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

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1950

"Forward" Farm Prices

The difficulty of fixing a proper level of support prices was discussed at considerable length during the passing of the Agricultural Prices Support Act at Ottawa. It is still the subject of much controversy. If the Government sets prices higher than demand and supply conditions warrant, producers will promptly respond by increasing production and undisposed surpluses may accumulate.

Writing in The Country Guide, Prof. J. D. Wahn of the University of Manitoba, claims that this problem could be solved quite neatly if the Government were to announce "forward" support prices based on anticipated conditions of demand and supply and back that up by provision for income guarantees to producers in the event of a depression. The prices should be announced sufficiently far in advance so that each farmer would be able to adjust his production plans to the system.

Under such a system trading in all farm products could be permitted on open markets. If the realized market price of a particular product exceeded the announced forward price, the farmer would pocket the difference after a deduction for an accumulated reserve fund. Should the realized market price fall short of the announced forward price, the difference could be made up to the farmer out of the accumulated reserve fund.

Such a system, Prof. Wahn claims, would permit producers to allocate their land and labour resources more efficiently. In the event of a general fall in the level of farm prices, forward prices would be lowered for successive production periods, and so would not provide any income support. In that case the accumulated reserve fund built up by the farmers' contribution and supplemented by Government contributions (in much the same way as the Government supplements the Unemployed Insurance Fund) could be drawn upon by those farmers whose net incomes are not sufficient to maintain a decent standard of living.

Such a plan, it is argued, would guarantee every farmer a minimum stable price, but would permit freedom of individual, co-operative and corporate trade in farm products. The resulting competition between the different types of marketing agencies would ensure that farmers would secure the best possible returns for their products.

In the event of a depression both agricultural and urban groups would benefit, Prof. Wahn maintains. In the first place the price of food would decline which would benefit labor and other urban groups. In the second place farmers would maintain their purchasing power to a large extent as a result of the compensatory income payments. This in turn would benefit labor and industry, for with supplemented incomes farmers would be in a position to purchase the products which they manufacture.

With Meaning

The free world was called upon recently by Hon. L. B. Pearson to find fresh and imaginative phrases in the propaganda war against Russia. The democratic truths, declared Canada's External Affairs Minister, are as valid as ever, but "they need restating in forms which penetrate the hearts and minds of our peoples."

The problem seen by Mr. Pearson is one of the greatest of this age. Words and phrases no longer carry the meaning which once attached to them. Advertising, including newspaper advertising, had much to do with the "devaluation" of words. Hollywood has carried on the process until all meaning is lost and the politicians, particularly totalitarian ones, although they are only leaders in a crowded field, have turned words upside down and inside out until the language of politics means anything except what it would seem to mean.

The solution, however, is not more "fresh and imaginative" phrases but a return to a more careful and exact habit of speech. If the West, meaning all peoples which derive their civilization from Europe,

could only establish a high standard of exactness in the use of language, it would be like dawn breaking after a dark and misty night. If we knew what our leaders in various fields meant when they spoke, their words would resound around the earth and the variegated masks of Communism would show up for the false faces they are.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Alberton Town Council has decided to contribute towards the building fund of a new library. Appreciation of the value of good library service is a mark, not only of what a community is but what it will be.

The wells of charity are not dried up in the Island. Witness the splendid support being given to the Manitoba Relief Fund as recorded in our columns from day to day.

Columbus died this date 1506. The work he inaugurated in his lifetime not only lives after him, but is tending to prevent Europe and the Americas being once more overrun by a heathen ideology from the east.

The double fishing fatality off Alberton harbour casts a gloom over all connected with the industry. Every occupation has its risks but those who follow the sea are peculiarly at the mercy of forces beyond their control.

Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker said too much or too little when he declared that if flying saucers exist they belong to the U.S.A. The famous American flyer hinted at official secrecy but it would seem to be the sort of secrecy which keeps everyone in the dark except those with the means and necessity of finding out.

In the Annapolis-Kings by-election it is apparently to be a straight party contest between Mr. George C. Nowlan, Progressive Conservative, and Mr. Angus Elderkin, Liberal, the two candidates at the general election which was disallowed. It is not expected the C. C. F.'s will put forward a candidate.

Most informative and readable is the brief presented before the joint parliamentary committee on Old Age Security on behalf of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers' Association. Those who agree with the Association's views and those who oppose them will all find the material in the brief of great value in keeping discussion on a realistic basis.

We have short memories especially regarding weather. A diary long kept in The Guardian Office has details of the kind of weather experienced every month and indicates that May of this year is no different from previous Mays. The trouble with us is that we imagine when we have got rid of the long, dark winter days, and welcome the first appearance of real honest-to-goodness Spring weather that we are right into summer. If on the average, farmers get on the land by the 20th they and their farms do well.

In the long history of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, there was just one layman, honoured by the bestowal of the honorary degree of D. D. He was a distinguished lawyer, one of the clerks of the General Assembly, and an authority on ecclesiastical law. Before long, no doubt, we will have a second layman-lawyer D.D. in the person of the Hon. Judge George J. Tweedy, K.C., who has recently been elevated to the chairmanship of the United Church Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, a distinction well earned and bestowed for his long continued service in connection with the work of that Church. The Presbyterian Church in Canada does not recognize laymen as entitled to be elected Moderators of Presbytery, Synod or Assembly, but the United Church, following precedent in the old Methodist Church does.

A good word for juries. "No judge is able, as an individual, to determine the substance of justice as well as a jury. The jury has been the outstanding bulwark of democracy, offering a combined wisdom in the administration of justice." Thus did Mr. Justice J. Keiller Mackay, of the Ontario Supreme Court, register his disagreement with the opinions of a leading Canadian criminologist who had declared jury trials to be out of date and that citizens do not wish to be jurors, says Montreal Gazette. It may be true that some are irked by a rare call to jury duty. But most people who have a true conception of the duties of citizenship are quite prepared to undergo inconvenience and in some cases actual sacrifices, and cheerfully perform their roles as jurors. Such citizens regard the discharge of this responsibility as their contribution to the support of a system in which they have confidence—a faith based upon proven results down through many generations.

The Poet's Corner

BELLS
Slow bells at dawn—
What mean ye by your tolling?
Bells in the growing light,
Knolling afar.

Loitering in leisured sequence,
Where the ringing seraphim
Shake you out of heaven,
From the morning star.

Echoes are in my soul,—
Consonances and broken melodies—
Carved in frayed and remembrances
Vanished and irrevocable.

What know ye of life,
Or of perished hours or years,
Ye tones that are born in air
And throbb in air and die,
Leaving no traces anywhere.
Save tremors in the quickened
Pools of tears
Within the windless deeps of memory?

—Duncan Campbell Scott.

Old Charlottetown

CITY SCHOOLS
Nine public schools existed in Charlottetown in the year 1860. They are listed as follows in the report of Mr. John Arbuckle, official school visitor:

Pownall Female School: Anne Scantlebury, teacher. Register 23—average daily attendance, 18 5-6. Miss Scantlebury is described as being "competent, kind, faithful and thorough in her instructions." The school-house was "comfortable and commodious" with apartments suitably arranged for teaching two or more branches simultaneously.

Sydney Street Female School: Catherine J. McDonald, teacher. Register, 74—average daily attendance, 55. "A very interesting school," says the report. "Miss McDonald has labored with patience and perseverance to discharge her arduous duties. She has large classes under her instruction in the several branches taught in district primary schools."

Kent Street Female School: Elizabeth E. McKinnon, teacher. Register, 36—average daily attendance, 30. "The teacher seems to have entire control over the scholars, without the exercise of much severity."

Pownall District School: Edward Roche, teacher, second class; John Roche, assistant teacher, second class. Register, 130—average daily attendance, 81. "The house is commodious, accommodates two departments, a male and female, is well provided with maps, elegant globes, and a large black board. . . Mr. Roche has had the principal management of this school for many years; the children of the district, with few exceptions, are entrusted to him, and he has consequently enjoyed peculiar privileges for the exhibition of tact and talent in promoting the progress and proficiency of his pupils in the primary and higher branches."

Rochford School: James Currie, teacher, second class. Register, 42—average daily attendance, 37. "This school, notwithstanding its position on one of the noisy thoroughfares of the city, is so arranged that its situation is good. Mischief-makers caused a vexatious altercation between the master and a parent opposed to corporal punishment; this untoward circumstance raised some excitement that soon subsided. . . Now the good order, the attention, the docility, the decent demeanour, in the school, reflect credit on the master and his pupils."

Kent or King Square School: James MacNeill, teacher, second class. Register, 42—average daily attendance, 42. "Mr. MacNeill has had the charge of this school for nine months, and by his praiseworthy devotion to his profession, and the fidelity with which he has discharged his duties, merits suitable acknowledgments."

Hillsborough School: Archibald McNeill, teacher, first class. Register, 62—average daily attendance, 46. The trustees are warned that "they should without delay, either enlarge the school-room or provide another. The pupils are at present crowded on the seats, and there is not sufficient space for class exercise, and in other respects the capacity of the school-room is objectionable." The relation between the master and his pupils, the report adds cautiously "seems to be what it should be."

In addition, mention is made of an Orphan School (Mrs. Clark in charge, who labours conscientiously to train the neglected and indigent) and the Bog Free School, conducted by Miss Harvie, "whose reputation as an accomplished and assiduous teacher renders it unnecessary to speak at any length either of her method or success." Fifty-eight pupils were enrolled in the latter institution, the daily attendance varying from 39 to 47. In general, Mr. Arbuckle found that "the progressive improvement in the City schools has been evident and gratifying, but there is still much to be done before they are brought to that state of perfection at which they should strive." Large and small pupils were "mingled promiscuously together without any regard to their

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How To Know A Fellow Traveller

(Montreal Gazette)
It was Mark Twain who once wrote that if you want a real description of anyone, ask a humorist. For the humorist, with a few quick strokes, often gives a more recognizable likeness than the most solemnly painstaking draughtsman.

The British weekly, The New Statesman and Nation, has decided to ask its readers to send in some briskly humorous descriptions on a list of modern topics. One of the descriptions asked for was that of a "fellow-traveller."

Certainly on the matter of fellow travellers there has been much solemn attempt at painstaking definition, and equally solemn efforts at refutation. But some of these quick strokes of definition do the whole job far swifter.

One reader described the fellow traveller as one who "usually travels in the red line bus and invariably hides his ticket." But two of the best descriptions came from two readers who, with a few quick strokes, depicted the same thing from nearly the same angle. One wrote: "A fellow traveller is one who has the courage of someone else's convictions." And the other wrote: "A fellow

comparative age or attainments." He recommended the establishment of a grading system.

Also, pupils were warned that "urbanity of manners is expected in the City schools. It is as important for them to learn how to behave as to acquire knowledge. Scholars should not be guilty of boisterous shouting and disrespectful hooting of those who pass by."

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Notes By The Way
Next to the woman scorned — in the list of those that hell hath no fury like — is the Communist snapping out of his dream. — Detroit News.
Success is what you have when you make your pile. Luck is what the other fellow has when he does the same thing. — Saskatoon Star Phoenix.
Justice Minister Stuart S. Carson has been asked by the County and District Judges Association of Ontario for a pay increase. We hope collective bargaining ironed out this dispute. There would be something unseemly about dignified jurists picketing courthouses. — Windsor Star.

Asking for a salary increase from \$1,560 to \$2,000, Chief Constable David Gordon of Fenelon Falls, has been dismissed without even seven days' notice. He was head inspector, collector of municipal moneys, road superintendent, supervisor of parks, sanitary inspector and relief officer. Moreover, his abrupt dismissal came after 15 years of service, a long time to let a man for his value to the community. It seems to show that the era of soulless corporations has not quite vanished. — St. Catharines Standard.

Mr. Foullet is a highly intelligent man but his instinctive isolationism often wars with his judgment. Assuredly it is warped when he says that Canada got nothing out of the war. Canada got out of the war the right to remain Canada. With its own energies and the aid of mighty allies it preserved its national existence which would have been lost by defeat. Like other democratic states Canada hoped that the war would produce a different sort of world than that now facing us, but for itself Canada asked nothing but freedom and this was won. What else did Mr. Foullet expect? What better reason could Canada have for entering the war? — Winnipeg Free Press.

Professional entertainers who do one-night stands see very little of the cities they perform in. Arriving at the city, they generally rest or practice for the evening performance, go from the concert hall, back to the hotel, then to the railroad depot. Yehudi Menuhin, the great violinist, stated that he has visited every city of any size in the United States and all he saw of them were the depots, hotels and halls. Arthur Rubinstein, the famous pianist, went better than that on one occasion. Arriving at Manchester, England, on one of his tours, the entrance to the hotel led direct from the station platform, and the concert hall was right inside the hotel. All that he saw of Manchester was the view from his hotel window.

We are like the story the despatches tell of the Governor General's inspection of, and comment on, the Winnipeg floods. He took the area in a Jeep, clambered over slippery dikes in his hip waders for the first time flew in a helicopter to see from the air the extent and nature of the disaster. And his comments indicated the decisiveness of this great soldier his experience in dealing with emergencies. He trained and practical mind brings to bear on major as well as minor problems. Evacuation should be stepped up. "Non-combatants" sent as far away as possible, leaving as a refuge for the workers "if the worst should come." Plans should be made on the assumption that the worst would come, because the situation was very nasty. "If," he said philosophically, "you're ready for the worst, and something not so bad happens you can take it in your stride. And if the worst does occur you are ready for it." The "useless class" should be sent away first, "Old people, women and children and invalids," said Lord Alexander. "All that come of the what I call 'useless mouths'." This is, they use up food while contributing nothing to the city's defenses. For the people of Winnipeg the visit of the Governor General was a sign that all Canada behind them in their hard plight. And the timeliness of his inspection of the scene of a national catastrophe, the cordiality and sympathy he displayed, the sensible advice he gave, must have deepened the pride of Canadians generally in this distinguished gentleman who is the official head of the State. It all confirms our conviction that with the approval of the King, Lord Alexander should be invited by the Government, and urged, to accept appointment to Governor House for a second term. — Ottawa

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