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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1951

Municipalities And The Interest Rate

Money is one of the few commodities in Canada the price of which is virtually fixed. Most people think of \$100 in terms of what it will buy. But the availability of that \$100 is determined by the price at which it can be borrowed.

The rate of interest at which money can be borrowed becomes of much importance when governments have to float bond issues to finance capital expenditures of various kinds. Reconstruction of streets and highways, the building of hospitals and other public institutions, water and sewerage equipment and installations all call for expenditures on the part of government in amounts which cannot usually be financed out of current revenue.

Municipalities rely extensively upon bond issues, or borrowed money, to finance various essential public works. In the Maritime Provinces the credit of most municipalities stands high. They have seldom experienced difficulty in selling their bonds. There has rarely if ever been a case of default.

Under the circumstances, it might be supposed that municipal bond issues would find a ready market. Yet always in some Maritime municipalities difficulty is being experienced in floating new bond issues, and the market value of outstanding bonds is declining. The explanation lies in the fact that prevailing interest rates, for which the pattern is set by the Bank of Canada, are too low to attract investors.

The result of the Federal Government's determination to keep the interest rate low thus becomes one of the main factors contributing to inflation and high living costs. It also poses serious financing problems for local and provincial governments. The interest rate is already a serious issue in financial circles in Ottawa. It promises to become more serious with every rise in the cost-of-living index.

Older Workers

Workers today receive higher wages than formerly both in cash and, to a lesser degree, in purchasing power. Conditions of work have improved, hours shortened, provision made for compensating them for industrial accidents, unemployment and old age pensions provided on a more generous scale.

The fly in the ointment is that there is a growing reluctance on the part of employers to engage older workers at all. The worker who is past forty-five or fifty would generally count all the other benefits as a cruel mockery if he cannot get work when willing and able.

The problem has again been brought to the attention of Parliament by Mr. Robert Cauchon (L-Beauharnois) who drew on a report of the International Labour Office to show that Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have all found it necessary to take steps to remedy a similar situation.

An agricultural community is not faced with the problem in its most critical form but, as social security measures are brought into effect there is no reason to suppose that the problem of employment for the older worker will not come in at the same door.

Meighen's Statement Recalled

When Premier Duplessis' veto forced the abandonment of the proposed "Provincial sales tax" amendment of the B. N. A. Act, it was not the first time that such an attempt had been turned back. An amendment which, like this one, would have given the Provinces the right to levy an indirect tax, was defeated in the Senate in 1936. The points made against it then, remarks the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) are just as valid today as they were at that time.

Hon. Arthur Meighen, the then Senate Opposition leader, argued successfully that it was the first time an attempt had been

made to disturb the historic B. N. A. line of division between Federal and provincial taxing powers. The amendment would enable Provinces to tax goods imported from other Canadian Provinces, he contended. They could not prevent the goods coming, but could put discriminatory taxes against them after import.

Mr. Meighen contended that exclusive Federal authority to impose indirect taxes was the cornerstone of Confederation; the right to impose indirect taxation had to be taken from the Provinces; "otherwise," he said, "they could secure by methods of indirect taxation the same effect as if they were able to impose customs and excise duties." The Provinces, he said, agreed to take in turn the right to plenary direct taxation and Federal subsidies. (Senate Hansard, Page 316, May 19, 1936).

EDITORIAL NOTES

The sun is appreciated by the farmer and by the urbanite as well these April-like May days.

The adjournment of the railway freight rates inquiry till the Fall should suit us here all right. We will have other fish to fry between now and Festive Week.

"A routine flight", has an exciting sound about it though it may involve many hundreds of miles over sea and wild country. Actually a higher form of courage is needed to risk, like the pitcher, going too often to the well.

The atomic bomb may come to wipe out Christian civilization, but there is no sense dwelling upon such a contingency to the detriment of our own health and the enjoyment of life as it is, and as it can be improved by our own enterprise and resourcefulness.

Felicia Dorothea Hemans, English poetess, died this date 1835. Her father, George Brown, encouraged her precocious taste for poetry. She married an Irish officer and had five sons. Her work is not strong, but graceful and pleasing. Some of her pathetic and sentimental poems became very popular.

An outdoor swimming pond at Victoria Park should prove a great attraction in the summer, but a much greater attraction would be a swimming pond in winter when the sandy shores are barred to us. Some day some enterprising philanthropist or philanthropists will create a lasting memorial to himself by financing such an enterprise.

Two greatly appreciated innovations in Church worship have been successfully introduced by the Rev. T. H. B. Somers of St. James Church in the past winter, viz., an exactly one hour morning diet of worship, and a five o'clock vesper service. These are welcomed and appreciated by Men of the Kirk and their families as well as by visitors.

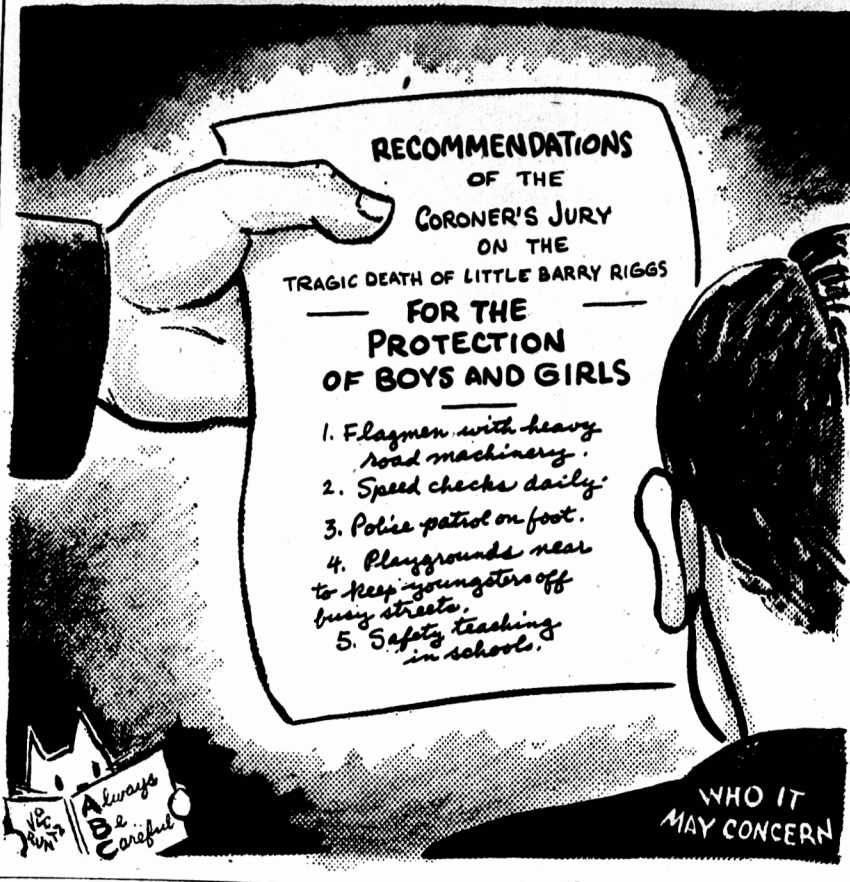
In Toronto the Board of Control has settled a controversy over whether Toronto's proposed parking meters should work on dimes or on nickels. They'll take dimes. The rate will be 10 cents for 30 minutes in central downtown and 10 cents for 60 minutes on outer downtown sections.

A veteran of the Press Gallery has recorded that long ago when travelling with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, he plucked up his courage and asked him how he came by his Christian name. Sir Wilfrid replied that his father had been very fond of the Waverley novels, particularly of Ivanhoe, and had named his son in memory of Scott's hero.

According to an Ottawa correspondent, the Federal Government gets around. In addition to all of its other jobs, it rents houses, operates garages, runs hotels, operates at least one shopping centre, rents home furnishings, sells meals, runs hospitals and schools, sells coal and competes against itself in the wood fuel line; traffics in ice during the warm-weather months, operates bus lines and sells electricity on a cost plus basis. Altogether it is a rather cosmopolitan organization, indicating, alas that it knows something about everything, but little about essentials.

Is the World Health Organization, an off-shoot of the United Nations, receiving the support it deserves? Dr. Brock Chisholm of Ottawa, director-general says W.H.O. is facing its most crucial moment through lack of funds owing to constantly-rising costs. Addressing the Fourth World Health Assembly, he said that unless a budget of not less than \$8,500,000 is voted by U. N. for 1952, the W.H.O. will not be able to fulfil its obligations and responsibilities. "As it is, this year will not be one of progress but of regression, of retreat from our undertakings," he said.

A Thought For Boys' And Girls' Week



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.

AGRICULTURAL APPRECIATION

Sir. — In the Editorial column of your issue of May 15th appeared two very timely editorials. I should like particularly to compliment the writer of the one entitled "The Farmers Know".

At a time when many consumers are holding the farmer responsible for the high cost of living, this editorial very clearly establishes the point that true agricultural gains are the result of industry and efficiency. The letter headed "Dairy Prices" are signed "Urbanite" appearing in the Public Forum is also a worthwhile contribution in the field of better urban-rural relationship.

Our organization is most appreciative of the numerous articles and editorials appearing from time to time in your paper and which are a definite contribution to developing better understanding as between producing and consuming groups. Organized agriculture is becoming increasingly aware of the value and necessity of better public relations and we hope for a development of effort along these lines as time goes by.

I am, Sir, etc., J. L. DEWAR, P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture.

The Poet's Corner

IMPROMPTU

Life is not lived in months, and years, and days: Still, stolid candles that the flames purloin. But springs in startling-swift, sun-bitten ways Like golden flickers from a falling coin.

First fragile second of a purple spring, The love-word traced into the secret sand A breath before the tide. The dying sting Of one cold crocheted snowflake on your hand.

The single tree along the sun-seared lane, New courage springing in a moment when All hope seemed lost. The face seen from a train, Glimpsed. Loved. Adored. And never seen again.

Because of these, no blackness in-between Can hide from us our clear-cut, shining norm. For we can walk through darkness, having seen The lightning-blossoms garlanding the storm.

—Julia Savarese, in the Montreal Gazette.

The Age-Old Story

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. . . The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. . . Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of?

Efforts To Get A Four Power Conference

By W. N. Ewer

The three Western Powers have a supreme effort in Paris to bring a conference of the Four Foreign Ministers. They proposed either an agreed agenda in the form of their latest detailed proposals (for here no further concessions seemed possible) or a "split" agenda (which would leave the final decision on versions of unagreed items to the Foreign Ministers themselves), or one consisting merely of five main heads of discussion for the Foreign Ministers. This is a handsome offer and it is thrown into relief by the proceedings of the past nine weeks.

When, on the first day, the three Western Deputies produced one draft and Gromyko another, they were indeed exceedingly different. But the first impression was that it should not be too difficult to merge them together. After all, the Deputies were not supposed to be discussing points of substance but only drawing up a list of subjects for their principals to consider.

Yet, during the first week, it became obvious that Gromyko, and therefore presumably the Soviet government, was attaching very great significance both to the exact wording in which any subject was to be described and to the exact order in which they were to appear.

Gromyko's insistence suggested that the Soviet government might be toying with the idea that if "German remilitarisation" could be the first and separate item on the agenda it would be possible in the conference itself to discuss it and then to find some pretext for going further. Moreover, the three Western Powers had felt and insisted from the beginning that the question of German armament could not be detached in this manner but could only seriously and profitably be considered in its relation to all those causes of tension in Europe, of which the dispute about German armament was really only a consequence and a symptom.

To accept Gromyko's seemingly innocent but very important request that his item should be given complete priority might result in changing the whole character of the conference. Hence the first prolonged argument on a point which to many outside observers must have seemed one of almost trivial detail. After several weeks there was some approach to compromise.

Meanwhile, another issue, seemingly formal but really one of substance, had arisen. In the first Russian draft, it was proposed that the Ministers should consider "A reduction in the armed forces of the Four Powers". At Lake Success, the Soviet Government had already taken a very similar line. It had produced a proposal by which each of the Great Powers would agree to reduce its armed forces by one-third. But when the delegates of the other Powers very naturally replied that before they could consider reduction, they must have full knowledge of the present strength of the Soviet armed forces, the Russians declined to give them any information. Vishinsky made the really astonishing offer that if the Great Powers would commit themselves to cutting their armaments by one-third, then and only then the Soviet government would give them full information about the strength of its own forces. It was an offer which, obviously, nobody in their senses could accept.

With this in memory it seemed only too obvious that Gromyko was seeking the same end by a slightly different path. Again, he was trying to induce the Western Powers to commit themselves, even before the Ministers met, to reducing their own armaments by one-third, and without being able to judge what the effect would be on the whole balance of military power. So the insistence of the Western Deputies that the existing level of armaments must not only be

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

NAVAL VISITATION

"H. M. S. Royal Alfred, which lay inside Point Prim for twenty-four hours, steamed up the harbour and anchored at Queen's Wharf on Thursday morning, her steam tender the Mullet and the gunboat Minaret having come in on the previous day. His Excellency, Sir Rodney Mundy, accompanied by Capt. Carpenter, Flag Lieutenant Hood and Mr. Campbell, landed on Wednesday and proceeded immediately to Government House, where they were entertained at a dejeuner by His Honour the Administrator, and where they were met by several members of the Government and Opposition. Sir Robert Hodgson visited the Admiral on Thursday, at 2 p. m., and dined with His Excellency yesterday.

"The Royal Alfred is an iron clad screw ship of 4068 tons burthen, 800 horse power, and carries 18 muzzle loading Snieder guns, 10 of which weigh 12 1-2 tons, and carry shot from 250 lbs. to 300 lbs. weight. All told, her crew number 750 men. On Thursday afternoon a large and select party enjoyed a pleasant time on board the flagship and yesterday she was thrown open to the public from 2 p. m. to 6 p. m., where hundreds of our citizens embraced the opportunity of visiting one of the finest war vessels ever to enter our noble harbour."

—The Islander, Aug. 6, 1839.

Lawrence Recalled

(Times)

If, as it would seem, the enlistment of T. E. Lawrence into the R. A. F. is to be made an incident of major historical importance, it is time the truth was told. As chief interviewing officer at the London Recruiting Depot, I handled this case from start to finish.

Ross (Lawrence) was brought to me by Sergeant-Major Gee, who by a signal implied that the man was a suspicious character. In co-operation with Scotland Yard, I had in my desk photographs of criminals wanted by the police. Crooks often tried to hide in the Service.

Ross had no papers of identity, so this was my first check on him. He passed it. I then told him that regulations required a reference from his last employer, a moral character and his birth certificate. Ross gave me particulars of his birth and went off to get the references. While he was away I checked his birth at Somerset House. There was no record. Ross returned with references, which I soon ascertained were forgeries, whereupon Gee showed him the door.

He was soon back, escorted by an Air Ministry messenger with a despatch case. In it was a minute, signed by a very high authority, ordering the enlistment. I have no doubt that Ross did try in the first place to get in without pulling up any strings; having failed he went to the Air Ministry. I accepted the order, of course, but there was still a stumbling block.

I sent Ross to the medical examination room. Squadron-Leader (Medical) Vallier came out and invited me to look at the back of the recruit I had sent him. Ross was naked, and I saw the scars of flogging. Ross would not say how he had got these. The doctors refused to pass as fit a man who was not up to the medical standard laid down.

Upon this I took the case to the Commanding Officer, who spoke to the Air Ministry. When he had finished, he said to me, speaking very nervously: "Watch your step. This man is Lawrence of Arabia. Get him in, or you'll get your bowler hat."

I took this information to the doctors. It made no difference. They refused to sign. The Air Ministry ordered them to sign. Still they refused, whereupon an outside doctor was brought in. He signed, and Ross was in. By this time everyone on the station knew who Ross was. Certainly Lawrence knew that I knew, because I had a long talk with him while he was waiting for the train to take him to Uxbridge. When he went he left me with the memory of a cold, clammy handshake.

I then rang up Flight-Lieutenant Nelson, my opposite number at Uxbridge, to warn him of who was on the way, for by this time Lawrence was making it clear that he had no time for junior officers. Lawrence himself soon saw to it that everyone knew who he was.

Notes By The Way

Soviet newspapers now claim the Russians invented radio and television. By this time they have claimed almost everything except lightning and the colors of a glowing sunset. — (Ottawa Journal).

The Federal Government's ruling, now definitely confirmed, that members of the Special Force in Korea must pay income tax is just about the unfairness imposition a government could make on the men it sends overseas to fight. Despite protests from veterans' organizations, the Government has refused flatly to reverse the ruling; and so, for the first time in Canadian military history, the members of a force actually in combat outside the country are taxed as if

The History Of Clan Cameron

(Weekly Scotsman)

The Camerons are said to have derived their surname from the Cam-shron, or "wry-nose" of an early chief. Tradition says he became the chief of the clan by marriage with the heiress of the old line.

The first chief of the clan definitely found in historical records is Donald Dhu (cir. 1411), although he is reckoned to be 11th Chief. He married an heiress of Mac-Martin of Lefferfinlay, and left two sons—Allan, Constable of Stone Castle, who succeeded him, and Ewan, who is generally regarded as the progenitor of the Camerons of Stone.

Ewan, 13th Chief, was the first to take the title of "Lochiel." From him the estates of the chiefly line were erected into a barony of Lochiel in 1528.

The present chief of the clan is Sir Donald Walter Cameron, K. T., 26th chief. Achnacarry Castle is the seat of the chiefs. The badge of the clan is oak or crowberry, and the slogan or battle cry is "Sons of the hounds come here and get flesh."

The lands of the Camerons are in the West of Scotland, and at one time were confined to the portion of Lochaber lying on the east side of the river and loch named Lochy. The more modern possessions of the clan are Lochiel and Locharkaig, lying on the west side of these waters.

Three Cameron tartans are given in the book, "Tartans of the Clans and Families of Scotland." They are Cameron Clan, Eracht Cameron (the tartan worn by the regiment known as The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders), and Lochiel Cameron tartan.

While most agree that the Highland Camerons took their name from some "wry-nosed" ancestor, nothing definitely appears to be known as to who that individual actually was, although there is a tradition that he was the younger son of a Danish king, and that he assisted at the restoration of King Fergus the Second in 404.

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they were still in civilian clothes. The Government should be big enough to admit that the decision was a mistake, and to rescind it. — (Victoria Daily Colonist).

Our Canadian universities, and their rank by and large with any straits and they must be bailed out of their difficulties. That is the simple fact of the matter. The Canadian people look to Ottawa for a solution. Higher education should not be so easy as to fall into a state of contempt, but neither should it be so difficult to obtain that brilliant John or Joan Doe have to pass up a university education because of high fees. — (Brookville Recorder and Times).

Was Butter Really The Villain?

(Montreal Gazette)

The latest increase in the cost-of-living index, reflecting price changes during March, has been attributed by Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe "largely" to the sharp and substantial boost in butter prices in the course of that month.

The Trade Minister was, of course, trying to explain away the misfire of his forecast of early April that the index might level off in March or at worst would show a fresh rise of no more than a half of one per cent or less than a point of the index. But in so doing he seems to have cast a single commodity — butter — in the role of the villain to be blamed for the entire or nearly entire climb of the index.

This impression — which has gained a foothold in the public mind which was probably not intended — hardly seems justified even by the figures presented by Mr. Howe to Parliament and certainly not in the light of various pertinent circumstances. As reported in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (which compiles the index) cited the high level of butter prices during the shortage period as accounting for "almost half" of the March rise of 2 points in the general index.

The Bureau also noted numerous other factors which seemed to be the prices of foods other than butter, which raised the separate index of food prices by more than four points to a level nearly three and a half times that of pre-war years. Other factors in the advance in the general index were new upturns in the prices of stitching, home furnishings and "miscellaneous items."

Another qualifying consideration is that the prices of margarine which followed butter prices upward but not to the same extent, are not included in calculation of the D. B. S. index. While margarine prices showed increases of up to 10 cents a pound in recent months, they are still well below butter prices. But the availability of margarine in most provinces and the advance in its price are not reflected in the index. This adds to the argument of those who contend that revision of the basis for computing the index is necessary to make it a more accurate mirror of price fluctuations.

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