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CIRCULATION
"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, JULY 21, 1952

Why Food Prices Are High

The latest census figures indicated that the trend away from farms in Canada had accelerated in recent years—fewer people living on and working farms and more in industry. During the same period, notes the Ottawa Journal, food prices have increased, to an extent where consumer resentment has become evident and there has grown up a feeling that all farmers are rolling in wealth and are an enviable class in our population.

"What has actually happened, says our Ottawa contemporary, is that the rapid growth of industry has forced changes on agriculture to which that industry has, so far at least, been unable to adjust itself. It has forced up farm wages, taken away family help and casual labor from the farm, and has made it necessary for any good farmer who intends to stay in business to depend more and more on machinery to replace human labor. It has changed the whole conception of farming.

"Time was when to get into, and stay in, the business of farming was a relatively simple matter. That is in the limbo of the past. The very scarcity and cost of labor, mainly attributable to industrial growth, has made a large investment necessary before any farm is likely to be a paying operation. Farming has become less a vocation and way of life, more of a business requiring initial capital and continuous investment. As this idea becomes accepted, and when consumers realize they cannot have both high wages and a high standard of living plus cheap foods, the tangle between farm and urban production will work itself out."

Alberta Election

No doubt Premier Manning, who has called the Alberta general election for August 5, feels that the Social Credit victory in British Columbia has doubly assured his prospects of obtaining a fresh mandate. In its four elections since 1935, Alberta's Social Credit Government has been seriously threatened only once—in 1940—when it had become clear that its original promises of "basic dividends" and the like were impossible of realization. Following that election and mainly under the leadership of Mr. Manning, the Government has swung over to orthodox and generally conservative policies. On that basis it has twice since carried 51 seats in a House of from 57 to 60 members.

The C. C. F. Party has made little impact upon Alberta and the chief opposition seems likely to come from the Liberals under Mr. J. Harper Prowse, a vigorous critic of ministerial policies, particularly in relation to the handling of natural resources. The Winnipeg Free Press notes that in northern Alberta some revival of Liberal sentiment was apparent on the occasion of the last Federal vote, and the present contest will indicate whether this has carried over into provincial politics. Whether the reappearance of Conservative candidates will hurt Social Credit, especially in the cities, is another interesting speculation.

Feeding The World

Sir James Turner, president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, and past president of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, recently outlined three ways by which the world can get the additional food it requires.

First, he believes that governments and peoples must recognize the extent to which the world food position has changed. The overabundance of the 'thirties has been replaced by a shortage of exportable supplies. The second need is for each country that can do so, to grow more food. To make that possible, producers must be assured of adequate economical terms, comparable with those enjoyed by producers of other human needs. There must also be some continuity of these returns, and each country must work out its own system of providing stability for its agriculture, and for encouraging production. The third need is for a realistic international approach by governments to the whole problem of production and distribution of food. "The need, above all," he said, "is to strike, and maintain, a balance between extravagant food prices that force up the cost of living, and prices which, by failing to provide an economic return for capital and labor, must in themselves force down production to the point of scarcity."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Montague is experiencing something of what Charlottetown has been going through in the matter of street paving. The town traffic, however, will only be disturbed for about a week while that of the city will be detouring for several months.

* * *

In 1880, 75 per cent of the farms in the United States were owner-operated. By 1935, this figure had dropped to about 58 per cent, but since 1935, the gain in ownership has been sufficient to wipe out the 55-year decline and bring owner-operated farms back to 75 per cent.

* * *

The importance of the car ferry link between Borden and Tormentine and the necessity of its continued operation in case of a railway strike was well put by the Summerside Board of Trade in its letter to the powers-that-be. It might have been well, while they were at it, to send a copy to the brotherhoods concerned.

* * *

Dame Ellen Alicia Terry, English actress, died this date 1928. She appeared at the age of eight as a boy in "The Winter's Tale". During some eighty years she appeared in almost countless roles. Her interpretation of Portia was never excelled. Her Memoirs were published in 1932 and her correspondence with Shaw in 1931.

* * *

Provided there are no further outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, Canadian authorities may be able to declare this country free of the malady by the end of this month. But that does not mean the United States embargo will be lifted at once. The U. S. Secretary of Agriculture must first declare himself satisfied that there is no longer any infection here. Then 60 days must pass before the embargo can be lifted.

* * *

If the rain plays tricks this summer with the tourists in the Netherlands then there is one compensation anyway: they need suffer no financial loss. Up to October 1st this year the tourist who spends one or more days in Arnhem can buy an insurance policy for each day of his stay which, if it rains, gives him a claim to a compensation, provided the rainfall amounted to at least three millimetres and fell between 0900 and 1600 hours in April and May, between 10 and 1600 hours in June and between 10 and 1500 hours in July, August and September. The policies can be taken out up to seven days prior to the day on which the visitor wishes to be ensured.

* * *

"The leaders and members of the Communist terrorist bands are almost entirely alien Chinese," reports Malayan High Commissioner Sir Gerald Templer. "Of 3,045 terrorists killed since 1948, 2,845 were Chinese. The Communist propagandist claim to lead a 'national movement' is readily refuted by the wholehearted support which the Malayan people and in particular the Malays, have given and are giving to the Federal Government. Today in the Federation one-third of the able-bodied male population are voluntarily giving their services, part or full time, in Security Forces, Auxiliary Police, Home Guards and similar organisations. In a population of some five and a half million, more than half of which is under twenty-one years of age, this voluntary effort of some 400,000 men is a striking testimony to the falseness of the Communists' claim.

* * *

The initial post-war backlog of Canadian investment plans was estimated at $12 billion in 1945 dollars, says the Canadian Bank of Commerce Comment Letter, and included $6 billion for business, $2½ billion each for housing and governments and $1 billion for institutions. The subsequent rapid rise in prices has tended to create the impression that an investment boom of unprecedented proportions was in progress, but in terms of 1945 values and requirements it would appear that this has not been the case. Cumulative new capital investment, in terms of 1945 dollars, did not reach $12 billion until about the middle of 1951, by which time it included new requirements which had arisen after the war's end in connection with such costly projects as Alberta oil development and the Ungava iron ore properties. The degree to which 1945 plans were fulfilled by the end of 1950 varied considerably by category. Investment by governments had somewhat exceeded the $2½ billion requirement estimated in 1945, largely because of defence needs unforeseen at the end of the war; business investment still lagged slightly, and housing considerably, behind their respective goals, and institutions (non-government) had invested only about a quarter of the anticipated billion (1945) dollars.

Queen To Appoint No Jester

For Queen Elizabeth II, no dwarfs will pop out of huge pies, nor will gaudily clothed, jingling montebanks at her royal banquets whack guests over their heads with inflated bladders tied to sticks.

The post of court jester, a position said to have last been filled in England during the reign of the first Elizabeth, needless to say will not now be reinstated. "I fear," wrote the Royal Chamberlain to a young Scotsman who recently applied for the job," the unsophisticated days of court jesters are incapable of revival."

Lack of more sophisticated entertainment in olden days caused popes, kings, and lesser leaders to retain half-wits and later, men of outstanding humorous talents, for their amusement. Even then, men knew that laughter aids digestion. Buffoons traditionally were present at medieval meals, says the National Geographic Society.

Women Blazed Trail

Authorities believe the first jesters were women. Ceres, in search of Prosperine, was said to have been accompanied by a female jester to keep her mind off her great sorrow. Erasmus wrote of female jesters at Continental inns who also served as laundresses. Waitresses in Turkish courts served the food with wisecrack accompaniment as late as the mid-19th centuy.

The courts and great households of Europe usually contained only male "Merry Andrews". Russian grand dukes served banquet pies from which dwarfs emerged. Louis XVIII of France employed one Coulon, who was both king's physician and court jester. He was an expert mimic. Jesters played their roles in Germany, Italy, and the entourages of African potentates.

Best known to Americans, through history books and movies, are the fools and jesters of Old England. Originally the fool was an idiot and menial, the jester often an educated, witty man who could and occasionally did rise to high estate.

Wore Coats of Many Colors

The fool was garbed in particolored costume, garnished with jingling bells and topped with a headdress furnished with long ears and a stylized rooster's head. The jester wore court garb of the day. Shakespeare did not always differentiate, but used the words fool and jester to describe the same character.

These men were permitted audacious impertinences. Some became trusted advisors of monarchs. Others were blackguards who demanded payment for interviews arranged with their lords.

Circus clowns generally do not claim descent from jesters, but from traveling buffoons who served no master and who entertained the populace with jokes and slapstick.

What About The Maggie ?

What is going to be done with the Royal Canadian Navy's aircraft carrier, Magnificent? The $12 million vessel was loaned to us four years ago by Britain. Now, a new aircraft carrier, costing $20 million, is being built for the RCN at Belfast. Canada will own it outright.

Reports from Ottawa say the new ship will "replace" the Magnificent. Does this mean that the Magnificent is to be returned to Britain? Has Britain made a request for its return? If that is not the case, then it seems to us that the Magnificent should remain in Canada's service. Why not spend a couple of millions to renovate her, and thus have two aircraft carriers? We have, after all, two oceans to think about.

To maintain two carriers, the RCN would probably need more money, since the Magnificent alone takes 20 percent of its present budget. But it should be possible to find the necessary amount in the present $2.1 billion defence bill. Canadians, and notably British Columbians, will not readily believe that a nation spending that much can only afford to stand vigil on one of its coasts.

The Age-Old Story

As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. For who is God save the Lord? or who is a rock save our God? It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

The Poet's Corner

ETCHING

Here on the empty branch there
blooms a rose
More white than those that summer knew,
The picket-fence is rounded now.
The gate swings wide into a drift
Whose hollow holds a hint of blue.
Across what once was April grass
The wind's invisible armies pass.
Warped by the sun and worn by
rain
The shallow steps are smooth again
Under the kindliness of snow,
The winter door is sealed with
white.
Upon the curving of the sill
Some bird has rested from its
flight,
Leaving a single imprint here.
A simple hieroglyph to say
A visitor has passed this way.

—Sara Van Alystyne Allen.

MUSCULAR EYES

The orbit of the eye contains seven muscles.

The Neighbors

By George Clark

"Imagine what my house will look like! My husband's gang will be there all week watching us on television."

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

GAMES IN TAVERNS

From the report of the Grand Jury (William Heard, foreman) presented at the opening of the Supreme Court of Queen's County, June 27, 1862:

"The attention of the Grand Jury has been directed to the illegal practices of several of the licensed tavern keepers of this city, viz.: permitting games of chance (such as dominos, checkers, &c.) to be played for money, encouraging young men and boys to frequent their establishments, and keeping them open at very late hours; but in consideration of the plea of ignorance of the laws of this Island on these points, the Jury, after duly cautioning those persons who have been brought before them, desire thus publicly to notify all others of the illegality of such practices, and of the dangerous consequences resulting therefrom; and further, they have to express their opinion that the City authorities have been remiss, in not more particularly directing the attention of their Police to the irregularities complained of."

(The Grand Jury also complained, in its report, that a considerable number of persons were frequently seen on the Lord's day playing at "batt and ball", and other games. It recommended, among other things, that the western yard of the Jail be fitted up for the accommodation of debtors, and that females undergoing imprisonment for petty larceny be not confined in the same room with women of abandoned character.)

The Coronation

(Winnipeg Free Press)

The first meeting of the Coronation Commission has been held at London and already the first items dealing with it are appearing in the British press. The Commission which has been appointed to make the arrangements for the coronation on June 2, 1953, consists of representatives of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and Ceylon. The chairman is the Duke of Edinburgh.

The United Kingdom's members include the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, Mr. Attlee, and so on. The representatives of the Dominions include the Prime Ministers, the High Commissioners, and, in some cases, the Chief Justices and Ministers of External Affairs.

There is some regret in the United Kingdom that the coronation is not to be held on a holy day. The London Times say that Whit Sunday is, theologically, the most suitable day and notes that "the ancient rubric" requires the ceremony to take place on a Sunday or a great feast day.

* * *

The modern secular age, the Times says, is opposed to any such day, "yet there is no doubt of the profound religious significance of the consecration; and with so long a time for preparation, it is to be honed that the ecclesiastical authorities will at last undertake the thorough revision of the rite itself for which liturgical scholars have been pleading at intervals for generations." The Times goes on to say that, "the elements, handed down for more than a thousand years, are of incomparable majesty and sacred association; but they have never been satisfactorily shaped and harmonized since the ancient Order was rather clumsily translated into English in 1603."

The News Chronicle reports that Queen Elizabeth will be the 38th sovereign since the Norman conquest and will be the first Queen to be crowned on a Tuesday. Only two other monarchs have chosen that day: Charles II and George III. Fourteen were crowned on a Sunday, 11 (including George V) on a Thursday, 5 on a Monday, 3 on a Wednesday (including George VI and only one on a Saturday (Edward VII). Surprisingly, June is not the most usual month for coronations. The most popular month with earlier sovereigns was October. The only other June coronation was that of George V.

Old London Trams

(Exchange)

A noisy bit of London rattled into history a few nights ago. The double-decker tramcars which once ruled 350 miles of metropolitan streets and which thousands of Canadian veterans will forever associate with the Thames Embankment and South London have finally yielded to Time and the double-decker omnibus. Clattering out of Westminster, lurching along the South Bank to New Cross, the last one gave up the ghost about 1.30 a.m. of a Saturday morning while crowds sang Auld Lang Syne.

It must have been some consolation to the mourners to observe that the last tramcar remained to the last faithful to its nature and traditions. The lighting system broke down half way across the river. The timing of the funeral observances went wrong, less it appears because of the crowds dancing Cockney jigs on the tracks than because of the usual assertions of a tramcar's individualism. It lived up to its finest hours by sticking on the points.

The London tramcar, according to the records, traces its birth to the curious notions of a United States promoter, Mr. George Francis Train who, shortly before the attack on Fort Sumter, started a horse-drawn service near Marble Arch. Around the turn of the century his former office boy, Sir Clifton Robinson, began the switch to electricity. Mr. Train styled his car a "people's carriage" and it is pleasant to reflect that the last of the species must have saved the bacon of a good many people, including servicemen, on its late night runs out of the Embankment through checkered years of war and peace.

On the other hand it should perhaps be noted in fairness that those disbelievers in progress who, regarding the first tramcar as an unwelcome innovation, predicted that it would never last were perfectly right. After transporting some millions of Britons on numberless journeys across the most fantastic half-century of human history, the system was finally ditched by edict of the London County Council. About the only question left on the occasion of its final blackout is: How long will the omnibus last?

UNSOLD CLOTH

KINGWILLIAMSTOWN, South Africa—(CP)—Robert Cowan, managing director of South Africa's biggest textile factory, said at a wage inquiry his company has 3,000,000 yards of unsold cloth as a result of a year-long textile trade recession. Only half the plant is being used and the backlog represents five months' output, he said.

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Notes By The Way

Somewhat overlooked in the general B. C. election hubbub is the fact that four out of five Communist candidates went down on the first count, with the fifth expected to fall momentarily. In all, the Communists, who like to masquerade as "an official party" under the name of Labor-Progressives, polled some 2,400 first votes out of 750,000, or about three-tenths of one per cent of the total cast.—Victoria Times.

A doctor means security. He is deeply rooted in people's needs. He is as basic in their life as food, shelter and clothing. The doctor is the mainstay by night against the terror of a child suddenly ill. He is the solid-rock assurance to the couple about to become parents. He is reassurance for the fright that gets into man and woman when their bodies break down. The doctor is hope and he is strength. Unspoken usually, yet this is what the patient feels for the doctor.—Regina Leader-Post.

When opportunity offers we will visit the grave of the Nova Scotia Negro, William Hall, buried at Hantsport, who brought the first naval Victoria Cross to Canada. His comrades dead or wounded, he continued to fire a gun at a wall near Lucknow in the Indian Mutiny in 1857. His citation said: "Finally, in one of the most supreme moments in all the age-long story of human courage, Hall fired the charge which opened the walls and enabled the British to push through to the relief of the garrison and ultimately to the quelling of the mutiny and the restoration of peace and order in India."—Ottawa Journal.

An organization interested in promoting safe driving habits on the highway urges every motorist to stay a reasonable distance behind the car in front when in heavy traffic. This is sound advice. But a constant source of irritation to the driver who follows it is to find some road hog cutting in to fill the gap he has left, thereby immediately increasing the chances of a rear-end collision. His alternative is to slow down so as to open up a new gap which is promptly filled by somebody else in a hurry to go nowhere in particular—and so ad infinitum.—Ottawa Citizen.

Fatigue and headaches are in most cases the result of emotional tension, anxiety and worry. People subject to such pressures are these days increasing to such an extent that special clinics are being opened in many places for their treatment and investigation. On the basis of information assembled to date, authorities in this field are beginning to classify types of headaches. A group of American research workers have differentiated the "tension" headache from other forms. —Toronto Star.

Drake's drum is back in London. It was brought from Drake's home town of Plymouth, 210 miles away, for an exhibition of Drake relics, and the last time it was seen in the British capital was in 1581, when Sir Francis Drake was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I. With it is the wood which the great British admiral played bowls on Plymouth Hoe. The drum was used by Drake to summon up his forces. It is still helping British seamen, for the exhibition is in aid of King George's Fund for sailors.—UK Information Office.

The plastic dining service comes into its own when it carries the lavish lunch served to airline passengers flying high across the English Channel on British European Airways' luxury Silver Wings. Piece de resistance of the set is the world's first transparent plastic champagne glass, a replica of an ordinary sleek glass which even includes the hollow stem. This stem posed a problem for the plastic experts: how to blow such a thin hollow tube in any available material. Yet a hollow stem is essential if there is to be a constant supply of bubbles coming winking to the brim. So the experts worked out a special manufacturing process, and the stem keeps the bubbly really bubbly. Because the plastic champagne glass feels a little warmer, when it touches the lips, than glass would, the champagne is given a slight extra chilling to offset the effect.—British Aircraft Society.

We have long esteemed Newfoundlanders as strong, silent men. But it was only recently that we fully appreciated how deeply rooted these virtues are in the admirable islanders. The Newfoundland legislature held a special session not long ago. The Speech from the Throne lasted only one minute and 35 seconds. The first two speakers were on their feet only 20 seconds. Contrast this with the special session of Parliament held a few months ago. The Throne Speech debate ended 66 days after the session opened and consumed nearly 45 days of sittings. There were more than 170 speeches—many of them running to the full 40-minute Parliamentary limit. There were six amendments and ten votes.—Winnipeg Tribune.

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