

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, JAN. 6, 1951

Highway Expenditures

It is reassuring to note, from a Canadian Good Roads Association bulletin based on authoritative information from Ottawa, that funds will be provided in the 1951-52 estimates for the Federal share of Trans-Canada Highway construction and that the Federal Government has no thought at this time of either abandoning or postponing the project.

"Even if war comes," says the bulletin, "the project is unlikely to suffer. Defense authorities have been in on the planning all along and stressing that adequate communications are most important in wartime, have said that the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway is an important part of defense preparedness."

A similar course is being followed in the United States, where a fifty million dollar increase in the funds authorized for Federal aid for highways for the year commencing July 1, 1951, is reported by the National Highway Users Conference. This is a signal recognition of the importance of adequate highways, not only for military defense but for the industrial system necessary to prepare for that defense.

A Tradition Created

Traditions are generally regarded as being of very long standing, but today it is not necessarily so. The splendid achievements of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan in which this country played a major role, has established the tradition that Canada is the schoolhouse for Commonwealth flyers when forces of aggression raise their head.

Once more the vast spaces, excellent communications and technical achievements of this nation are being thrown on the scales to help outweigh the vast manpower and resources of the Communist world. It is not a one-way proposition, by any means, for Canadian airmen and others continue to profit by the know-how of United Kingdom and other Atlantic Pact establishments.

The important thing is that this country, through Defence Minister Claxton, has announced its determination to do the task which lies nearest in the common effort to avert a common danger.

M. P.'s Indemnities

A very interesting analysis of how our members of Parliament are now paid is presented in a book by Dr. Norman Ward just published by the University of Toronto Press. It is entitled "The Canadian House of Commons: Representation."

Dr. Ward has little sympathy with those who take the attitude that Parliament is a waste of time and that all members of Parliament are naturally cynical about their job. But he does take the position that just because the work of the member of Parliament is actually important, the method of remuneration ought to take greater account of how faithfully his work is done.

Unfortunately the present methods of payment make it only too easy for the indifferent member to get away with a form of parliamentary murder. As Dr. Ward puts it: "All in all, the opportunities for members to draw their indemnities and other emoluments without too many wearisome attendances in Parliament have been remarkable, and there is no doubt that many have taken full advantage of these opportunities."

It is true that severe penalties seem to be provided for the absentee member. He must attend at least 50 days of a session of the House to be able to draw any part of his remuneration. More than this, his indemnity is reduced by \$25 for each day he is away, and his expense allowance is reduced by \$12.50. The trouble is that an extraordinary legal device enables the member to escape a great deal of these penalties. For a member is accounted as present for each day the House is adjourned. And since the sessions of Parliament are getting longer and longer, it is quite possible for the number of days of adjournment to exceed the 50 days of necessary attendance. So it is that a member may be accounted as having attended the necessary minimum of 50 days, when he may have attended hardly at all.

A remarkable example of just what can happen was illustrated in the session of 1947-48. In that session the House actually sat for 119 days. But there was a Christmas adjournment of 37 days, and an

Easter adjournment of 11 days, and the week-end adjournments amounted to 42 days. So it was that a member was credited with an attendance of 90 days, whether he was in Ottawa or not. Supposing a member had put in an appearance for one day only, he would have received for that single day a total remuneration of \$2,137.50.

There is another curious provision to the effect that illness will not be counted as absence only if the member is sick within 10 miles of the House of Commons. It is perhaps significant that Sir Wilfrid Laurier once made allusion to that strange disorder—"Parliamentary illness."

Nor is conscientiousness on the part of members encouraged by the provision that gives the full indemnity to every member if the session lasts for 65 days. Sessions are now greatly exceeding that length. This means that after the 65th day members have no financial reason for remaining as they can receive no more. The rapidity with which they are willing to pass whatever the Government proposes, if it be proposed late, not only serves the public badly, but undermines the integrity of Parliament itself.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Epiphany—Twelfth Day.

Tomorrow, first Sunday after Epiphany.

Both the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Rebeccas are to hold conventions here this year.

Mild weather suits almost everyone, except the smelt fishermen who undoubtedly prefer ice-making temperatures as do small boys and the ice supply men.

Meat imports from New Zealand are faintly reminiscent of the flood of New Zealand butter which once played havoc with rural economy in this country. The situation, however, is very different today with meat prices almost at an all-time high and supplies unable to keep up with demand.

The fortunate rarity of fires just now should not cause citizens to forget that they have a duty to keep clear of firemen and their equipment. The first rule for car drivers is to pull to one side to allow the engines rapid passage, and the second is to avoid hampering the work of the fire fighters on the spot.

Prime Minister St. Laurent was interested in Lloyds of London and their policy giving odds of 50-1 against a general war starting before Sept. 1. The members of Lloyds were undoubtedly even more interested in the Prime Minister and this country's views as they might be expressed by him.

The Junior Farmers have evidently no use for "show window dressers", and have replaced a couple of "inactive directors". Too many well-intentioned bodies are handicapped by what used to be known as "joiners", men connecting themselves with as many organizations as possible for their own publicity benefit and not for the good of the cause. In the case of the Disciples they were only effective in so far as they spread the gospel of Good News.

Hartley Coleridge, English poet, died this date 1949. He was the eldest son of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and a schoolmaster by profession; becoming a writer, he contributed largely to newspapers and magazines. His poetry had a marked kinship to Wordsworth and included several sonnets of high literary quality: "And laughter oft is but an art to drown the outcry of the heart."

Here is the outcome of tolerating subversive movements, fifth column tactics, and friendly relations with Communists. The British Communist Party has issued instructions to its members to fracture British-American unity in the defence of Western Europe. A new manifesto called on all Communist units in Britain to work for defeat of British rearmament as the key to thwarting "American war plans." In other words inviting suicide of Britain, and the murder of her defence forces.

"Travelling" is in the blood and family of Miss Katharine M. MacLennan, R.N., director of nursing at the Provincial Sanatorium, who has been awarded a three months' scholarship to inspect the working of her profession in Great Britain. Her father, the late Mr. David R. MacLennan, spent his early years in Brazil, while her step-father, Mr. A. E. Morrison in his youth visited the Old Country meeting the leading electricians of that day, and later, on retirement from what is now the C. N. R. Telegraphs, toured the Pacific on a visit to old friends in Australia.

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.

HOSPITALIZATION TAX

Sir,—In your paper of December 28th you had a little item on your editorial page pointing out that 149 convictions were obtained by Saskatchewan last year because of failure to pay the hospitalization tax. Contrary to the general tone of the opening sentence of the item I'd like to point out that 149 failures to pay the tax is an extremely small item when one considers that this is 149 people out of a million. I wonder if any other plan of any kind anywhere works as efficiently as this.

The reason that it does work efficiently, of course, is that the plan gives full hospitalization protection for all the citizens of the Province at a very small cost. A single person pays \$10 a year, a child pays only \$5 a year and a family pays more than \$30 a year no matter how large it may be. It does seem to me that the P. E. I. Government would do well to provide us with a hospital plan of this kind. If we had it and if only fourteen people failed to pay up in the whole Province we'd call it a pretty successful venture. This would be the same proportion according to the population, as failed to pay in Saskatchewan last year. I am, Sir, etc.

L. G. RAMSAY, Indian River, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

SELKIRK ESTATE TERMS

From the minority report of a committee of the Legislature appointed in 1853 to inquire into the petition of the tenantry of Townships 57 and 58, commonly known as the Selkirk Estate: "The committee examined the duplicate of one of the leases or deeds accompanying the petition, and from the evidence obtained they believe the document is a correct copy of many of the leases, or deeds, under which the tenantry hold their lands. It appears that the statements put forward by the petitioners, as to the expiration of many of the leases, is also correct, and that these people are liable, at any time, at the dictation of the landlord, to be ejected from their farms, and that being poor, old, and infirm, worn out with hard labour in clearing the wilderness, they must be thrown on the bounty of the public for an existence."

"Your committee have been informed by the Registrar of the terms on which these Townships were obtained from the Crown, viz.: 'Granted in the 9th year of the reign of his late Majesty, George III, Lot 57, on 31st Dec., 1781, and Lot 58, on 31st August, 1782, to quit rent, subject to a quit rent of 100 acres, the first payment in each case to become due at the 1st March, falling five years after the date of the grants, as respects the moiety, and ten years after such date as respects the whole.' Grantees' names: of Lot 57, Messrs. Smith; of Lot 58, Joshua Mangel.

"No part of the foregoing rents appears to have been paid from these Lots, inasmuch as no return to the Colonial Government, of any amount of quit rent being paid in London, as the law applied, appears to have been completed. The committee are therefore of opinion that the Crown rents on these Townships are still due, and that these arrears have been ceded by the Crown to the Colonial interests of the Island, in the contract entered into between the Imperial Government and the Colonial Legislature, which is defined in the ninth section of an Act to compute the Crown revenues of Prince Edward Island, etc.

"The committee have accordingly drawn up an account showing the amounts of arrears of quit rent due from Township No. 57, together with interest thereon to March, 1852, due from that Lot amounting to £2,280 sterling. They are of opinion Township No. 58 is indebted to an equal amount, and that this yearly rent was intended by the Crown to have defrayed the expenses of the Colonial Government, towards which the grantees mentioned contributed no part previous to the year 1852, but that this burden was born by the public.

"It appears that the Crown never rescinded any part of the foregoing debt, but on the contrary, held it over the grantees, to be enforced at any time, as a means of protection to enforce due regard to the interest and welfare of the under-tenants, as well as a just debt; which power is now ceded to the Colonial Government as a means of protection to be used by them against any unjust measures that may be practised by the grantees, the tenants of the Crown, to those to whom they may have to sub-let it.

"Your committee therefore recommend an address be presented to the Lieutenant Governor, requesting His Excellency to cause the proprietors of Townships 57 and 58, to be informed that if the following conditions towards their tenantry be complied with, the Government will absolve them from the amount of debts due from their estates for rent, together with the interest thereon, viz.: 'To forgive all arrears of rent to the present time, and grant new leases for not less than nine hundred years, at one shilling currency, per acre, to the present occupiers of land on these townships; with further instructions to the effect, that if this arrangement is not complied with, the Government will immediately proceed against them for the

Possible Unforeseen Developments

THE REPORT THAT SOME OF CHARLOTTETOWN'S GENTLER SEX SEEK TO LEARN THE TRADE OF CARPENTRY IS NOTED WITH INTEREST. "HA!" "Alright then - I'll fix it myself."



THOUGH IT MAY YET GIVE CAUSE FOR ALARM.



Kashmir And The Commonwealth Conference

Following is the text of an interview by A. T. Steel of The New York Herald Tribune with Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan of Pakistan on December 31, 1950: "The Prime Minister of Pakistan told The New York Herald Tribune today that the Kashmir dispute is a threat to world peace which must be resolved before Pakistan can hope to play any significant role in the common cause."

Interviewed after he had put off plans for his departure for London today, Liaquat said he could see little point in attending the coming Commonwealth Conference of Prime Ministers unless the Commonwealth countries agreed to collective consideration of the Kashmir issue.

"The Prime Minister disclosed that he was still in communication with London on the matter. 'I shall be prepared to go,' he said, 'if I find that the Prime Ministers are willing to deal collectively with the Kashmir problem—to see what they can do. The situation has not yet reached the point where I can say definitely whether amount of arrears of rent before herein named.'

The above report was signed by Messrs. Benj. Davies, chairman, Robert Mooney and R. Macaulay—three members of a special seven-man committee appointed to deal with the petition. The other members were Hon. Mr. Pope, Mr. Wightman, Hon. Mr. Lord and Hon. Mr. Palmer. The Speaker ruled that as the report was signed by only a minority, it could not be received. It was consequently withdrawn; and as, therefore, it was not properly before the House, the hon. members who had declined to sign it were, according to parliamentary usage, precluded from all opportunity of assigning their reasons for dissenting from it.

The Age-Old Story

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

I will be going or not. The Prime Ministers plan to discuss the world situation. I have felt, and I feel, that unless the conference deals also with the Kashmir problem, I could make no useful contribution. I am too busy to go to London on a holiday jaunt."

The Prime Minister felt that the world did not sufficiently recognize the seriousness of the Kashmir issue, especially in the context of the deteriorating global picture. Here are two countries facing each other with armies, he went on, "yet nobody takes a serious view."

He pointed out that with no settlement in sight "anything might happen despite the best efforts of both sides."

He charged the United Nations with "tinkering" with the problem—"not dealing with it in an effective manner."

The Prime Minister put a big share of the blame for failure of the United Nations to settle the Kashmir dispute on the doorstep of the United States and Britain. "In mid-December," he said, "I got information that the Security Council would not take up the Kashmir question until the latter part of January—that the United States and the United Kingdom did not want it brought up until after the Commonwealth Conference. That gave me a shock."

Liaquat mentioned that the "general feeling" in Pakistan was that the Western bloc has been taking Pakistan too much for granted and is kowtowing to India. "Pakistan's people feel," he said, "that the United States is not really giving that consideration to the Pakistan case that it should;

Notes By The Way

It is commonly claimed that people turn Communist because they are hungry. But The Ottawa Journal points out that communism also has its devotees who have never missed a meal in their lives. Which is quite true and the most difficult angle of all for sensible people to comprehend. — St. Catharines Standard.

NOTES BY THE WAY Canada's present 115,235 Boy Scout membership total constitutes a new record. Of this total Newfoundland has 978; P.E.I., 806; N.S., 6,280; N.B., 4,489; Quebec 9,086; Ontario 53,249; Manitoba and N.W. Ontario 6,837; Saskatchewan 5,385; Alberta 7,470; B.C. 14,246 and La Federation des Scouts Catholiques de la Province de Quebec 6,804.—Boy Scouts News.

To judge only from photographs and paintings, the Sphinx — all 189 feet of it — would seem to be one of the solidest objects in the world. However, after standing in the desert for some 5,000 years, the inscrutable creature seems to have developed what, in a human being, would be called rheumatism. Its left foreleg has started to crumble, eaten away by the wind and sand of 50 centuries. According to inscriptions, the Pharaoh Thutmose IV gave it first-aid treatment 3,250 years ago, and a couple of hundred years later it received some further patching from Ramesses II. The fact that it requires repairs every two or three thousand years suggests that, by ancient Egyptian standards, it was not too well built. Perhaps they had jerry-builders in those days too! — Edmonton Journal.

It is the old truths, not new discoveries, that must sustain us in the trying days ahead. "Hold fast to that which is good..." To mistake the symbol for the spirit is bad enough; to trust the symbol alone is disastrous. There is no such thing as material progress unless there is spiritual faith. No nation, any more than an individual, can profit by conquest if it loses its own soul. We have been afraid of dangers that do not exist, blind to others that are infinitely more ominous. Time is not progress in the sense we have tried to establish it. Nor can it be Time is the life of the soul, or it is nothing. — Hamilton Spectator.

Lovely Dames Few are my books, but my small few have told Of many a lovely dame that lived of old. And they have made me see those fatal charms Of Helen, which brought Troy so many harms; And lovely Venus, when she stood so white Close to her husband's forge in its red light. I have seen Dian's beauty in my dreams. When she had trained her looks in all the streams. She crossed to Latmos and Endymion; And Cleopatra's eyes, that hour they shone The brighter for a pearl she drank to prove. How poor it was compared to her rich love; But when I look on thee, love, thou dost give Substance to those fine ghosts, and make them live. — W. H. Davies.

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