

THE GUARDIAN

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President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett,
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CIRCULATION
"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"
"The strongest memory is weaker than
the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, FEB. 5, 1953

Coins For Churches

Church collection plates reveal some of the effects of inflation. There are fewer nickles, dimes or even quarters; more half dollars and dollar or other bills, either on the plates or in envelopes. If this were not so, comments the Windsor Daily Star, our churches would be in a bad way due to the diminution in the value of our currency.

There is a problem over in England, however, and the Vicar of Highfield wrote a letter about it. He says the day is long past when the threepenny piece (now worth less than our nickel) was considered the normal coin for church purposes. Many now are giving a half-crown instead. But, perhaps because they fear being obstinate, those who could give more are reluctant to put two-half-crowns on the collection plate.

The Vicar suggests more five-shilling pieces be minted. If these were readily available, church collections would improve. What would be the effect if more half-dollars and silver dollars were available in Canada?

In earlier days in Canada, it was common for the smaller children to give one cent pieces; the older children a nickel; young people a dime or quarter and adults correspondingly larger amounts according to their means. But, pennies, nickles or even dimes now mean little to church funds—though they are appreciated when they are given by those whose economic circumstances circumscribe their donations.

Most Canadians, it is suggested, recognize the results of inflation, and have increased the size of their currency in church collections so as to maintain, or even increase, the real value of their subscriptions.

Farmers And Protection

Speaking at the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, President H. H. Hannam made the following points with reference to dairy marketing: "The public should realize that dairy producers are asking for some measure of protection only to save their industry from being depressed and to give the farm family on the average dairy farm, not high wages, not high returns on capital, but merely some return on their work in order to maintain family living on a modest standard of living basis. Yet many critics of our dairy producers thoughtlessly charge the dairy farmer with being in the same boat as the vested interest which uses protection to provide lucrative returns on capital and often to create more millionaires. There's a big difference. And since vegetable oils are mostly handled by a comparatively few wealthy corporations, the attitude of the consuming public plays into their hands. Isn't it common knowledge that industry in Canada takes many times more money out of the pockets of Canadian citizens—by means of our relatively high protective tariff for industry (and labor shares in the take)—than agricultural producers have ever received or asked for? Why then should there be such an outcry against milk producers asking for something to safeguard the family living needs of several hundred thousand families on dairy farms?"

"Once again the farmers of Canada challenge other industries to wipe off all tariff protection including all restriction on the immigration of industrial workers, and agriculture will be very happy to do likewise. Time and time again Canadian farmers have thrown out this challenge—yet no one takes it up. The plain truth of the matter is that most of the people in Canada are benefitting by protection in their own incomes and then unfairly and inconsistently raise a great cry against farmers attempting a small measure of what they themselves are doing."

After praising the price support policy, Mr. Hannam pointed out that it is still, all the same, "a floor price mechanism" and a "stop-loss device" rather than being "intended to be any guarantee of a profitable or incentive price because if it were it would probably encourage too much production and result in the piling up of an embarrassing surplus in the hands of support boards. These having to be unloaded at some point would—dependent as we are on world markets with as yet no international programme for handling surpluses—

almost certainly undermine and discredit the support programme."

Mr. Hannam then sketched one of the next major objections of Federation policy in these words: "Would it not be best for us to recognize the limitations of a price floor programme and, using it wisely, have its permanence more securely established; then use other measures and explore new methods to achieve balanced returns and stability? Those methods may require government action, they may be a further development of regulating marketing, or they may be programmes carried out by producers where practical, entirely on their own responsibility, the self-reliance of which is still an admirable thing.

"The next major development, however, in agricultural policy should find ways and means of overcoming the undue measure of risk and gamble which still exists in agriculture production because of market uncertainty and price instability. Progress in this direction will largely determine whether or not Canadian farmers can afford to produce to capacity. Unless better programmes both at the national and international level are found and implemented for meeting this problem, food producers in Canada, in common with those in other exporting countries, dare not respond with all-out production to attain the expansion requested by FAO in order to have increase of food production over-take and exceed the rate of increase in world population."

Trade With Brazil

The growing importance of Brazil as a market for Canadian fish was emphasized in a recent address by Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe. Speaking in Rio de Janeiro, at a luncheon given by the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Howe is quoted as saying: "We look forward to the day when, with the further improvement of your foreign exchange position, other Canadian goods, including such traditional items as codfish, may again have an opportunity to compete in your market. As you will remember, our Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland are old established suppliers of codfish to Brazil. Naturally we are disappointed that this market is temporarily closed, particularly as our prices are competitive and the quality of our fish is excellent."

The Minister stressed the benefits of the series of tariff reductions undertaken since the end of the war, and the acceptance, by many countries, of the principal of non-discriminatory trading practices.

Canada has much to gain by developing its trade relations with South American countries, and the importance of the mission headed by Mr. Howe may, in retrospect, prove of far-reaching importance to our basic industries on the Atlantic seaboard.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The groundhog was right again.

Prince Edward Islanders paid about two and a half million in income tax last year, another three quarter of a million, in custom-excite taxes plus a much larger amount to sustain the infant industries of Ontario and Quebec.

There seems to be little hurry on the part of either the CNR or the Board of Transport Commissioners to take action on the re-hearing of the CNR's protest of the Board's ruling for a single zone in Prince Edward Island. The Board might have ensured faster action if it had not suspended its ruling pending the hearing.

The Canadian Farm Loan Board reports a steady increase in the number of applications for farm loans up to 1950 and since then a decline. At the present time in Prince Edward Island the Board has about fifteen hundred loans valued at two and a quarter million dollars on one hundred and fifty thousand acres.

George Arliss, stage and screen actor, died this date 1946. He made his first stage appearance at the old Elephant and Castle theatre, London, in 1887. He first toured the United States with Mrs. Pat Campbell in 1901 and soon became a universal favorite. He also made a great reputation by screen impersonations of Disraeli, Wellington, Rothschild and Voltaire. He wrote plays and an autobiography, "George Arliss, by Himself."

It is probably a coincidence, but it might be that an observer has noted the stabilizing influence of our "Unsatisfied Judgment Fund" in putting a floor under the most insolvent debtor. Anyway the multi-billion dollar currency stabilization fund called the "Atlantic Reserve System" does seem to function on the same principle. It ensures that if the cheques of European nations bounce, there will be a fund available to make them good.

Another Drop In The Bucket, Expected



The Poet's Corner

OF HUMAN LIFE

Like to the falling of a star,
Or as the flights of eagles are,—
Or like the fresh spring's gaudy hue,
Or silver drops of morning dew:
Or like a wind that chafes the
flood,
Or bubbles which on water stood:
Even such is man, whose borrowed
light
Is straight called in, and paid to
night.
The wind blows out, the bubble
dies;
The spring entombed in autumn
lies;
The dew dries up, the star is shot;
The flight is past—and men for-
got.

—Bishop King (1592-1669.)

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

DANGEROUS ICE

"The mild weather which prevailed so long this Fall, was suddenly terminated on Friday night last, by a sharp frost setting in and on Sunday morning the River was skimmed over with ice. The steam ferry boat made her last trip from wharf to wharf, on Friday evening; she attempted to cross on Saturday, but did not succeed. On Sunday morning several foot passengers crossed the river, but it was with difficulty they effected a landing on this side.

"We know of one person at least who fell through the ice, while trying to get on shore near Heald's wharf. In the afternoon whilst a number of persons were walking on the wharves, a man was seen to drive down on the ice, from Southport, with a horse and sleigh, evidently with the intention of crossing the river for town, when all exclaimed, 'Who can it be? The man must be mad, or else intoxicated!' He had not driven far, before horse and man fell through and had it not been for the timely assistance rendered them by the inhabitants of Southport, both would have perished. So unsafe was the ice on this side of the harbour that no assistance could possibly be rendered."

—The Islander, Dec. 27, 1861.

Korean Words

(Ottawa Journal)
A Book of Basic Korean Phrases, brought back recently by a Canadian soldier who harbored a brief, swiftly-quenched enthusiasm to learn the language, gives a glimpse of one of the more minor complications in a complicated Korean word—the frustrations faced by Canadian soldiers trying to talk to Korean civilians in a language whose grammar is divided into three tenses, five moods, and four classes of politeness.

Verbs are notoriously slippery things in any language, but Koreans apparently have gone out of their way to make them as elusive as possible by tangling the rules of grammar into a knot with the rules of etiquette.

Notes By The Way

The goalie, often hockey's all-but-forgotten man, is coming into his own in this N. H. L. season, says the sports page. Nevertheless, we still see the odd game wherein the player carrying the puck seems to forget where the guy between the gaspises is. — Windsor Daily Star.

The Lionel Corporation, which makes toy trains, reports a nine-month net profit of more than \$1,500,000, according to Secretary F. A. Lashley. The first agricultural society was established in 1792 at Niagara-on-the-Lake. In respect of continuous performance, however, the record is held by the St. Lawrence Valley Fair at Williamsstown, in Glengarry County, organized in 1814. — Toronto Telegram.

Old friends and admirers of the late Col. Ralston, Canada's wartime minister of defence, will be happy about the appointment of his only son to a seat on the Superior Court of Quebec. At 44, the new judge is about the youngest lawyer who has been elevated to such a responsible place in the judiciary of Quebec. The legal firm that he was a member of in Montreal and of which his father had been a member also is notable for the contributions it has made to the bench. — Lethbridge Herald.

We know that Gander is now the eastern gateway to Canada. But it is also the only part of Newfoundland that those who travel

through that gateway may ever encounter. It is our business to see to it that Newfoundland gets its full share of attention from these hundreds of thousands of people to whom Gander is the crossroads of the world but Newfoundland is only a name represented by an airport with presently inadequate facilities for the entertainment of its guests. — St. John's News.

Citizens need not sit idly and await action by municipal authorities. They may go and confirm, by purchase, the fact that obscene literature is for sale. They may lay a complaint with the Crown Attorney, and they may be sure that action will follow, unless their complaint is one that would patently be tossed out of court without even a hearing. In the ordinary course, the complaint would come before a magistrate or judge, and a verdict would be given, subject to appeal. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

A teacher in Reigate, England, checking up on students' birthdays, reports that nearly all the bright pupils were born in the first half of the year, the dunces in the second. Her statistics impressed the school principal, who proposes a national survey to test the theory. A preliminary look-see indicates, however, that it might not be worth while. Some who would find themselves in the bonhead division are President Eisenhower, Winston Churchill, Joe Stalin, Lord Alexander, Brooke Claxton, Premier Frost, M. J. C. O'Dell and about half the Toronto M.P.s. Among the brainy: Albert Einstein, Anthony Eden, Ex-President Truman, Vincent Massey, Prime Minister St. Laurent, Arthur Meighen, Mayor Lamport of Toronto, George Drew and Solon Low. — Toronto Telegram.

The Age-Old Story

Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and shewed to him the way of understanding? . . . Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

The Passing Scene

By Observer
BRIGHT PAGE
Now that the threatened big strike has left the headlines, the negotiations having ended in what Mr. St. Laurent calls a "bright page" in history of Canadian labor relations, perhaps a few rambling comments on the matter may be permitted in this column.
Just what it was that brought the eleventh hour agreement is not clear from the newspaper reports. There are hints that it was Mr. St. Laurent's threat of the big stick in the form of government action that did the trick. It may be so but it is a little hard for me, personally, to connect any kind of a big stick with the present Prime Minister. Anyway, the final instrument of persuasion is of little importance now. The main thing is that for the present at any rate the country's economy and transportation are not going to be crippled by a strike.
In reading over the various concessions made by both sides in the dispute, concessions which presumably made everybody happy, I cannot see that anybody had much to gain by prolonged obstinacy. The trainmen's gain in wages was substantially the same as the gain had been offered at the beginning of negotiations. As for the Companies concerned it cannot be said that they gained or lost very much. There was, of course, some compromise involved, but no doubt they expected as much. In these days there is bound to be a good deal of give and take in any dispute having to do with labor relations.
I think what puzzles most people who are not directly involved in such disputes is why negotiation is allowed to go on and on when, so far as anyone can see, they could be terminated sooner as well as later. In this particular case the settlement announced a few hours before the deadline might just as well have been arrived at weeks ago, long before any serious threat to our economy had developed.
So far as the labor unions are concerned they really don't need to dramatize their strong position. And so far as the railway companies are concerned they must have plenty to do without indulging in the currently fashionable "face-saving" practices.
There should be some way for the public, who also have interest in railway affairs, to be reasonably sure that the settlement of one dispute is not simply the starting point of another. At present, we are told, the Canadian economy is in a state of good health, but no country in the world is strong enough to sustain strikes and threats of strikes indefinitely. This is especially so now when every ounce of national strength is necessary to stop aggression from invading the democratic world or to head it off if it were to be attempted.
Every episode such as the one this country experienced during the recent dispute has a bad effect on our national solidarity. None but the most urgent reasons should be permitted to bring

it about. This is not a plea for "no strike under any circumstances" legislation. That would be neither desirable nor practicable. Indeed, the fact that labor unions can sit down and parley with big corporations on equal terms is one of the best advertisements for our democratic institutions.
But the right to strike does not imply the right to disorganize a country's transportation system, especially in a critical time like this. Further, the right to strike when really important issues are at stake does not mean—or at any rate ought not to mean—that the strike weapon is to be taken out and used whenever a little grievance appears on the horizon of organized labor.
The average citizen (perhaps there is no such a person, but I am using the term here in its usual sense) is neither anti-union nor anti-railway. He does not begrudge trainmen their adequate wages and he would like to see the railways pay their own way. But he does not like the perennial demand for higher wages on the part of the trainmen or the frequent request for higher rates on the part of the railways. Importantly is respectable enough (I believe it even has Biblical sanction) but in economic matters, at least, there must be some limit beyond which it should not be permitted to go.
We are so much accustomed to strikes and threats of strikes that we are apt to forget that there are many thousands of people who must be content with what they have and make the best of it. Actually, however democratically respectable it may be regarded, the strike weapon is a "class" weapon for the simple reason that it is allowed to some and denied to others. The denial may not be of a legal nature, since I suppose anyone can stop working if he is willing to take the consequences, but it is very real just the same.

Consider the farmers, for instance, who double make up the biggest body of producers in this country. Should they "go out on strike" for any reason whatsoever, anyone can visualize the disaster to our economy that would swiftly ensue. As a matter of fact there are many farmers who feel that their economic troubles will never be remedied so long as the strike weapon is denied them. Everybody knows, of course, and the farmers themselves are well aware of it, that such a remedial measure will never be likely to fall to their lot. For one thing, farmers are much too individualistic in their outlook to make good union men. For another, the organization that would be necessary to ensure sufficient economic solidarity is plainly out of the question.
About all they can do it to put limited trust in marketing boards, more or less loosely knit federations, and the like. These may be helpful at times but they have little power to make "demands" in behalf of producers and even less power to back them up.

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