

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1951

A Gargantuan Budget

To oldtimers, accustomed to the more moderate Governmental expenditures of twenty or even ten years ago, the review of Provincial financing given last night in the Legislature by Hon. W. E. Darby, Provincial Treasurer, is of staggering proportions. Mr. Darby did not minimize this fact. "You will realize," he said, "that the presentation of a Budget involving, as it does, an expenditure of \$6,900,000 for a Province the size of, and with the population of, Prince Edward Island carries with it a responsibility far greater than that borne by any of my predecessors. I think, personally, that it is a very generous amount to perform the functions of a Provincial Government on behalf of less than one hundred thousand people." This is with reference to ordinary expenditure alone.

The Opposition members will probably call it by some other name than "generous"; but all will agree as to its gargantuan dimensions. Nor is this all. The huge increases involved in services of all kinds by these expenditures are more easily voted than dispensed with. A large proportion of our total revenue is now being derived from the Federal treasury, and we are becoming more and more dependent on this source as time goes by. This money is not a gratuitous "handout" but is actually—we contend—much less than we are entitled to receive. Nevertheless, the fact that we have to look to Ottawa means that we are losing more and more of our provincial autonomy without actually coming within hailing distance of an over-all balanced budget. The Government may argue that by achieving surpluses on ordinary account it is keeping within its budgetary mark, but the annual accumulation of million and a quarter dollar liabilities tells a different story. It means that our debt is increasing by leaps and bounds, while our natural resources remain for the most part stable. Only huge industrial expansion, or a much bigger share of the Federal revenues than we have heretofore received, will afford a remedy. And so long as we have unimplemented claims at Ottawa, and unexplored opportunities for development at home, no Government in this Province has any excuse to feel complacent about the situation.

A word of praise is due to Mr. Darby for his admirable presentation of a most complicated and difficult subject. This is his second Budget delivery, and, as was the case last year as well, it is evident that he has expended a great deal of time and care in its preparation.

Whipped Cream To Be Out

Sad prospect for whipped cream and strawberries. Continuation of the sale of margarine in Canada may eventually mean disappearance of butter from store shelves, the agriculture committee of the British Columbia Legislature was told by Charles Walls, secretary of the B. C. Federation of Agriculture. Many dairy farmers were finding competition from margarine too tough and were cutting down on butter production. Many farmers were slaughtering their herds because they could make more money from beef. Sixty per cent of all beef sold in Canada last year had come from dairy herds, he said. "You can't eat your cow and milk her too," said Mr. Alex Mercer, president of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association. Mr. Mercer said if farmers continued to cut their herds, a shortage would soon be felt in milk products, such as whipping cream. "The day may come when we'll have to depend on a vegetable oil to go with our strawberries," he said.

Controlling Price Spreads

"The Government," says Trade Minister Howe, "is considering commodity margin-of-profit control as one of several weapons to fight inflation." Mr. Howe hints that more will be heard on this matter before many weeks go by.

Commodity margin-of-profit control means that price spreads between the manufacturer and the wholesaler, the wholesaler and the retailer, and the retailer and the consumer, will be policed by price enforcement officers appointed by Ottawa. Because of the obvious difficulties of policing the price of every sale, it promises little as a method for curbing inflation. Quite apart from that, however, margin-of-profit control works to the detriment of the small merchant and discriminates against the people of those Provinces like

our own, remote from the production centres of Ontario and Quebec.

Because of the relatively smaller volume of business done in centres such as Charlottetown, Summerside, etc., as compared with Montreal and Toronto, and because of the transportation charges, price "mark-ups" must be higher in order to enable the merchant to remain in business. If, for example, the "mark-up" allowed by the price police to a huge nation-wide merchandising house were the same as that allowed to the small independent merchant.

The paradox of Mr. Howe's proposal lies in the fact that it must inevitably tend to favor monopoly practices in business at the very time when the Government is endeavouring to revamp and strengthen the Combines Investigation machinery designed to combat monopolies and restrictive trade practices. Furthermore, taxes already provide an effective and reasonably equitable system of controlling profit margins.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Next public holiday, May 24.

After the Budget—the Committee of Ways and Means.

By the time the Legislature rises there will be plenty of work waiting at home for the agricultural members.

The soft roadbeds at this early date are a nuisance but should not make us overlook that every kind of transport here has been helped by the remarkable "openness" of the past winter.

According to a Canadian despatch from Regina, fourteen business enterprises owned by the Saskatchewan Government made a net profit of \$2,640,300 last year. Three others lost \$350,391.

H. M. the King has selected Senator William Rupert Davies of Kingston, Ont., as Sheriff of Montgomeryshire, Wales, for 1951. It is an honorary position, and does not entail any extensive duties.

Think of it! There will not be another Easter so early until 2006 — unless, that is, which is most unlikely, Parliaments decide on fixed dates for Good Friday and Easter. In 1967, however, it will fall on March 26.

Juvenile delinquency is due for the most part to physical defects in the youngsters. All teachers should have a grounding in psycho-analysis and psychology, which would help considerably in keeping both boys and girls in the straight and narrow path.

Recruiting statistics reveal that when a clear and challenging goal is set by the Government, young Canadians are not slow to come forward. The situation seems to be that, given a resolute Government we do not need conscription but that any wavering by the powers that be will make it inevitable.

Upper Canada College Preparatory School's Little Theatre is undertaking an ambitious tour in Britain, next summer, with their production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." The boys will play in Liverpool, London, Edinburgh and Bedford, and at famous old Harrow School and Wellington College.

The teachers are taking advantage of the Easter holidays to hold their annual convention in Charlottetown this week. There are many important matters on the three-day agenda, including a discussion on future matriculation standards in the Province. The convention opens this afternoon, with what promises to be an exceptionally large and representative attendance.

The total gross earnings of New Brunswick public utilities for the year ending Dec. 31, 1950 amounted to \$6,670,168.78 the legislature was informed in the report submitted by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities. Of this amount the New Brunswick Telephone Company Limited was the largest with earnings of \$4,186,739.35. Moncton Electricity and Gas Company Limited followed with \$1,186,519.23.

John Bright, English orator and statesman, died this date 1889. A son of a Quaker cotton spinner, Bright was strongly liberal in politics, supporting Cobden in his advocacy of national education and also for the repeal of the Corn Laws, finally accomplished by Sir Robert Peel's measure. He incurred unpopularity by opposing the factory acts, believing that workmen and employers should be left free to regulate their mutual relations. He was a strong manly Englishman, fearless but just in his political contests, and with a power of simple eloquence which placed him in the front rank of parliamentary orators.

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.

A TIMELY WARNING

Sir,—Following the publication of a warning by the Chief Constable of Charlottetown last fall, the use of sling shots, bows and arrows, B.B. guns, etc., was considerably curtailed in this City; however, with the advent of spring there is an unhealthy display of sling shots and bows and arrows throughout the city.

There are more than 18,000 blind people in Canada, and we of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind know from official records and from our own personal experience, that 50 per cent of blindness is preventable. Too often the price paid by an innocent child for the pleasure of a spirited game of cowboys and Indians or similar sports; where play things which are actually weapons are used, is the loss of that precious possession—eyesight.

Anything that can be done by your paper in urging parents and guardians to make the children of this community aware of the danger involving in the use of bows and arrows, sling shots, thrown stones, B.B. guns, and all such "play things" will be appreciated by those of us who know what it means to lose eyesight through accidents resulting from childhood use of such weapons.

Chief Constable MacArthur has assured us that bows and arrows, sling shots, etc., will be confiscated if their dangerous use is continued; however, it is the responsibility of each parent and guardian to having certain animals, called human beings, travel over our property.

I, first, will cite my own case. I had an 18-acre field with a stream running through it and, in the usual course of events, it was one year used for pasture. And every year, it seemed to me, that could carry fishing gear used that field to carry on their deprivations. One or more of them had the supreme gall to smash the gate beyond fixing. I thought that they should be satisfied with leaving it open, or partly so, and cutting the fence for good measure, but apparently these so-called sports had ideas of their own. The upshot was I had to rent poorer pasture some two miles away, which cost me \$30. And due to the poorer pasture I figured I was out at least \$25 when I came to sell the animals.

One of my neighbours went to get his milch cows one evening, and discovered one was missing. After searching, he found it shot. The duck season had just opened. Another couldn't find his calf. He, too, made a search and it, like the cow, was shot. The rabbit season was on at that time. Another couldn't find his steer. I know for a fact that he travelled three days looking for it, and had an ad written to send to The Guardian; when a neighbour found it, and like the others, it, too, had been shot. I might mention that he received \$188 for a poorer one and also that the partridge season was open.

Some people are perhaps not as observing as others. But yet, I am thoroughly convinced that cows do not resemble ducks, nor calves look like rabbits. And pray tell me, Sir, what sort of a mind would think that a 800-lb steer was in any way related to a partridge? Who would say that the above mentioned "hellers" was not caused by a bunch of morons who had no respect for other people, or their property?

And now it appears that some party or parties are obsessed with the insane idea that permits be issued to certain ones, to go on any person's property to shoot, bang, slaughter, and kill to their heart's content; and the property owner will be supposed to just love such antics. For all I know they may have their eye on a few carcasses of Easter beef. If such is the case, there is not the slightest doubt but that the law makers will be asked to amend the Game Act in such a way as to give the permit holders the privilege of going to any person's barn and shooting the choicest after practicing on all the others. And the owners of such animals will be compelled by law to bow and say, "Well done, my ever-slaughtering masters."

My contention is that all persons carrying sling-shots, pistols, and so forth, should obtain the property owner's permission to hunt or fish on said property. Ladies and gentlemen will never be refused permission when they are known as such, and as for the others, who will say that they are not a curse and a pest on earth. Several of us in this section have been compelled to advertise "No Trespassing" in the past. The same will be done this year and every year as long as the Province is polluted with hoodlums.

I am, Sir, etc., FRED TUPLIN

Kensington

STATELY MANSION

The historic Chateau de Ramezay, now a Museum in Montreal, was built in 1705 as the Governor's residence.



Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England—On a certain day still recent enough to stick in the memory, Spring came to these shores. It came early in the morning, unexpectedly after days of miserably cold rain, and announced its arrival with blinding sunshine, that flooded through bedroom windows and pried open our eyes, even before our alarm clocks had had a chance to perform their customary duty.

Nevertheless, they had something to sing about. There was an indefinable quality in the air that seemed to bestir all the latent poetry in our souls, even at that hour of the morning, and enabled us better to appreciate the works of nature that we saw; rather, one might say, in the manner that brightly coloured transparent paper wrappings improve the first view of gifts at the foot of a Christmas tree.

It didn't stay. It disappeared almost as quickly as it had come, but at least it had shown itself, and we knew that it was not far away, that before long it would come back again and this time it would stay until it blossomed out into Summer.

Meanwhile it had marked once more the passing of time and had drawn attention in the most charming way to the onward movement of the calendar. There were few, then, in all the land who took the hint more closely to heart than young men contemplating marriage, for if you are going to get married at all in this country it pays you to name the day to dawn as near as possible—and just before—the end of the financial year; in other words, early in April. In that way you can claim a marriage allowance rebate on your income tax for the whole of the past year, and with income tax at our rates a rebate like that is worth having. So true, though it may be that still in the words of the English poet, Tennyson,

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love", today's young man sensibly gets

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Notes By The Way

The treeless plain of Western Canada has gone the way of the buffalo. This province is no longer the bare prairie of the pioneer, with sheltering bluffs niggardly spaced. The scrubby brush has browned, the harsh outlines of the hills and the level places have softened with tree growth and every town and village has its marching line of trees. The fact that the Prairies are no longer treeless is no accident. To a great extent it is the result of co-operative programs in tree-planting and conservation undertaken by Federal and provincial governments. — Regina Leader-Post.

Drinks were on the house at Big Jim Downey's public house in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland. It was the twelfth anniversary of a strike against his tavern by the bartenders. Big Jim's place has been picketed for the whole twelve years, and has become famous because of the long strike pickets fail to show up, and he telephones the union to get going. When it snows, he has the sidewalk swept for the pickets, and in bad weather of all sorts he gives them free drinks. — New York Herald Tribune.

The refusal of the British Medical Association to attend a medical conference in South Africa is a notable protest against racialist policies in government, a real indication of the integrity of a noble profession. The South African Medical Association invited the British doctors to a meeting in Johannesburg and proposed no discrimination against visitors who might not be of British stock. But the British Medical Association could secure from the South African Government no assurance that non-European doctors, men of colored descent, would not be subjected to discrimination and affront at Johannesburg. Failing this guarantee, the British doctors wisely refused to attend. Thus the medical profession in Britain has stood by its basic principles. As the British Medical Journal says: "Medicine can take no account of frontiers, or race, or caste, or religion." It points to the Hippocratic

Five Toronto policemen have been fined for speeding while driving new cars from Windsor to Toronto for pay during their day off. Not only have they violated the Traffic Act, but they have broken a regulation of the Toronto Police Force, which expressly forbids paid employment on the extra day off, obtained when the five-day week was introduced.

Be a man ne'er so vile In wit, in judgment, manners, or what else, If he can purchase but a silken cover, He shall not only pass, but pass regarded; Whereas, let him be poor, and meanly clad, Though ne'er so richly parted, you shall have A fellow, that knows nothing but his beef. Or how to hiss his clammy guts with beer, Will take him by the shoulders, Or the throat, And kick him down the stairs. Such is the state Of virtue, in bad clothes. —Ben Jonson (1673-1637).

The Poets Corner CLOTHES AND THE MAN Be a man ne'er so vile In wit, in judgment, manners, or what else, If he can purchase but a silken cover, He shall not only pass, but pass regarded; Whereas, let him be poor, and meanly clad, Though ne'er so richly parted, you shall have A fellow, that knows nothing but his beef. Or how to hiss his clammy guts with beer, Will take him by the shoulders, Or the throat, And kick him down the stairs. Such is the state Of virtue, in bad clothes. —Ben Jonson (1673-1637).

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