

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett Associate Editor, Frank Walker "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, SEPT. 15, 1950

Battle of Britain Sunday

Just ten years ago the Battle of Britain reached its peak with great formations of German bombers, escorted by swarms of fighters, inflicting untold suffering on London. The Luftwaffe failed in its effort to knock out the capital, as it had earlier failed to achieve control over the channel and was subsequently to fail to wear down the fighter defences by sweeps by squadrons of high-flying Messerschmitt fighters and fighter-bombers.

Goering had broken his air weapon on the hard shell of Fighter Command's mere fifty squadrons of Hurricanes and Spitfires. The success of David against Goliath in the air was shared by many besides the "few" who flew the fighter planes.

The ground crews who kept them operating, the Radar and Observer Corps who tracked the approaching enemy, other defence commands and the indomitable Englishman at home, at work and also engaged in civil defence, all contributed to the final defeat of the Nazi air arm.

Canada had her share in the battle, for three out of every hundred aircrew hailed from this country, most of them members of the R. A. F. but also including No. 1 (Fighter) Squadron of the R. C. A. F. (later designated No. 401) which arrived in Britain on the eve of the Battle.

Once more Canada is building up a fighter force, this time equipped with "Camucks" and F-86 "Sabres" and in remembering the heroism of a decade ago we also salute the airmen of today.

Lesson From Experience

Robert M. Ogden of Cornell University, writing in the Queen's Quarterly, remarks that "in order to dispel the shadows cast by the lies that now confuse and mislead us, we shall have to pursue our knowledge of things and events calmly and draw the conclusions which the things and events themselves indicate, rather than those which man's personal egotism seems to desire."

The catalogue of lies which Dean Ogden so lucidly analyses includes one that is particularly pertinent to these times. The Lie of Abundance which, says Dean Ogden, "distorts the fact of our income and disregards the constant and alarming impoverishment of our capital", has been exposed in all its stark reality by the shortages manifest in the recent rail tie-up. For not only did some communities suffer an acute food shortage, but in numerous industrial centres the wheels of production ceased to turn because of lack of raw materials. In no more effective fashion could the illusion be dispelled that food, housing, autos, household supplies, machine tools and the sinews of defence can not simply be called into being. Rather, it must now be apparent that their availability depends directly upon the work of men, whether in the factory, in the mine, on the farm, or in the transportation both of raw materials and finished products.

New Zealand's Example

Unlike Canada, New Zealand has no dollar problem for British immigrants to hurdle. Yet, notes the Globe and Mail, even with the advantage of sterling exchange with Britain, its Government finds it advisable to provide assisted migration and thus secure a maximum of Anglo-Saxon stock to reinforce its small population. It has now broadened this program to take in 10,000 British immigrants a year. Those selected, including both single men and married workers with one or two children, will have the full cost of their fares paid by the New Zealand Government.

On a basis of population and natural resources, Canada at that rate could well be helping at least 100,000 British immigrants into this country annually. But New Zealand's target of 10,000 British people is just 10,000 more than we are getting by such means.

In the five years since the war ended, our total British immigration has been approximately 163,000. Of those, 64,549 were wives and children of Canadian service men. Subtracting those, and the number which the Ontario Government brought in by its own efforts, the net Ottawa score drops to around 90,000. But even that trickle is drying up. In the first five months of this year Canada secured only 5,351 people from Britain, just over half of the 10,472 for the same period of 1949.

Up to the end of last year, British immigration averaged 43 per cent of our total. This year it was down to 17 per cent.

For more than two years, to conserve dollars, the British Government has restricted the amount of money which could be brought to this country by British people. There were practical ways by which the Canadian Government could have helped them overcome that handicap. It did nothing. As late as last June Immigration Minister Harris was still "consulting" on the blocked currency problem. While Ottawa was "consulting," New Zealand was acting.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ceylon was added to the British Empire this date, 1796.

The end of the Battle of Britain, this date 1940. To be celebrated throughout the Commonwealth Sunday 17th.

The North Atlantic Council meetings opening in New York today should clarify the role which member countries, including Canada, are expected to play in their common defence.

Motor traffic will gain at the expense of pedestrians from the widening of Queen Street North of Richmond. It is questionable which is the more congested at busy periods.

Now we know on the authority of British Columbia expert agriculturists that our farms are worth at least three times as much as is asked for them. Better not put the tax gatherer wise to this.

Who would have believed it possible five years ago that a British freighter could make a double trip to Churchill, Man., in one season? Yet it has been done by the S. S. Tricape. The late Mr. Hemming would have rejoiced to learn that his prediction had been verified.

It is pensioners and others with fixed incomes from insurance, etc., that rise in the cost of living hits most severely. The United Church has shown a good example in the increase of 25 per cent on the pensions paid to those of their number who have borne the heat and burden of the day in her service and subsequently have retired.

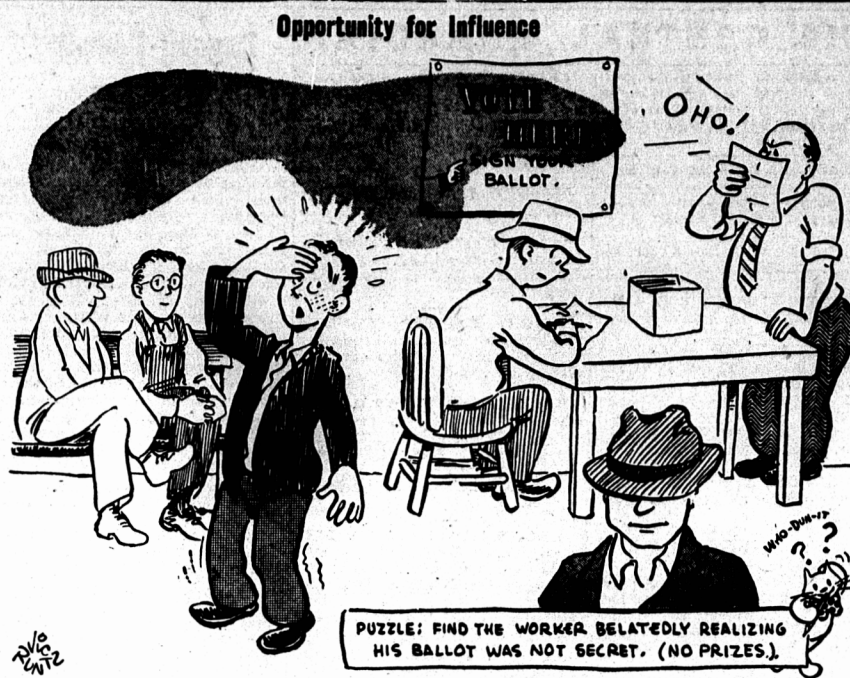
The loss sustained by owners of tourist resorts and restaurants by the railway strike was common to the whole of Canada, according to the Canadian Tourist Association meeting in Calgary. But we felt it more here because we bank on an even flow of summer visitors to spend and leave their dollars with us until such time as the potato cash crop materializes.

The attempt to hasten prorogation of Parliament seemed unwise, to say the least. If Churchill's views carry any weight this country may be called upon to provide three divisions, or more than 40,000 men rather than the brigade now contemplated. Parliament should be in session to make any decisions which may prove to be necessary in the next few weeks, and the Prime Minister was well-advised to adjourn Parliament rather than prorogue it.

N. B. farmers have now set the price of milk at 19c per quart throughout the Province generally, and 20c in Saint John. In the Prairies the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union threaten a grain delivery strike if a higher rate is not paid for frost damaged wheat. Altogether, east and west, farmers have their troubles and vexations. Here in the Maritimes, at the moment, it is undercutting of prices for export of inspected seed potatoes that is worrying us.

The removal of the old half-buried cannon from the corner of Queen and Richmond Streets recalls the stripping of all the fortifications here of their guns in 1856, with the exception of Fort Edward. Guns and troops were shipped to Halifax, presumably en route to the Crimea, but at least one, larger than the above mentioned one, was dislodged from its slings and slid into the harbour to be later recovered and set up on Sunnyside at the intersection with Queen Street.

George Bernard Shaw, now in the hands of surgeons, had one rule of life he observed punctiliously. He never worked after lunch. If the weather was fine he liked to walk down to the end of the lawn to a little hut tucked away under a great oak tree down in the meadow, among the wild grass. As the sun sloped down towards the rim of the world the little hut revolved to catch the rays and the great man sat alone in contemplation, drawing from the sun the strength by which he lives. He practised his hours of contemplation as conscientiously as Gandhi practised his spinning, and drew from them a similar comfort.



PUZZLE: FIND THE WORKER BELATEDLY REALIZING HIS BALLOT WAS NOT SECRET. (NO PRIZES.)

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.

CAR FERRY OPERATION

Sir,—Your correspondent from Borden whose letter appeared in The Guardian last week was the first to give public expression of doubt as to the wisdom of having the car ferries operated either directly by the Department of Transport or by a Commission or Controller appointed by the Federal Government, but he is not the only one holding that opinion.

The propaganda for a change in the operation of the ferries has been impressive but there are two sides to that as to all other problems, and I agree with your correspondent to let well enough alone.

The terms of union provide for connection with the railway system of the mainland. It was the railway not only within the Province but to and from the Province that was the outstanding thought in the minds of those completing our terms of union. Why? Because it is the railway that gives life and vigor to the whole economy of the Province. It is therefore the part of wisdom to co-operate in every way possible to have our railway administration and operation efficient and satisfactory.

I am, Sir, etc. J. F. W. Charlottetown.

TYRANNY OF MONOPOLY

Sir,—In a previous letter dealing with this subject, reference was made to the existence of "Combinations in restraint of Trade" and "unfair business practices" in general scheme of economic affairs. In order to become rid of the baneful effect of such combinations, it was necessary to invoke legislative action that made these practices illegal. Today, wherever suspicion of the existence of monopoly exists, prosecution may be instituted, and conviction will involve a severe penalty. But people are not at all satisfied, that the evil under discussion has been eliminated.

At this point of disadvantage it is only natural for the normal individual to look for a way and means of escape, to locate some other economic avenue through which his needs may be supplied, —free from alleged exploitation. Fortunately there is an economic theory that can be translated into action and employed to that end. I refer to the cooperative way.

Transacting business cooperatively, by a group of individuals, having common problems and objectives is an ideal method when each one participating plays the game as it should be played. Apart from that it will not function but for a time. The period of duration will depend upon the loyalty and support of its membership, and its termination, upon the frequency and accumulation of membership default. It is the ideal way of doing business when conducted within the integrity of its principles. It is a Christian way, because it begets and develops a spirit of brotherly love and community concern that is the very antithesis of individual selfishness. But it is in the negation of its uncompro-

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) SHEEP BREEDING

"Our mutton and lamb are allowed to be very well flavoured; the sheep very commonly produce two lambs and are never subject to the rot nor to any other disorder. They are in general small, seldom rising above sixteen pounds a quarter, yet there are people who by care and a superior mode of management raise them to a much larger size. I have seen the four quarters and kidney fat of a wether not quite two years old, weigh one hundred and seventeen pounds, and the four quarters and tallow of a lamb six months old weigh sixty-seven pounds, and these were the common breed of the Island.

"That so many of them are small will not surprise any body when it is known that the ewe lambs are allowed to run with the flock, and that they generally become mothers by the time they are a year old. The wool is soft and fine but short, the fleeces weigh from three to six pounds. Stockings made of our native wool are universally preferred to any imported, and the coarse cloths the produce of our domestic manufacture, in point of warmth and durability, exceed anything of the same appearance I ever saw, though they are not properly dressed or even dyed of a good colour.

"The proper management of sheep has hitherto been little understood. The general practice has been to house them in the winter which not only hurts the quality of the wool, but renders the animal delicate and less healthy. Feeding them in sheltered places out of doors has lately been introduced and is found to answer much better. Though nothing like the large flocks of sheep kept in England will be found here, the number of sheep on the Island is very considerable, I believe greater in proportion than will be found in any other part of America. Many farmers have ten times the number that Mr. Parkinson states General Washington's flock at, upon his celebrated farm at Mount Vernon."

—From an account of Prince Edward Island, &, by John Stewart, Esq., 1806.

ing requirements that difficulties may arise, and decline in its usefulness materialize. When a rent occurs in the ranks it can be repaired, but it must be vulcanized. It cannot be patched with a borrowing from another economic theory or else it becomes a hybrid-cooperative or a monstrously. A true cooperative cannot be anything else but a voluntary organization. It may have rules that will exclude from membership all, but those who are prepared to abide by its regulations, but any attempt to impose its determinations upon the rank and file, other than by appeal, is beset with wide the scope over which it desires to spread, it cannot ignore original principles and objectives.

Group activity for the benefit of the masses, when accepted without dictation is commendable, but if under undue pressure, the cooperative spirit becomes corrupted. Man was born a free being, and it was intended that he develop as an individual. His economic responsibilities and rewards when earned, were based on that conception of status. When deprived of his assigned independence, he loses his natural poise and initiative to advance, and becomes dependant. The glamour of living is gone and there is danger of becoming morose. A grave responsibility rests upon those who find would lead in such a fashion, and authoritative permission to do so should not be lightly granted.

A few days ago an address was delivered by Dr. Weigle of New Haven, Connecticut, before an audience of 4500 delegates, assembled in Toronto, Ontario, from 82 countries. Dr. Weigle is Dean Emeritus of Yale University Divinity School, and this is a portion of what he said. "One of mankind's greatest threats is the possible replacement of freedom loving man, by a servile, standardized mass mentality."

Can it be possible such a situation will be the ultimate ending of our over emphasized efforts towards complete regimentation of our people in Prince Edward Island? Will it not pay to pause and consider? I am, Sir, etc. J. A. GILLIES Charlottetown.

The Poet's Corner

THE CUMBERLAND FELS

And it is well When sun and wind make laughter on the fell, And larches, in green flames, point upward to the sky, Then it is well To leave behind one's chair and book, To climb beside the hurrying brook By banks where celandine and violet lie; To paths where nailed boots grate on rock, And the nearby shadowing pines; Give way at last to bracken and to heath, To sudden mossy hollows where the feet sink deep, And out-cropping rocks lie lichen stained and grey.

Here curls and the plaintive pewit call, And tams, with gleaming ripples: laugh at the blue sky, And lonely sheep, with a fixed golden stare, Cough as we pass them by.

To the horizon Stretch wave on wave of well-loved travelled mountains, And the singing wind shakes the wide silence With a poignant sigh.

—Ruth Sullowe.

The Age-Old Story

And I saw in the night visions, and beheld one, like the Son of man came, with the clouds of heaven; and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him, and there was given Him dominions and glory and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him; and the kingdom and dominions and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.

Truckers' Achievement

(Ottawa Journal)

Our memory of the Great Strike of 1950 must always include appreciation of what was done by the trucks, not only those operated by large companies but also the ordinary light, overburdened vehicles that kept food and consolation moving to the hamlets of the nation. If Canada's 648,000 trucks had been unavailable the ordinary citizen would have suffered severely while Parliament talked; as long as they hustled about the highways there was time for the processes of democracy to operate in the House of Commons and Senate. Lacking them, the almost leisurely progress towards ending the railway strike without injured feelings would have been impossible.

Whatever our former faith in the railways and their trustworthy service it has been shaken by the unhappy experience of the strike. The old smugness with which we used to read of railway strikes elsewhere and assure ourselves it could not happen here has disappeared. This requires us to display more interest in the second line of transportation security, in war or peace. We will not here enter into the arguments on whether Government control of trucks should be more thorough and it may be that the report of the Royal Commission on Transportation will be helpful in this regard. But the truckers, employers and men, deserve our consideration and their contribution to our national well-being should be kept in mind when future policies are drafted.

WREATHS PLACED

PRAGUE, Sept. 14 — (AP) — Wreaths were placed on the grave of President Thomas G. Masaryk today, the 13th anniversary of his death. The ceremonial took place at Lany, traditional home of presidents of Czechoslovakia, some 25 miles west of Prague.

Sir Andrew's Boyhood Home

Wilfred Eggleston in the Winnipeg Free Press

Sir Andrew Macphail's story of his boyhood home in Prince Edward Island was published in 1939. I knew of it at the time and vowed that a book of reminiscences by one of Canada's leading stylists would amply repay searching out and reading. When I did lay hands on it, over a decade later, it proved to measure up.

A man of Sir Andrew's literary reputation and achievement ought to be able to write movingly and gracefully of his home, his parents and the setting of his youth. The Master's Wife earned an enduring place in our relatively small body of classical Canadian regional literature.

If there is a second edition of A Pocketful of Canada, someday, or a sequel to it, a place should be found for a few pages about "Island" life in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Sir Andrew's tender and eloquent essay can stand proudly beside anything of that sort in Canadian literature.

The book is all of absorbing interest to the Macphail family, I have no doubt. To outsiders it is unequal in appeal: there are a few prosy stretches, and many reticences. But the peaks are not surpassed, I think, anywhere in our collections of memoirs and recollections.

I am surprised to note that it was apparently printed privately by his two children; and I suspect it is not now easy to acquire. If the edition is exhausted, the best of it ought to be made more generally accessible by the issue of a reprint, or by preservation in some anthology of Canadian life.

The opening paragraph announces the theme with economy and vigor: "He was master of the school," Macphail begins, "she was the Master's Wife. He was my father; she was my mother. Happy the man, says Ronsard, qu'une meme maison a vu jeune et vieillard. It is of that house and place in which I was born, in which I still live, and of those who dwell therein, that I propose to write, with such skill in the use of words as I have first begun to learn in it, and since striven to perfect. The remembrance of any life, rich and fresh, should not be lost to the world."

It is an eloquent fact and reveals much of the P.E.I. country, that a man might in his declining years be sitting down there to write his reminiscences in the very house where he was born. Very few people of Alberta have had such an opportunity to date, for

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