

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1950

The Reefer Car Shortage

It is evident from the protests raised by the P. E. I. Potato and Turnip Marketing Association that the situation with regard to reefer car accommodation, despite railway assurances to the contrary, is by no means satisfactory.

This matter was taken up forcefully in the House of Commons last week by Mr. McLure, who obtained the Transport Minister's promise that a survey would be instituted.

This brought prompt reply from the Potato and Turnip Marketing Association, advising the Minister that he had been misinformed, and eliciting from him the confession that he was "unable to understand the situation described," coupled with a request for further information which was also promptly supplied.

In the meantime the Provincial Minister of Industry and Resources reported to the Legislature on Friday that there was no reefer car shortage in this Province as claimed by Mr. McLure, basing his allegations on statements furnished him by railway officials and by advisory officials in his own department.

Apparently neither the Federal Minister nor the Provincial Minister had checked directly with the shippers, who were the obvious persons possessing the information. There may have been members on both sides of the House who could have set the Provincial Minister right, but he chose to raise the issue on a question of privilege—which is not debatable.

The situation is deplorable because, having no Cabinet representation at Ottawa, our members there are handicapped at all times in pressing our grievances. They have a night at least to expect the fullest co-operation from our Provincial Legislature and Government. When this support is withheld and their efforts stultified by uninformed commentaries on their statements by Provincial as well as Federal Ministers, what results can they be expected to achieve?

Senate Representation

It is not safe to assume that any right will go unchallenged and in preserving our constitutional rights, as in so many other things, eternal vigilance is the price of safety. Mr. James Sinclair (Liberal, Vancouver North), parliamentary assistant to Finance Minister Abbott, has protested against Prince Edward Island being represented by four Senators at Ottawa as being unfair to British Columbia with only six for a much greater population.

and 24 from the Western Provinces (6 each from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan).

There was no attempt at Confederation to make Senators representative of any particular constituency within their Province, except perhaps in the case of Quebec which was divided into 24 districts, and down to the present time members of the Upper House are properly referred to as being from their Province although the practice is growing of referring to them as being from a particular district.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Forest Nursery project last year cost \$10,829.85.

Health and Welfare last year cost \$11,196.79, against an estimate of \$8,665.

The week-end recess would enable the Legislators to study provincial statistics preparatory to the Budget Debate this week.

British Liberals blame "an out-of-date and unjust electoral system" for producing a deadlock in the House of Commons at Westminster. On the contrary, there is no other system by which a very small popular majority can generally return a Government with a workable majority in Parliament.

The Ottawa Citizen is intrigued by External Affairs Minister Pearson's attributing the success of the Colombo conference to its addiction to tea drinking. A cup of tea and a cool head seem to go together. Perhaps the custom could make even U. N. sessions amicable.

The Railway, the potato exporters, and the politicians are evidently "all at sea" on the question of reefer cars. As the exporters are the beneficiaries or otherwise on the count of efficient car service, their opinion should have been obtained before blaming Mr. McLure with being a little too previous in his complaint in the House of Commons.

Quebec farmers are now making more cheese and less butter. A drop of 17.6 per cent in butter production during January was reported by the provincial Department of Commerce. Butter production amounted to 1,566,420 pounds during January, 1950, compared with 1,901,244 pounds in January, 1949. Cheddar cheese production in January was 168,173 pounds compared with 34,397 pounds.

It might be better if a bold attempt were made to attract more Canadian tourists here rather than that they should go to U. S. A. and elsewhere. American tourists spent a record \$288,000,000 in Canada in 1949 but Canadians went on a record travelling spree of their own. The Bureau of Statistics reports the \$288,000,000 spent by tourists in 1949 was \$8,000,000 above the 1948 total. Canadians spent \$191,000,000 in other countries, chiefly the U. S. or \$57,000,000 more than in 1948.

Charles, 2nd Earl Grey, British politician, born this date 1764; took part in the impeachment of Warren Hastings; moved Pitt's impeachment; made First Lord of the Admiralty in 1806; after Fox's death became Foreign Secretary in "All The Talents" ministry; he carried the Act abolishing the African slave trade, and became Prime Minister in 1830. The great Reform Bill was introduced by Lord John Russell in 1831 and carried a year later by Grey obtaining royal permission to create sufficient peers to ensure its passing in the House of Lords.

Endeavours are still being made to get divorce cases out of Parliament. The House of Commons has given first reading to a private bill transferring jurisdiction over divorce cases to the Exchequer Court of Canada. Mr. Stanley Knowles (C.C.F., Winnipeg North Centre), who introduced the measure, said it would leave jurisdiction over alimony and other such matters with the provincial courts. Parliamentarians long have objected to the system under which divorces for residents of Quebec, which has no divorce court, must be granted by Parliament.

For the ninth year in succession The United Church of Canada again has exceeded its previous year's Missionary and Maintenance Fund givings. With a total of \$2,706,206 raised for the Church's work in Canada and overseas, an increase of \$165,498 over the previous year's givings is shown. Toronto Conference shows the largest contributions, with a total of \$554,083. Hamilton Conference is next with \$355,451. Then London with \$341,353, and Montreal and Ottawa following with \$329,791. The other Conferences gave: Newfoundland \$36,911; Maritime \$263,102; Bay of Quinte \$215,889; Manitoba \$176,774; Saskatchewan \$145,852; Alberta \$135,580; British Columbia \$139,269; and donations \$12,151.

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.

BEACH GROVE WHAT?

Sir,—In your issue of Feb. 26th there appeared a brief account of a "lovely concert" held at "Beach Grove" and given by the Falconwood staff. The account stated among other things that Mr. Bonnell, Superintendent of Falconwood, thanked the performers on behalf of the inmates, or patients—whatever the residents there are called. The question must surely arise in the minds of interested observers as to what status the newly established institution at Beach Grove really holds. Is it a typical old people's home—a more or less independent unit in itself, or is it just an annex to the older infirmary which in turn is an annex to Falconwood Mental Hospital?

There is and has been for several years a good deal of obscurity about the older infirmary where all sorts of young and old people live in retirement behind locked fences, except on election day, and where no one apparently dies. Is the same sort of obscurity to be an outstanding feature at Beach Grove—whatever it is? I am, Sir, etc.

INTERESTED OBSERVER.

WHERE IS CANADA HEADING?

Sir,—The persistent demand for so called social service to be provided by the Government, if agreed to by Parliament, will result in—An ever increasing number of persons unwilling to work so long as the Government or someone else will provide for them.

This results in—Increased taxes to take care of such services. This results in—Further reduction in initiative by those who do work, because they argue, why earn more or save what we do earn, because the Government will take it from us in taxes.

This results in—Reduced taxable income in the hands of the investor and the worker. This results in—A demand for conscription of capital and nationalization of industry, now under way in Britain.

This results in—Reduced production, once the initiative is removed from business; such a result is inevitable.

This results in—The Government having to regiment labor and enforce their regulations by dictatorship. This results in—What we think of as the dark ages. Slave labor except under more modern conditions.

I am, Sir, etc., THINK IT OVER!

MR. KICKHAM'S PROPOSALS

Sir,—Enclosed is a copy of letter which I mailed to the Premiers of all the Provinces, including Premier Jones, for their consideration. I note that he has not discussed the proposal in the Legislature, which I hoped he would do, so as to obtain the opinion of the members in regard to it. Please publish the letter in your paper.

I am, Sir, etc., T. J. KICKHAM, M.P. for King's, P.E.I.

(Enclosure) "Ottawa, Ontario, March 2nd, 1950.

"To the Premiers of the Provinces.

"Dear Mr. Premier:—I wish to bring—what I believe to be an important matter—to the attention of your Department of Agriculture and your Government with regard to the potato-growing industry in Canada.

"The export markets for Canada's potato surpluses, which we enjoyed during the war years and immediately following, have now practically ceased.

"Those engaged in the potato-growing industry last season, and again this season, are demanding a support price from the Federal Government, which demand it is reluctant to meet. To us there is justifiable reason for doing so on a perishable product such as potatoes.

"My view is that support prices on potatoes invite speculators other than bona fide farmers to grow more potatoes than our present and foreseeable markets can absorb. As a consequence, we experience depressed market conditions accompanied by distress and disappointment.

"I therefore decided to write all the Provincial Premiers in the hope that we may obtain agreement on this important question from all the Provincial Governments, as this matter is within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Governments.

"May I now humbly present for your consideration my tentative suggestions in an effort to control surpluses in this product and retain the industry for the bona fide farmers.

"First: That all Provincial Governments impose a levy on all potato growers in their respective Provinces who

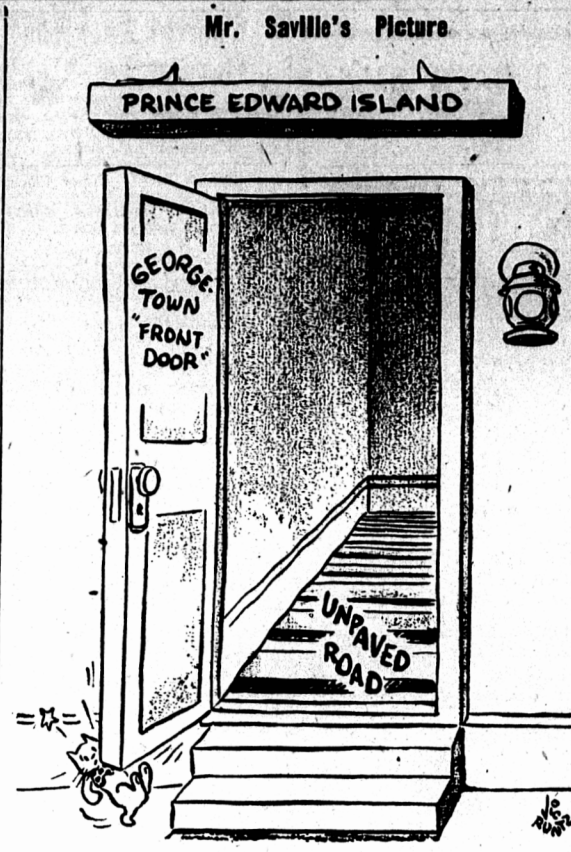
"(1) Plant over one hundred acres, a levy of twenty-five dollars per acre be imposed.

"(2) From fifty acres to one hundred acres, a levy of twenty dollars per acre;

"(3) From thirty-five to fifty acres, a levy of fifteen dollars per acre;

"(4) From twenty to thirty-five acres, a levy of fifteen dollars per acre;

"(5) Under twenty acres, no levy. If these tentative suggestions appeal to you, I would be very



The Poet's Corner

IN EXILE

Who would have thought a little field, A patch of green where skies are wide, The steep lure up a valley, and Smoke curling upwards from by-side Five lonely trees in that steep park, Could stir such sadness in the heart? Who would have thought a little field, A far-off road, a far-off lane, A far-off cottage could in time Wake far-off thoughts with so much pain, Wake far-off thought so hard to stem A man might fear to think of them. —Monk Gibbon.

grateful for a reply. I sincerely trust, however, that your Government will give my proposals your earnest and favourable consideration, believing, as I do, that it is a practical measure to control potato surpluses and retain the potato growing industry for the bona fide growers. "Respectfully yours, T. J. KICKHAM, "M.P. for King's, P.E.I."

MARKETING ORGANIZATIONS

Sir,—In a recent issue of your paper I have noticed that a meeting of the leading potato and turnip shippers of this Province has been held for the purpose of forming an association for the marketing of our potatoes and turnips.

Those gentlemen, no doubt have a perfect right to organize into any kind of an association that they see fit, providing of course, that it is a legitimate one; but the part strange to understand is, how and when did those gentlemen find out that such an association was necessary. They must have known that the conditions, which they are attempting to remedy have existed for a long time, in the marketing of our farm produce, namely, price cutting, speculating and other unfair practices which deprived the producer of those commodities of his just return.

An organization for the orderly marketing of our produce has been long overdue, but was not even mooted among our shippers until the Federation of Agriculture took the lead and asked the producers themselves to express their approval or disapproval of a marketing board.

I feel that this was the proper procedure, and I am confident that when the results of the vote is made known, it will be decisively clear that the farmers are desirous of a marketing scheme worked out by the Government and our Federation in conjunction with the Federations in other Provinces.

We, the farmers of this Province are the producers of the products in question, and have a right to have our say in the marketing of same. This right has not been taken advantage of in the past, nor will it be in the future, if we do not support our Federation in every possible way. By so doing we have a fair chance of securing our just portion of the national wealth.

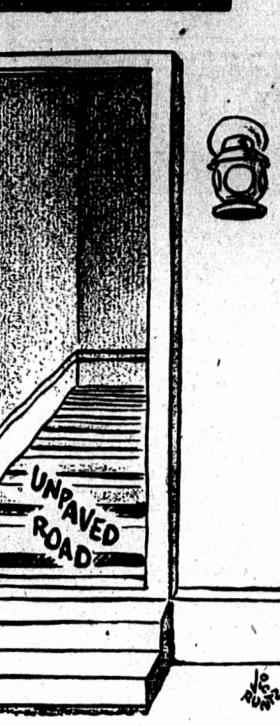
It would be unnatural to expect our shippers, consumers, or any other group, organized or otherwise, to have as their first interest our security, no matter how much they appear to be our economic saviours. I am, Sir, etc., FARMER, Webster's Corner, P.E.I.

The Age-Old Story

My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

Mr. Saville's Picture

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

MR. WHELAN AS REPORTER

From the proceedings in the Legislative Assembly, 1949: "Tuesday, March 11: Whereas it appearing in certain newspapers published in Charlottetown, purporting to report the proceedings of this House, and the appointment of certain Officers thereof, that Mr. Edward Whelan had been appointed Reporter to this House: "Ordered, that the Clerk do notify the proprietors of said newspapers to contradict such statements, neither the said Mr. Edward Whelan, nor any other person, being the authorized Reporter of this House."

"Wednesday, March 12: Upon reading the Journal of yesterday's proceedings, it was moved that the following be added to the entry of yesterday, on the subject of a Reporter—"But Mr. Whelan having offered to report the proceedings of the House, it was agreed that he should be allowed to occupy the Reporter's box, and if his reports gave satisfaction, as being correctly given, such remuneration as his services might be deemed to merit would be awarded him at the close of the Session."

The House divided on the question: Yeas, 15, Nays 8; so it passed in the affirmative.

Windsor Red Deer (London Calling)

In the interests of farming, H. M. the King has decided to disperse of the herd of deer from the Windsor estates. Speaking in the BBC's Radio Newsreel, Michael Shepherd told us something about these famous deer and the problem of dispersing them: "The red deer was first introduced to Windsor by King Charles II, and during Queen Victoria's reign fresh blood was brought in. Quite recently, the herd received new blood from the Carpathians. These deer are a symbol of an age which gave parklands and superb houses; they are a symbol of more spacious times.

The story of red deer, however, goes a long way further back than that. The first known existence of the herd is recorded by Millais as being in the fossils of the Red Crag at Newbourne, which are reputed to be over 15,000,000 years old. Since those days, the red deer has declined in size.

You can still see them in their wild state on Exmoor and in the Quantock Hills of Somerset, and in the wild parts of Westmorland and Northern Lancashire; in fact, the largest herds today are still the wild herds. Wild deer do not attain the same size or the same growth of horn as those which are semi-domesticated.

But once kept in parklands like Windsor, Wentworth Woodhouse, and Warham Hall, the deer increases in condition and in stature, and begins to approach again the majesty of its ancestors which first roamed the land when it was connected with the Continent.

You may still see red deer at Warham Hall; in fact, a short while ago there were four at large outside the grounds, and this was immediately reported to the police. You may see them on Exmoor or in the Highlands, but the easiest way to see them is to go to Richmond Park, where, next summer, there will be 100 on view.

No one knows yet exactly how or when the deer will leave Windsor; the difficulties are considerable. First of all, the animals must be brought together, and then each beast must be crated for safe passage, and finally they must travel by rail or road."

ASSETS FOR CREDIT

Alberta's 207 credit unions had assets of more than \$4,000,000 at Dec. 31, 1949.

LUTON, England — (CP) — In seven days 100 persons have applied for the post of verger at the Christ Church. The job pays \$5 (\$11.50) a week and a house.

Notes By The Way — The amateur golfer sliced his drive and the ball came to rest on the top of a large ant hill. The duffer picked up another club and swung. The ball remained still, but the iron plowed into the ant hill, inflicting great casualties among the inhabitants. With more confidence than skill, the golfer swung again, leaving the ball unmoved but sending the rest of the ants to their celestial glory. That is, all except two, one of which turned to the other to say: "You know, if we want to survive, we'd better get on the ball." — Capper's Weekly.

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