

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1951

Milking The Taxpayer

The cost of milk from cow to consumer is causing political repercussions in socialist Britain. Socialist planners believe that the remedy for the situation is to nationalize the cows. That means that it would be a punishable offence for any ordinary farmer to own a cow. He might milk the cow in trust, so to speak, on behalf of the Ministry of Food. But such blatant capitalism as the ownership of a cow would be banished forever.

The chances are that if this happens it will be the taxpayer and not the cow that gets milked. The Russians found that out when they tried to collectivize the farms in the Ukraine. Even the heavy-handed men of Moscow had to concede that if you took away the cows from the farmers the chances were that very little milk would be produced.

British farmers have withstood what the Hon. Brooke Claxton described in 1939 as "the trend towards collectivism" better than most. If the Labor Government decides to nationalize the nation's cows, they will quickly discover that milk and politics don't mix.

The Election Campaign

The muddy roads have had a dampening effect on the Provincial election campaign, but it is hoped that by Thursday they will have improved sufficiently to enable the voters to turn out in larger numbers than ever to exercise their century-old right to the franchise. The major issues have been fully covered in the addresses published in our columns, where they can be read and analyzed in cold type as they should be.

Both the major parties emphasize their programmes for development of the farming and fishing industries, for improved highways, and for continuation and extension of the various phases of education, public health and social welfare. There are differences in the respective policies on these subjects, but apparently none as to their overall importance. The Liberals, among other things, promise a new Department of Fisheries, more veterinarians and agricultural fieldmen, more assistance in marketing and storage, land clearing and drainage, more attention to truck and water transportation, and immediate research into certain phases of dairying and manufacturing possibilities. The Conservatives, stressing the lack of capital as a major drawback to our basic activities, undertake to set up a special \$1,000,000 fund for the advancement of long-term loans at low interest rates for the purchase of farm lands, livestock, essential farming equipment, boats and fishing gear, fish buildings and construction of freezers and storage facilities. They also promise to increase teachers' salaries and expedite rural electrification.

Both parties are pledged to furtherance of our fiscal claims at Ottawa, though their leading spokesmen are by no means as explicit as was Mr. William Hughes, a former Liberal Provincial Treasurer, in estimating at \$6,000,000 our minimum needs. Mr. Hughes tabled pages of comparative figures on this question in the Legislature, and undertook to go fully into them with the members on both sides. He maintained that against our present per capita income of \$396 we should be getting \$691, which he called the level of the Canadian average. His seems to have been a lone voice crying in the wilderness. He is now in the anomalous position of running as the supporter of a Government he accuses of having failed lamentably in preparing for the coming Dominion-Provincial tax conference. The Opposition would be in a better position to score on this point had they not fumbled the ball when they had the chance of driving Mr. Hughes' statements home in the Budget debate last March.

Coupled with the mutual promises of extending old age pensions payments, is the repudiation by both parties of the sales tax which the Federal Government has proposed as a necessary means of financing the Provinces' share of the costs. Of all the issues in the campaign, this one remains the most inexplicable. In the meantime, the Federal Government has boosted its own sales tax by 25 per cent, thereby making the proposed provincial tax still more burdensome, and reducing the meagre dollars of every old age pensioner to smaller proportions. With the announcement of this imposition in the Abbott Bud-

get, the so-called turnover tax for the Provinces looks more like a homeless orphan than ever.

In the newspaper discussions at least, the controversies have been conducted on both sides with comparatively little personal abuse. The candidates are men of standing and probity in their communities, and there is no question about their genuine concern for the interests of their Province and constituencies. Their party policies must be judged by every elector for himself. The overall material issue is undoubtedly our financial position, upon which all our plans for the future depend. But over-riding this is another issue, touched upon in these columns yesterday. That is the maintenance of the integrity of our electoral system. Bribery and corruption rarely appear in their naked ugliness in present-day campaigns; they are draped in many flattering disguises. But they can be recognized, always, by their appeal to self interest rather than to the public interest. Where these interests conflict, the danger to our free democracy is there and the challenge to the electorate is plain and inescapable.

EDITORIAL NOTES

According to rumor, the Federal by-election in Queen's is to be called two months after the Provincial election—on June 26.

A visitor by air remarked with surprise on the civilized and cultivated appearance of the Island. Evidently even fellow-Maritimers do not all realize the aptness of the name "Million Acre Farm."

This is Anzac Day in memory of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps which in 1915 effected a landing under intense difficulties at Gaba Tepe (Anzac Cove) on the Gallipoli peninsula.

The final stages of the election campaign have brought an unfortunate return to mud-slinging and abuse but electors should not have too much difficulty in examining policies, promises and performances despite the smog-screens from all sides.

The Court of Chief Pleas, the Parliament of the Channel Island of Sark, has decided that trippers will not be allowed to land on the island on Sundays. An application by a shipping company to run a steamer service from Guernsey to the island on Sundays has been rejected.

It seems the Torquay tariff conferences have not brought reductions in as many items as had been hoped. The sterling area countries have not found that past reductions helped very much in opening the United States market and proved reluctant to sacrifice the known advantages of the Imperial preference.

It will be some time before official reports tell the exact cause of the loss of the submarine "Affray" with all her gallant crew. It is highly probable, however, that poisonous fumes from the submarine's batteries played their part in this as in other tragedies. Discovery of a safe, efficient storage battery would take a good deal of the risk out of the life of the submariner.

Hackney stallions exported to Canada and the United States have brought 50,000 dollars to Great Britain during the past six weeks, Mr. R. A. Brown, secretary of the British Horse Society, declared the other day. Mr. Brown says that hackneys are probably the most pedigreed horses in the world. They originated in Norfolk 200 years ago.

Oliver Cromwell, the great protector, was born this date 1599. He early became a Puritan and Calvinist and opposed Laud's absolutist pretensions in and out of Parliament. In the civil war he organized cavalry regiments of stern and godly yeomen to withstand the dash of the royalist cavaliers. He soon triumphed over both King and Parliament and established a vigorous and strenuous Government which the English were contented to exchange for that of the Stuarts after his death.

It is now suggested Canada will become a bi-currency nation as well as a by-lingual one. Lord Balfour of Inchyre told a luncheon meeting of London business men he wouldn't be surprised if Canada eventually adopts a dual currency, convertible into sterling or dollars. Lord Balfour, a business man who boosts sterling-area trade as chairman of the Empire Industries Association, said that with a dual currency Canada could become even more of a bridge between the dollar and sterling countries than she is today. "Canada has a problem to solve," he said. "I think it will become plain in time that she must sell some of her primary products in the sterling area. She may decide to link her currency to sterling or to accept sterling on the basis of a long-time funded debt."

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.

REFLECTIONS ON THE TIMES

Sir,—I read with interest in The Guardian of March 30th a note written by Mr. W. A. Moose of Kensington, contradicting the story of over-charging for towing people through the bad road up to \$15. I live in Glenwood and by the time the story got here it was \$25.

Peculiar how prone we are to make a good story better and a bad one worse. Many of us have pulled an unfortunate out of the ditch for a smile and "thank you," but to live near a road like that where one is asked day and night for assistance needs more than a smile.

I know a man, his wife and two small children who live in Charlottetown who spent Easter in O'Leary and vicinity. As it was important that they be in town Monday morning they started from O'Leary Sunday evening, but when they got to the mud they were told they couldn't be pulled through for three hours, so they came back to O'Leary near midnight. They went by rail Monday morning. They would gladly have paid to get through. I also was a passenger in a car that went through but without behind pushing they made it.

Mr. Moose ended his note by saying it doesn't always pay to lend a helping hand. There is another payment awaiting him as we are given even a cup of cold water given in the right spirit has its reward.

I also read a letter condemning the present Government and signed Disgusted Liberal. Perhaps he is a sincere man who will stick to his decisions but I know folk "out our way" who felt like overthrowing the Government last election over the Prohibition question, but when the day came they seemed to be enjoying a very fine forgiving spirit and were content to let bygones be bygones and stick to the old party. If the Government had built a drag sleigh large enough for a car to run onto and had the drag hitched to a bulldozer with a man in charge, there might have been less unfavorable comments heard.

I also read letters some time ago that were quite pointed and expressed the desire of the writers to boost not only the Premier, but his colleagues as well, but Walter knows "for a" that and a "that a Liberal is a Liberal for a" that.

The writer is not a Liberal but has personal friends who are members of that party. Then there is Hon. W. E. Deary, even his opponents respect his judgment. I read Premier Jones' speech with interest and the prospects for the future looked encouraging indeed. I also read Mr. Jones' biography in the Press, and I admired his ability, both mental and physical. I also admire his ability as a farmer to win the George V Medal and also to select and produce cattle which qualify for the OXX standard that gave Mr. Jones the Master Breeder's Certificate for live stock raising which today is no mean occupation.

Even apart from Mr. Jones' honorable position and his many talents he must be enjoying very pleasant surroundings and a very peaceful state of mind when he said there wasn't a worry on P. E. I., only who would win the hockey game, or the potato situation. How about the mother who has a boy out drinking and she stays awake to hear his unsteady step. Does nobody care for the future of the unborn child whose mother is drinking and smoking because it is fashionable to go to the Vendor's shop? I read that somewhere beyond the sunset of life we give an account of our stewardship and he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong that he hath done and there is no respecter of persons. Paul seemed to think his influence was important when he said, "If meat make my brother to offend I will eat no meat." How about saying, "If wine make my sister to offend I will vote against the Vendor's Shop?"

I don't like criticism or sarcasm, not even snubs and rubs. I don't blame the Government for the low price of potatoes or credit them with the high price of beef; it is the result of supply and demand. I appreciate service. For instance last winter our road was kept free of snow and we escaped the cold wintry blasts as we rode in comfort up to the village; but if we allow personal privileges to sway our judgment from the common good we would be selfish.

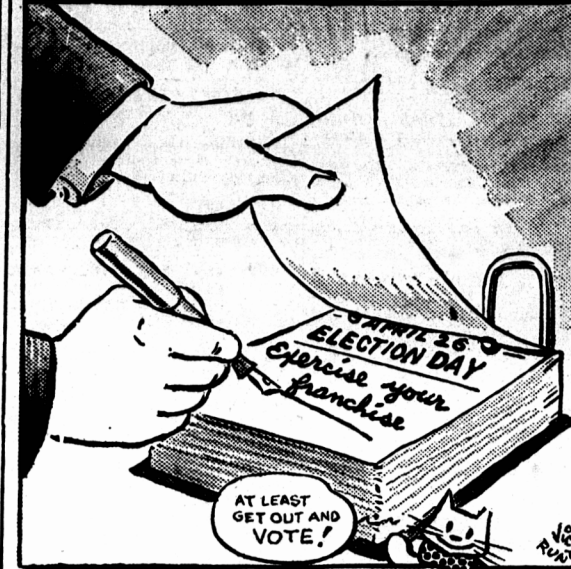
A few years ago while visiting in the beautiful valley of Green, B. C. I was introduced to a business man who spoke with great respect for the little Province that remained dry and I felt proud of our heritage. I hope that gentleman hasn't heard about us spending over two million last year in booze.

If ever there was a time when we needed some leadership it's NOW, with millions being spent for defence to keep the enemy out but leaving the door open so King Alcohol can come who is not only an enemy of our bodies but our souls as well.

I am, Sir, THOMAS GORRILL, Glenwood, Lot 8.

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Memo For To-morrow



The Poets Corner

THE IMMORTAL Beauty is still immortal in our eyes, When sways no more the spirit-haunted reed; When the wild grape shall build No more her canopies, When blows no more the moon-grey thistle seed, When the last bell has lulled the white flocks home; When the last eve has stilled The wandering wind and touched the dying foam; When the last moon burns low, and spark by spark The little worlds die out along the dark.

The Age-Old Story

The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envy-ings.

Canada's Fiscal Policy

(Bank of Montreal Letter) MONTREAL, April 24 — Canada's new taxes will doubtless succeed in providing the government with funds for soaring defence expenditures, but the overall anti-inflationary effect of the budget is more open to conjecture. This assessment of the Federal budget appears in the Bank of Montreal's latest Business Review, which emphasizes that the country's economy lacks, at present, the actual capacity to meet all that is demanded of it. Stating that an objective appraisal of the budget must be made from two viewpoints, the B. of M. comments that the new tax measures "will no doubt prove effective" in providing the central authority with funds for rapidly mounting defence outlays. The over-riding problem, as the bank sees it, is the fact that "the physical capacity of the economy as it is now operating is insufficient to satisfy all the demands that are being made upon it." As the Minister of Finance said in his budget speech, "we cannot allow the defence program to suffer, nor would we wish to see a reduction in the levels of ordinary personal consumption" . . . it is largely in the field of capital investment and consumer durables that "room will have to be made for the defence program."

Looking at budgetary measures in the light of this policy, the B. of M. says "it would appear that those relating to corporations should have, as intended, a limiting effect on private capital investment." To the extent that the new surtax reduces profits, the financial capacity of business to expand will be "held down more closely," in line with the availability of materials, manpower and the prior needs of the defence program. The review questions, however, the effects of the new taxes on consumer income and expenditure. The impact of budgetary meas-

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Notes By The Way

More physical education is needed by the young, according to a local Y.M.C.A. official. There should be a special course in fitting youngsters to carry tax burdens.—London Free Press.

The announcement that \$800,000 has been set aside to construct a bomb proof shelter for the President of the United States and his staff throws an interesting light on the depreciation in the value of the dollar. That sum would have been sufficient for a most elaborate government building above ground just a few short decades ago.—Fort William Times-Journal.

High marks for ingenuity should be given Mrs. E. Hahn and her colleagues of the Housewives' Consumer Association for proposing to Premier Frost of Ontario that liquor profits be used to subsidize the retail price of milk. Once upon a time it was accepted that if the father drank liquor the chances of the children having enough milk were small. The new proposal would neatly reverse this. The drinker of hard stuff would be performing a patriotic service and the more he imbibed the more would be available to subsidize milk for children. Governments

which higher-pay demands are automatically justified. The review emphasizes that to point out these difficulties is not to suggest that practical alternatives are readily available. "In the ultimate analysis, the effectiveness of budgetary measures as a curb on consumer spending depends on the willingness of the public to permit their spending to be curbed rather than to seek compensatory pay increases."

—The Islander, May 7, 1950.

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