

THE GUARDIAN

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Canadian Preparedness

Thoughtful Canadians recognize Soviet strategy as being deliberately aimed at undermining the economic as well as the political security of this country. Moscow's purpose, it seems, is to provoke a series of satellite wars designed to sap the military and economic strength of the western democracies and, at the same time, to impose yet further strains upon them by the threat of total war.

Although shocked into a realization of the inadequacies of military preparedness by events in Korea six months ago, there is little indication that the Government recognizes the extent of the Soviet threat to Canada's economic security. No cabinet minister has yet dared tell the people of this country the grim truth, which is that they probably face a protracted period of preparedness for total war, regardless of what happens in Korea or Manchuria, and that, for that preparedness to be adequate, no less than a quarter of Canada's national production will have to be diverted to war purposes.

Such a situation calls for more than techniques. Rather, it demands the recognition of certain fundamental economic principles which, if disregarded, can wreck Canada's economy just as effectively as the Soviet air force.

First, it must be recognized that Canada faces a permanent period of crisis. This calls for methods totally different from the limited period of crisis implicit in an all-out shooting war. Such a permanent period of crisis can end only in one of three ways; an all-out shooting war, internal collapse in the Soviet Union, or a change of policy on the Kremlin's part.

Second, it must be recognized that increased production, and not controls, offers the only effective solution to inflation. For controls cannot eliminate inflationary pressures, but serve only to drive them underground, whence they emerge in black marketing and other evils.

Third, the permanent crisis confronting Canadians cannot be financed by borrowing. People are already selling bonds bought in World War II because of their declining purchasing power.

Fourth, taxation will only prove effective in financing preparedness and controlling inflation provided productivity rises constantly and government spending on other than essential services is cut to the bone.

The only answer to Russia's threat to Canada's economy is work, more work, and still more work.

One Small World

The Indian Parliament has been warned that an aggressor can surmount the mighty Himalayas as easily as the Germans pierced the French Maginot Line. At the same time Sir Hubert Wilkins, famed Arctic explorer, has pointed out that troops can be carried within striking distance of Russian industrial centres by submarines travelling under the Arctic Ocean.

In this age distance and apparent isolation mean little from the point of view of security. No nation or part of a nation can complacently view the dangers in which other more exposed localities seem to lie. The danger is shared by all.

Successful aggression inevitably means a repetition of attempts to use force as an instrument of policy. There is a temptation to compromise with a particular aggressor, in this instance Communist China, in order to avoid the horrors of large scale war. But such a step would be a betrayal of this and future generations. Only by making it unmistakably clear that aggression is unprofitable can we hope to enjoy peace and security. This is what Prime Minister Attlee declared to be the "long view" required of diplomats and statesmen.

Still Best Bacon Market

The fact that pork prices at present are lower in United States than in Canada, says an Ottawa exchange, proved a stumbling-block to those speakers in the Federal-Provincial agricultural conference who were advocating that the possibility be explored of opening the American markets to Canadian pigs and pork products. As Mr. Gardiner pointed out, if United States opened its markets to Canadian pork it would insist that the Canadian market also be opened. The flow of pork would not be from Canada to the United States but the other way round. It went to prove that

the best market for Canada's surplus pork is the United Kingdom, as it has been for many years.

Largely because of the high price of beef, Canadians have been consuming about 20 per cent more pork this year than they did normally. This caused a fall-down on Canada's part in its contract to ship Britain 60,000,000 pounds of Wiltshire sides (the form in which bacon is exported) during 1950. Estimates now are that this country will provide the United Kingdom with no more than 35,000,000 pounds. Nevertheless, speakers in the conference urged that another contract for bacon with Britain was highly desirable and there was general endorsement of Mr. Gardiner's announcement that the United Kingdom had agreed to take 130,000,000 pounds of Wiltshire sides from Canada next year. The exact price hasn't been decided but Mr. Gardiner intimated it wouldn't be as high as the pork producers in this country wanted. The price under the present contract is \$29 a hundred pounds to which the Federal Government added a subsidy of \$3.50.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The hockey situation locally is tense, but it is gratifying to find oil being poured on the troubled waters.

High among the questions before the younger generation just now is probability of having outdoor rinks in usable condition before the holiday season.

Prince Edward Island played host last night to a distinguished guest list. Unfortunately, although Island oysters lent atmosphere as well as flavor to the feast, the gathering itself was in Montreal.

His Majesty's Christmas broadcast, which like his father, he has made a great family institution for the peoples of the Commonwealth, will again be heard at 11 a.m. Atlantic Standard Time on Christmas day.

The cost-of-living index has levelled off at least for the time being. It requires little prophetic power, however, to realize that a continued state of emergency would send it on the ascendant again.

There are other and grimmer things to think about, but it is worth noting that the Second World War was followed by no depression, and no trail of war debts amongst former allies.

The City and Summerside are in competition for the location of the Provincial Museum. It is good that it should be so, for now there is hope that the project will become an accomplished fact.

Christmas trees are first mentioned at Strasburg in 1605, and Luther established the custom in Germany, afterwards adopted in England. They are now regarded as a feature of English speaking peoples throughout the world.

The Carlins and their sea-going jeep are reported to be again sending out distress signals. The couple plan to make their tour around the world on a few thousand dollars but it is a foregone conclusion that they will cost their unhappy rescuers considerably more before they make it.

And so the horse scale weights have almost served their day and generation, and are now to be cast by the City Council more-or-less to the discard. They used to be an outstanding feature of the commercial community, and the Check-weigher's office, the centre of much news, politics and gossip.

Germany is truly a thorn in the flesh of the democratic world. After the First World War she used every subterfuge to rebuild a war machine despite every obstacle that could be placed in the way. Now when the United States proposes German rearmament the Germans aren't having any.

Canadian labour organizations have combined to bring pressure on the Federal Government to re-impose price control and to extend the period for rental control. This means an attempt to make State control a Government policy in preference to free enterprise to which the Liberal Party has hitherto officially adhered in times of peace.

Pierre Cornelle, French dramatist and poet, died this date 1684. His masterpiece is "Le Cid." In 1642 appeared "Le Menteur", a comedy, which is the equal of many of Moliere's. He was associated with Moliere and Quinault in the writing of the tragedy-ballet "Psyche" in 1671 which contains some of his finest lyrical work. He was the father of French drama, one of the greatest, if not the greatest of French tragic writers.



The Demand For Farm Products

(Monthly Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia)

Quoting the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of The Bank of Nova Scotia states that "Demand for agricultural products will be stronger than had been anticipated... It now appears that, at least during the next year or two, the requirements of both producing and importing countries will be so substantial that the threat of unmarketable surpluses will fade."

A year ago, says the Review, which discusses the demand for farm products, a number of surpluses were developing and on this continent a further decline in the general level of farm prices was anticipated. In the United States, large amounts of farm products were moving into government hands under the price-support program, and for some products notably cotton and wheat, production controls had been announced.

Today, in contrast, the U. S. A. Secretary of Agriculture is calling on farmers for production to provide supplies of food and fibre for the civilian population at home and for growing military forces, to assist "friendly foreign countries in need of help", and to build up a safe margin in strategic reserves.

In the face of these combined demands, abundant production, he has emphasized, is a powerful weapon against inflation and the "best means of staying off as long as possible the necessity for price controls and rationing". Indicative of the change in atmosphere is the rise in the prices of U. S. farm products. The downward drift of the index of farm-product prices that had been apparent during 1948 and 1949 was reversed at the beginning of this year, and the index is now 17% above a year ago.

Though the change in Canada has been less dramatic, the demand for Canadian farm products has been larger than expected. It is true that the general average of prices shows little change as compared with a year ago, but this is largely a result of the reduction in the initial payment for wheat, which has offset the marked increase in livestock prices. Threatened surpluses of such commodities as butter, eggs and concentrated milk have not developed, and the combined export and domestic demand for livestock and feed grains has been embarrassingly large, pushing prices to very high levels.

Though demand for a number of products has been better than expected, farm income in 1950 will show some decline from the record levels of 1948 and 1949. The major factor in the decline is this year's lower return on prairie wheat. The frost disaster that in August overtook one of the most promising crops in years left a comparatively small proportion in the top milling grades.

The drastic lowering of the grade, plus the fact that the initial price was reduced at the beginning of the crop year from \$1.75 to \$1.40 a bushel for No. 1 Northern wheat spreads between the grades were made unusually wide, means a sharply lower per bushel return on wheat this fall. In addition, even if the final participation payment from the five-year pool is made before the end of the year, the amount thus distributed in 1950 will be much below the \$211 millions paid out in 1949.

Thus, despite the better returns on livestock and on coarse grains (including the \$425 millions paid out this fall in participation payments), cash farm income will be somewhat lower than in the previous two years, though considerably larger than in any other year.

It should be noted, however, says the Review, that Canadian agriculture for the first time in several seasons, will carry into the new year large stocks of feed grains, which provide the basis for an expansion in output of the very products now in greatest demand, especially meat. Reports suggest that western farmers are already enlarging their livestock-breeding and feeding operations.

Unfortunately, however, the late harvest and shortage of transportation facilities have made it difficult to get the new supplies moving in volume and very little western grain is likely to reach Ontario and Quebec users until well into next year. Moreover, high prices of feed grains have persisted. Thus, with the moderate seasonal decline in livestock

Adding Emphasis

FROM "AMATURUS"

Somewhere beneath the sun— These quivering heart-strings prove it— Somewhere there must be one Made for this soul to move it. Some one that hides her sweetness From neighbors whom she slights, Nor can attain completeness, Nor give her heart its rights; Some one whom I could court With no great change of manner, Still holding reason's fort, With waving fancy's banner; A lady, not so queenly As to disdain my hand, Yet born to smile serenely Like those that rule the land; Noble, but not too proud; With soft hair simply folded, And bright face crescent-brow'd, And throat by Muses moulded; And eyelids lightly falling On little glistening seas, Deep-calm, when gales are howling. Though stirr'd by every breeze; Swift voice, like flight of doves Through mistle-aches floating, With sudden turns, when love Gets overnear to dotting; Keen lips, that shape soft sayings Like crystals of the snow, With petty half-betraysings Of things one may not know; Fair hand, whose touches thrill Like golden rod of wonder, Which Hermes wields at will; Spirit and flesh to sunder; Light foot, to press the stirrup In fearlessness and glee. Or dance, till finches chirrup, And stars sink in the sea. —William Johnson-Cory (1823-92).

prices that has taken place, the relationship between livestock and feed prices, which has been relatively unfavourable for more than a year, has not yet improved. Many eastern farmers, however, have adequate supplies of home-grown feed to see them through the winter; and they are well aware that ample supplies exist in the West and that Winnipeg future prices for cats and barley are substantially below spot prices.

As for the outlook, present indications are, according to the Review, that demand for farm products, and especially for animal products, will continue strong. The domestic market for food is buoyant; the population is growing rapidly, and purchasing power is high and likely to remain so with defence spending increasing and the economy functioning at a high level. Moreover, the capacity of the domestic market for expansion is probably considerable as is indicated by the fact that per capita consumption of, for instance, meat and milk is still below the peak levels reached in wartime and immediately after. And if defence activity should restrict production of consumers' durable goods, there may be some overflow of purchasing power to food as well as other consumer goods.

Demand for Canadian agricultural products in the United States is large and has been growing and, with the prospect of stepped-up defence expenditures in that country, it is not likely to show much slackening. Even in the British market, where purchases of many

Canadian farm products have been sharply restricted or cut off altogether, the outlook is a little better as a result of the improvement in British exchange reserves.

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Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

DIVERS PETITIONS

Among the petitions presented to the Legislative Assembly during the session of 1949 were the following:

From divers inhabitants of Brown's Creek Settlement, on Township 98, setting forth that petitioners are new settlers, in the interior of the forest, four or five miles distant from salt water, and are deprived of all means of intercourse with the older settlements, and praying that a road may be opened between the eastern end of said settlement and the nearest point of the road on the south side of Montague River.

From W. H. Nellis, teacher at the National School, Charlottetown, praying that his usual legislative grant may be increased, in order that a greater number of free scholars may be admitted into the said school, and also that a sum be granted sufficient to provide ladders, erect a green house, and for necessary repairs to the building.

From divers inhabitants of Bedoue and vicinity, for a grant to enable Richard Cole to run a covered stage once a week between Bedoue and Charlottetown.

From James Proudfoot, of Brackley Point Road, for remuneration for expenses incurred in a suit at law instituted against him as an overseer of roads, and decided in his favour — the plaintiff having absconded.

From divers inhabitants of Charlottetown, for a grant in aid of individual subscriptions towards the construction of a wharf "at the end of George's Street, Charlottetown."

From shareholders in the Steam Navigation Company residing at or near Georgetown, complaining of the irregularity in the trips made by the Steam Packet to Georgetown during the past season.

From divers inhabitants of De-Sable, suggesting "the expediency of a law being enacted, prohibiting distillation of spirits by any person not holding a freehold or leasehold property in this Island."

From divers inhabitants of Townships 29 and 30, setting forth "that owing to the depressed state of trade in this and the neighboring Colonies, petitioners have recently had their cattle distrained for arrears of rent, which they however willing to pay, were unable to make up; that it appears that in cases of this kind three weeks only are allowed between the seizure and sale; and as, at this season of the year, even in more prosperous times, cattle would not produce a fourth of their value, the industrious settler may be reduced to destitution for want of a few pounds, by the complete sacrifice of his stock, which is a preliminary to re-entering upon his hard earned improvements; that petitioners, from the gloomy prospects before them, have reason to dread that distraint may again be resorted to, either among themselves, or others similarly situated — and praying the House for an alteration in the laws, by lengthening the time between the seizure and sale of chattels taken in distraint for rent to six months."

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Notes By The Way

They say the old-fashioned butcher is on the way out. He's the mustachioed, red-faced fellow in the long white, blood-covered apron who could carry a half a beef under each arm or carve a bullock faster than most folks could split a deck of cards.—Pembroke Standard-Observer.

It's the women took more interest in municipal politics around these parts. Last year, we attended two nomination meetings, one in Salem, for Nichol Township, and the other in Fergus. There was not one woman present at either nomination. That is not as it should be. Half the electors are women. They vote on election day. Why don't they go out to the nominations? — Fergus News-Record.

Sault Ste. Marie's ringworm epidemic, thought for a time to be under control, seems to be out of hand again. Nearly 1,000 children are under treatment and barred from schools. It is not a malignant disease but it is a nasty one, of the fungus character attacking the skin at the roots of the hair. As a neighborly city Fort Arthur should be taking precautions but, unfortunately, not much can be done along that line, except vigilance on the part of parents and possibly the school teachers and nurses who should be particularly watchful at this time to see that the thing does not get a start here. Port Arthur News Chronicle.

Quite a furor has recently arisen in Italy over Administrator Dayton's prying of government and industry to bring about internal reforms and embark on more imaginative use of American aid. Economic recovery does not accomplish its fullest political purpose of discouraging Communism when it increases the glaring contrasts between poverty and riches. When more Americans learn that the Italian best able to match the tax dollar going into E.C.A. are permitted to dodge most of their taxes, they will surely demand more pressure for reforms. — Christian Science Monitor.

Why should consumers be forced by law to perform the messy job of mixing in the coloring material at home if they wish to eat yellow margarine? Certainly the law is not in the interests of margarine consumers. Nor is the law in the interests of margarine manufacturers. Unquestionably the procedure of inserting color wafers in

each package is inefficient and costly, and affects the price of the product. This discriminatory provision should be deleted from the act. If consumers wish to buy yellow margarine they should be free to buy it in properly labelled packages. Why regulate the color of this produce any more than the colors of women's hats? — Winnipeg Tribune.

Five policemen's faith in their powers of observation must have been badly shaken in police court when Magistrate Matheson freed a car driver who the officers un-animously believed was drunk at the time of his arrest. Mr. Matheson took the contrary opinion of a doctor whose examination of the accused four hours after the arrest found "no evidence which would lead me to believe he had been drunk four hours earlier." — Vancouver Sun.

There is much controversy as to the relationship between age and success in business. The banker does not approve of the idea of a man over fifty going into a new project. The early stages of a business require physical stamina, long hours and intensive work. A man who has spent his youth learning the details of his job naturally shows better judgment as he grows older. His experience in judging men and situations has been matured. He has lost his impulsiveness, and can bring more deliberation into decisions. The argument that youth is vital to business success does not seem to be borne out by the various investigations. After an institution has been built up it requires stability and the older men contribute that requirement. Those who have passed the middle of the life span seem to be indispensable in the direction of the affairs. — Guelph Mercury.

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