

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa, The Thomson Co. Ltd.

Editor and Manager, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, FEB. 16, 1954

No Freight Rate Formula

In turning down the application of the C.P.R. to have a railway assets rate base used to determine the adequacy of freight rates, the Board of Transport Commissioners observed, amongst other things, that the economic impact of freight rates "is such that they should not be made the product of any automatic formula."

The Commissioners also had some serious comments to make on the railways pricing themselves out of the market by the series of freight rate increases which since the end of the war have reached a cumulative 98 per cent on the half of railway traffic to which they apply.

Looking at declining rail traffic the Board commented: "Thus the law of diminishing returns is now, in the inexorable economic sense, beginning to assert itself. We are convinced therefore that, unless the several underlying conditions (e.g. rising costs) adversely affecting the railway industry in general change markedly for the better, means other than general rate increases imposed on the basis of the past will have to be found in the future if the railways in Canada are to be maintained in a healthy operating condition."

This is precisely what the Provinces affected by the post-war rate increases have maintained all along. It was obscured to the railways and to the Board by the fact that the practice of applying competitive rates in the central provinces left the burden to be borne by more outlying areas which could not readily turn to alternative means of transport. With each increase, however, additional competition has become more practical until today there is comparatively little rail traffic that could not conceivably be carried by other means.

This is not to say that the country is no longer being hurt by rate increases. The level at which it is practical to truck goods across the country for instance, is obviously too high for Maritime producers to compete effectively in the central markets. The traffic may change from one means of transport to another but the producer's returns are necessarily much lower than those of his opposite number in Ontario or Quebec.

The answer must be found, as indicated by the Commission, in more economical operation and expansion of business rather than in further general rate increases which would have the opposite effect.

Report On Alcoholism

The five highest alcoholism rates are on record in the U. S. and Europe. Canada is sixth on the list, with 1,804 alcoholics out of every 100,000 drinkers.

These statistics are part of a 29-page report issued by the Alcoholism Research Foundation of Ontario, a provincially-supported organization for the study and treatment of the illness. The report, which is reviewed in the Financial Post, is the summation of one of two comprehensive studies, among the first applying purely Canadian data in such matters as addiction and usage of alcohol.

The Foundation reaches no conclusions, offers no comment, but for many Canadians the report will explode some well-worn beliefs. For example: Percentage-wise more Canadians than Americans say they take a drink (70% here, 59% in the U.S.). More Canadian women, percentage-wise, drink (64% here, 46% in the U.S.). There is no known connection between the amount of alcohol consumed in a country and its incidence of alcoholism. (Swedes drink 1.1 gallons of alcohol a year each, have 2,580 alcoholics per 100,000; Frenchmen drink 2.95 gallons each, almost three times as much, have 2,850 alcoholics per 100,000; Canadians drink 1.48 gallons, have 1,804 alcoholics.) British Columbia (with 2,532 per 100,000) has Canada's highest alcoholism rate; Quebec is second with 1,813. Newfoundland, with 501, is the province least troubled by the illness.

"As more is learned about the drinking habits of Canadians... it becomes increasingly apparent that the pattern here is peculiarly Canadian and not merely the reflection of what is done in the U. S. or elsewhere," the Foundation suggests. Canadians, for instance, fit in somewhere between Britain and the U. S. in the types of alcohol they drink. A Briton's drink today is beer, to the tune of 85%. In Canada, beer represents 64% of the total consumption. In the U. S., beer is 52% of the total. On the other hand, Americans are bigger wine sippers (11% than Cana-

dians (6%), but both countries drink far more than Britain (4%). Spirits constitute 37% of American drinking, 31% of Canadian drinking, but only 11% of Britain's consumption of alcohol.

Back in pioneer days, 1871-80, Canadians were a spirits-drinking population. Their drinking broke down this way: spirits 78%, beer 19%, wine 3%. By 1921-30, the picture had changed radically: spirits 34%, beer 58%, wine 8%. Today's proportion—spirits 31%, beer 63%, wine 6%—shows that beer's increase has bitten into consumption of both hard liquor and wines. "The period 1946-50 shows the greatest increase in the consumption of all beverages," the report says. "The figures for 1951 and 1952, on the other hand, may indicate a leveling off."

The motivation behind the changes, trends and levels of Canadian drinking, the report leaves to the reader's own judgment. Prohibition, provincial laws, boom, depression, wars hot and cold all have left their marks somewhere in the pattern. "A vast complex of factors has been at work forming and reforming the picture revealed in this report," says the Foundation. For all concerned in improving the situation from a temperance standpoint, the figures given would repay careful study and analysis.

The Late Mr. Linkletter

During the many years in which he sat in the Legislature the late Mr. Thomas M. Linkletter set a fine example of conscientious attention to duty. Never a strong partisan, he was yet a staunch supporter of the Liberal party, and a recognized authority on questions relating to the fisheries industry, in which he had been engaged for many years. Mr. Linkletter did not take up much of the time of the House in speech-making, but what he said was always of interest and value. He was, moreover, a gentleman of the old school—courteous, fair, and with a keen sense of humor as well as a fine spirit of integrity and independence. He was always ready to give of his time and means to worthy causes, and to champion their interests where necessary. His popularity in the House was a reflection of the high esteem in which he was held in his own community in Prince County, where his name was a household word for probity and good citizenship. He lived to a ripe old age, leaving many friends who will cherish his memory, and a large family whose members are among our finest representative citizens, at home and abroad.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Members of Parliament will in future be docked \$60 a day for absence exceeding 15 days rather than the \$37.50 which was formerly deducted. At that rate attendance should be at a new high.

It is surprising to find a reference to a Charlottetown in Canada which is not the capital of Prince Edward Island. A recent Canadian Press despatch refers to a little settlement of that name in southern Labrador.

The announcement by External Affairs Minister Pearson will be welcomed that Canada will double her contribution towards United Nations technical assistance to undeveloped countries. While assisting the Far East, however, it is to be hoped that Ottawa will not forget the "very near East," the Atlantic Provinces, which are capable of very considerable technical development.

There will be many who will learn with regret of the passing of Miss Agnes Ramsay, Summerside. A school teacher, she had a distinguished career over a period of 50 years. Former students, and they are legion, will cherish her memory and recall with appreciation and pride the association of school days. Miss Ramsay lent her talents to other lines of endeavour and was in the forefront in all cultural improvements in the community.

The proposed visit of the 10th Earl of Elgin is particularly welcome to Islanders and Canadians generally. The 9th earl was born in Montreal, his father having been Governor General of Canada from 1846 until 1854. During that time he energetically carried out the policies recommended by his father-in-law Lord Durham, leading to responsible government in all the Provinces and eventually to Confederation.

George Macaulay Trevelyan, English historian, was born this date 1876. After distinguished war service in Italy in command of an ambulance unit he was appointed professor of modern history at Cambridge and later master of Trinity College at that university. He published numerous works combining great scholarship with readability. These include, "England in the Age of Wycliffe," "The English Revolution," "English Social History" and many others.

Something New Is Added



PUBLIC FORUM

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

HOME AND SCHOOL PROGRAM

Sir—In all our work as Home and School members we try to keep in mind that our first and fundamental objective is to promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school and community. To serve these interests we, as Home and School, are organized on a local, provincial and national basis.

Most local Home and School Associations meet monthly in the local school, when they may have a guest speaker, see a film, hold a panel discussion on some phase of education or perhaps have class projects on exhibition, or one of the teachers may explain to the meeting some of the ideas back of modern teaching methods in reading or arithmetic, etc. The Home and School Association is in a position to make constructive suggestions to and to co-operate with the local School Board for any needed improvements in the school. School Boards generally appreciate this interest and co-operation.

Provincial Federation of Home and School, we seek to serve the 24 Home and School Associations which are organized in the various centers of this Province. Our Provincial Executive meets monthly and we keep in touch with the local associations through a monthly news letter. Recently we have added a sheet of programme suggestions, which we hope will provide helpful suggestions for the monthly meetings of the associations. Through our monthly news letter our aim is to keep the associations posted provincially as well as nationally on educational matters. The Provincial Home and School organization acts as a channel between the local associations and National Federation of Home and School.

On the national level, Home and School helps produce discussion leaflets, programme kits, film and radio programmes, etc. The national office has a wealth of material which is available for local Home and School Associations through the Provincial Federation. Within the past year National has supplied us here in P. E. I. with two distinguished guest speakers in the persons of Mr. G. F. Bruce, National President of Home and School and Dr. S. R. Laycock, outstanding Canadian educator. These speakers addressed public meetings at Prince of Wales College Auditorium and aroused considerable interest in education.

In closing I would repeat how pleased Home and School people are with this quickened interest in education as shown by the many letters now appearing in the Public Forum. This recent concern for education on the part of the public has encouraged me to write these letters setting forth some aspects of our Home and School programme. If there are interested parents and teachers in this Province, who would like to organize a local Home and School Association within their community, kindly write to the undersigned and we shall do our best to supply the desired information.

I am, Sir, etc., HELEN MACDONALD, President, P. E. I. Federation of Home and School, 45 Fitzroy Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

The Age Old Story

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the month of the Lord hath spoken it.

Notes By The Way

Those tireless busybodies, the scientists, have discovered that by giving silk worms aureomycin and chlormycetin, with a dash of amino acid, they can raise silk production eight to fourteen per cent. Presently, therefore, we will hear of a silk surplus, and the crying need for price supports on silk, plus import quotas to keep out foreign silk. This will be followed by a demand for higher tariffs. Sometimes you can't help feeling that it would be nice if the scientists took a long vacation till things settle down.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

During the ten-year period between 1941 and 1951, Canada's population increased 18.6 per cent. But in the same period, the number of Canadians under ten years of age increased forty-four per cent, and the number over sixty years of age increased 32.7 per cent, with an even larger increase among those over sixty-five. Thus, the 1951 census found the very young and the fairly old constituting a much higher proportion of our general population than they had ten years before. The high birth rate (close to India and Japan) and low mortality rate which Canada is now enjoying suggest that this increase is going to continue.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

An Australian expedition this month sailed to the Antarctic, with the aim of establishing a permanent base on the frozen mainland, some 4,000 miles southwest of Melbourne and 1,500 miles from the South Pole. The expedition is equipped to search for minerals, including uranium and coal. Some explorers have reported the Antarctic may be rich in oil and other minerals, but no large amount of anything has yet been found. The exception is coal, but that which was uncovered is said to be of inferior quality. The Antarctic seals are said to have poor pelts and no use has been made of the fur of penguins. Among the birds found on land is the albatross, a beautiful, strong bird made famous by Coleridge's poem, "The Ancient Mariner."—Toronto Star.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) From The Examiner, Oct. 8, 1880: Unlicensed liquor saloons are called "blind pigs" in Minnesota. In Charlottetown they are called Scott Act houses.

During the fire yesterday morning (at the Osborne House stables) some of the ladies boarding in the neighborhood, after carefully packing their trunks, remained behind to arrange their bangs, spending as much time before the mirror as though they were getting ready for church or a shopping expedition.

We are pleased to see that the promoters of the new Exhibition Grounds and Driving Park are receiving warm encouragement. Over \$9000 have already been taken, and applications for the balance are constant. We approve of the determination of the management to allot the stock generally, and not to permit it to be taken by a few persons.

Orwell, Eldon, Brush Wharf and Vernon River are now connected with the Telephone Exchange.

St. Paul's Church on Thursday morning was the scene of a very interesting event; we refer to the marriage of John A. Longworth and Louise Caroline Palmer, son and daughter of the late Hon. John Longworth and Charles Palmer, Esq., Q.C., respectively. The ceremony was performed by the rector, Rev. W. A. Frost. The bridesmaids were Miss Ethel Palmer and Miss Isabel Longworth; the groomsmen were Mr. B. F. Longworth and Mr. William Palmer. Prof. Logan presided at the organ. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Longworth left on a wedding trip to the United States.

At the regular meeting of the City Council last night Mayor Haviland read a letter from the sixteen residents of Gerald Street complaining that they had no water for the past fortnight but that they had to carry from Spring Park, and adding that they were badly off for sidewalks and lights.

DWELLING FIRES

THAN ALL OTHER FIRES COMBINED. Dwelling and Household Furniture Insurance should be checked carefully to ensure adequate protection including Supplemental Covers. We will be glad of an opportunity to serve you.

HYNDMAN & CO. LTD.

Insurance Since 1872. Offices: CHARLOTTETOWN - SUMMERSIDE - MONTAGUE. ALLISON F. McLEAN—District Manager at Summerside. CYRUS A. E. SHAW—District Manager at Montague. THOMAS McAVINN—Special Representative. F. L. MacNUTT—Representative at Kensington. E. T. MYERS—Representative at Elmisdale. K. S. JELLY—Representative at O'Leary. J. FRANK STEARNS—Representative at Souris. D. J. MacDonald—Representative at Augustine Cove. J. C. SUTHERLAND—Representative at Charlottetown. Agents throughout the Province.

The Passing Scene

By Observer MR. LINCOLN'S DREAM

I am writing this article on the birthday anniversary of Abraham Lincoln, statesman, humanitarian, prophet, and martyr. Yes, and a dreamer of dreams. To the student of history the fact that those dreams are still in a condition of partial fulfillment is not a cause for despair for, after all only 39 years have passed since Lincoln died; and great dreams have a habit of taking plenty of time to work themselves into popular acceptance.

Because Lincoln had such a passion for freedom, and because the American Civil War took place during his presidency and resulted, theoretically at least, in the destruction of the institution of slavery, it is often assumed that the abolition of slavery was Lincoln's great dream. This excerpt from one of his political speeches is used to bolster that assumption: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved, I do not expect the house to fall, but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates will put it forward till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new, North as well as South."

It is a beautiful piece of prose; no one would question its sincerity, although at the time there were many who did question it. It was, however, the speech of a man who was seeking senatorial nomination and who not yet had become aware of all the causes of inter-State unrest and friction. That came later when executive power and "responsibility" were thrust upon him. He then saw that the issue of slavery was but one of the symptoms of a disunity which threatened to write finis to the bold American experiment.

Perhaps the most compelling symptom was the fact that the majority of the "gentlemanly merchants" still clung with more or less tenacity to "pre-revolutionary ideas and traditions. Many of their present-day successors, as a matter of fact, take similar attitudes, though there is little or no political significance attached to what has been called, perhaps unjustly, a "colonial" state of mind.

As President, Lincoln refused for a long time, in the face of much urging on the part of his advisers, to declare the "existence of slavery a political issue. In reply to a letter from Horace Greely, the influential newspaper man who had urged a strong anti-slavery program, he wrote: "My paramount object is to save the Union and not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save

the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would do that." Even after the war had begun he said to a delegation: "I have not decided for or against a proclamation of liberty to the slaves, but hold the matter under advisement." It has been suggested that those were the words of a political opportunist who was waiting to see which political wind would prevail; the judgement of most historians is that they were the words of a man who had the overwhelming hope, to which all other considerations were subsidiary,—the preservation of the Union.

Only when he realized that the Southern States which had seceded would never return willingly—abolition or not—did Lincoln consent to make the proclamation: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction." The institution of slavery was bound to go sooner or later; but, it probably is accurate to say that it would not have gone as a result of the Civil War if other factors had not contributed to the estrangement between North and South.

May we not say then that Lincoln's great dream to which he dedicated his life so heroically was that the new venture in nationhood would never return to the old? I believe that he believed so all his heart and mind, and he moved forward undeterred by sectional divisions and unspooled by dissimilarity of any sort whatsoever? In this unity the liberty of all races was an essential ingredient, since no country could remain united, or even survive at all, under a half-free-half-slave system. But the Union itself, not anything incidental to it, was the thing that mattered most.

Anyone who is at all familiar with the Southern States is aware that the Civil War did not end all the frictions between South and North. After almost a century—not a long time, to be sure—the negro question remains unsettled; and there are other things as well which militate against the solidarity for which Lincoln hoped and laboured. It is a curious thing, however, that nowhere in the South does one ever hear an unkind word about Lincoln himself. Somehow, his greatness of soul, even now, helps to mediate any political difference which happens to arise from time to time.

The youngster who two or three years ago in a school examination put "Abraham Lincoln" after the question, "Who do you think is the greatest living American?" was wiser than his teacher probably was willing to admit.

Matheson, Peake & Nicholson, A. W. MATHESON, Q.C. A. H. PEAKE, B.A., LL.B. JOHN P. NICHOLSON, LL.B. Barristers, Etc. Collections - Money to Loan 175 Grafton Street. A. Walthen Gaudet, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. Phillips Building 111 Grafton Street Money to Loan Collection. J. Elmer Blanchard, B.A. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY, Etc. 165 Queen St. - Phone 4232. J. S. Taylor, R.O. OPTOMETRIST Eyes Examined, Glasses Fitted Corner Kent and Queen Sts. Office Phone 9133—House 4756. Palmer & Haslam, A. J. HASLAM, B.A., LL.B. Barrister, Etc. Bank of Nova Scotia Chambers Charlottetown, P. E. I. MONEY TO LOAN. Dr. W. R. Carson CHIROPRACTOR Palmer Graduate CHARLOTTETOWN Dial 6432 291 Prince St. Dr. A. L. MacIsaac DENTIST Dental X-Ray GLORIA BUILDING 179 Grafton St. Phone 291. Dr. K. A. MacEachern DENTIST Dental X-ray Above Charlottetown Clinic 262 Queen St. Dial 4841. McDonald, Currie & Co. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Saint John, Sherbrooke, Vancouver, Kirkland Lake, Moncton, Hamilton, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Currie Bldg., Charlottetown. Dial 8720. H. R. DOANE & COMPANY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS 145 Great George St., Charlottetown Phone 6547 6548. RANDOLPH W. MANNING, C.A. P. O. Box 217. ERMA P. MacPHERSON, C.A. KEVIN J. McKENNA, C.A. Other offices at Halifax, Hantsport, St. John's, Amherst, Dartmouth, Kentville, Liverpool, New Glasgow, Truro and Corner Brook.