

# THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1950

## Safeguarding The Future

In the rush of winding up the Legislative business before prorogation, time was not available for discussion of one of the most interesting documents tabled during the session. This was the regulations under the provisions of the Town Planning Act, of which a summary appeared in yesterday's Guardian. The conditions for the building and use of land in the different zones surrounding the City, including the section from the North River on the west side to the Hillsboro River on the east, are set forth in detail and present a very comprehensive planning scheme for the development of the whole area in accord with modern planning practice. As stated yesterday, the regulations are similar to those adopted in Brandon, Manitoba, which are recognized as among the best in the Dominion.

It is unfortunate that our existing suburban areas have been built up without scientific planning of any kind, in marked contrast to the well-laid-out streets of Charlottetown which, were the result of a survey in Governor Patterson's time nearly two centuries ago. The result has been to create a potential menace from unsanitary conditions in areas adjoining the City, which will take years to overcome satisfactorily.

The new planning regulations are the result of a great deal of work by the engineering staffs of the present Department of Industry and Resources and of the preceding Department of Reconstruction, in co-operation with the staff of the Department of Health, all of which has been co-ordinated with a view to providing for future expansion and development industrially as well as from the standpoint of residential, business, tourist, and community requirements. They deserve to be studied very carefully by our legislators and citizens generally, even though the House is no longer in session. In the years to come they may prove to be of vital importance.

## Tenth Province

Tonight at midnight it will be a year since Newfoundland became Canada's tenth Province. No one can say with any certainty whether the effective time was midnight in St. John's or midnight in Ottawa, which latter would bring the anniversary to April 1st in the new Province. The uncertainty which clouds the date of union is part of the consequence of the perhaps unseemly haste with which the union was effected. At that time Newfoundland was still under a commission government and, of course, the Parliament at Westminster regarded its part in the proceedings as purely formal, so that Ottawa was the only truly free agent in the transaction.

The whole responsibility for the terms of union must be borne by the Canadian Government and Parliament. It is unrealistic for Ottawa ever to insist that the conditions laid down were voluntarily agreed to by any Government responsible to the people of Newfoundland. That being so, the attitude of the Federal Government to the new Province should be one of understanding, and very rarely should the precise terms of union be quoted as an answer to her aspirations.

The Newfoundland people undoubtedly enjoy great benefits from their year-old status. Canada's social legislation assists them in childhood, in old age, in sickness, in unemployment. They have come from being a colony to partnership in one of the great nations of the world. Their bargain was probably highly advantageous, but never let us forget that it was negotiated on equal terms.

## "Industrial Canada's" Review

Continued substantial expansion was the characteristic of Canadian manufacturing industries during 1949, as shown by the annual survey compiled by "Industrial Canada", publication of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. New plants or extensions were reported begun or completed by over 300 already established manufacturing concerns and in addition the survey covers 69 new industries established in this country. While over 50 per cent of the expansion was in Ontario and much of it in Quebec and Alberta, the Maritimes are at least included although their boom is notably less robust than that of the more rapidly developing provinces. This survey reflects the confidence of investors in the future of the localities concerned. It is all too obvious that Maritimers are reluctant to put their savings into building up industry in their own Province. There was

a time when the prospects for capital to exploit great natural resources made possible returns from investment in the Maritimes seem petty. That day of reckless squandering of resources is practically at an end, except in the matter of oil reserves. Today investment in the Maritimes should be just about as attractive as anywhere on earth.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Eight days till Easter.

Federal steel controls end today. The post-war emergency is presumably over in yet another field.

The newly discovered metal, californium decays at the rate of half its matter being transformed by emission of alpha particles in about forty-five minutes. It would seem to have the characteristic necessary for a successful monetary metal, at least in Social Creditors' eyes.

If Mr. Donald Gordon could order 2,300,000 tons of Nova Scotia coal instead of the railway's usual 826,000 tons a year it would seem that what the Nova Scotia mines require in the future is salesmen who will be able to simulate strike conditions in the United States.

There used to be a popular ditty sung by the late Sir Harry Lauder entitled: "Be kind to yer nanesel, Jock!" "The war!" may envy an' swear, but sae long as ye're in the saddle ma dear, Be kind to yer nanesel Jock." Who will deny that our Provincial "Jocks" have not lived up to that ideal?

With the British House of Commons so evenly divided the importance of keeping every party member in good health has become almost a fetish. If the Labour Government puts its faith in the public service, and the Opposition relies upon doctors in private practice, the stability of the Government could well reflect the success or otherwise of State medicine.

Housing made some progress on the Island last year according to the Bureau of Statistics. The number of homes completed in 1949 was 258 as compared with 230 the previous year. Starts on new homes were 375 compared with 225 in 1948. Dwelling houses under construction at the end of the year numbered 292 as against the previous year's 203.

The American Government is seeking to restrict potato imports under tariff agreements to 1,000,000 bushels at the rate of 37½ cents duty per bushel instead of 15,000,000 bushels of table stock. With the present high advantage in volume enjoyed by American exporters of farm products as compared with American imports from this country, any such discriminatory alteration would almost certainly rebound to their overall disadvantage.

H. R. H. the Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster, Baron of Culloden, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, born this date 1900. He married Lady Alice Montague-Douglas-Scott, daughter of the Duke of Buccleuch and has two children, H. R. H. Prince William Henry Andrew Frederick, born Dec. 21, 1941, and H.R.H. Prince Richard Alexander Walter George, born Aug. 26, 1944. The Duke and his sons follow Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret in the order of succession to the throne.

About our diesels. Wonder if the Minister knows anything about them? Perhaps he thinks they are already running because they have been on service elsewhere for some considerable time. Wonder if he knows that aircraft jet engine principles are being applied to railway travel in Britain? British Railways expect to be running gas turbine locomotives towards the end of this year. Construction of this new-type engine is about to begin at Manchester. It will generate some 2,500 horse power and be capable of pulling a train weighing 650 tons at more than 80 m.p.h.

We are approaching the end of our Lenten fast days, and no doubt those who religiously or zealously observed them will be repaid by the enjoyment of a period of improved health. Forty days once a year, and one or two days a week through the rest of the year, are bound to prove beneficial. At all events see what benefit has accrued to the British people by reason of their forced short commons in foodstuff. The health of the British people has been well maintained despite the many difficulties of the past ten years. This is the considered opinion of medical experts who have completed an exhaustive survey of nutrition in Britain. Their conclusions are contained in a report published recently by the British Medical Association.

## Public Forum

### POTATO PRODUCTION AND MARKETING PROBLEMS

Sir.—The economic chaos of the thirties had its inevitable effect on the potato grower and, incidentally, upon all of us no matter what is our trade, calling or profession, because a large part of our economy depended in this Province upon potatoes.

Farms were mortgaged and in many cases lost; farm machinery became depleted and farm buildings unbecomingly the wholesome life of their occupants; crops were either dumped or sold at a disgraceful price; credit was destroyed and the spirit of our farmers all but broken; no adequate steps were taken to remedy the situation until 1939, but then it was, ironically, not necessary. War changed all that—for a time.

The problem during the war years was to maintain a high production of our product and yet not give in to the inflationary tendencies created by war conditions. For the time, we could say the situation was successfully handled. Production was high, markets were good, and ceiling prices were necessarily imposed so that others less fortunate would not pay too much for our gain. There was, too, a measure of orderly marketing under the Special Products Board.

Despite the ever-increasing cost of production and ceiling prices on sales, still we enjoyed a certain measure of prosperity. We renewed our machinery and improved our storage facilities and farm buildings.

And so it was at the end of the war that we looked forward to an era of peace and measured prosperity for all others. But the measured prosperity was short lived for potato producers.

By the spring of 1949, the demands of the consumer markets which we could reach were falling off but production had maintained its high production level. In fact, it had increased by 17,000,000 bushels over the 1947 crop, although but 4,000,000 of this increase was in the Maritimes. The potato grower faced a serious loss.

In anticipation of just such a situation, the Government of Canada, in August of 1946, passed "The Agricultural Prices Support Act, 1944" (Chap. 29, 8 George VI), an act to provide for the support of prices of agriculture products during the transition from war to peace; and which the government at the present session of Parliament proposes to make continuing through the peace.

Politics would seem to be inevitable in democratic government; national and international politics brought about the application of the Agricultural Prices Support Act to our 1948 potato crop and thus saved the day. Common sense tells me so.

The Government was faced with the moral obligation, in the interest of international goodwill, to restrain our shipping of potatoes to the U. S. A. With this market closed, the already sagging prices had to be maintained near total loss of the balance of the crop on hand at that time last spring.

The government wishes to co-operate to the fullest extent because it is the same Minister and the same government which had conceived this Act as a solution.

No. It was and is because of the precarious position in which the government finds itself due to failure on our part.

Let me paraphrase for you Section 9 of the Act and you will readily see what I mean. This section sets out the powers given the Prices Support Board by Parliament, to be exercised under the supervision of the Cabinet.

1st. This Board could have purchased the potatoes at its own price—which must be an adequate price to the grower—and could have sold or otherwise disposed of them; or 2nd. The Board could have bought the potatoes at contract prices but only to the amount it needed to fill a contract for potatoes which the Dominion Government might have made with any other government; or 3rd. The Board had the authority to pay to the producers directly or through such agent as the board determined, the difference between a price set by the board and the average price at which potatoes were sold in the market during a specified period of time as determined by the board.

Last year the board acted under Option I—that is, it bought the potatoes itself and took them over. There was no alternative because under Option II there was no other government with whom the Canadian government could get a contract of sale, and, in fact, the U. S. A. government took action to cut out even private contracts; and there was no possibility to act under Option III because there was no local agency set up in our production area through which the board could effectively operate, and there was no time to organize such an agency.

Such as it was, the board's action (under Option I) in buying all the remaining crop was a lifesaver to us, but none of us on moral principles at least could deny that the plan, from the point of view of the 258 members of Parliament who represent people of the non-commercial producing area who did not benefit but helped pay for it, was not 100 per cent in the national interest.

The plan under Option I could not continue as a permanent cure, while we could sail along striving for the greatest possible production knowing that the people of Canada would buy them at a profitable price through their government.

That is why the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, told those who were discussing price

support with him last year at the time the programme was announced that we would not have price support this year under Option I, which I have been discussing.

That is why to this date, no support price has been forthcoming from Ottawa, despite insistent and widespread requests, and despite the fact that we are now selling at a loss.

This brings me to a discussion of the present situation as regards the remainder of our 1949 crop.

I am at liberty to say that the door on price support as of this date is not closed.

The situation is being watched by the Minister from day to day. Should the situation become as bad as it became about this time last year with the closing of the American market to us, I would hazard a guess—not a prediction—that the good in the price support programme under Option I would overcome the evil in the plan, and notwithstanding the warning of the Minister to the contrary given a year ago, there could possibly be a support price.

There is, too, always the possibility that we might obtain the benefits of a support price under Option II—that is, by the Canadian Government obtaining a contract for an export order with a foreign government and buying the necessary potatoes from us at a price higher than the sale price and the support board stand the loss. Again, I must make it clear that I am not making a prediction. I am merely suggesting the possibility.

It might be well to point out at this stage of our discussion, and before proceeding to Option III and our future outlook—the difficulties which stand in the way of selling our crop in American markets if we were limited to Option I (the government taking them over as with the 1948 crop and trying to dispose of them) and Option II (the government buying at a support price to sell to another government, the U. S. A. government, for example).

The newspaper reports of the visit of Mr. Brennan, Secretary of Agriculture of the U. S. to Ottawa on March 3rd, speculated that he would ask our government to stop further shipments of potatoes from Canada to the U. S. If he did, at least to this date our government has been able to resist because the markets are still open. However, it is obvious that our government could never have obtained a contract from the American government for the sale to them of our potatoes as would be necessary under Option II; and it is equally obvious that, had the government support board taken over our potatoes under Option I as it did with the 1948 crop, then our government would have had to grant any request of the American Secretary of Agriculture should one have been made, to close off shipments to the U. S., because the government would have owned the potatoes and could not use any excuse, such as restraining the rights of individual shippers to ship their potatoes into the American markets under existing international trade agreements.

On the other hand, while there are still markets for our products, members of Parliament from other than commercial production areas (that is, four or five members out of 262) would be very critical of the Cabinet and Minister, were any action to be taken now under Option I, which would result in the government dumping the potatoes, when, if things were let be, our potatoes can still be marketed privately.

We must therefore hope for the best on the balance of our 1949 crop, and take some action to ensure that we will not be left from year to year in the future to the same crisis as has annually marked our past.

With this I pass to the future which you will by now have guessed rests on Option III—that is, the creation of a local agency of the producers themselves through which the government can operate to support prices on potatoes.

Now, while Option III refers to a board or agent which the Prices Support may recognize, no provision is made for the setting up of such a board in the producing area or elsewhere other than Commodity Boards which in fact are nothing more than sub-committees of the Prices Support Board itself and appointed by it.

However, Option III is nothing more than the emergency re-enactment of an Act of the Federal Parliament passed in May of 1939 and it is in the translation of this Act, known as "The Agricultural Products Co-Operative Marketing Act, 1939" into positive action by the potato grower himself that lies our future progress and stability.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, has made it plain that he was promised a year ago that the potato growers would attempt co-operation under this Act as a preliminary to any permanent price support programme; and he still bases future aid to us on this assumption.

It is true that Provincial Ministers of Agriculture are, at this time, assembling in Ottawa to discuss putting into operation Provincial Marketing Boards. We now have a Provincial Marketing Board but nothing has been done under that Act as yet to solve our problems.

To my mind, it is still imperative that the attack on our problem of marketing potatoes begins with the effective organization of potato growers under the Federal Co-Operative Act of 1939. The Provincial Government



## Notes By The Way

Movie patrons in London, Paris and Rome, as well as Alberta fans, soon will be seeing how Alberta is attacking its coyote problem from the air. Alarmed by persistent raids of these predators on Alberta livestock, the Government ordered an aviation company to hunt them by plane. During February two planes engaged in "Operation Coyote" reported bagging 690 of the animals. Now, the story is being told on the screen.

should certainly give effective support to any co-operative effort undertaken by the majority of the potato-growers, including help in establishing the necessary machinery to make the plan work, and the imposition of some form of production control such as I have already suggested.

With this long—but I trust not too wearisome—background, I come to discuss the purpose, plan, and possible achievements of the Co-Operative Marketing Act of 1939, which is Mr. Gardiner's proposed answer to our marketing problem:

In short, this Act calls for:  
1. The organization of potato growers into co-operative associations which would be local.  
2. An agreement between such co-operative associations to be called a co-operative plan, which plan would provide for the sale of the members' potatoes through the co-operative so that there would be equal return to every member for the same quality product.

3. A contract between the co-operative and the member potato grower covering the sale of that member's potatoes to the co-operative.  
4. A contract between the co-operative associations and the Federal Minister of Agriculture providing for what amounts to a floor price for the potatoes sold by the member to the co-operative association.

5. The establishment by the co-operative organizations of a selling agency which presumably could be something new, or an organization of present and future private shippers, or a provincial marketing board.  
Now what are the difficulties in this plan? They are:  
1. That the potato growers must be prepared to do some work on their own behalf to achieve the end sought and they must be co-operative enough to organize in the face of obvious existing chaos;

2. Since, under the Act, the Minister may refuse to take all the crop grown, it may be necessary for us to ask the provincial government to impose control of production; and  
3. We must be prepared to accept a fair and reasonable return for our product as the price of security; having in mind that the day has come in all industries to keep an eye on the cost of production.  
And finally, what are the advantages of such organization:  
1. We would know at planting time what will be the minimum price we will receive for our crop;  
2. We may get advances on the then present year's crop.  
3. The Government will determine that minimum price in consultation with our co-operative organization and the minimum shall not exceed 80 per cent of the next previous three years sale price.  
4. The Government will pay to our Co-operative Association any loss due to poor markets and will also pay to the Co-Operative Association the actual processing, carrying and selling costs occasioned by handling the potatoes and the maximum of these costs will be set in advance.  
5. Existing shippers will not be affected beyond the fact that if the shippers must of necessity buy potatoes from the Co-Operative Association, they will not be in a position to bid for an order on the present basis of price-cutting.

This, then, should demand earnest consideration.  
I am, Sir, etc.  
T. J. KICKHAM,  
M. P. for King's.

A "short" was made by the National Film Board and is to be distributed by international film companies. Prints will be shown in theatres throughout Canada, the United States, Europe and South America. — Edmonton Journal.

In the Saskatchewan Legislature J. E. McCormack spoke critically of the conduct of members during the afternoon periods when proceedings of the session are being broadcast. He said no legislator should "get up and try to be a Jimmy Durante over the radio." The reason he gave was: "We should not do anything on radio time to destroy the conception of the legislature as our most cherished institution." Another good reason, according to those who hear the broadcasts with some regularity, is that virtually all attempts at being funny on it date have been just that — attempts, but not funny. If there is a potential danger in the Saskatchewan House the listeners have not yet become aware of him. — Prince Albert Herald.

What is needed to restore the social order is, first of all, goodwill and reciprocal concessions. There is also needed a set of institutions which invoke collaboration and reduce conflict to a strict minimum. In the province of Quebec, we have all the elements that could lead to a corporative, order in which the different social classes would find well-being without encroaching on the well-being of others. The document (the hierarchy's pastoral letter) seems to announce great things. It will not be enough to listen to the reading of it; its distribution, study and discussion must be organized in every sphere, but more particularly among those most interested, employers and employees. — Le Devoir.

An optometrist in a small Alberta town had occasion, the other day, to check a truck driver's eyes. This driver was in charge of a 10-ton crude-oil tank truck. The optometrist found that his vision was only 20 per cent of normal in one eye and only 30 per cent of normal in the other. Without proper glasses, he would have been quite unable to see a child, or anything else of similar size, at a distance of only 30 yards on the highway. Yet he was driving, every day, an expensive and heavy vehicle which would be a grave menace to the life and limb of every road user unless properly handled. The point is that until he went to the optometrist — probably because he was suffering from headaches or eye-strain — he had no idea that his vision was defective. This is not hard to understand; it is quite easy to allow your vision to get gradually worse without becoming conscious of the fact that you cannot see as well as formerly. — Calgary Herald.

The good old Snow apple is on the way out! It is a poor seller now and growers in Ontario are grafting their Snows into Spys and McIntosh. The Snow that grows on the genuine old-fashioned Snow tree is too small to grade well and exert strong sales appeal. The so-called improved Snow—the modern version—lacks the sharp crispness and condensed goodness of the original. So it is now good-bye to the Snow; but we should not bow it out without paying a tribute of praise to a list of varieties that were standard before this century began and some of which have not been excelled even after half a century of scientific effort. The Northern Spy is still unsurpassed as an all-purpose apple and for cooking, the Greening is still supreme. The Baldwin, admittedly a tender tree, the Golden Russet and the King were and are good apples, but there are now more profitable kinds to grow. Horticulturists and plant breeders have done their best work during the past half century by giving us better late Summer and early Fall varieties and by breeding harder trees for the frontier—Farmer's Advocate.

### The Poet's Corner

BY SEVERN'S BANKS

One voice is from the homeland  
and the hills,  
One voice is from the grey un-  
restful sea.  
Here where at dusk the tingling  
silence thrills  
I linger companioned with memory;  
Hearing at times the boom  
Of the far fog-ship sounding  
through the gloom.  
At times the cry of nightbirds, and  
at the sight  
Of slumberous waters nigh.

O' c'ying from the bygone and the  
known—  
O murmur from the hidden and  
mystic deep  
To which we pass alone  
Through paths of sleep—  
I cannot hear you clear;  
Earth's dust is in mine ear,  
The distant voice is muffled by  
the near.

I stand  
As on a frontierland  
Of things that with a step shall  
be revealed.  
The hitherside of regions mist-con-  
cealed;  
Yet still it seems  
There must be instant waking  
from my dreams.  
When it shall be  
That the unheard is heard, the  
unseen appear—  
The message that I almost hear,  
The vision that I almost see.

—Arthur L. Salmon.

### Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

#### GAS LAMPS

"The inhabitants of Charlotte-town are respectfully informed that the new Gas Light Company have a supply of Gas Lamps and Pillars in the 'Isabel', which they will be prepared to fit up in accordance with the City by-law, viz.: the inhabitants subscribing 65c. per annum for lighting, the City to pay the balance.

"As the season is far advanced, the Company would advise persons desirous of erecting one or more Lamps in their respective blocks, to give immediate orders for the same, otherwise time will not admit of their being erected this Fall.

"William Murphy, Manager."  
—The Examiner, Oct. 31, 1889.

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