

THE GUARDIAN

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Shipboard Fire

As seems almost inevitable after each great fire disaster, the appalling loss of life in the burning of the S. S. Noronic has resulted in new and stringent regulations designed to prevent the recurrence of a similar holocaust.

Fire resistant decks and bulkheads are required for living quarters, openings to be provided with self closing fire resisting doors.

Paints, varnishes and other preparations of a highly inflammable nature are not to be used and automatic sprinkler and fire alarm systems are required.

Fire patrols and musters are provided for, printed notices and diagrams must be prominently displayed indicating muster stations.

Fifth Wheels To The Cart

Information and publicity divisions of Dominion Government departments cost the Canadian taxpayer \$975,670 last year according to a return tabled in the House of Commons recently by State Secretary F. Gordon Bradley.

Departmental publicity and information staffs include 113 permanent and 173 temporary civil servants for a total of 286 men and women.

Most costly information division in 1949 was that of External Affairs which ran up a bill of \$226,420 for salaries, photographs and publications.

Commenting on the above expenditures, the Ottawa Journal emphasizes that these publicity agents with their cost of more than a million dollars a year have nothing to do with preparing the official and necessary annual reports of government departments.

Our Ottawa contemporary suggests that no public interest would suffer if at least 50 per cent of these propaganda "handouts" were dropped.

"We have a strong suspicion," the Journal concludes, "that this revelation of costs for publicity is symptomatic of what goes on with a lot of other Government expenditures—that it shows up the psychology of spending from which the Government has never escaped, and from which it has made little effort to escape, since the close of the war."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Trans-Canada Highway is not expected to be completed until 1956 but today Canadians may expect to learn the route which it is to follow.

Nova Scotia is adopting an advanced and wise course in trying to reform youthful offenders rather than jailing them.

The proposed stiffening of penalties for drunken driving could well have the opposite effect to that intended.

Trade Minister Howe has stated that the National Research Council is studying the effects of extreme winter temperatures on "whole sections of buildings."

A Western musical festival adjudicator disapproved of the quality of singing because, although the girls, 14 and 15, had "lovely voices" none of them believed in fairies.

A famous British regiment renowned throughout the world celebrates its tercentenary this month.

Nineteen nations are studying the means of abolishing passport visas for visitors staying not more than three months.

The unanimous resolution of the Commons on the desirability of a committee to look into the matter of establishing a distinctive Canadian system of medals and decorations reflects a growing dissatisfaction with a situation in which Canadians can receive high honours only from foreign governments.

T. C. A. has found that Summer profits are more than eaten up by the loss in operating during the winter months when costs are at their peak and flights cancelled because of weather conditions.

Marcus Andrew Hislop Clarke was born at Kensington, London, this date, 1846. He emigrated to Australia in 1863, became a writer on the staff of the Melbourne "Argus" (1867) and assistant librarian at the Free Library there.

A group of enthusiasts in the Mathematical Association of Australia formed the Mathematical Problems Bureau in 1939. Since then it has solved more than 200 abstruse mathematical problems from all over Australia, and boasts that it has never been stumped.

Pressure is increasing on Ottawa to keep out foreign goods. Not a day passes without new protests, briefs or deputations. In all cases the aim is the same; stop or curtail this new and growing competition with Canadian production in the domestic market.

The Poet's Corner

BUFFALO LAND

The silent forest, and, day after day, Great prairies swept beyond our aching sight. Into the measureless West: uncharted realms Voiceless and calm, save when tempestuous wind Rolled the rank herbage into billows vast, And rushing tides, which never found a shore. And tender clouds, and veils of morning mist Cast flying shadows, chased by flying light, Into interminable wildernesses, Flushed with fresh blooms, deep perfumed by the rose, And murmurous with flower-fed bird and bee. The deep-grooved bison-paths like furrows lay Turned by the cloven hoofs of thundering herds Primeval, and still travelled as of yore. And gloomy valleys opened at our feet— Shagged with dusk cypresses and hoary pine; And sunless gorges, rummaged by the wolf. Which through long reaches of the prairie wound, Then melted slowly into upland vales, Lingered, far-stretched amongst the spreading hills.

Old Charlottetown

Excerpt from a dispatch to Lieutenant Governor Sir Henry Vere Huntley from Capt. Grey, Colonial Secretary, Downing Street, 15th August, 1846, concerning the suspension of his seat as a member of the Executive Council:

"I cannot conceal from you the regret which I entertain that you should have allowed the expressions used by Mr. Pope in his place in the House of Assembly to lead you into a controversy which has assumed such an unseemly aspect. In the first place, I do not think the words used by that gentleman are in themselves sufficient to justify you in taking any notice of them.

"The position which you hold in the Colony renders it highly inexpedient that you should notice any censure of which you may be the object, unless some specific acts of misconduct should be falsely charged against you in a manner so distinct as to admit of, and to require an express contradiction. But further, you ought to be aware that it is a rule, of which the authority has been long and universally recognized in this country, that words spoken by a member in his place in either House of Parliament, are not to be noticed or punished, except by the House to which he belongs. The same rule ought to be considered as applicable to the proceedings of Colonial Assemblies.

"Secondly, I am of opinion that the manner in which the proceedings against Mr. Pope have been conducted, have been highly irregular. If there were any distinct charge to be preferred against that gentleman, it should have been preferred in a special and definite form, and communicated to the accused party. The reference made to the letter addressed to Mr. Pope, as containing such a charge, was by no means sufficient. The accusation should have been of the most precise and formal character; and I am at a loss to understand the grounds on which Mr. Pope was refused permission to attend the Council, there to be heard viva voce in his own defence.

"While an accusation against him was under consideration he could have taken his seat in the Council as a member, but this was no sufficient reason for refusing him permission to attend as a party concerned in the proceedings; and common justice required that if the accused were heard by word of mouth, the accused should be heard in the same manner also. For these reasons I have to instruct you to desist from the further prosecution of this case. It is not to be my duty, in conclusion, to point out to you that the respect which ought to be entertained for the Representative of the Queen in Prince Edward Island, instead of being increased by the notice which you took of the words reflecting upon you, spoken by Mr. Pope in his place in the House of Assembly, could hardly fail to be impaired by your allowing yourself to be drawn into a contention like the present, upon grounds so untenable."

The Age-Old Story

Keep the charge of the Lord thy God to work in His ways, to keep His statutes and His commandments, and His judgments and His testimonies, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest and whithersoever thou turnest thyself.

IMPORTANT FLIGHT

The first Canadian bomber squadron flew its first bomber operation against a German target in June, 1941.



Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

In a day or two from the moment of writing, and long before these words appear in print, we shall have heard from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he presents his Budget, what the next few months hold in store for us in the way of taxation.

Budget Day is always something of a fascination. I was going to say, novelty but that is hardly the word, for there has been little novelty about our national budgets for quite some time.

Of course, in theory it seems perfectly legitimate and thoroughly commendable that those who have most money should be asked to pay most income tax. It lightens the load of those who haven't got so much and, when all is said and done, it is just the sort of policy that the Socialists were elected to carry out, which makes it the will of the majority.

It is not only income tax alone, however, which is causing the old order to change. There are so many other things, death duties, for instance, payable on the amount of an estate which a man leaves when he dies.

This particular estate, one of the most famous and beautiful of all the old English properties, was subsequently joined a long list of others which have felt the pinch of the present day costs of living in other directions and which have as a result found it necessary to commercialise themselves in a fashion which seems almost indecent.

Now more than twenty of these grand old homes, most of them dating back for centuries, with histories of their own and telling tales of bygone eras, seem to be the very embodiment of the pauperism of England, have been opened to the gaze of sightseers for an admission charge of a shilling or two.

Order Your SPRING SUIT and TOPCOAT from J.P. MacPherson & Son

British Trade Picture

(Canadian Chamber of Commerce) As Canada faces a deteriorating foreign trade picture it is heartening to see that Canadian businessmen are not fatalistically accepting the situation, but are displaying initiative and courage in trying to find an answer to this important national problem.

The Anglo-Canadian Trade Committee, established by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and its opposite numbers in the United Kingdom, is one attempt by businessmen to bring their intelligence and experience to bear on this difficult problem.

Out of these diversified points of view evolved a common agreement that their primary objective should be to expand Anglo-Canadian trade to the highest possible levels. And to do this, the Committee agreed that "every effort should be made to promote the return of international trade to a multilateral basis."

The joint statement of the Committee (we should emphasize that, the British as well as the Canadians approved this statement, and that it was released in the United Kingdom) says that: "governments should subscribe to the policy of private trading as against bulk buying and should move as rapidly as possible to restore international trade to normal commercial channels, within the broad framework of international agreements where applicable."

The statement then sounds a timely warning note when it says: "While the Canadian representatives recognize that dollar shortage is driving the U. K. to curtail imports from Canada, there can be little hope of restoring the economic situation by increasing sales of U. K. goods in Canada if restrictions impose severe hardship or even ruin without warning upon Canadians whose purchasing power is the means of buying these goods."

The Committee therefore considers it essential, in order to keep the pump primed, to maintain a flow of imports to the U. K., to be increased as and when the sale of U. K. goods in North America makes such increase possible. Canada can be and should be a large long-term market for U. K. products.

To make it quite clear that this point of view was not inserted in the statement at the behest of the Canadians only, the Committee

Notes By The Way

Progress note: In the past 20 years, the average man's neck has increased a full size, the average woman's feet a size and a half.

The truth is that teaching, like nursing, is a vocation rather than a job. For anyone not passionately interested in teaching as an art, it might well prove to be an intolerable occupation, and there are few sights more pathetic than a teacher who is a com-

Another item among the many down-to-earth matters talked over was provincial corporation tax and its effect on British and Sterling area investment in Canada. The Committee urges the governments of Ontario and Quebec to "amend present corporation tax laws to bring them into harmony with what is now standard business practice in seven other Canadian provinces, and with the standard Canada-U. K. reciprocal agreements definition."

It is hardly necessary to say that, as at the other meetings of this Committee, an atmosphere of cordiality and hard work prevailed. The problems that this group are studying are tough ones. But they are keeping at it, and that is the only way they will be solved.

And in the meantime this group of public spirited businessmen and the Committee's Canadian secretariat maintained by The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, will continue exchanging information and advice with their British colleagues, studying his situation as it develops from day to day, and in a world, making it clear that Canadian businessmen are keeping after this important national problem which must be solved if Canada is to continue along the upward path of a rising standard of living and expanding national income.

plete misfit in the classroom. For this reason alone, preoccupation with material matters like salary schedules, important as they undoubtedly are, will not solve the problem by itself.

Canada is a long way behind in television and wants to catch up. Whether we are going to catch up with the public funds or private capital is something that affects taxpayers more than they realize. The whole television issue should be thrashed out on the floor of the House of Commons before this session is much older.

A Customs officer is stationed at the Eastern Passage airport on the shores of Halifax Harbour. He can clear planes for the United States—if the flights have originated in Canada. He cannot give permission to planes to fly to the United States—if those planes started their flights in Europe. Surely this is one of the most extraordinary examples of Customs regulations to be found in the very thick books of extraordinary rules! An airplane forced into Halifax by stress of weather, encountered on a voyage from Ireland, is ordered back to Newfoundland to report that it picked up gasoline in Halifax, only when it has done that can it go on to New York. That is an actual case—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

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