The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

Intolerable Situation

The old maxim "to him that hath shall be given and from him that hath not shall be taken even that which he hath" seems to apply with particular force to the attitude at Ottawa to this Province. The Provincial Treasurer's budget gave evidence of this unfair attitude. Since that time, in the course of some interchange of remarks in the Legislature, the Opposition leader asked the Treasurer if Ottawa was going to request any money from the Province as overpayment on account of a mistake made in the Federal census returns. Hon. Mr. MacDonald's reply was: "They will have a tough time getting it." We can appreciate the Treasurer's attitude; but unfortunately it is Ottawa which makes out the cheques, and we are at the mercy of the Federal Government to that extent. However, the Treasurer had a good argument in that the Province had nothing to do with compiling the census figures, and any blunder made was entirely Ottawa's fault.

One of the factors in determining the amount paid each Province is the estimated population of that Province for each year. It seems that the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, between the 1951 and the 1956 census, badly overestimated the population of the Island. Ottawa now claims that the Island was overpaid by an amount which may run into a million dollars or more. It claims that under the terms of the agreement, adjustment should be made on the basis of the actual population of the Province as found by the 1956 census. This leaves out of consideration the fact that population figures vary from year to year, and that in any case it was quite impossible for the Provincial Treasurer, in preparing his annual budgets, to know that the figures compiled at Ottawa and used as a basis of payment would later be repudiated.

The overpayment claimed is greater than the quarterly payment due at the end of last month, and we may still be in debt to Ottawa for some further amount, which would fall due on the 15th of May. The situation is very serious from any point of view, since the new tax rental arrangements — averaging 20 per cent increase over the old agreements—provide for no increase whatever to this Province. We are being mulcted both ways. Surely the time has come for united action on the part of both our provincial and federal representatives, in demanding a review of our case and particularly of the onerous imposition of huge deductions which would entirely disrupt our provincial economy.

The Dr. Conway Case

The dispute between Prime Minister St. Laurent and his parliamentary critics over a harmless little speech delivered over the CBC radio network by Dr. John S. Conway, Professor of Political Science and History at St. John's College, Winnipeg, involves something more than an argument about the merit of the speech. Until the matter was raised in the Commons it was doubtful whether a dozen citizens had remembered hearing it. In any case, the question at issue is not whether Mr. St. Laurent or anyone else liked what he had heard but whether or not the Prime Minister has the right to interfere in any way, shape or form with the free expression of opinion over the publicly owned medium—subject, of course, as was pointed out in Parliament, to the laws governing "libel, slander, blasphemy and decency."

It is all very well for Mr. St. Laurent to say that he protested to the CBC as a citizen of Canada and not as Prime Minister; but very few will take that argument seriously. As long as he is head of the Government anything he says on matters affecting the public interest will be regarded as an official statement; and it is right that it should be so. The fact that Mr. St. Laurent was not content with expressing his displeasure but went further and suggested that "it might not be too bad if he were introduced and described as the person he is" shows plainly that political censorship as well as displeasure was in his mind.

If the Prime Minister's suggestion were followed, we might expect to hear something like this from the CBC: "Ladies and gentlemen, we regret to say that the next voice you hear will be that of Professor Patchquilt Boggs, Professor of Political Footballing at the University of St. Vitus in Musquash. He is a young man and, therefore, his views are of no account. Moreover, the Prime Minister, to whom as in duty bound, we showed a copy of Dr. Boggs' speech, declared it to be devoid of thought and supercilious in tone. If you still want to listen to this rubbish, well and good; but we warn you that it will be only a waste of time. The Prime Minister says so, and who are we to question his infallible judgment?"

Good Heavens! Will it ever come to that? It might.

Free From Shackles

When 23-year-old Christian George Hanna arrived in Vancouver last fall as a stowaway on board a Norwegian freighter he was placed under arrest by immigration officers and subsequently ordered deported. Immediately a shout of protest was heard all across the country. Here was a young man without kith or kin who, through no fault of his own, had spent his life as a wanderer around the seas of the world; yet he could not be admitted to Canada because he had no "papers". Common sense would have indicated that this was no crime, since the youth had never been provided with proof of nationality; but red tape decreed otherwise and, but for the kindly assistance of a lawyer who tried to see beyond the letter of the law to its spirit, he would have been sent back to the seas again to permanent vagabondage.

The appeal which the kind-hearted lawyer entered in Hanna's behalf has now been heard; and the ruling of the court is that the deportation order was invalid. Barring a new order from the Immigration Department, he will be allowed to stay in Vancouver where, according to all reports, he is doing well and adjusting himself to a freedom he never knew before. Meanwhile, Immigration Minister Pickersgill says that he will be undisturbed "for the present." It is to be sincerely hoped that in due course, and without undue delay, "for the present" will be changed to "permanently". If ever a man deserved to be released from the shackles of official red-tape, this man surely does. Canadians everywhere will wish him the best of luck.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A member of the Legislature is quoted as saying "not too many years ago young people taught school in order to earn some money." Some of them still have that in mind when they take up the work, although they do not make as much as they would like—or as they deserve.

• • •

Mrs. Helen Fairclough, Conservative M.P. for Hamilton West, has described the increase in old age pensions as "not even a slice of bread." The criticism is a little on the exaggerated side. It actually comes to about 20c a day, the approximate price of a loaf.

• • •

Commenting on the teacher shortage in New York City, a representative of a teachers organization had this to say: "Unless salaries are increased the shortage will grow worse than it is now. How can we attract more teachers when the ones we have are treated so shabbily?" Another official observed that "teachers are being given the brush-off." Similar expressions of opinion are heard here, there and everywhere.

• • •

The Swedish industrialist Axel Wenner-Gren, who is planning big things for British Columbia, says that "all that is required to make a million dollars is hard work, self discipline and common sense." Like most generalities, this one could easily be disputed. No doubt, the three qualities mentioned are of great value; but many people who possess them in abundance will never make a million dollars.

DESERVING A HEARING TOO

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of question of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

HISTORIC FIRE BELL

Sir,— It is very much to be hoped at this time that the City Council will reconsider its decision to remove the old Fire Bell from the tower of the City Hall. Down through the years the said bell has been rung on every historic occasion in the life of the Empire, my first recollection being the rejoicing at the release of Ladysmith during the South African War.

I am, Sir, etc.,
KENNETH BRUCE STEWART
Bedeque.

Sir, — I quite agree with the views of Citizen in your issue of March 30th regarding the old historic Fire Bell. By all means this old bell should be preserved and have an honored place in our Museum when it comes. There have been too many historic relics of the past sent out of this Province or to the junk pile, our Historical Society should receive every encouragement, and now that Spring is with us I'd like to see a big meeting called in the near future.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ISLANDER
Charlottetown.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Sir,— This idea of increasing the sale and having alcoholic beverages sold in the hotels and summer resorts as stated by Mr. MacIsaac is very silly. I agree with Mr. Meurant in saying what he had to say about this idea. I agree with him especially in the fact that the Temperance leaders are not doing enough about the damage that this deadly drug is doing to our home, etc.

If the tourists have to have their beer, let them bring it with them so that our vendors won't get their sales and shall go out of business. Why should this dump get the people's money when it could be given to our hospitals and orphanages, etc.

I am only a young college student and I feel that we younger people who will be the people of this country in a few years should try and shame the people who are carrying on now. The tourists are coming to see this beautiful Island of ours and if they can't stay sober when they are here let them stay home.

The accidents which happen on the Island are not caused by the bad roads but in most cases by drunken drivers. There are many children around the beaches and hotels in the summer and if they see the grown-ups drinking they will try it themselves.

A few drinks are all right but get it, if you have to, somewhere else besides on Prince Edward Island.

I am, Sir, etc.,
S. WAYNE PROUDE
Souris, P.E.I.

(Our correspondent should note that it is illegal for any person to have in his possession or keeping any liquor within the Province which has not been purchased from a vendor under the provisions of the P.E.I. Temperance Act.—Ed. G.)

A BACKWARD STEP

Sir,—I read with deep concern and disgust the speech, made quite recently by Mr. A. A. MacIsaac, in which he advocated that it would be a good thing to grant permission to hotels and restaurants to sell intoxicating liquors during the tourist season. Mr. MacIsaac intimated that if permission were granted to the hotels and restuarants to sell intoxicants, it would prove advantageous to the tourist industry.

I feel sure that such a venture would not normally be in the best interests of our Province. It would make more liquor available to the general public as well as the tourist population, and could attributte to a greater accident toll on our highways. I am afraid that it would also attract the wrong type of tourist to the province.

The selling of liquor in public places would introduce the drinking habit to a large percentage of the junior population of the Island which would prove demoralizing to our youth.

I appreciate very much the courage of those who have written letters to this column denouncing and crying down such a proposal.

I am, Sir, et..
LEONARD S. WOOLFREY
Murray Harbour.

SEEKING INFORMATION

Sir,— I hear there are some Amish people from the States moving to your Province. As I am interested in cheaper farms and more reasonable taxes I would be pleased to learn more about the Garden Province of Canada, also what the chances for making a living are there.

My main hobby was dairying. I have quite a few questions in mind if there is a prospect for farmers in your section.

I am, Sir, etc.,
I.B. ZOOK
(An Amishman)
Christiana, P.A., RD1

DAYS OF SLAVERY

Sir,— In an old scrap book I found the following item:

"Slaves were kept in the City of Charlottetown for a number of years. An Act declaring that baptism of slaves shall not exempt them from bondage was passed in March of 1781."

Would some reader kindly enlighten me as to when, where and by whom were slaves kept.

I am, Sir, etc.,
D.C.J.
Charlottetown.

OTTAWA REPORT

Income Tax Comparisons

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: A favorite exercise in the federal department of finance, around budget time, is comparing the tax position of Canadians with that of Americans in the same income bracket.

Often the Minister of Finance himself reads such a table of comparison into his budget speech. Hon. Walter Harris did not do so this year, so this column recently stopped into that breach.

Now Mr. Harris' parliamentary assistant, Mr. William Benidickson, has produced the official table. One of his examples covers a married man with two children earning $3,000 a year. He shows that the Canadian would pay $78 in income tax, while the American would pay $60.

This contrasts vividly with a similiar example given in this column. I said that a typical Canadian married man with two children, earning $3,500 a year, would pay $178 in income tax; while a similarly situated American would pay only $48.

Allowing for the fact that my sample income is $500 higher than the figure used by Mr. Benidickson, these figures tally in the case of the Canadian, while Mr. Benidickson appears to grossly overestimate the tax which would be payable by the American.

And herein lies the blind spot of our Finance Department, from Minister down to junior clerk. I hate to suggest that the federal government tells untruths, but in this case its representative has selected a truth which is so rare as to be wantonly misleading.

THOSE EXEMPTIONS

The difference between the high tax figure computed by Mr. Benidickson and the low figure given by me, for the American,, is accounted for by the significant item entitled "permitted deductions by receipts, up to 10 per cent of their income. They may also deduct medical expenses, supported by receipts, in excess of 3 per cent of their income. Or, in lieu of itemizing those deductions, we may each deduct the blanket figure of $100.

The American may deduct the more generous figure of 10 per cent of his income with a maximum of $1,000 as a standard deduction without itemizing the items or supporting them with receipts. Mr. Benidickson said, in presenting his figure, "the calculation of these taxes takes into account the optional standard deduction of 10 per cent of income with a maximum of $1,000 allowed to every taxpayer in the United States in lieu of claiming medical expenses, charitable donations and a number of other deductions."

WHAT A NUMBER

Note that last phrase "and a number of other deductions."

In calculating my figure, I was more realistic than Mr. Benidickson. Also, I did not have anything to hide. I made no such silly and unrealistic assumption that the taxpayer would opt for the standard deduction; I took a typical case of a family man and listed those deductions and assumed that he would claim them.

Such deductions, as I pointed out previously, include charitable donations up to a huge 30 per cent of income; interest on personal debts, such as bank loans, home mortgages, and interest paid for purchasing personal property (such as automobiles, radios, etc) on the installment plan; non-Federal taxes, such as real estate taxes, auto licence fees, non-federal gasoline taxes, and local sales taxes; medical, dental and hospital expenses exceeding 3 per cent of one's income, and this latter may include the cost of drugs exceeding 1 percent of income plus all transportation costs to get medical care, plus premiums on hospital and medical insurance, which are not permitted in Canada.

Thus, in calculating a typical tax assessment for my married taxpayers, I assumed that each is paying off a $10,000 mortgage on their home, is buying a television set and some furniture on time, had to buy a modest amount of drugs for children, and owned a car driven a modest 5,000 miles during the year.

Of course, when the government makes available mortgages for low cost housing and permits the sale of a new car with "$495 down and 36 months to pay" and the sale of a TV set with nothing down and 30 months to pay, it is realistic to assume that the taxpayer takes advantage of these terms.

I assumed that the American taxpayer would be in a similar position, and made the appropriate itemized deductions; Mr. Benidickson painted a false picture by overlooking them.

So in spite of the offical government assertion, now immortalized in Hansard, I maintain that our income taxes on that average family man's income are nearly four times the size of comparable American taxes.

The Poet's Corner

WALK IN THE NIGHT

From the town lights to where the road is tossed
Against dark hills and all the woods stand bare,
Like a night sentry on his lonely post
I walk the cold encampment of the frost.

Echo keep pace with me; the dark is crossed
By deeper dark and shadow. "Who goes there!
Stand and be recognized! Come friend? Come ghost?"
The echo listens; the reply is lost.

What draws man out, against his will or rest,
When the cold gathers in a dying year
To walk the boundary of dark and light?
What he would guard is gone. Against the west
One great red star walks with him and his fear
Like the far campfire of besieging night.

—Charles Malam,
in the New York Herald Tribune.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

NEW AIDS IN MEDICINE

A new hormone for treating arthritis and a new extra powerful hearing aid are among the advances which I would like to discuss today in our monthly review of medicein.

The new hormone is known as triamicinolone. A synthetic hormone of the cortisone family, it was tested recently on 18 patients in preliminary clinical trials with good results.

NO SIDE EFFECTS

All patients, treated for periods varying from five months to a few weeks, responded favorably. Apparently, there were no serious side effects.

The doctors who conducted the investigations report that the compound is at least as effective as, or better than, currently available material in controlling the inflammatory manifestations of rheumatoid arthritis, such as swollen and painful joints, stiffness and fever.

SOFTEST SOUNDS

The extra-power hearing aid is said to bring the softest sounds to persons with extreme hearing loss. The new five-transistor instrument, according to reports, enables a severely handicapped person to hear the softest music and speech.

The high-powered output of the device, the manufacturers claim, covers a wide range of high and low tones, many of them sounds which users have been unable to hear in the past.

VALUABLE DRUG

Another development in the medical field is the increased use of chloramphenicol. Although not a new drug, it is becoming increasingly valuable in treating bacterial diseases.

Indiscriminate use of some other broad spectrum antibiotics, doctors report, has made many persons resistant to them. Chloramphenicol, on the other hand, still is effective.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

N. R.: Can putting vitamins in the icebox destroy their potency?

Answer: No, freezing usually preserves rather than harms them. Excessive heat can be detrimental to vitamins.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(April 2, 1932)

Plans for the reconstruction of Prince of Wales College to be designed by the firm of Marani, Lason and Morris, of Toronto, will be proceeded with immediately. The new building will be constructed of red brick and stone, and will be a two story structure containing the equivalent of thirty-two classrooms.

The Board of Investigating Governors of the Royal Canadian Humane Society announced awards for bravery today including the following: Mary McCloskey, Charlottetown; Allan MacDonald, Charlottetown; John Thompson, Kensington; Alexander Kerr, New Glasgow.; Vaughan Groom, Summerside.

TEN YEARS AGO
(April 2, 1947)

Problems in the preserving of fresh and smoked fish were thoroughly discussed at last night's session of the East Coast Fisheries conference. Dr. S. A. Beatty Fisheries Research Board, Halifax, said that science had not discovered a method by which fish could be artifically preserved without destroying the flavor.

A bill to reduce the weight of bread sold in P.E.I. from 24 ounces to 20 ounces in conformity with other provinces — and with no guarantee of any price decrease —was introduced in the local Legislature last night and received strong Opposition protests that it failed to safeguard the consumer.

WARNING TO IKE

KESWICK, England (Reuters) Patrick Maitland, Conservative member of Parliament, said Saturday the "simple reason" for U. S. Middle East policy is that the American economy is running short of raw materials and must find them overseas. He told a meeting "if President Eisenhower wants to weaken the British Commonwealth and Europe in preparation for a take-over bid, he will in the end of the day be inflicting a mortal wound on his own country."

I.R.A. IN ACTION

DUNGIVEN, Northern Ireland (AP)—Members of the outlawed Irish Republican Army blew up a bus station Friday, starting a fire that destroyed the building, five buses and a truck. Police said the raiders apparently escaped across the border into the Irish Republic. The explosion was the latest in a series of incidents blamed on the I.R.A., which seeks to make the six counties of Northern Ireland part of the Irish Republica.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Young men and women working their way through Canadian universities have enough financial difficulty without being clipped for Federal Income tax. They're developing culture in its only genuine sense—through arduous self-cultivation.—Vancouver Sun

A hen that lays banana-shaped eggs has been out in solitary confinement at Poole, England, pending an investigation by the Ministry of Agriculture. The oddly-shaped eggs have been appearing for weeks on Wilfred Waterman's farm. Most extraordinary and annoying. Instead of fitting neatly into a breakfast egg cup, these eggs curve over the top of the cup with a tired-looking droop.—Cape Breton Post

Claim by Albert Wren of Kenora in the Legislature that shortage of liquor privileges was interfering with the tourist trade received much more attention than the retort by W. G. Noden of Rainy River. "Liquor" said Mr. Noden, was only a minor consideration. "What tourist operators found liquor much more of a headache than a tourist attraction, he said. —Port Arthur News-Chonricle

In Windsor even though customers complain of having to wait too long for buses, the buses—in off rush-hour periods — often travel with few passengers. Yet it costs just as much to run a large bus carrying a few passengers as it does one with a full load. Observing this, one practical citizen suggests smaller buses be used during the off hours. It is true the wages of the drivers would remain the same, but he sees lower costs in gasoline and maintenance. — Windsor Star

Card games do give people something to think about while talking.—St. Catherines Standard

People don't seem to mind a barking dog so long as it is their own dog.—St. Catharines Standard

About the time the average person is beginning to get his financial affairs in such shape as to make ends meet, advancing prices move the ends farther apart.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record

The mystery of life eludes those who life longest; possibly they know less about it than do some who die young. More than one patriarch, however, can be credited with a sly sense of humor. Note the frivolous remark of a spinster —Miss Emily Haydon—who celebrated her 100th birthday Wednesday in Orphington, England, and gave her formula for reaching the century mark: "Never do a day's work in your life, my dear — I haven't."—Cape Breton Post

MAXIMS

Do not anxiously hope for what is not yet come; do not vainly regret what is already past.

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Quarterly Review
The April 1957 issue of our quarterly *Investment Recommendations and Review* is now available. It contains summaries of Canadian business and security market trends, an article on current investment policy, and a comprehensive list of investment suggestions.
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