

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1951

Alternative To Autocracy

Professor J. A. Corry, professor of political science at Queen's University, believes that Parliament is losing control over Government policy and administration.

When it comes to the remedy Professor Corry prescribes, however, there will undoubtedly be much difference of opinion.

This suggestion breaks down on two points. In the first place, officials of the public service of Canada are supposed to be devoid of politics.

What does make sense is Professor Corry's proposal that committees of the House of Commons be set up to examine the effect of government by order-in-council on individual rights and freedoms.

The Indian Act

Once more the Bill, slightly amended, introduced in Parliament last year to revise the Indian Act is to come before the House.

The policies followed for the past one hundred or two hundred years are roundly condemned. The object of the early Indian policy was to protect the native inhabitants from exploitation by representatives of a more advanced and powerful civilization.

Unfortunately the protective or paternal aspect of the legislation served the opposite purpose. It deprived the Indian of self respect and of initiative.

The solution proposed by the Civil Liberties Union, largely based on the U. N. Declaration of Civil Rights, is to eliminate discrimination against the Indian, provide an education which will put him on a par economically with his fellow Canadians and aim at enabling him to become capable of maintaining himself in Canadian society.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is only natural New Scotland should be top in Scotia's favorite winter pastime, curling.

Foxes at large in Cape Breton threaten to become as plentiful and destructive as rabbits in Australia.

Spring may not yet be with us but a few days of going without rubbers gives a pleasant foretaste of things to come.

The surplus claimed last year by the Provincial Government on ordinary account was more than accounted for by its sales tax collected on liquor and tobacco.

Torquato Tasso, Italian poet, was born yesterday's date 1544. A wanderer from place to place, victim of an unhappy mental condition, Tasso wrote lyrics, plays, dia-

logues and letters that are full of beauties. His fame, however, rests on the epic "Gerusalemme Liberata" and the pastoral play "Aminta."

Britain has passed a vote to spend \$1,239,000,000 on home defence this year, which, of course, means more austerity.

The Russians have no use for Boy Scouts—they have 13,000,000 boy pioneers, between the ages of 9 and 15, whom they train in the principles of Communism.

The high opinion of P. E. I. potatoes in Ontario should encourage growers to continue to improve their product so as to keep well ahead of possible Ontario improvements.

It has long been observed that we come to resemble those with whom we strive. Britain seems to be experiencing something of the sort if reports of the back-to-work movement of housewives is any indication.

It is not so much a case of some seed falling amongst thorns, as of the sower planting the thorns with the seed, according to the challenging results of a survey carried out by the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

Those who postponed their efforts in the "Job Campaign" seem likely to be caught without skilled workmen in the surprisingly early arrival of spring weather with its expected demands for labour of all kinds.

Federal rent control expires in little more than a month, which is good news for owners, but not so good for tenants. The Provincial Government has not disclosed what their intentions are in the matter.

Almost everyone learning of flood and fire and civilian battle casualties has wished to be able to lend a helping hand to the victims. Through the Red Cross it is possible to be, in effect, at the scene of disaster trained and equipped too for the relief of human suffering.

Mr. R. L. Burge, M.L.A., says there should be at least one cow to every five acres of arable land, and most agriculturists will agree with him that when farmers become interested in cattle breeding they begin improving their stock, and consequently profit.

As there have been many requests for the memoirs of the Hon. A. E. Arsenault, The Guardian will shortly publish them in book form with substantial additions. They will be placed on sale and at Judge Arsenault's request the proceeds will be divided equally between the Catholic and Protestant Orphanages.

Mr. Saville, with his customary acuteness, put in a nutshell a comparison between wheat growers of the West and potato growers in the Maritimes: "The wheat growers were competing against subsidized growers in Europe but they could store their wheat. Now the potato growers are up against subsidized products in the U. S. A. but they can not store their product."

The sympathy of a host of friends will be extended to Mr. B. Graham Rogers and other relatives of Mr. Rogers' father, Mr. Charles R. Rogers, who has passed away in Summerside at a patriarchal age. He was one of Prince Edward Island's finest citizens, and contributed in many ways to the improvements we enjoy today over the conditions prevailing a half century ago. He might easily have achieved a high position in public life, but he preferred the role of private citizen, in which he set an example well worthy of remembrance and emulation.

It is reported that employment in Quebec since August 1950 has increased 100,000, and in Ontario 65,000. In Montreal alone 1,500 new factories have been established in 10 years. A considerable portion of the factories began as armament plants, financed with taxes drawn from the whole of Canada. Here in the Maritimes, in contrast with booming Central Canada, most fields of manufacturing have barely held their own, and some have deteriorated.

The United Nations organization in appealing for assistance for the Asiatics declares that the longing of the down-and-out Chinese is for just an acre or so of land which they could call their own, and not be at the mercy of the huge profiteers and money lenders who are grinding them in abject slavery. This lends point to Mr. Saville's remark in the debate on the address: "If the young people of this generation had the same love of free homes as the older people they would not be leaving the farms."

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.

A BASIC PROBLEM

Sir.—It seems to this reader that the Canadian people generally—but the farm folk particularly—are becoming more alert to the fact of their dependence upon the ability of our shrinking farm population to continue to produce abundance!

For one thing, the cost of food to the final users is being front-paged with disheartening frequency; and I notice a forthright assertion in your editorial columns that "our livestock numbers are not keeping pace with the growth of Canada's population"; also, "Canada's human population is increasing annually at the rate of about 245,000, and these new mouths to feed would call for an extra 33,000,000 pounds of meat and meat products."

Everyone accepts and seems to understand the wisdom in the proverb "We are what we eat"; but only a tiny fraction of the people in the towns and cities realize that the principle runs out to the farms, to the field crops and to the pastures, and that our livestock are also "what they eat". The press is doing yeoman service when it stresses the need to protect our precious topsoil which, according to competent agricultural authorities, can easily, otherwise, become the victim of a too aggressive "cheap food" policy. Maybe "lack of a long range farm policy" would be a more accurate description. At any rate I was impressed with a statement made by Senator Young (North Dakota) at Washington the other day, and feel that it neatly fits the Canadian farm scene: "The farmer isn't getting an unfair price after the stuff leaves the farm."

As the U. S. population has moved forward by 20,000,000 since 1940, and as the per capita annual meat consumption reaches to 140 pounds, here obviously would be an increased home demand for meat, to feed these new mouths", of 28 billion pounds—i.e., 1,400,000 tons of meat and meat products to be added to the 1940 productivity of U. S. fields. I would like to caliper these extra meat requirements, since 1940, by reminding the average busy reader that the meat consumption of Canada's 14 million people called for just 2 billion pounds in 1930—i.e., 1,000,000 tons.

Therefore, I find it encouraging to see the warning by one of the Canadian banks: "Artificial fertilizers must be regarded as an essential requirement of agriculture. They supplement the production of plant food by the soil body itself. They improve the quality of the vegetation, and they help to preserve the soil."

NEWFOUNDLAND TRADE

Sir.—When the Government purchased the Eskimo boat a year ago last May, one could hear nothing except about the wonderful increase it would mean in our trade to Newfoundland. Now if our Government was so interested in furthering this trade, why is it they are at a loss to give any good advice or constructive ideas? It seems strange that every time our good Premier Jones speaks in Halifax he never forgets to speak about our trade possibilities, and especially of late the Labrador development. I agree with his version of the trade possibilities and worthy of consideration, but how much is he willing to offer other than talk?

Talk is cheap and a good way to vent visions but what we want now is real good advice to help realize these visions, also some good men to help pioneer this trade possibility. Again if anyone is willing to pioneer this venture why should our Government want to snuff him out?—it seems to me they should be happy to have someone who is willing to spend his money to further this industry.

Let us now take a look at some things which happened last Spring and perhaps we can get a little bit better view of happenings at that time. Now our Federation of Agriculture was interested in the possibilities of the Newfoundland Trade and figured perhaps the best way to find out for themselves was to send someone down. It seems they decided upon sending down their secretary, Mr. Leo McIsaac; also the Minister of Industry and Natural Resources, was to travel with him and this would also give an opportunity to see the trade possibilities for himself. After all arrangements were made, the Minister reported to the Federation that he could not go and that our Government was scared the Newfoundland Government or people might put him on the spot over the Eskimo boat.

Now what was the good ship Eskimo doing? I am sure she wasn't bootlegging or doing something else of a bad nature—but I believe she was interfering with the trade relations in Newfoundland. This statement coming from a Government source leads one to believe that there must have been complaints coming into them about this boat. If these complaints are just why not advertise them so that all will know, or make some adjustments which will patch up things again? Is it that our Government is again at a loss to know what to do?

I was in St. John's in February and I heard from all quarters that this boat was causing trouble in dealing with the outports, and that it was the intention of the Newfoundland Government to investigate some form of inspection in all ports that would hold up this boat that was causing trouble. They had it figured out that if this boat could be held up for a couple of days in each port over inspection of goods, by the time she would arrive at her last port of call the balance of her cargo would have perished and they figured would cause a money loss by the shippers who in turn would likely quit.

"What Say, Fellow?"



NEWS ITEM "Figures published by the Defence Construction Limited point up another feature of the rearmament program—a heavy plunge on construction or reparation of barracks blocks."

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) SNOWSTORM FATALITY "During the violent snow storm of Tuesday last, James Leech, an inhabitant of Cove Head, perished through the inclemency of the weather. Being engaged in building a vessel at some distance from his residence, he left the shipyard on horseback, on his return home, about eight o'clock in the evening. About one o'clock his horse came home without him, and some time after, his dog, This naturally excited alarm, and on search being made, he was found a little after day break, about three miles from the house, stretched on the ice, dead. From the circumstance of the deceased having been in the habit of using tobacco, and from the quantity of saliva impregnated with it which was observed around him, it was obvious that he must have lived a considerable time after falling from his horse."

The Poet's Corner HAUNTED HOUSES All houses wherein men have lived and died Are haunted houses. Through the open doors one o'clock his horse came home without him, and some time after, his dog, This naturally excited alarm, and on search being made, he was found a little after day break, about three miles from the house, stretched on the ice, dead. From the circumstance of the deceased having been in the habit of using tobacco, and from the quantity of saliva impregnated with it which was observed around him, it was obvious that he must have lived a considerable time after falling from his horse."

ROCKY POINT SERVICE Sir.—Many letters have appeared of late with reference to the situation at Rocky Point and adjoining districts.

One scribe, I note, has, with what seems to me, considerable presumption, signed himself (or herself) "Vox Populi". Surely a more appropriate signature would have been "Vox uni hominis". Who does he think he is speaking for anyway? Is he really presuming to be "The Voice of the People?" Both this writer, and also "West River West" seem to resent very deeply the fact that residents of the Rocky Point district are carried free on board boat for two miles (not four or five as stated), and berates us for our terrible ingratitude and continual complaining over our disadvantages, which of course to them seem very trifling.

Well, we paid fares on the Rocky Point ferry for years and years and years, and we are indeed grateful to a Government which not so long ago finally removed this nuisance, for nuisance it certainly was, especially to truck drivers and others who sometimes find it necessary to cross on the ferry two or three times a day during the rush season, but I can assure those correspondents that if the people of this vicinity had free and ready access to the convenience of travel by train, bus, or bridge, they would gladly pay for such privileges.

Furthermore, any comparison between the situation of the Rocky Point people and those living at or near the head of West River are so absurd as to be almost ridiculous. The latter are in close proximity to doctors—one at Bonshaw and another in Crapaud; and there are no banking facilities in Victoria, as well as moving pictures, an indoor skating rink, large well stocked stores (where one can buy almost everything one requires), churches, a graded school, etc., etc. Crapaud has a large up-to-date creamery, so that eliminates the problem of how to maintain regular deliveries of cream which we find quite a problem here at times. Hampton is also a thriving village I believe, so I do not see any need for a great outcry because those residents cannot get to Charlottetown at all times. On the other hand, we in this vicinity have to depend on Charlottetown almost entirely for our business, professional, and recreational needs.

I doubt very much if those who try to belittle our problems would care to move from their present location and come to live in Rocky Point; and if they did, I have no doubt that they would soon find out to their sorrow and chagrin just how real and how serious are

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Notes By The Way

If you want to destroy education in Canada, we have only to push as many people into the universities as would like to go, no matter how clogged and burst the universities may be by the crowd. Let us keep our universities for our best minds, and let us be sure that our best minds are able to attend them. But let us never deceive ourselves that everybody, or nearly everybody, should go to a university. And let us never deceive ourselves that education is free; at the cheapest it can only be bought by the hardest and most unpopular kind of work—brain work.—(Peterborough Examiner).

The Prime Minister of India is a Hindu; the Deputy Leader, who is also the Education Minister, is a Moslem, so too is the Minister of Communications; the Defence Minister is a Sikh; the Health Minister a Christian; the Law Minister and the Minister of Labor are members of scheduled castes; nine governors of states in India include a Moslem, a Christian, and a Parsi. The elected speaker of the largest state legislature in India is a Moslem. The Supreme Court of India includes a Moslem judge and a Christian judge. The Chief Justice of Bombay High Court is a Moslem. Our fighting forces include Moslems—one of them a general.—(From speech by Sir Bengal Rau).

Art is a contemplative business. It is also a ruthless business. One should either write ruthlessly what one believes to be the truth, or shut up. Now I happen to believe that Europe is doomed, a chapter in history which is drawing to its finish. This is so to speak my contemplative truth. Looking at the world with detachment, under the sign of eternity, I find it not even disturbing. But I also happen to believe in the ethical imperative of fighting evil, even if the fight is hopeless. And on this plane my contemplative truth becomes defeatist propaganda and hence an immoral influence. You can't get out of the dilemma between contemplation and action. There were idle periods in history when the two went together. In times like ours, they are incompatible. And I am an isolated case. European art is dying out, because it can't live without truth, and its truth has become arsenic.—(From "The Age of Longing" by Arthur Koestler).

Three Canadian universities are benefiting this year from the generosity of the John R. and Mary Markle Foundation. McGill, Toronto and Dalhousie are all receiving substantial grants. The Markle system is, so far as we know, a unique scheme. It asks the medical schools of the continent to submit projects which will extend over several years. It asks them also to centre these projects around individuals whom they believe have a real contribution to make to medical teaching or research. Then, after an intensive and prolonged method of screening and selection, the Markle scholars are chosen, and it speaks well for the quality of the work done in Canadian universities that, in 1951, the Canadian candidates were successful. It has now become a most standard practice for the big American Foundations to extend their work to Canada. To be benefited, we thus receive an immense practical benefit, but they are welcomed for an indication of the fundamental community of interest which holds the United States and Canada together.—(Montreal Star).

Lawyers, who comprise 30 percent of the House of Commons, do the most of the talking. And do they look after their professional interest? In all the frantic search for more revenue, never, never, has there been a suggestion that here is an untouched field of taxation. A tax of, say, 25 percent on lawyers' fees would help a great deal, for there are over 8,000 lawyers in active practice in ten Provinces. It should be easily collectable by the Provinces, for the law society of each Province keeps a close check on every member. It's about the only activity not especially taxed. Of course it's a ridiculous ideal. Any lawyer will say it's outrageous, preposterous, unconstitutional, unfair, unjust; would afflict poor people, add to the cost of living, hurt struggling beginners, and be immoral. It would be condemned in French, English and Latin. And yet every argument and fact that could be brought to bear against a special tax on lawyers would apply with same or greater force against the proposed turnover tax. Perhaps the great lawyer who is Prime Minister, and the four eminent K.C.'s who are Provincial Premiers, might pause to consider the consumer and the struggling store-keeper on the side street.—(The Printed Word).

The record total of annual gold production in Canada was \$206,789,000 in 1941.

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