THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION
"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, SEPT. 12, 1952

Britain's Precarious Economy

Reports from London during the summer months were monotonous in their repetition of the gravity of the United Kingdom's economic plight. Yet without the intervention of foreign aid, developments of the past fortnight or so suggest that the crisis stage of the United Kingdom's chronic economic difficulties has passed and that the storm clouds are already beginning to dissipate on the horizon.

Certainly the renewed strength of the British stock market and the more confident note being struck by British leaders lends the colour of truth to the conclusion that the United Kingdom is, at long last, on the road to economic recovery. In point of fact, however, the United Kingdom is still far indeed from robust economic health. For all that has happened thus far is that the drain on British gold and dollar reserves has been halted by drastic import curbs, the effect of which is being adversely felt in Canada and other dollar countries, by continued food rationing, and by heavy cuts in the very kind of capital investment needed to strengthen the United Kingdom's competitive trading position.

In Ottawa and Washington, as well as in London, there is a growing awareness that what is needed is a long-term solution to the United Kingdom's dollar problem. What policies such a solution would embrace may not, at this stage, be forecast with any degree of finality. It is safe to assume, however, that included in the plan would be some scheme designed to make sterling freely convertible. Being mooted at the moment is a currency stabilization fund to which Canada, the United States and the International Monetary Fund would contribute. Also under consideration are further cuts in United States tariffs to enable the United Kingdom to expand the American market for British goods, the encouragement of American and Canadian investment, private as well as public, in the sterling areas of the Commonwealth, and long-term commodity trading agreements.

Research Activities

One of the most useful though little heralded activities of the Federal Government is the co-operation of its expanding National Research Council laboratories with private industries. Some details on this arrangement are set forth in the thirty-fifth annual report of the Council. At present the Council has about thirty committees each charged with a special field of work such as building codes, corrosion, dental research, food preservation, grain research, plant breeding, soil and snow mechanics, etc. Members are selected for their particular knowledge and interest, and make special studies without fee or recompense in research on subjects of broad general interest.

In food research, the Wiltshire bacon project was concluded with a study of the effects of varying temperatures and salt concentrations.

Improvement in railway refrigerator car designs was confirmed by transcontinental road tests. The basic change has been tentatively accepted by the Canadian railways for new construction.

The details of atomic energy research are of a highly technical nature. But it might be mentioned that radioisotopes produced at the Chalk River plant are in great and expanding demand in the United States, Great Britain, Western Europe, South America and in numerous universities, hospitals and industries in Canada.

The demand for the famous cobalt-60 sources, known as the "Cobalt Bomb", equivalent to a three-million-volt X-Ray machine, exceeds the present facilities of the project to produce them. More than 800 shipments of over 70 different isotopes were made during the year ended Dec. 31, 1951.

Reassuring Figures

The United States Census Bureau's detailed picture of the average American family in mid-twentieth century shows a highly prosperous society. In 1950, when the Bureau made its last count, the average family of four either owned a home or was paying for one. Among their possessions were such accessories to comfortable living as a car, refrigerator, radio and telephone; included in their immediate plans was a television set. Out of an income of $4,350 (after taxes), $400 to $550 was spent on clothing; $100 to $115 went on food each month; and about $350 was the annual bill for recreation and education.

An average Canadian family, notes an exchange, has not yet emerged from the charts and tables that tell the results of the 1951 census in this country. Census figures show, however, that about two in every three Canadian dwellings have telephones; the ratio of cars to dwellings is about one to three; and mechanical refrigerators are more numerous than cars.

Canadians are eating more and better than they did before the war; moreover, the cost of food represents a smaller percentage of their income than it did in 1935 According to an analysis of food prices prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Canadians spend $73 per person on food in 1935 in comparison with $245 in 1951, a difference not fully accounted for by the decreased buying power of the food dollar. Per capita income, after taxes, in 1935, was only $304; in 1951, it was $1,060. Moreover, basing their calculations on the quality as well as quantity of food on Canadian tables then and now, the statisticians found that food which in 1935 cost 25.3 per cent of a Canadian's income would take only 14.3 per cent of his income in 1951.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A bouquet for community service is due to the Summerside Y's Men's Club and its president, Mr. George T. Clark, for getting the town clock to keep time again.

* * *

School building will be the order of the day all across Canada, according to census figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Babies four years and under are now the largest age group in the population.

* * *

Charlottetown is taking steps to keep off the streets any vehicle which might do damage to the new paving. In the past, road machinery and snow-clearing equipment owned either by the Province or City, has been a serious threat. Fortunately more and more such equipment, as well as farm tractors is moved on rubber.

* * *

Pieces of masonry from the blitzed St. Paul's Cathedral, London, which have been built into Canadian churches are to be dedicated by the Very Rev. Dr. W. R. Mathews, Dean of St. Paul's, during his current visit to Canada. Dr. Mathews will also lecture at the University of Toronto and McGill University.

* * *

Herbert Henry, first Earl of Oxford and Asquith, was born this date 1852. As a Liberal minister and Prime Minister he did much to unite the party until a cleavage with his lieutenant, Lloyd George, over shell production. Later he gave Liberal support to the Labour Party in turning out the Conservative Baldwin government. He was made a peer in 1925 and died in 1928.

* * *

If people can overcome their conservatism in the matter of housing the experts could certainly find means of overcoming present shortages. All countries have developed at least the theory of prefabricated housing. In London recently ten men assembled a six-room house in seven hours and ten minutes, including insulation and plumbing.

* * *

Sea-minded Britain has been working on adapting aircraft-carrier methods to reduce the length of runways necessary for land-based aircraft. A Montreal expert has proposed using a central high point in an airfield for the same purpose. The fact is that the science of airfield construction has lagged far behind other developments in this air age.

* * *

Sixty per cent of all effort at Harwell is being devoted to civil rather than military applications of atomic energy, Sir John Cockcroft, Director of Harwell Research Station, told the U. K. Parliamentary Estimates Committee recently. Sir John predicted that "a unit producing power from nuclear energy may be operating by 1956-57", and added that plans are being made by which firms will share in development of atomic energy.

* * *

During the lying-in-state of his late Majesty King George VI last February, the flags of all the Commonwealth countries and the Colonies were placed at the south end of Westminster Hall. This expressive gesture met with general approval. The same idea will be carried out on a greater scale in the decorations of the Coronation route for Queen Elizabeth. Architects are laying out the area of Parliament Square and Broad Sanctuary in a single design of stands and decorations to represent all the realms and territories of which the Queen is head. To complete the project the Ministry of Works has arranged with the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Margaret's, Westminster, for the use of the site of their churchyard which extends round to the west end of the Abbey.

Winning The West

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.

RE VICTORIA BRIDGE

Sir,—I noticed in your issue of Sept. 10 an announcement by the Minister of Public Works that Victoria Bridge has been declared unsafe for traffic and has therefore been closed.

In view of the new Trans-Canada Highway and the proposed light surfacing of the road leading from the said highway to the village of Victoria, a new bridge would hardly seem warranted from the standpoint of traffic alone.

There is, however, another aspect of the case to which I would like to draw the attention of those who are charged with the responsibility of looking after the general welfare of this Province.

I think the present summer has amply demonstrated the growing importance of P. E. Island as a coming tourist centre. By the establishment of our National Park, the building of hotels, tourist homes and cabin accommodation, we have done much to encourage this tourist traffic. Much more remains to be done. I see no good reason why, under proper management, Prince Edward Island could not become the Florida of Eastern Canada.

Now a word about Victoria. There was a time, in the days of the sailing ships, when this village hummed with activity. Our farm produce was water borne to the many ports of the Maritime Provinces, with the disappearance of the sailing ships, the establishment of the car ferry, and motor transportation this activity ceased, but it is still the "Beautiful Victoria by the Sea".

Flanking this village is the beautiful Westmorland river, and my object in writing this letter is to know if a suitable dyke bridge with proper gates could be constructed so that this river could be kept full at all times.

If this were done, the river stocked with fish, with proper hotel accommodation, the facilities for bathing and boating Victoria might well rival the famous St. Andrews by the Sea.

This would be a matter of co-operation between the Federal and local Governments and the Travel Bureau.

I am, Sir, etc.
JOHN H. MYERS,
Hampton, P.E.I.

WHY THEY LEAVE HOME

Sir,—I was shocked yesterday, when I was told that D.M., a young man of our community, was selling off his stock and farm implements and going to live in the U.S. Last year he went there for a trial six months and liked it so well that now he is going there to make his home. We can ill afford to lose D. He is a young man of superior character and ability and very likeable. Since returning from war service he has farmed for six years but now believes he can do better in the U. S. I don't think I would leave Canada for the best job that Uncle Sam has to offer but the minds of ambitious young men are different from an old man's.

And D., if spared in good health is likely to achieve some wealth. Last month I read a letter from a citizen of the U. S. who was born and grew up across the road from me, now occupying a very responsible position, and has made considerable wealth, judged, even by American standards. Our Canadians, I have been told, in U. S. are dependable. Bluenoses and Spudarians were mentioned. Dependability is a wonderful moral asset. It often comes in for rapid promotion.

Many of our brainiest and best men and women have left us. A class-mate of mine from Dalhousie and Pine Hill was for some years in Trinidad as a teacher in our theological college there. His work wasn't valued as it should have been. (He was a bit too modern, the fact is). He is one of the finest and most intellectual men I have known. He is now the professor of Old Testament languages and literature in one of the big colleges in the U. S. I visited him a few years ago and met their son and daughter who were then going through Harvard University. Of course we do not begrudge Uncle Sam our best, but we are a small struggling nation and can't afford to lose such citizens.

This Province is one of the most beautiful and fruitful spots on this continent, but in regard to modern conveniences we are backward. D. spoke of our lack of electricity. Between New Glasgow and Stanley Bridge is a populous road, both sides of it, with a school hall, a community hall, a church and two stores in Stanley Bridge, and every last place wants electricity, and this strange power that no man has yet been able to explain can lend itself to all kinds of gadgets that make life sweeter, so many people think. Right now, here in Sambro, my daughter-in-law is washing by electricity, the family clothing I mean, a great relief to a housekeeper.

We still have too many dirt and dusty roads that annoy tourists and make some of them pretty mad, or, I should say, ugly mad. One globe-trotter came here in June before the patching was done, and after a two days' trial returned to the Information Bureau officer and threw his literature down, declaring her car was ruined. I guess her fury scared the official. Her tongue was speeding; and very likely her car had also been speeding over the unpatched road.

I started for Dalhousie in 1901 with $56.25 in my pocket — my school quarter's salary ($18.83 per month). I had to borrow all through my course or stay home. Borrowing is the last resort, and if at all possible, should be avoided, but at times it is wise to borrow. I know little about Government financing, but I dare say it would be wise for the Government to borrow from the people to modernize this Island. Would not the improvements pay for themselves in a few years? If any one doubts this I wish he would say so, with reasons.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. I. GREEN.
Stanley Bridge.
(Written in Sambro, N.S.)

SUMMER SNOW

Summer skiing is enjoyed on Mount Athabasca in the Canadian Rockies, with snow from 8,500 feet to the 11,000 foot level.

The Poet's Corner

BLACKBERRY TIME

Sunny slopes and briary thickets,
Haunt of bees and elfin crickets;
Whirring wings of grouse and quail
Greet the tinkle of our pail.
Winds across the clover-hay,
Pungent-sweet with pine and bay
Soothe our eager, searching eyes;
Lips are pursed with tart surprise—
Garnet cups of berry wine:
Nectar from a thorny vine!

—Katharyn Wolcott in the New York Herald Tribune.

The Age-Old Story

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. . . . And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

UNWANTED EMIGRANTS

Legislative Assembly, March 3, 1849:

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take into consideration matters contained in the documents presented to the House by Mr. Thornton, having reference to a number of poor emigrants landed at Georgetown from Pictou last summer, in a destitute condition.

The committee appeared to be unanimous in the opinion that the Government of Nova Scotia had no just claim upon this Colony for the amount sought to be refunded—that the immigrants referred to were, in short, likely to prove a very costly bargain to us. One hon. gentleman (Mr. H. McDonald) characterized many of them as being most miserable, blind, naked, diseased and lazy; and on the House resuming, the chairman reported the following resolution, which was unanimously agreed to:

"Resolved, that there does not appear to this Committee any equitable grounds, sufficient to induce the House of Assembly to reimburse the Government of Nova Scotia in the sum of £141 10s., paid by order of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of that Province to the Government of this Colony, as head-money for certain immigrants from the port of Glasgow in Great Britain, who were forwarded in the month of November last from Pictou, in Nova Scotia, to Georgetown in this Island, by order of the Government of that Province, inasmuch as the authorities in that Province exacted from the said immigrants the amount of head money payable by the laws of Nova Scotia; and it appearing to this Committee that the detention of the said emigrants in Nova Scotia was occasioned as a precautionary measure, for the safety of the inhabitants of that Province from infectious disease, and that many of such emigrants are aged and indigent persons, have become permanently settled in this Colony, and several of them have already made application to the House of Assembly for their necessary support."

Quaker Anniversary

(Winnipeg Free Press)

It was in 1652 that from the top of Pendle Hill in Lancashire George Fox saw a vision which moved him to sound the "Day of the Lord", and which, years later, was described by one of his most famous followers, William Penn. "He saw," wrote Pen, "a people as thick as motes in the sun, that should in time be brought home to the Lord, that there might be but one shepherd and one sheepfold in all the earth."

Last month, in all parts of the world, Quakers turned their thoughts back over the 300 years of vicissitude and triumph through which the "inward light" of George Fox has guided their Society of Friends.

The winds of doctrine were hot and violent when Fox began his mission. A man might be "whipped, branded, and bored through the tongue" for blasphemy, if indeed he were lucky enough to escape execution It was into this stern and zealous atmosphere that George Fox announced his claim to the possession of the "inward light, the key to all truth, the gift of second sight and the power to work miracles."

It was this man, whose words and actions could be as quick and violent as those of his adversaries, who interrupted church services and called ministers rogues and liars, who spent six years in various prisons for his beliefs; it was this stern visionary who founded a society whose name has become almost synonymous with peace and tranquility of mind.

Time has softened some of the harsher tenets of the Quaker code; music, art and literature and the lighter pleasures of life are no longer as suspect as they were. But the essential beliefs, in man's relations with his God and in the importance of peace and good works, these remain. It is by their works that the Quakers are known to the world, and it is by their works that they are this year honoring their founder.

Notes By The Way

Vancouver Province is deeply incensed at certain disadvantages of the new-fangled type of low built-in bathtub, a frustrating thing to get out of, compared with the earlier high model on legs, in which you could grab the rim and vault out. Better than that was the old Saturday night wooden bucket back of the kitchen stove; one could always upset it and roll out.—Ottawa Citizen.

A clergyman who had done a good deal of welfare work once told us that he could help to cure a man of drinking, of stealing and other things, but found it most difficult to curb the gambling habit. We used to know a man who lived not a thousand miles from Niagara Falls who was a confirmed gambler. He would go out to lunch, stop at a slot machine, put all his money into it, then ask for a glass of water and go back to work — hungry. He never lost that fixation.—Niagara Falls Review.

The Cheadle and Gatley Urban council is considering the idea of providing a large umbrella or canvas shelter for the protection of clergymen officiating at funerals in Cheadle cemetery. This is sensible, but by no means a new idea. The ancient Cartmel Priory in North Lancashire possesses a two-hundred-year-old umbrella. This quaint relic, which has oak ribs and a cover of painted canvas, used to be held over the vicar at funerals in times past. — Manchester Guardian.

As Oscar Wilde said of the telephone, its invention is quite valueless if one has nothing to say. So with television: the magic and wonder of it is not that a picture with a finger in everyone's future can be beamed from here to there but that a picture with a finger in everyone's future is launched into the air. There will be no dearth of televiewers from the very beginning of the first CBC program. The major task is to see that there are telethinkers at both ends of the wondrous process. Thinkers at just one end—no matter which end it is—will be ultimately disastrous. — Saturday Night. (Toronto).

Judging by their ties, a great number of men now living in New York were educated at English public schools or served in British regiments. But, according to a Londoner who has just returned from a visit there, the reason is not an influx of English tourists. He reports that smart outfitters on Fifth and Park avenues are making special displays of these ties, and one has them arranged around a shield bearing an English crest with a colored print of a Gordon Highlander in the background. A little research on the spot produced the information that most of the buyers are unaware that they are proclaiming say, Eton education or service in the Guards. They choose their ties for their patterns and colors, some of which they find so pleasing that they also have them for hatbands or bow-ties.— Manchester Guardian.

The tuna, once disparagingly called the horse mackerel and considered worthless, has become an exclusive fish which commands fancy prices. This cost factor is easily confirmed by the purchase of one small can. But in Norway at the present time the tuna fish catch is overtaxing handling facilities. Norwegians need dollars, the Canadians have a taste for tuna, creamed or otherwise. Will their supply and our demand be introduced, to the mutual advantage of international trade? Or will our consumers continue to hear the explanation that tuna fish is high because the supply is short? — Windsor Star.

Alberta farmers are in the midst of harvesting the greatest grain crop in history — some 447,000,000 bushels of all types of grain. As a result thousands of farm machines — tractors, combines, binders, threshing machines and trucks—will be busy from early morning until late at night in the weeks ahead. There have been 21 tractor deaths reported in Alberta this year till August 1. How many farm people have been killed in truck accidents we do not know. A hay baler killed a Cardston district farmer the other day. There are too many fatalities among farm people. Too many chances are being taken with high-powered farm machinery.— Lethbridge Herald.

A leading research company was recently commissioned to study passenger car usage in the Dominion. A total of more than 3,000 households in Canada were interviewed. The survey established the following facts: Six out of 10 cars in the Dominion are bought for work or business. Pleasure driving accounts for only nine per cent of all milage driven by Canadian motorists in a year. About 3,500,000 adult Canadians use a motor car every day, and 84 per cent of all the miles they drive are for some essential purpose. Seventy per cent of farm households have one or more cars. More than half of Canadian families own one or more motor cars. —Winnipeg Tribune.

Arrival in Vancouver of the Canadian Pacific freighter Maplecove for the Orient trade indicates the cheering fact that Canada's eyes are turned westward again. Within the past several months there has been a significant increase in trans-Pacific ship operation. The Vigan and the Ventura, flying the house flag of the Pacific Express Line owned in Norway, have gone into service from this port among others. The appearance of the Maplecove in the picture shows that Canadians appreciate and are ready to compete again for the commerce of the Orient.—Vancouver Sun.

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