

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1951

Item In Federal Estimates

Estimates for the Department of National Defence include an item of \$3,836,000 for "films, displays, broadcasting, advertising and other informational materials" designed to encourage recruiting for the armed forces during the fiscal year which begins on April 1.

Official spokesmen for the Department of National Defence declare that the target figure for enlistments in the armed forces is set at 115,000 men. The disturbing aspect of what these spokesmen have to say is that this is the target figure not for 1951, but for 1954!

There are two other and much less expensive ways of getting men into uniform. One is to invite the press of Canada to do what they did in World War II, in bringing home to the people the urgency of the hour and the need for men in uniform.

115,000 men by 1954 won't do much to convince the men in the Kremlin that Canada is the leader of the Middle Power nations.

More Shipping Needed

Statements from representatives of shipping interests and the lack of attendance at a meeting called to form a shipping board might seem to indicate that shipping in this Province is in for a decline.

At the same time other markets are rapidly becoming important. The Labrador iron ore development is proceeding and nowhere can the North Shore of the Gulf look for produce more advantageously than to this Province.

The wry face put on by shipping men may have been to impress the Legislature with their problems and, of course, no business can compete when Government policies are designed to discriminate against it.

Sales Tax vs. Pensions

According to the Winnipeg Free Press, the Federal Government has no present intention of referring the bill amending the B. N. A. Act permitting the Provinces to impose an indirect 3 per cent sales tax to a House committee for a public hearing.

Progress is not so promising for the sister bill to amend the B. N. A. Act to enable the Federal Government to pay all old age 70 year and over pensions without a means test; to establish a contributory pensions system; and also to enable the Federal Government to pay half the cost of provincially administered pensions for persons in the 65-69 year old category with a means test.

Several Provinces object that payment of half the 65-69 year pensions will cost them as much or more than the cost of their present 25 per cent share of pensions

for those 70 years old and over, without a means test.

Actually, both bills are companion pieces—the indirect provincial 3 per cent sales tax authority is supposed to provide the Provinces with the means of paying half the 65-69 year pensions plus administration costs.

Labour And Industry

There is an unfortunate tendency sometimes to assume that labour and industry are opponents whereas they are, of course, partners. It is easier to see the essentials when the problem is on a small scale as it is in this Province.

It requires the establishment of industries to create a demand for the services of Labour and, in turn, to produce over a period of time a supply of workers with specialized skills.

At any level of production there will be adjustments to be made as to the division of the product but basically it is in everyone's interest to see industry flourish and labour find ready employment.

EDITORIAL NOTES

All Canada will join in welcoming President Vincent Auriol who arrives in this country tomorrow for a five-day visit before flying back to France.

Though a newspaper man may find his hours rather trying, and though his job is exacting, it is completely compensated for by its continuing interest, and unpredictability—as, for instance, in the unexpected election announcement.

Taking the gilt off the gingerbread. Since 1949, says "Newsweek", when they began, the half-page color ads in "The London Daily Express" had been considered England's fanciest newspaper advertising outlet. Printers working on the job were fed substantial overtime payments.

Oliver Goldsmith, British author, died this date 1774. Born at Pallas, County Langford, Ireland, he went to Edinburgh, supposedly as a medical student. From there he went to Leyden but, having lost his last shilling at play, started "the grand tour" on foot with one clean shirt.

It is reported, says the News Letter of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, that Federal Members of Parliament are appalled at the heavy mail coming over their desks calling for control of prices. Labour unions and other groups are campaigning vigorously and are urging their members to mail to Ottawa printed cards urging the government to take action in this connection.

While no information was available regarding the amount of taxes actually paid by farmers, Revenue Minister McCann was able to table in the House of Commons last week the amount of tax declared by farmers when filing income tax returns, by Provinces, for the years 1941 to 1949.

According to the United Nations' statistical yearbook for 1949-50, just issued, there are 245 daily newspapers circulated in Canada for every 1,000 people as against 354 in the United States, 445 in Luxembourg, 280 in the Netherlands, 303 in New Zealand, 421 in Norway, 432 in Australia, 355 in Switzerland, 600 in the United Kingdom, and 282 in France.

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.

FIXED ELECTION DATE

Sir,—May I be permitted to give my views on a much discussed topic of the day, namely the premature election date? I feel that this must account in no small measure for the bogging down of the Budget debate, as time was precious and the writs must of necessity be attended to.

However, I feel that we can never expect a fair deal in elections until we have a set date, as do our neighbors to the South. Only in that way can we have an election in its true sense, with no jockeying for position, gambling on bad weather and bad roads, and half promises that look good but never materialize after the election.

One way I would suggest to correct such trickery would be to ignore that fact that there was an election called, and give all seats by acclamation, as under such conditions an election can only be a farce; and in this way the public could decide if they favored a one-party or totalitarian government. The experiment might be worth trying.

I am, Sir, etc. INDEPENDENT VOTER Prince County

CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES

Sir,—It is often stated or felt that the Church does not give any definite direction in this time of crisis. I do not see how the Church can do this unless it is in terms of expediency and is materialistic in outlook.

The Church should be "in politics" in international affairs, in labor movements, in business and the other realms and levels of our personal, national, and international life in this way: It should apply the standard of Jesus' teachings to all such and they should be judged accordingly.

Where did they get the training, the funds, the planes, the air strips from which to take off? Where did they get the encouragement? It could not have been done without the consent at least of the Italian Government. In all probability American money was somewhere in there: maybe American planning.

We may think that this is fine: a right and a duty. If so, we cannot deny that Russia has an equal right to train, provide with funds, planes, etc., and encourage Spanish paratroopers to drop down on Spain "to stir up trouble" among a people whose land and government were taken over by a Fascist dictatorship (not to mention Argentina, South Africa, and other places of dictatorship).

Are our military and government leaders trying to stir up fomentations that will start a "defensive" war? It looks very much like it.

International policies are still amoral: built on expediency. Replace our "occupation armies" with reconstruction armies. Drop food, clothing, medical supplies, etc., on the backward areas of the world, on Europe; and on no account bombs or paratroopers. Press for disarmament, atom bomb included, in all countries. Oust imperialism, our type as well as Communist type. And, most important, by trial, in some International Court of Judgment, judge and sentence, if convicted, to exile, the leaders whose policies beget war. Send an International Police Force after them, not an International Army after the poor innocent people. And finally: encourage the presentation of straight facts untwisted by prejudice, bias, or ignorance.

These are only suggestions. The one thing to do is to apply Christian principles to national and international affairs. Blasting our enemies, for example, is not Christian. It is not even good sense!

I am, Sir, etc. REV. JOHN DOUGLAS York, P. E. I.

H. J. A. BROWN, R.O.P.

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Tall Tales Department



The Poet's Corner

THE BURIED LIFE

But often in the world's most crowded streets, But often, in the din of strife, There rises an unspeakable desire After the knowledge of our buried life.

Servant, Heal Thyself

(Ottawa Journal) Speaking to the National Dairy Council in Saskatoon, Mr. Garson, Minister of Justice, asked businessmen to help the Government fight inflation.

well-to-do Western wheat farmers

There are the current estimates. Almost impossible to compare the estimates of one year with the estimates of another; too many things in between. What seems clear, though, is that the estimates for the coming year—we are speaking of non-defence estimates—which Mr. Abbott brought to Parliament this week afford no real proof that the Government has got down earnestly to economy.

MOSCOW, April 3—(Reuters)—

Vassily Josipovitch Stalin, son of Prime Minister Stalin, has been elected to the important Moscow city committee of the Communist Party. It was announced today. A lieutenant-general in the air force, he is commander of military forces of the Moscow district.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Notes By The Way

We are rather intrigued by the offer on the radio of a certain product that if you don't like it you can return it and get double your money back. For making a neat 100 percent on a deal, this way is tops if you get enough of it.—(Ottawa Citizen.)

Amazing and disturbing it is to learn that if a man smokes 10 cigarettes a day, he will, by the end of the year have paid \$30.13 in taxes to the Government. This dour statistician is wrong; he has forgotten the tax on matches or the lighter the smoker has to use.—St. Catherine's Standard.

One gets almost tired of explaining that "the first robin" of Spring is one of the fairly small percentage of the robin tribe which stays here all Winter. The experts also relate that there is no reason to exult over the reappearance of the crows. Crows, they point out (or a whole lot of them), also remain hereabouts during the cold months.

The motorist in Sweden who drinks doesn't drive. When he knows he'll be drinking, he leaves his car at home. He "would never consider driving" because "he would run too great a risk of being sent to jail," says Swedish psychiatrist Dr. Torsten Frey. He'd go to jail because Swedish police have a sure fire way of convicting drunken drivers. It's just the sort of scientific test of drunkenness that the Federal Government stalls about legalizing in Canada.

From Los Angeles comes word of a new scientific device "that enables a person to hold his breath indefinitely." For the hockey fan in overtime, one of these is a must.—Ottawa Citizen.

Thirty-five persons on Grand Island signed a petition which had a paragraph buried in the text urging "that we be hanged by the neck until dead." Further evidence that few people read through what they sign so readily.—Hamilton Spectator.

Stories of Southern hospitality, tell of visitors spending a lifetime in comfortable mansions, because their hosts are too well mannered to ask them to go. Mr. Lloyd Travis of Detroit seems to be touched with that same overwhelming gentility. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Smith, of no particular address, came to him as a penniless couple who were waiting to share in a \$7,000,000 estate. Mr. Travis put them up. He advanced funds for "court fees." They remained with him for five months, living well. Then he became suspicious. Now the Smiths are in jail, and Mr. Travis is explaining sheepishly that he "fell for a line." Perhaps there was a trace of culpidity in his hospitality, but at least he has a thin bond of understanding with the super-courteous Southerner.—Windsor Star.

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