

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1951

Responsible Government

Today's centennial anniversary of the establishment of Responsible Government in Prince Edward Island takes place, appropriately enough, in the heat of a general election campaign.

Previously there had been strong opposition to the measure from men appointed by the Government of the Mother Country, from the landed proprietors, their agents, and their relatives and friends, who could not see any need for a change.

Our ups and downs as a self-governing Colony and Province are traced so fully and authoritatively in Dr. Frank MacKinnon's new book, "The Government of Prince Edward Island," that it is unnecessary to review the highlights here.

Immigration Again

A new concept underlies the Canadian Chamber of Commerce proposal that Canada try to reach a population of 30,000,000 people by 1975.

Hugo Liquor Bill

Provincial controlled liquor and beer sales in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1950, excluding Newfoundland, totalled more than half a billion dollars, \$507,659,671 to be exact.

Official information places the total consumers' liquor and beer bill for 1949-50 at \$614,000,000. This includes the profit on retail sales of individual drinks.

Total net revenues of the provinces, and the two territories, from these sales and taxes on brewery warehouse sales, were \$128,528,699, as against \$126,692,678 in the preceding fiscal year.

In all but three of the Provinces gross sales of liquor, beer and wine were higher in 1949-50 than in the previous fiscal year. Lower sales were recorded in Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; and although the effect of the reduction on net revenue was slight in the case of Quebec, it was substantial in the two Maritime Provinces.

Manitoba's gross sales were \$27,090,239, an increase of \$1,661,027 over the previous year. Net revenues were \$7,651,208. Ontario, which had by far the biggest gross sales of \$196,790,174 and net revenue of \$39,780,787.

The Federal Government's income from taxes on spirits, liquor, beer and malt in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1950, was \$143,217,413 as against \$141,734,386 in 1948-49.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Two more days till the election.

This is courtesy year for British motorists and highways are plastered with bilingual signs saying that, "Courtesy is Contagious." We hope it is, and that it reaches epidemic proportions.

Daniel Defoe, English writer, died this date 1731. He was a born political pamphleteer but fortunately from 1719 on devoted his time to producing novels.

Inflation evidently benefits the churches. Finances of the United Church of Canada have never been better, Rev. Dr. Victor T. Mooney, treasurer of the United Church of Canada, told the annual meeting of the Board of Overseas Missions, in Toronto.

The death of Ernest Bevin, labour leader who became a great Foreign Secretary, was soon followed by the resignation of Labour Minister Aneurin Bevan without the public really getting a chance to sort out the confusion between their names.

Twelve British women are planning to leave London for Korea next month to organize welfare work for Commonwealth troops. All are relatives, widows or sweethearts of men from Britain who have been reported missing in Korea.

One hundred years ago today the Hon. George Coles advised the Legislative Assembly that he had been commanded by His Excellency Governor Bannerman to form a Government which would have the confidence of the House.

Although not mentioned in the will, Lady Astor appears to succeed to one part of G. B. Shaw's stock-in-trade—the device of saying what is calculated to annoy the greatest number of people.

Fifty air cadets from Canada and the U. S. A. will arrive in Britain in July and 25 British cadets will leave for Canada on August 5, in a three-way exchange between Britain, Canada and the U. S. A.

In addition to its value as a text book of political history, Dr. Frank MacKinnon's magnum opus, "The Government of Prince Edward Island," is worth reading for its racy style and the revelation it gives of scandals in high society in days past, indicating that unredeemed human nature was no different then from what it is now.

The Ottawa inter-empire agreement fathered by Prime Minister Bennett still rules the tariff roost. As the result of the seven months' discussion by the representatives of 39 nations at Torquay, England, we are told concessions were negotiated on a list of 16 pacts between Canada and other nations, though failure was reported in talks among the U. S., Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

The Poet's Corner

ON FREEDOM

It is not to be thought of that the flood Of British freedom, which, to the open sea Of the world's praise, from dark antiquity Hath flowed, 'with pomp of waters, unwitthood,— Roused though it be full often to a mood Which spurns the check of salutary bands.— That this most famous stream in bogs and sands Should perish; and to evil and to good Be lost for ever. In our halls is hung Armory of the invincible Knights of old; We must be free or die, who speak the tongue That Shakespeare spake; the faith and morals hold Which Milton held.—In every-thing we are sprung Of Eastern blood, have titles manifold.

—William Wordsworth.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

From an editorial in The Islander, Feb. 12, 1948:

The City Council have very recently had under consideration the grant of that tract of land adjoining the City, known in modern times as the Government House Farm.

The propriety of applying to the Governor General for the restoration to the City of at least a portion of this land, in order that it may be opened as a Park, was, we believe, discussed, and it was proposed to address the Governor General by petition, to be forwarded through the Administrator; but this proposition, it is reported, was abandoned, in consequence of Sir Robert Hodgson's having declared his unwillingness to forward the petition.

"We heartily concur with the City authorities in thinking that an effort should be made to obtain possession of at least a portion of the seventy or eighty acres of the Common now attached to Government House; and we believe that, were the facts connected with the grant properly brought before the Imperial Government, it would be obtained. We disapprove of applying to the Governor General on the subject. This officer has no interest in the matter, nor does he have the power to dispose of any part of the farm. The land in question is part of the Common. It was appropriated as such, many years prior to the date of the grant to Lord Dorchester.

"Lieutenant Governor Fanning, with the consent of his Council, granted it to Lord Dorchester for the use of Lieutenant Governor Fanning and his successors in office. The greater portion of it remained in a wilderness state until about 1830, when Government House was erected upon the eastern extremity of it. We believe that it can be shown that this grant to Lord Dorchester was 'ultra vires', that Governor Fanning had no authority to take any such action.

"A few years previous to the date of this grant, it was deemed advisable to lease other portions of the Common. An Act of the Legislature was considered necessary to enable the Government to do so. In the days of General Fanning, when the greater portion of the ground on which the City stands, and all the Common, was wilderness, there was no one who cared much what was done with land in the Common. The Common was leased and granted, and time has given the grantees and occupants titles which cannot now be disturbed.

"Let the City apply to the Colonial Office, allege the circumstances under which the seventy or eighty acres of City property was appropriated to the use of the Lieutenant Governor for the time being, and request that a portion of it be restored to the inhabitants, who so much need it, and we predict that they will not ask in vain....

"The subject was, a few years since, brought before the Assembly by petition, but was not urged as it should have been, and was abandoned.... We may remind the City Council that it is important that they should act with promptitude and energy in this matter. It is known that 'able men', not many months since, formed the design of applying to the Colonial Minister for permission to sell the Government Farm for building lots, in order to raise funds for the payment of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor. This contemplated act of vandalism must, if possible, be prevented."

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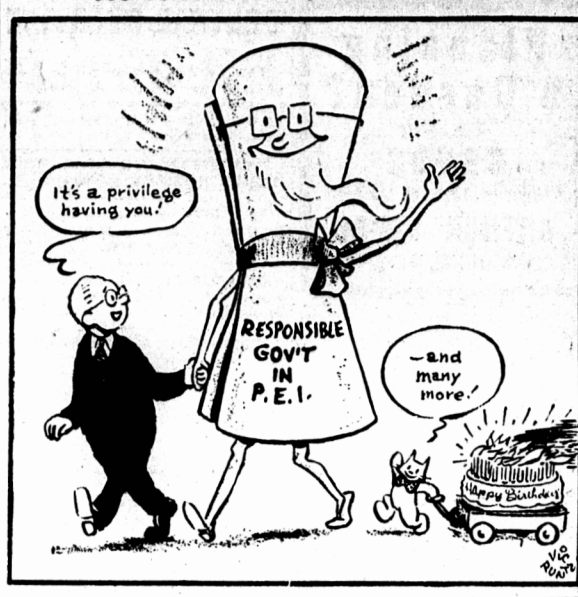
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100 Years Old Today And Going Strong



East And West

(From Japan and the West, by Arnold Toynbee)

What, out of all that is happening today, seems likely to stand out prominently in the distant historical view? My own guess would be that the historians of the distant future will find that the great event of our time is the meeting of east and west. This, I believe they will say, was the historic event that set the world's history on a new course.

The west, these future historians may declare, forced the world into unity by casting round it the network of a modern system of communications. The rest of the world now found itself compelled to meet the west, and the first effect of this encounter was to turn upside down the lives of all the non-western peoples.

But these future historians will probably go on to record a later chapter in the story which so far remains unwritten. After the non-western peoples had been forced to meet the west and to adjust their traditional ways of life to the requirements of a westernized world, they began, our future historians will perhaps tell us, to exert counter-influences on the west, and this blend of eastern and western civilizations was the origin of the world civilization of the third millennium after Christ.

Railway Passes For MP's

(From the Commons Hansard) Mr. Harris (Danforth). Mr. Chairman, I could never understand why it was considered necessary to grant these extraordinary privileges, I sympathize with hon. members who come from remote parts of the country to help us run the affairs of the country, but frankly I am of the opinion that the time has long since passed when his extraordinary right to travel on passes should have been done away with.

The other day, for instance, there was reference to hon. members of this House travelling free to Churchill. Travel free, by all means, but let us have vouchers filed with those charged with administration of these matters, so that they may have entries in their bookkeeping system in respect of each and every one of us who exercise this particular privilege. Honor those vouchers by all means; but let us not in this institution, where we enjoy such great privileges and where we are permitted to spend so freely—and not always our own money—let us not spend too freely the money which comes from our taxpayers. Let those vouchers be scrutinized in such a way that those who send us here will feel satisfied that they are receiving true value for the amounts covered by the vouchers passed by those in authority.

The procedure of issuing passes is something that should be looked into. We should try to find some method by which we can pay our own way to a greater extent, and not take so much for granted, or accept so readily the free transportation made available to us by the Railway Act. By the provisions of that act we are permitted to travel hither and yon, often for purposes of statesmanship, but of-

The Age-Old Story

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather prove them... Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

tener for personal business reasons. We are altogether too free in this practice... I repeat that the time is ripe for cutting down the number of free rides on the merry-go-round, and even though we do get a brass ring. It is not too late to cut down this privilege of free transportation afforded to many of our citizens who, while they are not permitted to ride free on buses or aircraft—and I express the hope that the privilege may not be extended to those means of transportation—do travel free on trains and steamships...

The time has come when a few dollars should be spent to investigate this high privilege which is given to many people. Most of them deserve it, but about ten percent of them do not. It is a privilege which we as members of Parliament, as well as our wives, sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters and sweethearts, enjoy when travelling on trains and steamships, and it is a privilege which should be checked and wherever possible curtailed. It should not be abused.

I have seen the privilege abused for over thirty years—and I shall not go into detail in the matter, although I could if I were asked to.

Mr. McEwen: Would the hon. member be in favor of the cancellation of transportation privileges, so that only our expenses would be paid?

Mr. Harris: Yes, and that vouchers should be supplied.

Mr. Sinclair: Turn in your pass.

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Notes By The Way

Is off-day employment a regular thing with 40-hour week workers? If so, what's the excuse for missing the point, especially now in Canada is faced with a labor shortage during the defence spending campaign? —Lethbridge Herald.

resources of the human spirit. Letter in Saturday Review.

In the last 10 years the American appetite for shrimp has developed around Mazatlan, on the west coast of Mexico, a brand new and lucrative business, according to the Wall Street Journal. From the 22 fast-freezing plants in that area 30,000,000 pounds of shrimp were shipped last year to the United States. In return, 20,000,000 American dollars went to Mexico—without benefit of "Point Four", the World Bank or the Marshall Plan. With the \$20,000,000, Mexicans bought in this country many of the things they need. This development is a good example of the way foreign trade should operate. The Mazatlan shrimp are much larger than those from our own Southern States. The latter are now mostly canned or dried, but they still find a ready market. The simple fact is that more shrimp are now being eaten in this country, relieving to a degree the pressure on the meat supply. Nobody suffers much; everybody gains. That is foreign trade at its best.—Milwaukee Journal.

"There is no limit to the speed at which man will be able to travel," said an aeronautical engineer. He's right, of course, but that was discovered by a Western Ontario farmer of our acquaintance years ago. A swift-moving man, he was infuriated when groundhogs he had shot dropped into his holes and died there. Finally, he shot and leaped, and got the groundhog before it dropped—but he also got the buckshot in the seat of the pants. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

Liberty of the press does not permit uniquely the right to tell the truth. It assumes equally the privilege of making mistakes. Louis Veuillot said that a newspaper was in the order of a necessary evil. Thus it indicated weaknesses, failures and limitations. Few journalists have any illusions about their calling. They do not pretend to be always right. They write about everything at full steam, with fragmentary information. Their observations rarely get to the bottom of things; they skim over subjects with more or less verisimilitude. The case of the newspaper without party affiliation or interest, but consecrated uniquely to the defence of certain causes is scarcely different from that of the others. It is not because one writes for a good newspaper that one is a well of wisdom or monopolizes the truth. Many people the not offended by being deliberately fooled by partisan sheets, but are scandalized by a mistake in word or date in a serious journal. In Argentina it is government intolerance that oppresses the newspapers. Here it is often the indifference or the intolerance of the readers which kills them or forces them into dullness. —(Le Devoir, Montreal.)

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