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Unity In Diversity

A prominent Canadian politician is quoted as saying that the only hope for Canada's development as a great nation lies in mutual co-operation between the two great cultures which make up our national life, or words to that effect.

The day is gone, if indeed it ever existed, when any one segment of the population could hope to impose its will or way of life on the whole nation.

This week (October 21) is being observed as the seventy-fifth anniversary of Thomas A. Edison's first successful electric light.

As prolific as was Edison in contriving new devices, he built on the achievements of other men. This was particularly so in the case of his light.

In 1878 a group of financiers affiliated with J. Pierpont Morgan organized the Edison Electric Light Company to finance Edison's experiments.

Electric light and power now are taken for granted, and it is hard to realize that this revolutionary improvement came about within the memory of our older citizens.

China's Road To Socialism

The cessation of hostilities in Korea and Indo-China appear to have decided the Red Chinese Government at Peking that the time is now ripe to move towards further socialization of the national economy.

Advice of the Russians, it seems, is based on Lenin's dictum that there can be "no short cut, rifle in hand, to a socialist society."

Whatever plans may be afoot in Peking for the socialization of Red China, it would be foolhardy indeed to underestimate the consequences of those plans for the West.

A Difficult Subject

Sir Winston Churchill is having his portrait painted by a prominent English artist, Mr. Graham Sutherland.

The most heinous charge made by Artist Sutherland, however, is that Churchill is not content with advice.

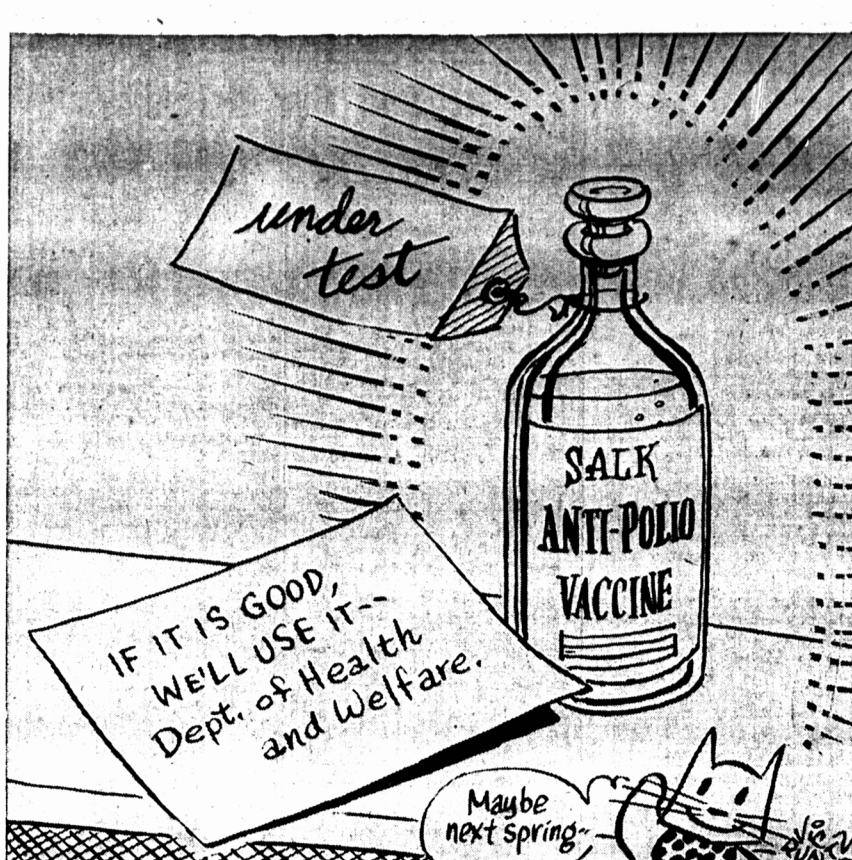
EDITORIAL NOTES

World food production since the war has increased slightly more than world population.

Clarence Decatur Howe, Canada's Minister of Trade and Commerce, became the first Canadian to win aviation's Guggenheim Medal.

James Anthony Froude, historian, died this date 1894. His first work was also his greatest, the "History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Defeat of the Spanish Armada".

There are, notes the annual report of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, many factors of strength underlying our economy.



Favoring An Ounce Of Prevention

The Public Forum

CORRESPONDENCE RE POTATO MARKETING BOARD FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Sir,—In my letter in the press of September 29, 1954, I made a definite accusation fully realizing the gravity of it.

In his letter in the press of October 16, 1954, writing on behalf of the Potato Marketing Board, Mr. Donald A. MacDonald says that he believes the Board's financial statements and the attached auditors' reports are fully correct.

I have made a definite statement; the Potato Marketing Board has made a statement, though not as definite as mine, strongly implying that I am wrong—hence, I must prove my charge.

Mr. MacDonald above referred to, thinking the statements might contain some information that both the Potato Marketing Board and its parent body did not want made public.

Mr. W. R. Shaw, Chairman, Marketing Board, Charlottetown, P. E. I. "Dear Sir: "Under date of August 25 I wrote you as follows.

"I shall appreciate your supplying me with the financial statements of the Potato Marketing Board for each of its last two fiscal years."

"No reply having been received I shall thank you to give my letter your early attention."

Again not having received a reply I telephoned Mr. Shaw on September 16, 1953, and on the same day confirmed our conversation in a letter reading as follows:

"Mr. W. R. Shaw, Chairman, Marketing Board, Charlottetown, P. E. I. "Dear Mr. Shaw: "In our conversation today when I telephoned you about my having received no replies to my letters of August 25 and September 8, you told me you had been out of the Province and that since you returned you had requested your secretary, Mr. Dewar, to supply me with the information."

"I would ask you to check with Mr. Dewar at an early date and see whether or not he is doing as you have instructed him."

"Yours very truly, "Austin A. Scales."

Under date of August 24, 1953, Mr. J. L. Dewar wrote me: "Mr. Austin A. Scales, Freetown, P. E. I. "Dear Sir: "I have for reply your letter dated September 8 and directed to W. R. Shaw as Chairman of the Provincial Marketing Board.

"In dealing with this request it must be considered in the light of the function, duties, and responsibilities of our Board. This Board may be termed a creature of the Government which relies upon it for information relative to the operation of any or all Product Boards, and charges it with the responsibility of seeing that Product Boards operate within the confines of their respective schemes and subject to general regulations as set out by order-in-council."

"The information which you seek is filed as a matter of course with our Board, and is available to the Legislature and thus to the public through the Minister of Agriculture."

"Our Board does not have the facilities, nor the budget, to accept the responsibility of supplying reports to thousands of producers who might request these under a variety of schemes."

"Our Board does not adopt this attitude with any thought of concealing information, but as I have explained does so from the standpoint of its physical limitations and within its responsibility to provide the Legislature with information such as you request."

The Poet's Corner

PEACE PROCLAIMED

The helmet now an hive for bees becomes, And hills of swords may serve for spiders' looms.

Sharp pikes may make Teeth for a rake; And the keen blade, th' arch enemy of life,

Shall be degraded to a pruning knife. The rustic spade Which first was made For honest agriculture, shall re-take

Its primitive employment, and forsake The ramps steep And trenches deep.

Tame comes in our brazen guns shall breed. Or gentle doth their young ones there shall feed.

In musket barrels Mice shall raise quarrels For their quarters. The ventri-quiulous drum, Like lawyers in vacations, shall be dumb.

Now all recruits, But those of fruits, Shall be forgot; and th' unarmed soldier Shall only boast of what he did whilere, In chimneys' ends Among his friends.

—Ralph Knevett (1600-71).

ing of information" the right policy. Being unable to obtain the statements through the channels that I thought would be the proper source of supply, and which should have been supplied me as ordinary routine.

Under date of September 17, 1953, Mr. J. L. Dewar wrote me: "Mr. Austin A. Scales, Freetown, P. E. I. "Dear Sir: "I have for reply your letter dated September 8 and directed to W. R. Shaw as Chairman of the Provincial Marketing Board.

"I trust this is correct and I shall appreciate your supplying these statements. Thanks."

"Yours very truly, "Austin A. Scales."

Under date of October 1, 1953, Mr. Baker made reply as follows: "Mr. Austin A. Scales, Freetown, P. E. I. "Dear Mr. Scales: "I have for acknowledgment your letter of September 23 in which you state that you were under the impression that financial statements of the P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board might be available through me."

"I now have a copy of a letter written you on October 1 by J. L. Dewar, Secretary of the Provincial Marketing Board, and in the third paragraph of his letter he suggests that these statements are available to the Legislature through the Minister of Agriculture. He is right in that conclusion, because I receive only one official copy, which is available for tabling in the House when requested by any member of the Legislature."

"It would be practically impossible for this Department to supply some seven or eight thousand producers in the Province with copies of the financial statement of the Potato Marketing Board, and if a precedent was established by supplying one producer, then you can readily understand that it might become an impossibility to supply all others who might request the same."

"Yours very truly, "C. C. Baker, Minister."

NOTES BY THE WAY

The man who is critical of somebody else often is a jealous individual. —Niagara Falls Review.

A Sundry oldtimer recalls that it used to be necessary to buy ear-phones with a radio, but no one seemed to get around to the idea of accompanying each set with a pair of ear muffs. —Sudbury Daily Star.

The Ford strike will cost the city of Windsor \$4,000,000 week, so it is estimated. And it falls primarily, of course, on the strikers and the company—spreading from them to every quarter in the community.

There is nothing finer than putting the principle of self-help to work, whether on the part of individuals or communities. It usually gets results, and where communities go in for this sort of thing it can make a whole nation sit up and take notice. —Nanaimo Free Press.

It appears common sense that the Minister in such an event could have asked the P. E. I. Marketing Board, a Government appointed body, to see that the statements were supplied through the press, or otherwise, by the appropriate body.

In an October issue of the press, when writing about the recent large gathering in the Forum, the Federation of Agriculture news column said in part, "When, at any time, action is taken to suppress information then the foundation and structure of democracy is in peril."

A professor of Britain's Birmingham University has stated that work is good for a person while rest may harm the blood vessels, kidneys, muscles and appetite.

It appears common sense that the Minister in such an event could have asked the P. E. I. Marketing Board, a Government appointed body, to see that the statements were supplied through the press, or otherwise, by the appropriate body.

In my humble opinion the answers to my above, various letters do not tend to promote the mutual confidence so essential in any enterprise.

I had hoped that the P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board would have, before this time published its annual statements for its three years ended May 31, 1953.

Again I say it is not fair to the producers of potatoes in this Province to have the Board accepted to help it finance, to withhold them longer. Their release may be a material factor in assisting growers in deciding how to mark their ballot in the forthcoming plebiscite.

Mr. Editor, to understand better why I have made my accusations and before I come to the annual statements, I must necessarily preface my story with considerable dull reading—too much to ask you to print in any one issue. I shall continue my story, like a serial one, in a not too distant issue should you favor me with space.

I am, Sir, etc., AUSTIN A. SCALES Freetown, P. E. I.

NOT A DICTATORSHIP

Sir,—The press report of the recent Council meeting of the Town of Summerside states that the Council, by resolution and on the recommendation of the Town Recorder, refused union recognition to its employees of the Electric Light Department who are members of Local 1432, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The legal phase of the matter, I prefer to leave to those who have received training in, and practice that profession. But the hypothetical situation which Mr. Strong suggests to the Town Council, and his assumption that the I. B. of E. W. wields dictatorial power, demand some comment in order to correct these two erroneous ideas which, apparently, have been formed without any foundation.

I have been a member of the I. B. of E. W. for the past eight years, four of which I held the office of President in our local union and the only manner in which I was dictated to was by the majority vote carried out in the democratic manner in which we, as Canadians, are accustomed. All matters in our Brotherhood are decided by the membership and no person or "union headquarters" is given unlimited power. Local union problems are settled in or by the local union concerned. Advice may be sought from our Maritime or Canadian office, but it is comparable to the advice which the Town of Summerside requested of the firm of Wallis and Tierney in Halifax re mechanical equipment for water fluoridation.

The final say in that matter rests with the Town. By the same token the final say in local union matters rests solely with the local union.

The I. B. of E. W. prides itself in the fact that it has been able in practically every case, to negotiate a working agreement with employers in all branches of the electrical industry without having to resort to the strike. Arbitration has been the last resort. Our strike machinery is rusty from disuse and we are not ashamed to say so.

The many agreements which have been peacefully negotiated by our local unions from Alaska to Hawaii and from Newfoundland to British Columbia do not make headline news as does a labor dispute and I am inclined to accept this as reason for Mr. Strong's statements. His information was received through the wrong medium.

Our Brotherhood has contracts through its local unions, with towns smaller than Summerside, with the largest cities on this continent, with Provincial Governments as well as with private corporations. Employees of Buckingham, Palace have their union and are recognized by it and bargain with the Crown. It seems absurd that employees of any other public body would be barred by law from recognition by their government.

Summerside has the enviable record of many "firsts" and is a pioneer in the Province in that it was the first incorporated city or town to give union recognition and to bargain collectively with its employees.

I am, Sir, etc. J. M. McALDUFF President Charlottetown District Trades and Labor Council.

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