

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1951

Why Not Tax Controls?

In common with other inflation-ridden countries Canada has its share of those who advocate controls as the remedy for high living costs. Some favor price controls. Others favor wage controls. Others again urge the simultaneous use of both. The strange thing is that among the various economic sects seeking institutional care under the paternal influence of government, there are none thus far who appear anxious to advocate tax controls. Yet taxes, as the Senate finance committee points out, take a 25 per cent bite out of every family income. A "roll-back" in taxes might be difficult to achieve at this time, but a rigidly administered system of tax control could at least prevent the tax bite from encompassing still more territory. Tax control would be relatively simple to administer. Individual citizens could serve as tax-control police, and the penalty for tax-hungry legislators would be the withholding of the vote for violation of the existing tax ceiling. Since government spending is the major cause of inflation and high living costs, tax control would rigidly ration the supply of money available to official Ottawa. This might put a crimp in the "buy as you go" system of getting votes, but since it would affect all parties alike, none could raise any serious objection. Tax control as a counter-inflationary measure is worth pondering. It provides the individual citizen with a double-edged sword designed at one and the same time to keep official Ottawa from putting a further bite on already impoverished pocketbooks and strikes at inflation's root by curbing non-productive government expenditure.

Exit Hammocks

Seamen of Canada's Navy will rejoice, though perhaps reservedly, at the decision to provide bunks, separate eating and sleeping spaces and cafeteria style messing to all new construction naval ships. It will not be surprising if they receive the news with some suspicion, for warships have ever been noted for their cramped living quarters and the hammock, which can be slung allowing as little as eighteen inches per man and stowed out of the way when not in use, has been an accepted solution since the days of Drake. Generous allocation of space in planning is not a guarantee that it will always be available. All navies are addicted to "modernizing" ships from time to time, adding new equipment which takes up space and also requires additional men to operate it. The result is that a class of ships in service for a few years is apt to have something like double its original crew and half the original space for them.

Mr. Massey's Warning

Discussing the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Arts, of which he was chairman, Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey stressed one point before a Montreal service club the other day, which goes to the root of the matter. "We take for granted," he said, "that the young men in our services understand the meaning of democracy. When we find that they haven't thought much about it we organize classes for a few weeks to tell them about the foundations of our civilization and such classes are doubtless useful and indeed necessary, but the articles of our faith cannot be learned in a hurry. Propaganda is no substitute for education. The spiritual weapons we need in times of stress and danger must be slowly forged and tempered in time of peace. Neglect all these things and we reduce the difference between us and the enemy. We shall be less able to fight materialism if we become materialistic ourselves."

Mr. Massey does not make the common mistake of confusing culture with internationalism. "Nationalism, and more particularly Canadian nationalism," he said, "is not an obsolete notion. Our work, and whatever may stem from it, rests upon the conviction that Canada is to remain an independent nation, and that in consequence it is the right and the duty of our governments and of our citizens to do all that is possible under the law and under the constitution to strengthen our sense of Canadianism."

"I know that for a generation it has been fashionable to decry 'nationalism'. I am, however, not convinced that in doing

what we can to strengthen and to enrich our own national life we are doing any disservice to the international cause. On the contrary it seems to me that for many a year, and even for many a generation to come, we can do our best service to the world at large by 'rightly ordering our own household'; and our inquiry has revealed, to us at least, that there is much right ordering to be done."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, fourth Sunday after Trinity.

Tomorrow is Father's Day when for once everyone lets him know how they feel about him all year but are too busy to show it.

"Trotting and pacing races are coming back", stated Agriculture Minister Gardiner in the House of Commons. Perhaps the rest of the country will soon overtake the Island's lead.

With Festive Week drawing near there are still some streets in deplorable shape despite the efforts of the City streets committee. From now until the 1st it will be a case of street racing—machines against the clock.

Members of the Charlottetown Strawberry Growers Association have eliminated one uncertainty by contracting for a fixed sale price. Now the only uncertainties are the amount of production and the cost of harvesting.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded this date 1824. Under the common law it is not an offence to treat animals with cruelty and the many acts passed in the old country for their protection were largely as a result of agitation by the Society.

Mr. Justice W. Arthur I. Anglin of the New Brunswick Supreme Court has been appointed judge of the New Brunswick Divorce Court. Mr. Justice Anglin was appointed judge on the King's Bench Division of the New Brunswick Supreme Court June 22, 1948.

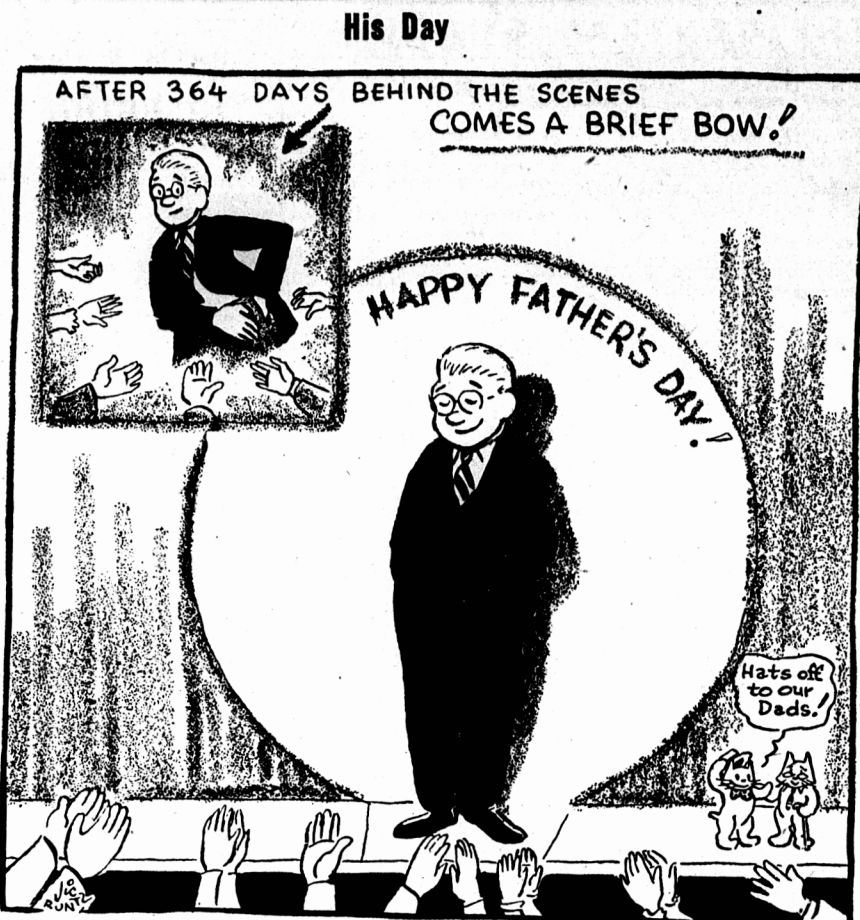
The one-dollar-per-day tax exemption for troops in Korea is intentionally not so equal a relief as it might seem. Those whose normal tax would be from nothing to one dollar get less than the dollar exemption. For those in the higher brackets it means a dollar less to pay whether out of one or three dollars payable.

A distinct honour has been bestowed upon the P. E. I. Presbytery of the United Church of Canada, and on Pownal Parish, as well as on Rev. A. S. Weir on his choice as president of the Conference being held at Sackville. He and the Rev. W. T. Mercer, chairman of the Presbytery here, are playing important parts in the work of the Conference, and from what is known of their respective records the Church may be sure it will be well and truly served.

The first half of the "leafy" month has passed speedily, and left a record of much splendid work accomplished in connection with our forthcoming Festive Week. Two distinguished Canadians have visited our shores, the forerunners no doubt of many others who will be coming as tourists or summer residents at one or other of our hotels and summer resorts. What we wish for particularly is that we may be blessed with a period of warm, sunshiny weather to benefit farmers, fishermen and holiday-makers alike. Strawberries especially will benefit.

Our senators are very meticulous. After the Commons passed the new Indian Act, the Senate passed it—but only after making some changes. When the bill returned to the Commons for concurrence in the amendments, M.P.'s asked what the Senate had done to the measure. Citizenship and Immigration Minister Harris said there were three changes. "The first is the substitution of a comma for the word 'that'. The second is the substitution of the word 'or' for 'and'. The third," and he paused dramatically, "the third is to strike out an unnecessary 'that'." The Commons concurred.

It is being discovered that Government conducted vocational schools are insufficient to produce the mechanically trained men industry requires. Labor Minister Gregg is advising Canadian manufacturers to set up their own programs of vocational, youth and apprentice training. The idea is to supplement state efforts along the same line. Reason for the move is that Canadian industry generally—including the part concentrating on defence—is feeling the pinch as far as skilled labor is concerned. The Dominion-Provincial training schemes, while large, are not big enough to provide a solution in the immediate future.



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.

SCHOOL TAXES

Sir,—At this time of the year, before the annual school meetings, some schools give out notice that if taxes are not paid before a certain date those accounts will be handed into the court for collection. If ratepayers do not pay their taxes till the day of the annual meeting where the trustees to get funds to pay the teacher's supplement and buy coal, pay for lighting the fire and cleaning the school? There is no excuse for those school taxes not being paid in many cases, when pork is selling at approximately 40 cents per lb, beef at over 30 cents per lb, eggs at 50 cents per dozen and over. How is the secretary to get his accounts audited to present at the annual meeting if the taxes are not paid promptly?

Section 76 of the School Act reads as follows: "Every annual or special school meeting shall have power by the vote of a majority of ratepayers present thereat to exempt from taxation for school purposes the property or the polls, or both, of persons, who, by reason of age, infirmity or poverty, may in their judgment be unable to contribute, but no person so exempted shall be entitled to vote at any such school meeting."

I am, Sir, etc. TAXPAYER.

WINNING THE PEACE

Sir,—A few months ago I read where one Paul G. Hoffman had spoken before a Rotary club in Toronto on the subject "Fighting For Peace". He spoke of several fronts on which a "peace" war must be waged, such as the economic, the military, the information front and so forth. Wishing to know more about what was on his mind, I wrote to him at Washington, D.C., for some literature on the subject. My letter came to the desk of his secretary in California, who thanked me profusely and replied saying that by waiting a month or more I would be able to get Mr. Hoffman's new book that he was engaged in writing. I now have the book. It cost \$1.00 at Doubleday Publishers, 105 Bond St., Toronto 2, paper cover. Mr. Hoffman has been president of the Studebaker Corporation and for two and a half years has been administrator under the "Marshal Plan". He is now director of the Ford Foundation that has two hundred and thirty-eight millions to invest in "waging the peace."

He tells in his book what has been done to save Europe, or at least 15 countries of Europe, from being taken over by the Communists. We can see that something turned the tide in Italy, according to their last election. He makes it plain that American money did it, in co-operating, financing and building up morale. It would build up our morale to read it and consider what Canada's part in the enterprise should be.

I am, Sir, etc. J. A. MacKENZIE Kensington, P.E.I.

The Age-Old Story

Then said Solomon, The Lord hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. But I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever. . . . But will God in every deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

INDUSTRIOUS SETTLERS

From "Observations on Emigration in the American Colonies" by John Macgregor, London, 1829. "About twenty years ago, a family from Ardena - Murchen, among many other emigrants from Argyleshire, settled on a point of land on the north side of Prince Edward Island. This spot possessed not the advantage of marsh, or running streams, which are considered of such indispensable importance by all indolent farmers; but his soil was fertile, and covered with immense trees of birch, beech and fir; and McMillan and his family were thrifty, and not afraid of hard work. They are at this day, therefore, as opulent and respectable as many farmers in the Colony; their sons and daughters married, and comfortably settled on their several farms, which they have purchased, and on which they have built good houses, barns, etc.

"The second son, who occupies the farm they first commenced on, and with whom his parents live, has built a handsome house, a large barn, different new out-houses, and has also his lands in a high state of cultivation. His cart or sledge appears once a week, or oftener, in the Market of Charlottetown, with flour, grain, or other produce, while some old settlers, who have been forty years in the Colony, and living on excellent farms, with plenty of marsh and fertile uplands, often come, with a bug under their arm, to buy wheat of Mr. McMillan before the month of May.

"Among the settlers on the townships belonging to Sir James Montgomery and his brother, I have frequently had the opportunity of observing the industrious progress of an old man of the name of Sinclair. He was upwards of sixty when I saw him beginning in the woods. His family consisted of his wife and two grown-up daughters; one of the latter usually spent three-fourths of the year at service; their means were limited, and they were obliged to live very frugally; but their industry overcame every difficulty. Recollecting the place thickly covered with trees in 1820, I was charmed with its pretty improvements when I rode past it four or five years afterwards, and never did I observe more forcibly the effect of well-applied industry.

"A little further on, near Sinclair's farm, a settler, who was formerly a tenant of Major General Stewart's estate, Garth, in Perthshire, and who went to America recommended by this brave officer to Sir James Montgomery's agent, has also made most extensive improvements. In the same settlement a man named Cairns, whom I observed the first year, with a rope over his shoulder, actually dragging after him

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The Poet's Corner

PASTORAL

Summer is standing still along this road Where wild blackberries hang from dusty vines. An ancient wagon creaking with its load Complains to distant hills and towering pines. Time stops for just a moment to record Tranquility against some future day. A reservoir of peace that can be stored And drawn upon when summer slips away. —Viney Wilder.

the narrow which covered the seed, and who had at one time been in good circumstances in Dumfriesshire, but who arrived penniless in America, told me that, after surmounting the difficulties of the first two years, he had lived better, and that he considered himself much more independent, than he ever did in Scotland. "Mr. Dockendorff, one of the most respectable farmers in Prince Edward Island, with whom I have had frequent conversation respecting the conditions of the inhabitants of the Colonies, removed to it about forty years ago from the United States. He was then unmarried, and commenced clearing the farm which he now occupies, which at that time was covered altogether with trees, indicating a fertile soil. It is now one of the finest farms in North America. His house is large, handsome, and comfortable; his barn, stables, etc., are commodious and well planned; his farming implements are ever in the best order; his horses, cattle, sheep, etc., always in excellent condition."

Finance Minister Abbott says too high taxes would be a spur to inflation. And certainly a spur to Mr. Abbott. — Hamilton Spectator.

Attention Builders

If Building or Repairing I can supply you with Asphalt Shingles; Insul Siding; Roll Siding; 12 lb. Asphalt Felt; Roll Roofing; Cement Coating; Roof Coating; Plastic Cement. Don't make a mistake. See me. Just follow the crowd. (Pay for what you use at a reasonable price).

JOHN JARDINE 36 Pleasant Street Brantford Dealer

Notes By The Way When Mr. Vincent Massey spoke here earlier this week he mentioned the fact that, while Canada owned almost all the world's nickel, it did not possess a national library. Commenting on this fact, our pen slipped and we remarked that we had no national art gallery. This was, of course, not true, for we have an art gallery which in spite of neglect and starvation, is one to be proud of. It is easy to forget we have such a national possession. Easy also to forget that the art gallery is not financially able to do what it ought to do. The Massey Report, in a grim bit of humor, told how a prairie brief presented to it commented on the fact that an eastern brief had stated that the art gallery was centrally located and easy of access by bus or street car. The westerners thought this might be all right for people living in Ottawa, but not so easy for an art lover in Regina to get on a street car to visit the national art gallery.—Montreal Star.

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