

THE GUARDIAN

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Mr. Churchill's Critics

The political tradition of the British Conservative party is to refrain on every possible occasion from washing its dirty linen in public. Unlike the socialist Labour Party, which can tolerate the deviationism of a Bevan and still manage to survive, albeit on the wrong side, from the socialist viewpoint, of Mr. Speaker, it endeavours to present outwardly at least the most complete unanimity.

This circumstance renders all the more significant the growing evidence of discontent within British Conservative Party ranks with the leadership of Mr. Churchill. So much a symbol of all that Britain stands for has Winston Churchill become, that those beyond the immediate arena of domestic politics in the Old Country find it difficult to contemplate with equanimity the suggestion that this greatest of contemporary statesmen has outlived his usefulness.

Fundamentally, criticism of Mr. Churchill revolves about his alleged failure to keep his cabinet colleagues, the party and the people informed concerning the conduct of the nation's business. The Prime Minister's noticeable deafness, his infinitely superior knowledge of affairs which elevate him to a position of authority far transcending his cabinet colleagues, and his failure to consult on important policy decisions, have all been cited by ambitious inheritors of his mantle as ground for reconstituting the allocation of governmental responsibilities.

Those portfolios where consultation on policy matters is regarded as of the essence of sound responsible government are the Foreign Office, the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, and Defence. It seems highly unlikely, and equally undesirable, that Mr. Churchill should retire from political life. Yet when such responsible journals of opinion as The Times and The Economist urge the need for a fresh appraisal of cabinet responsibilities, it cannot be gained that changes in cabinet and parliamentary responsibility are in the offing in the United Kingdom. Of those changes, the most certain appears to be that Mr. Anthony Eden will relinquish the Foreign Minister-ship and become, as The Economist observes, "the Prime Minister's deputy in fact as well as in name."

New Combines Legislation

Some objections to the Bill amending the Combines Investigation Act, which has already been given third reading in the House of Commons, are pointed out in a brief presented by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to the Minister of Justice.

It commends the provision for establishing a Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, which will result in separating the investigating and judicial functions formerly exercised by the Combines Commission. On the other hand, it is concerned with the implications of Section 23, which appears to indicate that members of the new Commission may be appointed from the Civil Service. This, the brief says, is no imputation against the sincerity and zeal of such officials, "but it is startling to find that the destinies of Canadian business employing millions of Canadians and representing the investments of millions of other Canadians have been entrusted to men with such meagre personal experience of business conditions."

Commentation is expressed of the provision requiring the Commission, in its report, to appraise the effect on the public interest of arrangements and practices disclosed in the evidence, and to make recommendations accordingly for remedial action. However, it is suggested that the law should go further and provide that, unless the Commission reported that such arrangements and practices were in fact detrimental to the public interest, no subsequent prosecution should be launched. A cardinal objection in this connection is raised, in that the basic question of defining desirable or undesirable business practices remains unanswered.

Another area in which the Bill is silent is that of monopolistic practices by governments. There are many commodities which are subject to detailed control by federal or provincial boards, and these often result in price rigidities and the complete elimination of competition. It is urged that the practices of governmental agencies and boards be put to the same test as private

business, namely, whether these practices operate in the public interest.

The brief is also concerned with the implications of Section 42 which proposes the investigation of monopolistic situations and the restraining of trade. This provision implements the recommendations of the MacQuarrie Committee which advocated the detailed study of all phases of business operations and the publication of the results. It is feared that instead of an impartial, semi-judicial body the Commission might quickly become a supervisory board with power to exercise the closest surveillance over industry. If the Government is determined to exercise such close surveillance, it is argued that a separate measure should be proposed with the minimum requirement that a detailed study of industry be entrusted to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Objections are also raised to the removal of a maximum limit on the fine to be imposed for anti-trust offences, and to the way it has been done. On the other hand, several desirable features of the legislation are commended, notably the fact that this is the first time since the passage of combines legislation in Canada that recognition appears to have been given to the right of business to a fair hearing.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Earl Alexander's speech to the Canada Club in London may or may not have been a breach of security, but it makes clear that the U. N. command in Korea would welcome additional forces.

This week, with the deductions for the new Income Tax rates going into effect, pay cheques will be reduced by an extra amount varying from five cents to perhaps ninety cents.

Another international figure, Mr. Trygve Lie, has warned about the "serious food crisis amounting to widespread starvation" which the world will face in a few years. Much thought and effort is being devoted to the problem both within the framework of the United Nations and outside.

On Saturday a British Greenland Expedition sails from the Thames for a two-year survey of North Greenland. The object is to investigate the theory that Greenland is not one land mass but a collection of islands supporting a 10,000-foot-thick ice-cap.

The papers being read at St. Andrew's by members of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries contain much that is encouraging both for fishermen and the consumer. The possibilities of expansion in the industry are immense.

The rehabilitation of disabled persons means the independence of former dependents and a new outlook on life for those who have the prospect or actuality of filling a useful place in the world despite handicaps. Both Federal and Provincial Governments are working on the problem but much can be done by private organizations and by individuals.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress of the thirteen original states of the U. S. A. this date 1776. King George III had previously refused to receive a petition from the Congress asking that their wrongs be redressed and instead had proclaimed the colonists in a state of rebellion. The Declaration was drawn up by Thomas Jefferson and made effective by the success of the war of independence.

Britain's General Council of the Trade Union Congress is certainly well aware of the need for preparedness. A T. U. C. statement says: "Our firm conviction remains that the greatest possible measure of rearmament must be carried out, within the limits of our power to find the means. . . . The choice of aim is not between rearmament or the standard of living, but between peace on a basis of human freedom and the constant fear of aggression and perpetual tension in international relationships."

The difficulty of deciding between the advantages and disadvantages of retaining Queen's as a dual constituency in Federal affairs is evident from the diverse views expressed by our representatives. There seems to be a strong body of non-partisan opinion on both sides. However, the question for the present is an academic one, as the House has endorsed the recommendation of the committee favouring no change. There is no question as to the unanimity of our members in insisting on retaining the provision in the British North America Act pegging the minimum number of Island seats to our quota of Senators. This is the important point.

Garden Plot



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.

CHATTING WITH FARMERS

Sir.—Fine weather is continuing in action and farmers heretofore somewhat pessimistic regarding the season's activities, must be in a hey-day of delicious ecstasy over prospects of bumper crops. With the earth's surface protected from the ravages of frost and sun and winds that usually accompany "earlier" seasons, by a sturdy growth of green, the accumulated moisture beneath will have an opportunity to impress its value in the general scheme of making crops grow. Late grain sowing and potato planting may be an exception that will call for other available applications but on the whole it looks as if farmers were at last away to a good, if belated, start; and when harvesting comes rolling round again there will be enough and to spare.

The farmer's life is that of a gambler, so far as seasons and weather conditions are concerned, but aside from that he pretty much determines his own destiny. His major concerns are a pair in number — Production and Marketing — but in each case there is wrapped up a variety of problems that baffle him at times; and what to do, where to go and whom to approach for guidance, has him stymied on many an occasion. Before his annual production is of actual value it must be converted into dollars and cents by process of sale, and apart from the limited outlets round about him, it is a matter of export, which is under Federal Government jurisdiction exclusively. Securing of adequate markets for surplus farm production beyond local requirements, therefore becomes largely a matter for Federal Government attention and action, at least in the preliminary stages.

Distribution among the various markets thus becoming available, is a function and responsibility of the producer. He may transport his own single-handedly, if his production is equal to minimum transportation requirement; or in co-operation with a neighbor or neighbors, if such an arrangement is feasible and mutually agreeable; or he may resort to engaging the services of any private agency equipped for such marketing purposes. The important thing is to have within reach continuing centres of scope with capacity that cannot become easily glutted and, of course, a quality product that will satisfy.

Production, on the other hand, is solely an obligation of the individual who cultivates the land. Responsibility to achieve production, apart from what falls to materialize in the space overhead, is his alone. Failure to produce is a charge against the operator. It is the important feature in farming operations. Without production there can be no marketing, while vice-versa, there may be alternatives. So the call upon the soil is for abundant production and concentration to that end is the pressing need. Widespread failure in this respect, continuing over the years, is a major factor in making farming unpopular with youth and discouraging to older crowds. Of course, an accumulation of unfavourable circumstances may sometimes put the farmer in the reach of the individual farmer, who despite being ambitious otherwise must succumb to the inevitable and suffer defeat. But such will usually come back strong on the rebound and again take his place among the farmers of the community that habitually falls by the wayside, that needs care, coaching and encouragement from the various aid departments now servicing agriculture.

It may be noted in passing that various ills invade the agricultural field while in the process of growth, adversely affecting production, unless countered, with remedies now available. This involves an extra expenditure of labour and cash outlay that adds to the cost of production and should be recognized at time of marketing. But to get back to

The Poet's Corner

FROM THE KNIGHT ERRANT

He rode at dusk down woodlands strange, Where stood all bathed in fire A great dark Tower whose shadow gloomed The Valley of Desire. Alluring glowed that sun-lit Tower, But dark the way, and long; And where the walls seemed And peep and gully without strong, Life lay with all its wrongs to right, And all its deeds undone; Earth held full many a height to storm, But he must take this one.

—Arthur Stringer.

The line of thought in mind when I digressed in the preceding observations, I had intended to say that it is only in the realm of atmospheric conditions that man admits of his inability to deal with a crisis and when she rains, she rains and when she pours, she pours; and what can mere man do about it seems to be the prevailing attitude in dealing with weather conditions. But science again comes along with a revelation of discoveries, suggestions and recommendations, backed by practical experience. It is avowed now that overhead space is the predominating source of plant nourishment and its denial to plant growth would be disastrous, irrespective of what elements might be contained in the earth. Alternately, plant growth can be fully maintained and brought to maturity without any copious tears, an indication of plant starvation, either of thirst or hunger or both. Scientific research says "nourish the plant" and with what ingredients and how to do her effectively. The alert farmer arranges to be prepared for such emergencies. A chat on Foliage Feeding will appear next.

I am, Sir, etc., J. A. GILLIES.

PROPOSED BUS SERVICE

Sir.—Most of our leading public men are very reticent regarding the laying off of most of the passenger service on the C. N. R. for the summer months, and giving us instead a bus service which is guaranteed to be better in many ways.

It seems to this writer that the proposal is very reasonable. The Railway coaches are not used much by the public this time of year. But I notice that those who object to any change just use their own cars for transportation. I imagine that this timid feeling comes from a reluctance to follow the way of any province or country that follows the plan of public ownership including Saskatchewan, which has operated a bus system in the Province for several years. It has given good satisfaction to the public, especially in the thinly settled districts, which no private company would wish to service at a loss.

I am, Sir, etc., ARCH. MACKENZIE, Kensington.

LONG SERVICE

PICTON, Ont. —(CP)— Percy Wilson, who died at the age of 79 here recently, had been clerk of Amelshburgh Township for 40 years, and before that had four years as councillor and two as reeve. He served under 21 different reeves.

Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. L.)

WRECK OF THE INCHEQUIN

From a despatch by Sir Robert Hodgson to Lord Granville, Secretary of State for the Colonies, 29th December, 1869:

"I have the honour to report that Edward Keays, master of the ship 'Inchequin', with his first mate and 13 seamen, were taken from the wreck of that ship, at sea, on the 31st of October last, by Allan Finlayson, master of the brigantine 'George', of this Island, on her voyage from Cork to the port of Charlottetown, and here landed.

"The master of the 'Inchequin' states that on his voyage from Quebec to Limerick, his ship became disabled and leaky, from the violence of storms which occurred on two consecutive days—the 26th and 27th of October last—wherein three of his crew were washed overboard and lost, and two others seriously injured.

"The master and his crew were landed at Charlottetown in a state of utter destitution, with no clothing beyond the rags that covered them, and without means either to procure their support, or to aid them to return home; and under these circumstances, the Local Government furnished them with necessary clothing, and paid for their maintenance, until such work obtained employment, and paid the master's passage to Liverpool, furnishing him with an additional sum of £5 sterling, to liquidate his expenses to Halifax, N. S., the place of his embarkation. Three of the crew were so seriously injured as to require surgical treatment, and this was provided for them; and two of them being unable to work, their passage was also paid to England.

"The Local Government have dispersed on account of these distressed seamen the sum of £212 19s 9d currency, equal to the sum of \$141 19s 10d sterling, as per statement enclosed.

"The Government of this Colony on the requirement of the Imperial Government, having undertaken to repay any monies expended by the Consular Agents at foreign ports, or by the Board of Trade, in forwarding to their homes distressed seamen belonging to this Island, it seems an unavoidable sequence that in cases of distressed seamen belonging to Great Britain and Ireland, any expenditure incurred by the Government for their behalf, should be repaid; and I have respectfully to request your Lordship will be pleased in the present instance, to move the Board of Trade to refund to the Local Government of this Colony its outlay.

"I cannot conclude this despatch without drawing your Lordship's attention to the humane conduct displayed by Allan Finlayson, master of the brigantine 'George', in rescuing the crew of the 'Inchequin'; and I venture to express a hope that your Lordship will be of opinion that some recognition, such as is usually made on similar occasions, should be vouchsafed to him, and that he may obtain such recognition through your Lordship's kind instrumentality."

DUNKERTON, England — (CP) — As a youth Harry Dawson, leading steeple-jack of this Somerset village, helped his father build a 200-foot chimney at a colliery. Now the colliery has been closed and Dawson will help pull the chimney down.

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Notes By The Way

Outsiders are confused to read that fishermen threaten to strike for higher salmon prices while salmon canners are still striving to sell 686,000 cases carried over from last year's pack. — Vancouver Sun.

"Speaking of mining in England," reports the Windsor Star, "COF Leader Coldwell told the Commons that he remembers not very far from where he was born 2,000 years ago vast quantities of tin were mined by the Phoenicians." How's that again? — Ottawa Citizen.

Theoretically, the perfect tax would be a tax on inaction. The proper man to tax would be the loafer, not the worker; idle land, not used land; inactive capital, not active capital; lack of enterprise, not enterprise. Such a tax would not be practical but it would be more just. Our present taxes are based on the opposite theory. We tax thrift, action, capital, enterprise. We levy taxes in proportion to ability to pay, which means that the harder a man works, the more he is taxed. The more efficient he grows, the more he is shaken down. — High River Times.

The death in Sweden of former Assistant Commissioner C. D. La Nauze removes from the retired list of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police one of the most colorful, efficient and best liked members of the force. Born and brought up in the tradition of the force in which his father had served honorably before him, his career was one of steady advancement based on his superb fitness for the task he chose. His police work in the wide open spaces, in faraway places won appreciative recognition from his associates and his superior officers. Next to police work and the ideal of service, he had a deep literary appreciation. — Regina Leader-Post.

After twenty years, British amateur women golfers have lifted the Curtis Cup from their American opponents in a spirited and close match. It took a ding-dong final to do it and it took plenty of good golf. There is no reason to be petulant about the fine showing that the American girls made. There is every reason to extend warm congratulations to the British golfers. This particular competition has been too one-sided in the past. It is a good thing to get it back onto more even terms. Naturally, we don't throw up our hats when an American team loses.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for J. A. Carruthers, Chas. R. McQuaid, MacPhee & Trainor, J. S. Taylor, Gaudet & Haszard, J. A. McQuigan, McDonald & Joyal, Frederic A. Large, Q.C., M. Alban Farmer, Q.C., Dr. A. J. MacIsaac, H. R. Doane and Company, and others.