

THE GUARDIAN

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President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, OCT. 4, 1951

Peace and Prices

Whether after October 25 Britain will have a Conservative or a Socialist government depends upon how skillfully party leaders handle the two dynamite-packed issues of peace and prices. The electoral battle is already taking shape around these two fundamental questions.

Winston Churchill and his Conservative followers are already promising the British people lower prices and an end to the chronic economic crisis which has bedevilled the country ever since the Socialists came to power. Details of the Conservative plan for fighting inflation are lacking. Nor do they promise that it will achieve immediate results. They say only that if elected they will cut wasteful government spending and introduce an incentive scheme to step up output in industrial production.

Instead of wider distribution of what they call "the national cake", Conservative policy aims at "a larger national cake". Six years of socialist muddle, they say, has produced "a deepening impression of inadequacy so far as the present Government is concerned, and a widening desire for change."

An electorate which goes to the polls to vote, is, as every astute student of politics knows, more concerned with throwing out of power a Government with which they are dissatisfied, than in choosing one to succeed it. The chances are, therefore, that Conservative harping upon the inadequacies of Prime Minister Attlee's regime are more likely to succeed in their purpose of getting Mr. Churchill and his followers re-elected than rosy promises about steaks and pie a year from this October.

Socialist politicians have been devoting a good deal of time to an attempt to create the impression that they are the "peace" party and the Conservatives "warmongers". The Conservatives have been countering this sort of propaganda pretty effectively with the slogan "Make Britain strong again".

Nor is Socialist electoral strategy on the problem of prices likely to be appealing. It is singularly unconvincing to the British housewife to be told that international planning is the best way to assure stable prices. British housewives have before them the object lesson of five years of national planning under socialism and they aren't happy about it.

After all, it is the solid British middle class that will be the deciding factor on October 25—Conservative or Socialist.

Important Rates Question

A matter of chief concern discussed at the annual meeting of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade in Sydney on Tuesday was the various proposals for amending the Railways Act, as embodied in Bill 377 which stems from recommendations of the Royal Commission on Transportation. In this Bill it is made permissive for the Transport Board, subject to certain exceptions, to establish on any railway system in Canada uniform mileage class and commodity scales expressed in mileage blocks or groups, to revise any other rates charged, and to disallow any rate which is not considered in conformity with the national freight rates policy.

The issue is important because plans of so-called rate equalization so far proposed all show substantial increases generally in the Maritime freight rate structure. Recently the railways filed with the Board of Transport Commissioners their plan, which is analyzed in the report submitted at the Trade Board meeting. For example, in the case of the proposed first and fifth class rates, the increase between Toronto and Charlottetown would be 107.7 and 88.5 per cent respectively, while the increase

in the reverse direction, Charlottetown to Toronto, would be 112.4 and 89 per cent respectively. Percentage increases to and from other Maritime centres would be proportionately great.

Since the existing rates have already been increased 62.6 per cent over those in effect on April 7, 1948, the cumulative increases involved in the railways' proposals would result generally in rates three times what they were before the post-war increases were effected. On the other hand, it is noted that substantial reductions are proposed for Western Canada.

Even in modified form, the so-called rate equalization proposals are the antitheses of what the Maritimes have been advocating—a structure to permit the greatest possible movement of traffic between this and other parts of Canada, and not one which would further restrict and curtail our economic development. The uniform rate plan is based strictly on mileage and would completely ignore the conditions on which Maritime industries have been developed.

A hearing of the Board of Transport Commissioners is scheduled for early November to finalize the application of the Railway Association for freight rate increases, and our Trade Board Commission, through Mr. Rand H. Matheson, has prepared strong arguments to show the necessity of retaining the concessions obtained under the Maritime Freight Rates Act in their entirety.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Allies landed in Greece this date 1944.

In connection with the celebration of Newspaper Week, the Guardian is remembering its newsboys by presenting them with theatre tickets for themselves and parents.

Citizens of the United Kingdom now in Canada, whose names are on the current electoral roll, can apply to be treated as absent voters and vote by proxy. Holiday-makers and emigrants are excluded from proxy voting.

Appropriately enough today—dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi—is being widely observed as a World Day for Animals. It is necessary that children be taught to care for their fellow creatures. They can as readily learn to be cruel.

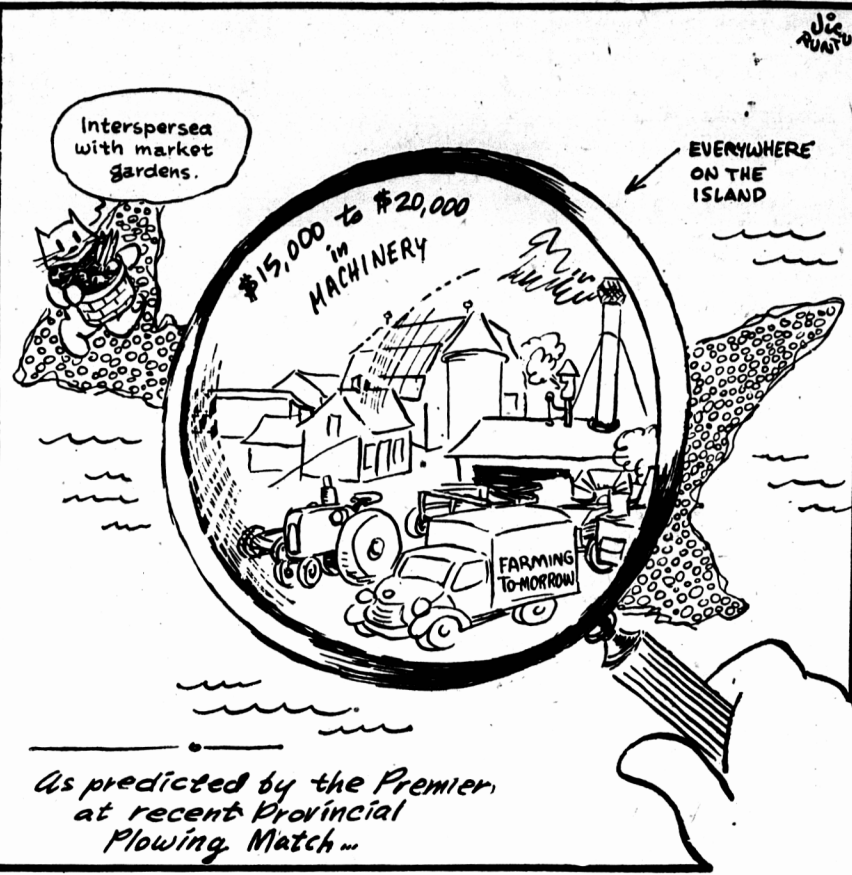
A new electric harpoon embodying electrodes instead of an explosive charge in the harpoon head will form part of the equipment of British whaling ships shortly leaving for the Antarctic. The advantages of the new harpoon are both economic and humanitarian—it kills whales more quickly (in a minute instead of an hour or more) and does little damage to the flesh in the process.

Automobile companies are working feverishly behind the scenes to ready their 1952 models in time for showing in about two months. Some machine tool builders are expressing surprise over the extent of changes which are going through despite tooling troubles, materials shortages and other handicaps. Actual dates of the various introductions in most cases have not been set except very tentatively.

This is International Newspaper Week, when publishers in Canada and the United States emphasize the importance of their production. Readers of The Guardian appreciate the daily issue, and do not require to have its value emphasized. Mr. David Maclellan of the editorial staff of the Telegraph-Journal put it this way to the Saint John Kiwanis: "The daily newspaper enables you and your wife to do more shopping at one sitting than you could do in weeks of walking the streets. It places more potential customers within the reach of the local advertiser at one time than any other medium, and gives readers for five cents the biggest value for your money obtainable today."

The Speaker of the British House of Commons, Colonel the Rt. Hon. Douglas Clifton Brown, M.P., has been returned for many years as Conservative M.P. for the Hexham Division of Northumberland. Hexham political parties have protested against this arrangement on the grounds that the riding is thereby "virtually disfranchised" but have not fought elections because of the tradition that the Speaker should have an unopposed election. However, Colonel Clifton Brown has announced that he will not seek re-election to the new Parliament. It will, therefore, be necessary to elect a Speaker. Should the balance of the parties be fine, there may well be reluctance on the part of both of the great parties to surrender one of their Members and thereby lose his vote.

The Island Industrialized



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.

SEEKS MONTGOMERY DATA

Sir,—For my own pleasure and information I am making a project of collecting data of a dearly beloved childhood author, Mrs. L. M. Montgomery Macdonald who I understand is buried in Cavendish.

Mrs. Macdonald through her immemorial stories contributed much joy to my illness-ridden childhood and now a quarter of a century later I am attempting to find someone who was near and dear to her who would be willing to just tell me more about her.

Thanking you for any assistance you may render in this matter.

I am, Sir, etc. (MRS.) MARGARET E. WILKES, Savannah, Missouri, U. S. A.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE

Reference was made yesterday to the 100th anniversary of the Yankee Gale (Oct. 24, 1851) in which more than seventy vessels, mostly American, were wrecked on the North Shore of Prince Edward Island. While some 150 lives were lost, many others were saved and the hospitality shown to the survivors was very warmly commented upon by New England newspapers.

"We mentioned in our last, that the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island had issued a proclamation directing all officers of the Revenue, Magistrates and other subjects of Her Majesty, to render all aid in their power to the unfortunate fishermen of the United States who were wrecked on the northern coasts of that Island, and especially to exert themselves for the preservation of property, and its restoration to the rightful owners; but it appears from what we learn of our fishermen who have returned from the scene of the late disaster, that this proclamation, though evincing the generous humanity of the Lieutenant Governor, was unnecessary; for they all speak in the warmest terms of gratitude of the universal hospitality and kindness they and all the shipwrecked men received at the hands of these generous and humane Islanders.

"In the midst of the storm they were on the beach to render every aid in their power to save life. After it abated, they cheerfully offered their services to assist in the preservation of property. They bore from the wreck the bodies of those who perished, at their own expense prepared them for the grave, and administered to them the last sad rites of humanity.

"Nor was this all; they opened their doors to those who had no shelter, fed and clothed the destitute, and bestowed upon the sufferers generally, every possible assistance which could alleviate their misfortune, and every attention that humanity could devise.

"At the instance of many of our returned townsmen, our exchange at Halifax, and the P. E. Island papers, are requested to make known to their readers the feelings of grateful remembrance in which the wrecked fishermen of Gloucester will always hold the generous hospitality extended to them in their misfortune."

SWANSEA, Wales — (OP) — Councilors here failed to find a legal means of presenting the retiring mayor with a medal. They were told that while some boroughs award medals, the practice might arouse public opinion.

Notes By The Way

Markets are where you find them. An enterprising shoe salesman in Great Britain unreservedly accepts that dictum and is setting out to tap the biggest potential shoe market in the world. He is resolved to put shoes on the millions of Africa's barefoot natives. Equipped with a large stock of multi-colored balloons, a public-address system and a moving-picture projector, as well as trunks of samples, he plans to put on quite a show in jungle villages and demonstrate how popular shoes are in other parts of the world. There will also be amplified singing commercials and plenty of tom-tom hoopla to stir the blood. — Hamilton Spectator.

Legislators who vote for new taxes without thought of the consequences might well take pause from the case of James A. Woodruff, a convict on parole from San Quentin penitentiary in California. Like all inmates, Woodruff was delighted to be allowed out on probation. But his happiness soon faded. He was not living with his wife and children, and when he got a job was compelled to send \$46 a week for their support. This left him \$23 a week; and when taxes on his entire wages were taken out of this, he was left too little to live on in this day and age. So Woodruff hitchhiked back to San Quentin, and asked to be readmitted to finish his term because of the high cost of living. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Much has been written about his (Charlie Chaplin's) singular pathos, and I should be the last to deny the efficacy of his bamboo cane or his enormous faithful eyes. Pathos has always been associated with laughter, and that Chaplin should have added new meaning to this association is certainly a tribute to his intelligence and invention. Yet I should say that the most durable proof of his genius is his discovery and handling of the element of jauntiness.

Until his day this element had been but a subservient, incidental and uninteresting part of comedy. Chaplin adorned it with a wholly original funniness and at the same time rendered it touching, serious, and lit by the sunshine of undefeated pugacity in the face of constant humiliation. Thereby he added something quite important to human experience and understanding. — Harold Nicholson in London Observer.

Labour had a similar lead. This more intensive grouping of Labour's strength, the writer argues, is bound to count against it in the electoral struggle.

The same writer argues that Liberal intervention made comparatively little difference to the final result and that "without a further swing from Labour to Conservative, independent of what the Liberals may do, another general election would not bring a Conservative victory."

Political observers in the United Kingdom consider that the results will be determined by the voting in 47 ridings now held with majorities of less than 1,000 votes (7 with less than 100 votes). 87 others were won by less than 2,000 (Labour 41, Conservatives 39, Liberal 7).

In an interesting analysis in the London weekly "The Economist", dated March 1950, a correspondent argues that there is a bias now existing in the electoral situation which substantially favours the Conservatives. The writer claims that if in every constituency in the country at the 1950 election, the Labour Party had won 1 per cent less of the vote and the Conservatives 1 per cent more, the Labour Party would still have had 0.7 per cent more of the aggregate vote than the Conservatives, but the Conservatives would have gained 17 more seats from Labour, and would have had a lead over them of 15 seats.

"Put more dramatically," says the article, "if in every constituency the Conservatives had won 2.7 per cent more of the vote and Labour 2.7 per cent less, the votes for the parties would have been exactly reversed, but the result in seats would have been much more than reversed. The Conservatives with 340 seats would have had an absolute lead of 55 seats over all parties."

The writer explains this bias as being due to the fact that few Conservative constituencies are quite as safe as Labour strongholds. In the 1950 election, although there was only a small difference in the number of seats won, there were 42 constituencies where Labour had a majority of over 20,000, while there were only 10 such Conservative constituencies. Lower down the scale there were 137 constituencies where Labour had a majority of over 10,000, but only 94 where Conserv-

The Poet's Corner

PEACE PROCLAIMED

The helmet now an hive for bees becomes, And hilts of swords may serve for spiders' looms; Sharp pikes may make Teeth for a rake; And the keen blade th' arch enemy of life, Shall be degraded to a pruping knife. The rustic spade Which first was made For honest agriculture, shall re-take Its primitive employment, and forsake The rampires steep And trenches deep. Tame oonies in our brazen guns shall breed, Or gentle doves their young ones there shall feed. In muskrat barrels mice shall raise quarrels For their quarters. The ventri-quoious drum, Like lawyers in vacations, shall be dumb. Now all recruits, But those of fruits, Shall be forgot; and th' unarmed soldier Shall only boast of what he did while, In chimney's ends, Among his friends. — Ralph Knevett (1600-71).

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part One (continued) (All Rights Reserved) VISIT TO ASSISI

Early Christmas morning we went to Assisi. Including a few stops, it was a five hour drive. The country south of Rome is poor and appears to be poorer as you go south. I thought the winding roads, the steep cliffs, and the sudden turns on the Cabot Trail in Cape Breton were bad, but they provide only a minor thrill when compared to an Italian bus drive, about 70 miles an hour, around curves, within inches of the edge of the cliffs which seemed to be hundreds of feet straight down.

There are still many people living in caves on the sides of the hills. There were a few goats on pasture, but there seemed to be very few cattle or other livestock of any kind about. The people are poor compared with our standards of life, and southern Italy has little or nothing to offer them, either in agriculture or industry. We were told that some of those caves are well equipped but most of them are quite primitive. The people seem to get enough returns from their small fruit and olive groves to keep them going. In the towns where electricity is now available, there are many small industries starting.

About eleven o'clock we arrived at the world famous town of Assisi, where our beloved St. Francis, born of rich parents, gave up all at the call of our Lord to help the poor and spread the Christian faith. Down in the valley, below the town, stands the church of Santa Maria, built over the small chapel, where St. Francis lived, prayed and later died.

It was in this little chapel, not large enough for more than 12 or 13 people, where our Lord spoke to St. Francis and asked him to "Go and repair My church." We have all read of his travels and difficulties, of his great humility, of the stigma which later afflicted him, of his great work among his own people, of his travels to distant lands to spread the Christian doctrine, and of his founding a great missionary order, the Franciscans.

St. Francis lived from 1181 to 1226; he was a great lover of birds. Ever since the day he bought two small doves from a boy he met going to market to exchange them for meat, there has been and still is a pair of doves, or pigeons as we call them, continually in the porch at the back entrance to his chapel. Each year, they told us, since St. Francis died, the old pair has flown away and two of the young have remained, freely and continually here in the porch. We saw them there, and next year two of their young will remain.

We went on a few steps further to the small garden of St. Francis, where he once fell and was injured among the rose bushes. Roses still grow there, but the bushes have grown without thorns since that day. It is difficult to conceive of thornless rose bushes. They will grow and bloom and there will be no thorns on them. People have tried to disprove this and planted the same rose bushes just across the walk, but they grew with thorns. Rose bushes with thorns have been planted in the plot, and the thorns have disappeared.

We were getting close to something supernatural, but we came even closer when, on our way back, a blind lady who had come in our group from England, wished aloud that the doves would come and sit on her shoulder. They did just that for a moment and then flew back to their perch. You could almost hear the silence. We all knew then we were near something out of the ordinary and caught the true meaning of Assisi. The doubts of one of our non-Catholic friends who had come along were lessened.

Then, up the hill we went, into the town of grey rock and the streets paved with cobblestones, for Christmas dinner in Italy. This was an experience. Of course the best wine was served and the entree of assorted cold meats, including a delicacy of mouldy salami. But instead of turkey or chicken, we had spaghetti. It was not only useless but rather rude to try and cut it up. It had to be rolled up on your fork and usually when you started with a small portion you ended up with a ball too large to go in your mouth. However, although it was different, it was an unforgettable Christmas dinner. There were plenty of olives and fruits, topped off with an orange pudding for dessert and goat's milk with the strong coffee to finish.

After dinner we went to see the upper church in the town where the body of St. Francis is kept. It is the home church of the Franciscan order and the people and the priests still live on in their poor and simple way. The story of their saintly founder is still dear to them today.

We then went to the church of St. Clare, the one time friend and follower of St. Francis. There we saw her preserved body and many other items of interest connected with the great story.

Back to Rome we came, around the sudden curves and amid what started out to be a chorus of all the favorite hymns, but which later developed into a concert of all the English ballads, the Scottish songs and the Irish jigs, that were known to the group. It was a full day. Another tour was to Genzano, about thirty kilometers inland from Rome. It is a small town with that is its neighbour's.

The Age-Old Story

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.