

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1950

Strikes and The Railways

Officials of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees and Other Transport Workers have been saying some rather ominous things about the possibility of a rail strike. Unless their demands are met, say the CBRE, they may, with reluctance, have to resort to tying up Canada's transportation system in order to gain their ends.

When strikes occur in a single industry the burden falls most heavily upon those immediately concerned in the business of the plant. The workers, the suppliers and the retail dealers in the community suffer the most. But the general public is not seriously inconvenienced because other competing plants are operating and able to meet immediate demands for goods.

The railways of Canada are in a different category. When they cease operations, the economy of the country is paralysed. Perishable food goes to waste. Shortages occur. Prices rise. Business is at a standstill. It is for this reason that the management of both of Canada's great railway systems are required by law to provide rail services and are answerable to the Government for failure to do so. In other words, lockouts are impossible on Canadian railways.

Nobody would have it otherwise, least of all the railways themselves. Paradox of the situation is that the proper restraints imposed by law upon management in rail transportation are not also imposed upon their employees. Why should a union enjoy the doubtful privilege of being legally free to cripple the national economy in order to gain its own ends?

Such a suggestion is certain to evoke an outcry from organized labour on the ground that to make transportation strikes illegal would be a threat to individual liberty. But would it? Policemen and firemen cannot do things that ordinary citizens can do, because if they did public order and security would be threatened. People who ponder the matter find it difficult in the face of geographic and economic factors, to distinguish between the role of transportation workers and those of policemen and firemen in terms of relative importance to public order and security.

The difference, if any, is one of degree. For while a strike of policemen or firemen, were it permitted, would tie up only a single municipality, a strike of transportation workers would place in jeopardy the security and economic life of the nation itself.

Talk of a railway strike in Canada is calculated to harm rather than to advance the interests of organized labour.

Life Saving

The near tragedy at Georgetown last week had a happy ending. A five-year-old boy fell from his father's wharf and was rescued by young Harold MacLean, while Arthur MacSwain applied artificial respiration to the apparently drowned youngster, and brought the victim back to consciousness.

Drownings may occur at so many places in this sea-girt Province that although life guards may be posted at particular places, as at the National Park, it is highly improbable that in any given emergency there would be a designated life-guard available. Time is literally vital in such cases, and life or death for the victim depend upon there being someone present who is able to apply artificial respiration. Success may come after prolonged efforts, even hours, but work must be begun promptly.

The lesson is, of course, the extreme value of having knowledge of resuscitation as widespread as possible. It is not possible to have a life-guard stationed at every point of danger, but it is possible and necessary to assure that those present at such an accident know how to deal with the emergency.

"Who is Telling The Truth?"

The CBC's flair for picking the wrong person to say the wrong thing at the wrong time was never better illustrated than by the recent utterances of Mrs. Constance Garneau, on "Week End Review". Speaking on the Korean crisis, this commentator manifested a truly remarkable distrust of Canadian newspapers which, she declared, "are slanted one way or another," giving their readers "no access to unedited news."

Mrs. Garneau is a self-styled sceptic. This being so, she was in utter bewilder-

ment when fighting started in Korea as to who were the aggressors. "Who," she asked herself, "is telling the truth, the Russians or the South Koreans?" Her state of befuddlement in the face of what she regarded as propaganda, regardless of whether it originated in Moscow or in Washington, or in the bureaux of Canadian Press, continued, by her own admission, until she read the report of the United Nations Commission in Korea.

Inasmuch as the report of the United Nations Commission was carried over the wires of Canadian Press and read by her in a Canadian newspaper, it is strange that she did not begin to see the light even then. For it is scarcely likely that the Chairman of the United Nations Commission in Korea found time to send Mrs. Garneau a certified copy of the report itself. Ultimately, she had to rely on the "slanted news" of the Canadian dailies and weeklies.

Crackpots like Mrs. Garneau, if left to themselves, are relatively harmless. More dangerous are the bigger crackpots in the CBC who pay public funds to people like Mrs. Garneau to undermine confidence in the integrity of the press in Canada.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The "Glorious Twelfth."

Boat racing and horse racing are neck and neck.

The Third World War may be a long way off, but "Be Prepared" is a good motto to keep ever before us.

Setting a thief to catch a thief seems to have been practised in Montreal, which is the beginning of anarchy.

"Look, where clothed in brightest green Is a sweet isle, of isles the queen; Ye fairies, from all evil keep her."

Now we know definitely there are women as well as men democrats. The Women's Institutes and the City Council heard from and about them.

It has come to this in austerity Britain. King George's nephew, the Earl of Harewood, has hired out as a music critic for the London Daily Mail, Lord Rothermere's morning paper. The 27-year-old peer will write a music column twice a month.

Unless motorists are prepared to search hitch hikers for possession of liquor they are not likely to give free rides to strangers any more. An Exchequer Court decision published yesterday held that under such circumstances the car could properly be seized and forfeited to the Crown.

The first party of British exchange teachers is leaving for Canada on July 25th, the rest following in small parties as passage is booked. All will be ready to take up their duties in Canada when school reopens, Sept. 5th. There appears to be no exchange arrangements here.

His Holiness the Pope draws the line at women's public service as M.P.'s. He thinks such service should not be extended beyond the reach of the home, the centre of women's sphere of influence. A woman cannot direct the affairs of State at the capital and at the same time look after the welfare of her husband and children at home. But of course some women have neither.

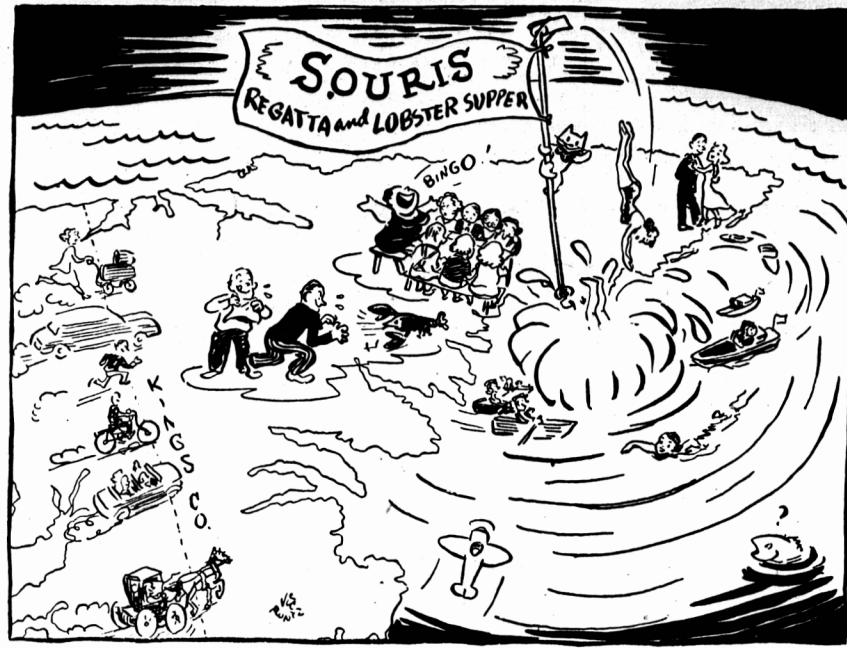
The berry air-lift is under way. The shipping of strawberries off the Island is of much greater value to growers than statistics would indicate. It takes only a few cases more than the market will absorb to break the price. The existence of export markets prevents any such ruinous local glut.

Pennies are not always worth their face value. In fact they are legal tender only up to twenty-five cents. Beyond that amount they are worth only what the holder can get for them. It is not the least unreasonable that in Winnipeg a bank is charging the city \$750 annually for handling the proceeds from its 600 parking meters.

The Hon. A. W. MacKenzie, Nova Scotia's Minister of Agriculture, advocates more extensive use of grass silage to offset high feed costs which is "the heaviest millstone around the neck of every farmer in Eastern Canada." The objective, of course, is lighter feed bills and heavier cattle.

Josiah Wedgwood, English potter, born this date 1730. He began business in Burslem, Staffordshire in 1759; he became famous for his cream-coloured "Queen's Ware", so called in honour of his patron, Queen Charlotte; was the inventor of black "Bassal" ware, and of the still more renowned "Jasper Ware" of which the ground is blue, green, or brown with cameo reliefs appearing upon it; designed by Flaxman, Tassie, etc.

Where The Big Splash Is Today



Britain's Gold And Dollar Reserves

The following is the text of a statement on Britain's gold and dollar reserves made in the United Kingdom House of Commons today (July 11) by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps:-

"I should like to give the House the latest figures of our gold and dollar position in the second quarter of this year.

"During this period the sterling area's net gold and dollar surplus has amounted to \$180 million compared with a surplus of \$40 million in the first quarter, a deficit of \$31 million in the fourth quarter of 1949, and a deficit of \$632 million in the second quarter of 1949 - that is the quarter a year ago corresponding to the one on which I am now reporting. Our receipts under the European Recovery Programme amounted to \$240 million and we also drew \$18 million on the Canadian credit. The gold and dollar reserves rose by \$438 million, so that at the end of June they stood at \$2,422 million compared with \$1,340 million at the lowest point immediately before devaluation took place. I should here add that since our gold and dollar reserves are acquired by the Exchange Equalization Account in exchange for sterling, the recent increase in the reserves has involved a corresponding decrease in the sterling resources of the Account. In order to replenish those resources I propose under existing powers, to issue \$300 million to the Account from the Exchequer during the current week.

"Last April, when I spoke about the first quarter's results, I explained that two main types of influence had been at work in bringing about the improvement in our affairs. First, there were those influences which were outside our own control, such as a recovery in the demand by the dollar countries for goods which are supplied by the sterling area. Secondly, there were the effects of our own policies and actions, such as the positive encouragement we have been giving to exports to the dollar area, and economies which all the sterling area countries acting in unison have exercised in their expenditures on dollar imports. By making our own exports more competitive, compared with dollar goods; devaluation played its part in encouraging these economies. It also helped to limit expenditure on so-called invisible items. We benefited too from the great change in sentiment about the original position and prospects which took place after devaluation and resulted in a considerable accretion of funds as debts outstanding were paid and new business entered into.

"The chief thing to say about the second quarter's results is that most of these influences have continued to be powerfully at work. Among them, it is probably true to say that the continued high level of demand in the United States, particularly for raw materials produced by the rest of the sterling area, must take first place. The increase in our exports to North America, especially Canada, is also a factor worthy of special mention.

"Our expenditure on dollar imports, and the expenditure of the other Commonwealth countries, has continued to be kept within the limits which we imposed on ourselves a year or so ago. Our gold and dollar payments to the so-called 'hard currency' countries outside the dollar area, which were so grievous a burden on us last year, have also been very moderate. In other O. E. E. C. countries we have made no gold or dollar payments at all in recent months.

"Though the picture I have painted is one of growing strength, I should be falling in my duty if I did not point out to the House some of the less favourable features of the situation which, unless they are met, must compel us to take a cautious view of the future. It will be seen from the figures I have quoted that a major part of the increase in our reserves is a direct result of the assistance we have been receiving under the European Recovery Programme. In this respect, what we have experienced is a reversal of the state of affairs last year, when the gold and dollar deficit was running far in excess of available

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

EVIDENCES OF PROGRESS

"Nothing so much pleases us, as the growing taste for the conveniences of life, which is every day developing itself among people of all classes. One of the best signs of increasing prosperity is the demand for such articles as tend to swell the sterling area's reserves. As the House is aware, expenditure on dollar imports both here and elsewhere in the sterling area has been running well below the limits we have set ourselves, and some increase over the present level may well occur. The exceptional accretion of funds following devaluation cannot continue indefinitely. And the rise in prices of raw materials which has so greatly benefited our dollar earnings cannot be expected to go on. Some reductions have already taken place and more are possible. This may well be so even though the underlying conditions in the dollar area and elsewhere remain essentially favourable.

"Quite apart from the effects of any serious deterioration in international affairs, it would not be right, for the reasons which I have given, to count on a continuation of all the favourable factors which have governed our experience in the last six months. In the volatile world of international trade and finance there are bound to be fluctuations both downwards and upwards. Moreover, our position as banker for the whole sterling area and as the centre of the world-wide trading system based on sterling makes it necessary for us to carry the burden of downward fluctuations, as well as reap the benefit of upward movements. Such fluctuations, when they occur, should not be interpreted as implying a basic weakening of our situation. We must expect such perfectly normal phenomena to continue. They need not alarm us so long as conditions at home are sound, our exports are fully competitive and our enterprise in selling our goods is unimpaired. But this in turn will only be so providing we can keep in check here the rise in personal incomes and total level of monetary expenditure. Moreover, it is essential that our reserves of gold and dollars should be adequate for their purpose. Although they have increased over the last 9 months, these reserves are still far below the level that is necessary to enable us to face with equanimity all the sudden and substantial changes in external conditions which may take place. Their further strengthening is a matter of the highest importance to us. It is for this reason we must firmly maintain those policies of restraint in respect both to personal incomes and expenditures, especially on dollar imports, while at the same time providing maximum encouragement to dollar earnings, which have contributed so much to our recovery during the past 9 months. It is along this road that we reach our declared aim, namely, to stand on our own feet by 1952 without any extraordinary outside help."

OPEN TO PUBLIC

The Alaska Highway was opened to tourist traffic in the summer of 1948.

HONG KONG, July 11-(AP)—Bubonic plague struck the South China Province of Fukien, threatening its 11,000,000 population. Hong Kong officials said today Chinese Communists are rushing vaccine and medical workers to the Fukien port city of Amoy.

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Notes By The Way

Postal authorities advise letter carriers to "treat dogs with respect". Our postman has our permission to give our circular letters to any dog he meets, if the dogs would find such attention flattering. — Peterborough Examiner.

In a recent article on hay and grass silage it was stated that hay harvested by a pick-up baler should have a moisture content of 20 to 50 percent, depending on the type of hay and the density of the bale. The moisture content was incorrect as it should be from 20 to 25 percent. — Department of Agriculture.

Tastes in books differ, not only from generation to generation but from person to person. "Once a classic" does not mean, "always a classic", and maybe the school lists should be brought more thoroughly up to date. The tales that really have been well told will survive, in any case, on their own merits, without being included in any classroom catalogue of "must reading." Alert publishers will see to that! — Brantford Expositor.

The press has chronicled the recently announced atomic golf ball, which will locate itself if the golfer carries a Geiger counter. Any day now the fisherman may expect to see ads that offer atomic fish food. It may be a mixture of cereal and ground-up worms made radioactive. Drop it on the water and wait. Then take your Geiger counter and in no time you'll know by the clicks from the particles given off inside the innocent fish just where the fish are. — The New York Times.

Small chiselling incidents along the border result in irritation to American tourists and the spreading of injurious reports about Canada in the United States. Canadians, too, have their vexations from the Government's management of exchange rates. These things could be wiped out if the Government would step aside and allow the Canadian dollar to find its level in the free market. There is no good reason why the controls should not be lifted. The latest report of the Foreign Exchange Control Board, issued in the Spring, revealed that reserves of gold and U.S. dollars were above \$1,200,000,000 — a satisfactory figure in view of the country's increasing exports to the neighbor nation. — Toronto Telegram.

Writing to a contemporary an observer asserts that our flowers and trees 50 years ago were comparatively free from such pests as the tussock moth, the green turnip louse and other vermin, which now feed on our vegetation, doing damage to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars an-

nually. With the advent of the sparrow came a marked change in the situation. The native song birds, driven off by the noisy little aliens, are no longer permitted to clear the air of the hoists of insect pests so destructive to agriculture. With the coming of the starling the situation was aggravated. — Guelph Mercury.

There is a record of a race in the early days from Saint John to Fredericton, on the ice of the St. John river, between a moose-drawn sled and one hauled by a team of horses. At Penobscus, in Kings County, a man named Branscombe had a pet bull moose for years. Its mother was killed by a train, and he picked it up as a small calf and raised it with his cattle. When it was full-grown he harnessed and drove it in the winter. Finally, as game laws were made more strict, it became illegal to keep a moose. Mr. Branscombe led it far out into the woods and released it, but it was back in his barn before he was back in his house. To lose his moose he finally had to have it trucked about fifty miles, then freed. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

The Poet's Corner

SWEET AND SOUR Sweet is the rose, but grows upon a briar; Sweet is the juniper, but sharp his bough; Sweet is the eglantine, but prickly near; Sweet is the fir-bloom, but his branches rough; Sweet is the cypress, but his rim is tough; Sweet is the nut, but bitter is his pill; And sweet is moly, but his root is ill; So every sweet with sour is tempered still; That maketh it be coveted the more; For easy things, that may be got at will; Most sorts of men do set but little store; Why then should I account of little pain; That endless pleasure shall unto me gain? — Edmund Spenser, (1562-90).

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