

THE GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink. CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, SEPT. 25, 1950

Quebec Conference

The meeting in the old city of Quebec today of representatives from the eleven Canadian Governments is of major importance in Canada's history. In 1864, following the Charlottetown conference, the Government leaders from Canada (Canada East and Canada West), New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland met and laid the foundations of this nation.

The present conference, like its predecessor, takes place in troublous times but because of the wise principles then laid down it is a meeting of component parts of a united nation. It lies heavy on those national leaders to so act as to maintain that unity.

It could be marred either by subjecting Provinces and minorities to the dictates of any party having a majority in Parliament at Ottawa, or equally by empowering minorities to obstruct the full and proper development of this country.

The delegates' task is far from easy, but with the example of the Fathers of Confederation before them, with good will on all sides and with the aid of Divine Providence they should be able to bring the constitutional development of this land to completion in form as has already been achieved in fact.

Absurd And Inequitable

A Toronto exchange suggests that as municipalities are barred from participation in the forthcoming Dominion-Provincial conference they may properly expect their respective Provincial Governments to speak on their behalf on matters pertaining to Dominion-municipal relationships.

There is, for example, the question of the sales tax imposed on municipalities for items purchased for municipal use. On this score the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities which met recently at Saskatoon was quite emphatic, and with reason. They took strong exception to municipalities paying a sales tax on fire trucks and street-cleaning vehicles; and when it is realized that municipal equipment of this kind provides service to Dominion buildings, which pay no municipal taxes at all, the absurdity and inequity of the levy could not be more glaring.

Inflationary Surplus

The Globe and Mail notes that while Parliament was in special session the Government offered no information as to what use had been made of the large store of surplus cash it has collected since the beginning of the fiscal year. It was even more significant that members of the House refrained from asking the questions which could have thrown some light—if only indirectly—on whether the surplus has been used in a manner which would increase inflation.

The excess of revenue for August over the same month a year earlier, notes our Toronto contemporary, was \$17.5 million—close to the total surplus of \$20 million estimated for the whole year. The accumulated surplus for the first five months of this fiscal period amounted to \$292.7 million. There was comment during the session on the Government's action in raising \$300 million in short term loans, only \$100 million of which was immediately needed for refunding purposes, leaving \$200 million for other, unspecified expenditures, relending or other uses.

That \$200 million and the \$292 million surplus create a total of close to half a billion dollars, every dollar of which could be used in a way that would accelerate inflation. Presumably most of the surplus tax revenue was to be used for defense purposes. But as the Government has done nothing positive to discourage the rise of prices, it is a fair assumption that most of the money used did, in fact, have an inflationary effect.

Obviously, the first step in combating inflation—which simply means higher prices and increases in the cost of living—is economy in governmental and private spending. All projects not absolutely essential should be deferred in order that the labour, the material and the plant required to make them should be available for our inescapable increase in military expenditures due to the "cold war" now getting so hot in Korea.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Everything comes to him, even the Packer employee, who waits and works.

Civil Defence Minister Arsenault was appointed just in time to depart for the Dominion-Provincial Conference in Quebec.

Shipbuilding to be busy in Nova Scotia, and the lumber business looking up. It is nice to be associated with prospering neighbours.

During the total eclipse of the moon tonight for nearly an hour that body will be in the earth's shadow, shining with a curious coppery-red colour.

In Britain it seems that a loaf of bread sliced is not a loaf of bread for minimum weight rules. A court upheld the contention that it "has been a loaf at one time."

Mr. W. J. Brown, just appointed manager of the Forum, appears to be the right man in the right place. He has long been a faithful and diligent follower of and participant in sport, and an efficient broadcaster of sporting events.

The 150th anniversary services this week of the Presbyterian Congregation at Malpeque recalls the wreck of the "Annabella" there in 1770 with Scotch settlers, including Robert Stewart, Speaker of the Island's first House of Assembly.

The Hon. A. W. Matheson will be carrying a heavy weight of office on his broad shoulders for the next week or so, viz., Minister of Health and Welfare, his own portfolio, and in addition that of Premier, Attorney-General, Provincial Secretary, and Minister of Defence.

Mr. Lemuel Rush is to be complimented on the successful gathering Friday evening of the L. P. U. of which he is the enthusiastic President. The resolution favouring a portfolio of Labour in the Provincial Government deserved the wholehearted support it received from the meeting.

Trust the U.S.A. to go one better. Australia was content to use super-sonic vibrations to simply shake dirt loose from clothes in a Buck Rogers washing machine. Now an American firm has stepped up the power of the high-frequency waves to a point where they can disintegrate diamonds or hard steel.

The Appeal Board of the Canadian Pensions Commission sitting here today and until Wednesday has the duty, as described by Brigadier Melville, "to award pensions not to deny them, subject to provisions of the Act." The sitting here of the final pensions appeal body is indicative of the desire to give veterans every opportunity to present their claim.

There is a special Providence takes care of fools and bairns in time of accidents. In Keith, Scotland, James Riddoch, 5, traveled right through a mechanical binder and was delivered, bound with twine, in a bale of oats. He was riding on the binder when he slipped on to the conveyor belt, the jolt putting the binder in gear. He suffered extensive bruises and a chest injury, but otherwise was all right.

Felicia Dorothea Hemans, English poetess, died this date 1835. She was unusually gifted as a writer, and published her first book of poems at the age of fifteen. She has some twenty books to her credit, much of her work appealing to the heart and sympathies of the reader. Some of her lyrics, such as "The Better Land", "The Graves of a Household", and "The Homes of England" have found an enduring place among English writings.

Domestic consumption figures for beef in the first seven months of this year showed a total of 315.9 million pounds, a decrease of 31.1 million pounds, or 9 per cent drop from the same period in 1949. The largest monthly reduction occurred in July when nearly 42 million pounds went into consumption, which was 10 1/2 million pounds less than July of last year, according to figures released by Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

We will now be able, if we can afford it, to travel de luxe between here and Montreal. The four new bedroom-buffet-lounge cars which are the first of their type to be built in Canada were to be operated in the Ocean Limited from yesterday. They will provide a new buffet service and for the first time, a valet service in Maritime trains for persons traveling between Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Yarmouth, Sydney, New Glasgow and Truro and Amherst, Moncton and Saint John and points to Montreal.

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.

ON BEING AN ISLANDER

Sir,—A few days ago, as I stood on Tea Hill looking seaward, a sudden upsurge of emotion taught me something of what an Islander must feel on looking at the scene spread there before me. Down the hill, and across the fields, the sea lay with a blue glitter and sparkle under the September sunshine. Beyond the sea, the point of land stretched out a protecting arm; the red of shore and cliff was capped again by the green of field and tree.

Looking backward was a land of climbing hill and luxuriant valley, a wide parkland where God and man, it seemed, had co-operated to create a country of gentle loveliness; and I thought of the Irish poet who said of a similar scene, "The little hills of Breeffy, Have stol'n my heart away."

Three months' stay on Prince Edward Island have given time to know and love the intimate little coves, the wide bays, the climbing red roads, the spruce and the lovely white birch. I have never in England seen birches that grow so tall and strong as here. Seen from a distance, a group of white birches, green against the sky, white against field and lawn, have an intimate charm that words fail to express. It is no wonder that Islanders return summer after summer to assuage a hunger that will not be denied. No wonder they speak of THE Island, the only island that to them is home and an enduring magic.

The charm, the loveliness, the magic are almost enough to disarm criticism; almost, but not quite. Practical works like improving the already excellent wide streets of Charlottetown, the desire to carry to the suburbs benefits of the town's water and sanitation services; the steady increase in the paving of the island's roads; the encouragement of the beautification of homes and gardens; the building of new schools; the Experimental Farm which does such invaluable work in aiding the development of the island's agriculture; the fine new Prince of Wales College which offers general and vocational education to the young people of the Island, all show that Government and Council are aware of the many needs.

Two questions have been knocking more and more insistently at my own mind. Is the country child getting a fair deal educationally? Are encouragement and facilities being offered to school leavers and adults to continue their education in the evenings after their day's work is done?

What strikes an outsider as essential in answer to the first question, is a better equipped and better paid group of country teachers working in at least two class-roomed schools. In answer to the second question, it seems to me that a little theatre group, a music club, Y. M. C. A. classes all show that there is a nucleus of demand for further education which could and should be fostered and supplied by the Government. Instead of depending on necessarily inadequate voluntary efforts, could not P. E. I. classrooms be made use of for evening classes? Could not inducements be offered by business firms as well as by the Government, to school leavers, workers, and leisured people to make themselves vocationally as well as culturally, the equal of Canadians anywhere in the world? These schemes would cost money. As the world is developing today, can any country afford to do without such expenditure? I am embarrassed to seek these same questions were exercising the minds of many Islanders long before I came to P. E. I.

I am, Sir, etc. RUTH SILLITOE, Charlottetown.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

AN ACT OF CLEMENCY

"The Atlantic schooner 'Golden Rule', Bartlett, master, from Gloucester, U. S. captured (for illegal fishing) a few days since by the cutter 'Telegraph' and brought in to this port, has, we are pleased to learn, been released through the clemency of Vice Admiral Sir George Seymour. Sir George arrived in this harbour about half-past eight o'clock on Sunday evening, and disembarked on Monday morning under a salute from St. George's Battery. A guard of honour under the command of Captain Rock was drawn up on the Queen's Wharf, where the Lieutenant Governor and some of his Council received him. He left the following day for Port Hill, the residence of James Yeo, Esq."

"We understand that on the arrival of the Admiral at this port, the American capital was put on His Excellency and expressed his appreciation for his conduct, and stated his all was vested in the vessel. Seeing something like forgiveness in the countenance of the venerable veteran, he came on shore and engaged the professional services of John Longworth, Esq., to draw up a memorial to Sir George Seymour, which was soon after presented him. On the following day a note was received from Sir Alexander Bannerman—with whom the Admiral had conferred—to Lieut. Chetwynd, the officer in charge of the prison, to release her. Fortunately for Jonathan his vessel had not been handed over to the Court of Vice Admiralty on the arrival of the Admiral here."

ALCOHOLIC CONSUMPTION

Consumption of alcoholic beverages in Canada in 1949 totalled 5,493,266 gallons.

Not Likely A Dull Session



German Rearmament

(By W. N. Ewer)

A year ago when the German Federal Republic was created and its relations with the occupying powers laid down in the Occupation Statute, the question of allowing Federal Government armed forces of any kind was not even considered. Now it has become not only a matter for serious discussion and consideration but an immediate and practical issue. This is an indication of the change that has come over the whole picture in 12 months. The first development was the rapid conversion of part of the "Peoples' Police" of the Soviet zone into something very like a military force. "A Police Force" said the three power protest sent to Moscow in May "has been created which by reason of its organization, training and equipment, has the character of an army."

These "Bereitschaften" are known to number at least 50,000 men "embodied in military formation which include artillery, tank and infantry battalions." The development, said Mr. Bevin in the House of Commons, "may be a challenge to us indirectly. But it may be an attempt to use these forces in a very brutal civil war." At the same time came a change in German Communist tactics. Communist in the West were told that their duty now was to organize "resistance" both to occupying powers and to the Federal Government. And Communist leaders in the Soviet zone began in the Hitler fashion to utter threats that the West would soon find themselves facing trial by the "Peoples' Courts."

These orders, these threats and their display of armed force may be only part of a war of nerves intended to intimidate and demoralize the West Germans. Or they may be a prelude to attempts at widespread sabotage and even at local risings especially in border areas. But in either case they make it necessary to reconsider the whole question of West German police. Purely civilian and local police forces, controlled not even by Provincial Governments but by committees on the English model, might easily be totally inadequate to deal with any serious Communist outbreaks. And knowledge of that weakness could only increase any fears which Communist propaganda might be arousing in the population.

In such circumstances two things seemed essential. One was the strengthening and re-organization of existing police forces into which, the Federal Chancellor says, Communist elements had worked their way in the earlier period of occupation. The other was the creation of an armed Federal Gendarmerie under direct control of the Federal Government.

But this is only one side of the picture. There has, in this year of reconstructing and strengthening the whole defensive organization of Western Europe, been another question which has come up inescapably. Should Western Germany be allowed and indeed invited to make its contribution to a new defence system? Should there be a new German army taking its place among armed forces of the West forming part of the "balanced integrated defence force" which is to guard all Western Europe? Here was a question upon which a sharp division of opinion was inevitable. On the one hand many soldiers—and for that matter many civilians—see the problem mainly as one of military man power. Western Europe wants more divisions. Very well then, let us raise say, ten German divisions, to take part in the defence of their own country and should share in the new burdens which are being accepted by their neighbours. Ten trained German divisions would fill the deficiency of the West in the infantry. And there would be little risk that these German forces were composed only of infantry—without heavy artillery or tanks or aircraft; and if its arms were all made in and supplied by allied countries and not by any sources under German control.

Naturally enough, the point of view has found the most support in America. For there it sense of military needs and their urgency is as great as in Europe while there is, naturally enough, not the same sharp realization of

The Poet's Corner

GRASS The vague immutable contour of the earth— This insubstantial phantom of green hills Which ever falling away forever change, Perpetual mirages hung beyond Time's reach— Is grass, which sets the round world in our sight. Grass standing thick and still in soundless vales No eye has seen, or straggling into wastes, Beat down but spared by winds which tear up oaks; Green in the sun, and beneath a smothering mist, Where each moist blade sweats one clear glistening drop; Grass growing below huge rocks and round lone graves; Climbing, a tiny host, up mountainsides; Hanging on mist-locked keeps above dun lakes; Tossing or low small islets on the tide. Soft meadows mid the currents of the sea, Where the green glossy blades drink the blue wave; Grass waiting in dark table-lands of snow; O'er new-riven chasms weaving its light veil, And outstretched o'er fallen and jagged peaks: The invulnerable vesture of the world.

—Edwin Muir.

The Age-Old Story

And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the Lord had given him in commandment unto them... Beforehold, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them. all that the idea of even limited German rearmament implies in the minds of Germany's European neighbours. The memory of failure to control a permitted rearmament after the 1914-18 war, the memory of invasion and occupation by a rearmed Germany are still deeply imprinted on all minds. A haunting suspicion that militarism is by no means dead and that it might soon think in terms, not of defence against the East, but of another aggression against the West, is always there. In a sentence, it is still felt that Germany is not to be trusted with an army—however limited and however supposedly controlled. Nor is this feeling confined to Germany's neighbours. It exists in Germany itself. For instinctively and for obvious historical reasons German Democrats regard a German army as a potential threat to Democracy. It was Bismarck's Prussian army which broke the Democratic Revolution of 1848. It was the Reichswehr which paved the way for and made possible Hitler's overthrow of the Weimar Republic. To the average German the army is a power in itself not controlled by the Civil Government and dangerously able to coerce or control the Civil Government. The structure of the new Republic, one German delegate to the Council of Europe argued, is not strong enough to control an army. "The army might control the State." Here, then, are the two points of view. Arguments on either side are cogent, choice is not easy. It was only to be expected that the three Foreign Ministers, facing the issue for the first time, should feel the need for more consideration and for consultation with their other allies before trying to make decisions.

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Notes By The Way

Sir Charles Hector Filmer MacLean of Dart and Morven, told reporters in Britain that he met more MacLeans in Canada than he ever met in Scotland. "In Toronto," said Sir Charles, "I spent an hour and a half shaking hands with people—and they were all MacLeans. The Chief of the MacLeans, who wore his kilt all the time he was in Canada, was attired in a conventional grey suit when he arrived back in London."—Sydney Post-Record.

The California judge who gets the test case of two young drivers of midsize automobiles will need the wisdom of Solomon. The pair received citations for parking two cars in one space and refusing to put more than one nickel in the parking meter. Bald men are said to be watching the case with interest. If the ruling is in favor of the young drivers, men with only a fringe of hair will be encouraged to take their case to court to see whether they can get two haircuts for the price of one. Seems a singular principle is involved.

There's an old story about a dim-witted city slicker who said to the farmer: "Do you keep cows?" The farmer looked at him disdainfully. "Certainly not," he replied, "my cows keep me." The fact remains that in the past quite a few farmers did keep cows which were poor producers and didn't give enough milk to pay for their stall and feed. Those days are gone now—and junior farmers' clubs are one of the reasons. Youngsters who belong to these groups quickly learn to pick out good animals from bad.—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Prominent on the shores of Halifax Harbour is a big sugar factory—closed for years. Every election brings promises of its re-opening, but they are worth the usual and not a whit more. The factory has stayed shut down. And that is a pity; a building its size should have some contribution to the economy of Nova Scotia. If not in sugar, then in something else. Even a distillery would be preferable to nothing at all, since Nova Scotians pay much of their taxes through the liquor stores and we might as well be utilizing our own labor to make the stuff about which there are no technical problems.—New Glasgow News.

We recall the periodic blasts of U. S. editors against the hordes of propaganda agents—so-called public relations men—in federal government and then we read the item from Los Angeles about 95 press Marquise, the cat whose disappearance three weeks ago resulted in widespread publicity because of the efforts that were made to locate it, has been recovered through the perseverance of its owner, Paul T. Richard of West Nyack, N. Y. and without benefit of the 5,000 penny postcards Mr. and Mrs. Richard circulated through the area during the search. The Richards opened up a campaign to retrieve Marquise, and their broadside of postcards brought even wider circulation through newspaper and radio publicity, but it didn't bring back the cat. Mr. Richard, made it a point to try every night at the edge of a woods near the Hopper Hospital, whistling in a way that Marquise knew. Sounds he heard one night that led him to penetrate a little way into the woods turned out to have come from bluejays, notorious cat imitators. But just as Mr. Richard was giving off a final whistle, Marquise jumped from a thicket.—New York Herald Tribune.

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