the farmyard under the hill, "Come up," he cries, "come out and come up.

For the high field's ripe to till, Don't wait for word from the dandelion Or leave from the daffodil."

Cheeps the flycatcher—"Here! old earth

Warms up in the April sun; And the first ephemera, wings yet wet.

From the mould creep one by one, Under the fence where the flies frequent

Is the earliest gossamer spun, Come up from the damp of the valley lands,

For here the winter's done."

Whistles the high-hole out of the grove,

His summoning loud and clear; "Chilly it may be down your way But the high south field has cheer. On the sunward side of the chestnut stump

The woodgrubs wake and appear, 'Come out to your ploughing, come up to your ploughing,

The time for ploughing is here."

Then dips the coulter and drives the share, And the furrows faintly steam, The crow drifts furtively down from the pine

To follow the clanking team, The flycatcher tumbles, the high-hole darts

In the young noon's yellow gleam, And wholesome sweet the smell of the sod

Upturned from its winter's dream. —Sir Chas. G. D. Roberts.

The Age-Old Story

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

GLASGOW.—(CP)—Lindsay Smith, who died here recently, left \$5 (\$15) in his will to pay a piper to entertain mourners at his funeral.

Weather Synopsis: Somewhat Cooler



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

A TRIPLE TRAGEDY

"On Tuesday night last, the house of Alexander MacLean, of Lot 32, an old and respectable inhabitant of that district, caught fire, after his family, consisting of himself and wife, three sons and three daughters, had retired, and melancholy to relate the three daughters, (the youngest nearly nineteen years of age) perished in the flames.

"It appears that the father, mother and sons had retired to rest about 10 o'clock, leaving the three young women busily engaged in making preparations for coming into town the next morning. About one o'clock, one of the sons was aroused from his slumbers in consequence of the flames bursting into the room upstairs, where he slept; he immediately threw himself out of bed, rushed down the stair case—which was on fire—and made his escape through the kitchen, which was then all in flames. His two brothers being aroused, escaped through a window from an upper room where they slept. The father, hearing the alarm, succeeded in getting out through the door; but by this time the house was so completely in flames that the only chance the mother had of saving her life, was by breaking through the window.

"The three girls slept in a room by themselves, and there being no window in the room, one of the brothers cut a hole in the house, from the outside, for the purpose of arousing them, through which the flames burst with great force, leaving the survivors to suppose that the fire must have originated in that room. The mother made an effort to get in through the hole that had been cut, and was severely burned. The parties who saved their lives were obliged to escape without even procuring their clothes. Mr. McLean, it appears, had four daughters, one of whom, the day previous to the above awful event, came to town to visit a friend, and fortunately did not return home that night, and thus, it would appear, was saved from an untimely end; for it is more than probable they would all have been in bed at the

These Expensive Trips Abroad

(By Arthur Blakely in Montreal Gazette)

Canada is now invited to so many international conferences of one kind and another that an International Conference Section has been set up in the External Affairs Department to "coordinate the invitations." During 1950, the Canadian Government was represented at a total of 168 conferences and meetings. Of these, 21 were held under the banner of the U. N. proper and another 46 were the property of the U. N.'s specialized agencies. Another 61 were convened by inter-governmental organizations, and 40 more by non-governmental groups.

The Canadian delegates did some fancy travelling. Of the 168 conferences, 103 were held in Europe. Geneva topped the list, with 28. Paris, always popular, attracted 21. London was a step or two behind with 17. During 1949, only two Canadian Government delegations got as far afield as South Asia and Australia. Last year, Canada was officially represented at 10 conferences in those areas.

The Canadian Government despatched representatives and delegations to these 168 conferences because the latter were scheduled to discuss one subject or another in which the Federal Government was (and is) interested—and Ottawa is interested in almost everything these days. The result of some of the conferences have been made known to the public. News of developments at others was available—if at all—to anyone interested in poring over tiny news items on the back pages of newspapers. But the reason for Canadian representation at some of the conferences, at least, remains fairly obscure.

Who, for example, knows why Canada was officially represented at the Washington conference of the Society of Vertebrate time the fire took place. Yesterday the remains of the unfortunate sufferers were interred in the Protestant burial ground in the vicinity of Charlottetown, attended by a large concourse of neighbours and friends." —The Islander, March 1, 1945.

REMINDER TO HOUSEHOLDERS

Persons removing their Furniture and Personal Effects, from one location to another, should notify Underwriters, and obtain a removal permit, under their policy of insurance. In the case of premises becoming vacant for more than thirty days, it is also advisable to notify Underwriters and obtain permit where necessary.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Notes By The Way

To the extent that increased taxes "drain off surplus purchasing power," Mr. Abbott will reduce personal and corporate spending, thereby reduce the demand for goods, and hence may bring about a decrease in prices. On the other hand, an increase in the sales tax to 10 percent from the present 8 percent can only result in adding two, three and four times the amount of the tax to the price paid by the consumer. And while the sales tax is not levied on foods, nothing in the budget is aimed at reducing food costs.—(Edmonton Journal.)

There is a wide difference, and a distinct difference, between political union and economic union; and there are many in this country who would favor closer (or freer) economic union between Canada and the U. S. but would not be favorable to political union in any form.—(Halifax Chronicle-Herald.)

General Crerar, in all his duties in the field and in the public eye has never given the impression of being dependent on good luck or being oppressed by changes in fortune. Yet he, this man of high responsibility and awesome decisions in warfare, has let it be known that like the veriest recruit he has been sustained by a charm, a Belgian flint pebble he picked up when thrown from the bicycle he was riding in a World War I battle line explosion. The pebble has been with him ever since and we dare to say it has served him well. It has been, besides a sensible amulet, less gaudy than the charms so many drivers hang on their windshields to blur their vision and tempt disaster, less demanding than the jewelled devices and carved stones so many hang about their bodies and count important. General Crerar well demonstrates the point that charms are not the first line of protection and are insufficient to save the foolish or inept. For the wise man, and woman, they are a little glow of added confidence, a lift to endurance, perhaps no more than a core around which to wind the thought that greater powers than those we know may preserve us. In such a case, of course, the pebble is transformed into value beyond the price of gold; for those who have no faith, no imagery, no concern with such ideas it would, naturally, remain a pebble.—(Ottawa Journal.)

What was done at the International Congress of Chocolate and Cocoa Manufacturers, at Lausanne, the International Congress of Psychiatrists, at Paris, or the Meeting of the Directing Council and Sanitary Conference of the Pan-American Bureau, at Ciudad Trujillo? What did a Canadian delegation accomplish at the Study Group of the Committee on Transit of Universal Postal Union, staged at Axenstein, Switzerland? Who, in Canada, except the delegates, are quite sure what transpired at the Administrative Committee Meeting of the International Institute of Refrigeration (Paris), or the Third Commonwealth Conference on Development, Design and Inspection of Clothing and General Stores (London)? What was decided by the Committee of Experts on the Exchange of Persons (Havana), the Third Inter-American Congress of Brucellosis (Washington), the Committee of FAO on Infestation Control and Safe Grain Storage (San Jose, Costa Rica), the Expert Committee on the Unification of the Pharmacopoeia (New York), the Preparatory Technical Tripartite Conference on Vocational Training of Adults (Geneva) or, for that matter, the General Assembly of the International Union for the Protection of Nature (Brussels)?

In each case, the answer is, not many. Better known, for one reason or another, circumstances surrounding the despatch of a Canadian observer to the International Union of Travel Organizations, in Dublin.

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