

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. CIRCULATION Total City Zone 3,763 Retail Trading Zone 8,457 All Others 625 Total Net Paid 13,645 Editor and Managing Director, J. S. Burnett Associate Editor, Frank Walker. "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1951

Indian Gift

When Parliament approved an appropriation of \$25 million as Canada's first year contribution to the Colombo Plan to aid under-developed countries in Asia nobody was too clear as to just what the Orientals wanted in the way of assistance, apart from having a census taken in Burma. No doubt Agriculture Minister Gardiner's success in unloading wheat abroad at the expense of the Canadian taxpayer suggested the idea that \$25 million spent on wheat for India would fit in with External Affairs Minister Pearson's description of the Plan as an experiment in "enlightened self-interest."

"Enlightened self-interest," in this case, took the form of unloading \$25 million worth of low-grade wheat on India. The experiment, unhappily for official Ottawa, seems to have backfired. India's Acting High Commissioner in Ottawa says "the poor people of India would not have understood the gift. . . . Even though there is hunger in India, we have decided to wait until high-quality wheat is available in Canada next Fall."

Thus, low grade wheat and low grade diplomacy have combined to lower Canada's prestige in international affairs. The gift to India has turned out to be what is colloquially known in Canada as "an Indian gift."

Newfoundland Absorbs Canada

One of the principal effects on Newfoundland of entering Confederation was expected to be, and was early apparent, that the cost of living would take a rapid drop because of the change over from a system of taxation based chiefly on indirect taxes on consumer goods to the Canadian practice of raising a revenue mainly by direct taxation.

It would seem, however, that it is to be the rest of Canada that is to find itself being swung over to the old Newfoundland practice. The increasing popularity of indirect taxes of every kind on Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels bids fair to boost the price level of goods of every day consumption to at least equal that of the Ancient Colony at its peak.

History may yet record that Confederation, 1949, resulted in the fly catching the flypaper and the tail wagging the dog.

Potatoes And Education

The Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. McNeil, has declared that the help of Scottish school children in securing the potato harvest must take precedence of education. Mr. McNeil told the annual meeting of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland that he felt obliged to make a clear statement. He hoped that education authorities, teachers, and parents would appreciate that this was the only practical course for securing the crop. He said that Mr. Tom Fraser, Joint Under Secretary, had recently met representatives of education committees, who had advanced their views on the employment of school children and had asked for a clear indication of the Ministerial view of the relative importance of education and food. Mr. McNeil continued: "I have no hesitation in saying—but I also say it with considerable reluctance—that in the present circumstances, while everyone must greatly regret the interruption in the educational arrangements, the safeguarding of the nation's food supplies is of such paramount importance that it must during that period take precedence."

Freight Rates Inquiry

In its report recently tabled in Parliament, the Royal Transportation Commission noted two important distinctions between railway operation in the U. S. and Canada. Instead of having two transcontinental lines the U. S. has several hundred regional lines all of which serve competitive industries. Highly competitive conditions making for low rates are thus assured. Second, supply centres abound in the U. S. whereas in this country they are concentrated in Central Canada. This means there is relatively much less long haul traffic in the U. S.

The railways had pleaded during the hearings that U. S. freight rates since 1946 had risen by an average of 60 per cent, while in Canada they went up by 45 per cent. The Commission's comment on that is: "Whatever advantage this lesser average increase may have brought to Canadians in general, this statement of it does

not dispose of the complaint of discrimination within Canada resulting from horizontal increases."

The railways had also claimed they had tried to relieve the long haul traffic already by "tapering off" rates in relation to distance, on some important articles, much more rapidly than corresponding U. S. long haul rates. So it was argued that these rates already had "maxima" incorporated in them when they were fixed.

All very well, said the Commission, but allowing that the original tapering was applied generously, "the horizontal increase upon those tapered rates has the same discriminatory effect as in the case of all other rates. If these increases had themselves been tapered, that is, limited by the application of maxima, the situation would have been more satisfactory."

The railways, comments the Winnipeg Free Press, do not emerge so well from these arguments. In the view of the Commission, they ought to have given more attention to the needs of the long haul traffic. They should have planned their revenue applications to the Transport Board accordingly.

"Asking For More"

An Ottawa correspondent writes: "A very potent lobby is in town looking for more hard cash for the Prairie wheat farmers. Western farm unions, claiming to represent 72,000 growers of wheat, have told the Federal Cabinet that they regard the \$65,000,000 wheat subsidy as just the first instalment, to pay losses on the lamented British wheat contract. As a second instalment, they would like to have \$48,000,000 more dumped into the pot. But this isn't all. Once Ottawa has paid out this \$113,000,000, then a board of arbitration should be set up to determine how much sweeter the pot should get. The farm unions intimated that as a third and final payment, they had something in the nature of an additional \$180,000,000 or so in mind. Prime Minister St. Laurent, who is said to wish that he'd never OK'd the original subsidy, had a short answer. No. When the Dominion has paid the \$65,000,000 already authorized by a still-dazed Parliament, it will consider the wheat episode closed."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Australia is making a great advance by going backward. That is air safety is to be greatly increased by having passengers in Australian aircraft sit facing backwards.

There must be naval men with the Red forces in Korea. The use of smudge pots to obscure the movement of troops is the standard naval practice of laying a smoke screen which seems to be an innovation as applied to land warfare.

The thinking of those who would lay a radioactive belt across Korea does not seem to have advanced beyond that of the Maginot Line strategists or even Chou dynasty experts who conceived and built the Great Wall of China about 300 B.C.

Entry in the Rural Beautification Contest and thought and effort given to improvements will not assure success so far as prize-winning is concerned but the real prize is the improvement each contestant makes in his own property.

The Royal Humane Society was founded in London this date 1774, with the primary object of affording immediate assistance to persons apparently drowned. The society awards medals and testimonials to those who save, or attempt to save, others from drowning or attempt certain other rescues.

Britain's crop production is predicted to fall about 20 per cent this year due to the water-logged condition of much of the land. This almost certainly means that the feeding of live-stock will be drastically curtailed and that this country and others will be called upon to increase meat supplies.

A puzzle is provided by the unusual numbers of seals on the ice of the Gulf and Northumberland Strait. It could be that the more concentrated pursuit by sealing vessels guided by air reports drove the great herd far up on the ice so that they could not scatter in the open water as in former years.

A big shipment of Jersey cattle left the Island of Jersey April 3rd on the S. S. Haslemere for Plymouth to be transferred to an American cattle boat. Some 40 head of cattle are coming to Canada, the first to be sent here for many years. The value of the total of 73 head is high and it is estimated that it will bring a total of \$60,000 into the island. Channel Island cattle are remarkable for two things in particular: the high butter-fat content of their milk, and their early attainment of milking maturity. The average fat content of the milk from cows comprised in the registered herds is well over 5 per cent.

The Poets Corner

SUPLIANT

Grant me, O Lord, the alchemy of toil, Clean days of labour, dreamless nights of rest, And that which shall my weariness assail, The sanctuary of one beloved breast; Laughter of children, hope and thankful tears, Knowledge to yield, with valor to defend A faith immutable, and steadfast years That move unsexed to their mysterious end. —Alan Sullivan.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

LEGISLATIVE GRANTS

Among the grants voted at the Legislative session of 1840 were the following: A sum sufficient to enable the Lieutenant Governor to have the charts of the harbours of Charlottetown and Georgetown engraved, and 500 copies thereof struck off, and deposited in the office of the Surveyor General, for sale.

A sum sufficient to obtain a new seal for the Supreme Court of this Island, to be used in the different Counties. The sum of £150 for the encouragement of agriculture in the Colony, £50 to each County therein; the sum of £50 to be equally distributed between the Central, Independent, and Crapaud Societies in Queen's County; the sum of £16 13s. 4d. to each of the Societies in King's County, and the remaining £50 to be equally divided among the Societies in Prince County; provided that no Society shall receive Legislative aid unless it consist of at least thirty annual subscribers.

A sum not exceeding £30 for the education of the Indians of the Colony to be applied as follows:—to every teacher who shall produce a certificate from any Justice of the Peace, Commissioner of Small Debts, or Member of this House, that he had under his tuition one or more of this tribe, and has provided him with the necessary stationery, for a period of at least six months, the sum of 30 shillings, including the price of stationery, and a like sum for every period of six months he may have had such person under his tuition."

The sum of 25 for the purpose of causing a survey to be made of Lennox Island, and ascertaining the quantity and quality of the land thereon. At this session of the Legislature (April 10, 1840) an address was presented to the Lieutenant Governor, requesting him to take measures for the appropriation of certain ungranted lots of land in the Royalty of Charlottetown, for the purpose of making provision "for the support of the Lunatic Asylum intended for this Colony, as the resources of the Colony will admit."

The British Way

(Ottawa Journal)

The drama of the MacArthur episode and the issues underlying it gives peculiar timeliness to things which the famous British Admiral Cunningham writes in his autobiography (just off the press), "A Sailor's Odyssey." Cunningham, in charge of operations in the Mediterranean, had his troubles with Churchill. Winston, a notorious "butter-in," and with the whole field of war operations, military as well as political, his oyster, sent Cunningham all sorts of directives and signals, and sometimes a lot of scolding. Cunningham, at the time, said nothing publicly; didn't give interviews to the press, didn't write home to MP's. With everything over, he says something now. One of the things he says is that when he was desperately short of ships he found it "galling" to be told from home (by Churchill) that his ideas were "purely defensive." He adds: "It was in the sort of prodding messages received by me that Churchill was so often ungracious and hasty. We realized, of course, the terrible physical and mental strain under which he was laboring, but so were we. Such messages to those doing their utmost were not an encouragement, merely an annoyance. . . . This constant advice, not to say interference, in how to run our business from those who seemed unaware of the facts of the situation did not help."

The prodding went on, Cunningham didn't complain, but one day when one of Churchill's prods came along "I did not reply. We were far too busy with our commitments."

And Cunningham, it seems, often got his way—in the purely naval field, of course. He opposed successfully the idea of evacuating the Eastern Mediterranean, which "would have been a major disaster, nothing less"; and also resisted successfully instructions to sacrifice a battleship in a blocking operation at Tripoli.

But Cunningham wasn't attempting to dictate the grand strategy of the war, nor getting into public controversy with Churchill. He knew his role; knew that his job as an Admiral was to take orders from his political superiors. Only now, a decade later, does he tell of his griefs. It is the British way.

It being the British way, one speculates on what would happen if a MacArthur ran up against a Churchill?



Murder Of Freedom

(Ottawa Citizen)

The craving for an appearance of legality for illegal acts is one of the outstanding characteristics of modern dictatorships. So great is the influence of established law and of constitutional traditions that a tyrant must seek to clothe his tyranny with an appearance of legality if that is possible. The day when a Napoleon would dare, as Bonaparte did, to place the crown upon his head himself, is past. In Argentina, the Peronist Congressional committee, in whose charge the Peron government had placed the famous independent newspaper La Prensa, has now recommended that the Peron government should take over the paper. The recommendation has been accepted by the Peronist House of Deputies without, so the report goes, a dissenting voice.

All this may seem to be transparent window-dressing. The public, either in Argentina or abroad, will hardly be taken in by it. La Prensa, the leading newspaper in South America and a chief critic of the Peron dictatorship in the past, was closed down two and a half months ago by a strike of its vendors whose trade union is closely controlled by the Peron government. Earlier attempts to harass and intimidate the paper, by cutting down its newsprint supplies and by other devices within the letter if not the spirit of the law, had failed. But the refusal of news distributors to distribute newspaper forced it to close down and provided, incidentally, a clear warning that press freedom rests not only on editors and writers, but on all who are engaged in producing and distributing newspapers.

The barrier that remained was evidently the Argentine constitution which contains a declaration upholding press freedom. That was the sufficient reason for the Peron government to go the length of having the Argentine Congress formally approve the seizure of La Prensa by the government. Even a constitutional guarantee of freedom has little effect, if Parliaments and Congress are controlled by dictators.

Politics & Weigh-Lifting

(Globe and Mail)

The Scottish nationalists who got away with the Stone of Scone are easily outclassed, as weight-lifters, by the Berlin larcenists who have taken to stealing statues after saving them off at the ankles. The Stone of Scone tips the scales at a mere 485 pounds whereas the scrappiness of Berlin's innumerable worthless must weigh at least a ton. Thievery, like the other arts and sciences, has evidently made great strides since the Victorian days when the Artful Dodger taught Oliver Twist to swipe watches and pocket handkerchiefs.

It seems, however, that any analogy between the Scottish exploit in Westminster Abbey and the Berlin racket must stop short at a comparison of the avoirdupois involved. The Stone, after secreting its somewhere in Scotland for about four months placed it reverently in Abroath Abbey with an explanation that their purpose was to call attention to their country's grievances. The pinchers of statues have apparently no such lofty motives.

The commercial value of the Stone of Scone is at most a few pence but a bronze replica of a German statesman or philosopher, especially one of the fatter ones, will fetch a good price in the scrap metal market. Shakespeare notes that the dust of Alexander the Great might be used to stop a bung-hole and it seems that the bronze of dead German kings may now be found in doorknobs or radiator caps.

The story from Germany, unfortunately, does not say which of the kings, if any have disappeared. It mentions only that Schopenhauer is missing and Schopenhauer was a philosopher about whom probably few people feel strongly one way or the other. There is no word of what has happened to Hegel, the philosopher of totalitarianism, or Frederick the Great or Goethe or the Hohenzollerns. Thus two in-

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Notes By The Way

Shun idleness. It is a rust that attaches itself to the most brilliant metals. — Francois Voltaire. The lesson of Japan seems to be that the longer a peace is postponed the softer it gets. — London Free Press.

About Peron's atomic energy — we'd be inclined to believe it if La Prensa reported it. — Christian Science Monitor.

The hockey team that carries through to the junior championship, and the losers in the finals as well, will have played at least four series of best four in seven, following the regular season's play. It is heavy work to be loaded on young lads and there is a possibility some of them may burn themselves out before coming of age. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

It is easy to see why in older days the idea of a private person suing the government (the King) was considered absurd. The King is the fountainhead of justice. In earlier times this relationship was much more intimate than now. To sue the giver of justice would have been considered out of place. Today governments and their many administrative agencies touch the lives of people almost everywhere. — Vancouver Sun.

Gathering sap, of course, is not an occupation which can be taken up readily by a city bird watcher — or even a country one, for that matter. Not every bird lover in a hill country owns a sap bush and taps 600 trees in March. The lucky man who does has long ago found out that gathering sap gives one a fine chance to count the earliest robins and bluebirds. The first birds up from the south always seem a bit lonesome — and probably they are. Doubtless they are glad when activity starts in a sap bush and folks are around all day. They must be pleased, too,

interesting questions are left unanswered, one technical and the other political. How exactly does a thief of statues dispose of the corpus delicti? And does he try to kill two birds with one stone by selecting for demolition the men who have, in his opinion, led Germany astray? The Scottish weight-lifters may have invented a new form of political warfare.

The Great War was largely responsible for the extension of many privileges to women; it enabled feminine workers in various and revolutionary fields of activity to show a capacity in every way equal to that possessed by the male; there was endless discussion of what use was being made by the new-found liberty of thought and action. At the present time the question springs up every so often particularly with regard to the exercise of the franchise and the place of the woman in business and professional life; but the very fact that the issue has become subordinate so far as the headline hunters are concerned really tells us that we have arrived at the point where the right of woman to be on a par with her masculine worker in any sphere is accepted as being too obvious to require comment. It must also be admitted that this is not due to any generosity on the part of the lowly man. Women have demonstrated by sheer force of numbers and determination that they are capable and intellectual to hold responsible positions, both of commercial and political nature. — Timmins Press.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for various practitioners including Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), Dr. W. R. Carson (Chiropractor), M. Alban Farmer (Money to Loan), Bell, Mathieson & Foster (Barristers), Frederic A. Large, K.C. (Barrister), John P. Nicholson, L.L.B. (Barrister), Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister), Byron J. Grant O.D. (Optometrist), MacPhee & Trainer (Barristers), H. R. Doane & Co. (Chartered Accountants), and McDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).