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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"
CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1950

The Public Accounts

The Public Accounts for the year ending March 31 last, tabled in the Legislature on Monday, show that while we have had a large surplus on ordinary account—indicating that for the most part the various departments have kept well within their estimates—the overall picture is as disquieting as ever.

In public health and welfare, which cost \$1,733,023 against an estimated \$1,689,862, it is generally conceded that expansion, owing to participation in Federal grants and other services, was practically compulsory.

On education, the estimate was \$813,550, the expenditure \$743,280. The Justice Department spent \$102,796 against its \$141,725 estimate, while on Agriculture, for which \$179,864 was budgeted, the expenditure was only \$160,128.

The Accounts show a net profit of \$550,719 in liquor revenue and a substantial increase in the Federal payments based on gross national production.

Provincial and Federal financing are now so interlocked that it is difficult to separate them. The fact which stands out is that this Province is going behind to the tune of nearly a million dollars annually, and that conditions are likely to get worse instead of better until we get a readjustment from Ottawa on an equitable basis.

Keeping Their Financial Skirts Clean

All members of the Menzies Australian Cabinet who hold directorships in commercial companies are resigning them. The Prime Minister, Mr. R. G. Menzies, suggested this to avoid even "the appearance of evil."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The traditionally windy month of March is with us again. Federal and Provincial capitals should have storm warnings hoisted.

According to The Canadian Press there appears to be as many dogs in Newfoundland as there used to be mice in Prince Edward Island.

The recording machine in the Legislative Assembly will faithfully preserve speeches in the House and settle any doubt as to what actually was said.

to be edited to be made suitable to the medium of print.

The Railways have gained a rates increase of from 8 to 16 per cent as the result of their appeal to the Transport Commission. This will be disappointing news to traders, and means a gross increase in revenue to the railways of some \$28,000,000 per annum.

Welcome to the P. E. I. Potato Growers Association, perhaps meeting for the last time before reorganization. It has played an outstanding part in developing our leading industry, and deserves the best thought and effort of all to continue at maximum usefulness.

"There is no competitive necessity for the railways to reduce certain rates in the Maritimes to conform with Central Canadian rates." So runs the cynical argument of C. P. R. vice-president Jefferson.

C. C. F. member W. Ross Thatcher's bill to abolish the death penalty is eminently sensible if the sole object of the law is to reform criminals. As we continue to use its terrors as a warning to others, the death penalty as the supreme deterrent would seem to be too valuable to discard.

The tabling of Public Accounts thus early in the Legislature indicates it is the Government's intention to push ahead with the business of the House with as little delay as possible. In fact, the Budget debate may follow closely on the debate on the address.

So the Government has definitely decided to abandon further prosecution in the Waterworth fishermen's loan prosecution, which means, of course, that the money allegedly illegally borrowed goes unaccounted for, and nobody held responsible.

The Supreme Court of Canada decision on rent controls implies at least two things. Ottawa has power to enact legislation dealing with matters that are ordinarily Provincial in time of national emergencies arising out of war.

What are called "dragers" here are known as "trawlers" in the Old Country. There is no question whatever but that the big trawl net is more productive and economical in handling the treasures of the sea.

It gives one a fine feeling to realize that in these strenuous times the Provincial Government should be able to finish its past financial year with almost \$709,000 of a surplus on ordinary account—that is in current account.

Maritimers are clannish when separated from these Provinces and those who have settled in the West are notably so. We have received a letter from the Maritime Provinces Association of Edmonton, Alberta, enclosing a fistful of clippings dealing with the Association's Twentieth Annual Banquet which was clearly an outstanding affair.

John Wesley, English religious leader and founder of Wesleyan Methodism, born this date 1703; ordained a priest of the Church of England in 1725; became a member of a religious society known as Oxford Methodists. In 1738 he passed through a great spiritual experience, the outcome of which was the organization of a church separate from the Anglican Communion; began the establishment of local societies or chapels; was excluded from Anglican pulpits, and proceeded to ordain clergy, and thus the Wesleyan Methodist Church was begun, and through evangelism spread through Great Britain, U. S. A. and Canada.

The Poets Corner

TO-DAY
Alone To-day stands in the sun.
Why dream they who that race must run?
Between two precipices steep
To-day arises from the deep.

Old Charlottetown

"We were present, amongst several other visitors, on Saturday last, at the commencement of operations of the new Steam Saw Mill, recently erected by Messrs. Rider and Koper at the eastern extremity of Water Street. Every person present expressed admiration at the ease as well as the velocity with which the saws did their work, making about 140 strokes a minute, and turning out heavy scantling as fast as four hands could take the sawed sticks away.

Hard To Unscramble

From Britain's election, from the issues upon which it was fought, one clear fact emerges. It is the difficulty of unscrambling the "welfare state."

Britain's Conservatives did not so dare. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald in 1930 would gladly have underwritten Mr. Churchill's platform of 1950—the accomplished fact of many industries nationalized, health benefits, many other things, all of them more or less Socialist.

As it turned out, Mr. Churchill and his Conservatives might well have gone farther in their challenge to the welfare state, might have fought more successfully if they had known the thing they must know now. But Mr. Churchill and his party did not know; they had to reason that people who become used to state benefits do not yield them lightly.

A tribute it is to the British people that, notwithstanding all the seeming benefits Mr. Attlee was showering upon them, they apparently understood that all was not well, that there were things more fundamental than a "social security" whose foundations might be shaky.



The Use Of Leisure

(By P. A. G. McKay in The Gazette)
The present trend towards shorter working hours and longer weekends brings in its train a complementary problem: how to use the increased leisure hours.

Our Shrinking Dollar

(Hamilton Spectator)
Canada's Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent made a cool and revealing survey of the nation's economy in the Commons Monday, and at the same time gave a good clue to what has happened to the buying power of our dollar.

The Age-Old Story

In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them, in His love and in His pity He redeemed them, and carried them all the days of old.

Chas. R. McQuaid

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Notes By The Way

In view of the number of people who seem to be worried about when the first half of the Twentieth Century ends it might be presumptuous to say that few Canadians will be greatly interested in the decision to raise the status of envoys exchanged between Canada and the republics of Ireland and India from that of high commissioner to ambassador. But undoubtedly we have more pressing problems. However, it seems that if we are to make a change of this sort with regard to a republic remaining inside the Commonwealth, and another which is half in and half out, we might as well whole hog and call envoys to all Commonwealth lands ambassadors.—London Free Press.

Chief Justice Brown, of Regina, says he has seen a sea monster off the West Coast. His pronouncement adds impressive evidence to that already gathered concerning sea monsters, for a Chief Justice enjoys a high reputation for truth, respectability and accurate testimony. Chief Justice Brown says his wife and daughter also saw the beast — and thus the actuality of British Columbia's "Caddy" is more firmly established than ever. So many accounts by reputable observers in many parts of the world are on record that naturalists no longer scoff at the idea of sea monsters as assuredly as they once did.—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Hon. L. B. Pearson whetted more curiosity than he allayed by his first press conference following his return from the Commonwealth Conference in Colombo. His hint that the conference had devoted much of its time to discussing what should be done to prevent the Red tide sweeping all across Asia makes Canadians wonder just what is to be done. They don't need to be told of the extent of the menace. That is self-evident. Mr. Pearson didn't even say what he intended to propose regarding the recognition of the Communist regime in China, although he said his mind was made up. There can be no doubt that Asia is "on the march", as Mr. Pearson suggests. The question is where Asia is marching.—London Free Press.

Shang, despite the upraised eyebrows of ultra-puritans, can be striking and colorful. But there is good slang and bad slang, slang that is spontaneous or imaginative, and slang that is imitative and dull. When it is apt and fresh it adds savor to language; when it is forced and uninspired it is pretty poor stuff. It is typical of Canadian sailors that the aircraft

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Our Shrinking Dollar

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