

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, DEC. 3, 1951

Safety Council Appeal

The U. S. National Safety Council has issued a nation-wide appeal to keep "the millionth traffic death from being a tragic Christmas present to some American family." At the present rate of motor traffic deaths, the Council points out, the millionth victim is expected to die the third week of December—almost at the height of the Christmas season. This is a striking way of emphasizing a problem which has also reached very serious proportions in Canada.

The Christmas-New Year's holiday season is the peak accident period of the year and the time when traffic accidents are most serious, according to the Safety Council's findings. Heavier travel and the festive spirit of the season always add to the normal winter hazards of bad weather, slippery roads and added hours of darkness. Christmas traffic in Canada suffers from the same handicaps. These increased hazards call for extra care and caution on the part of both pedestrians and drivers.

The National Safety Council's campaign might well be supplemented by Provincial campaigns in this country. Anything that will tend to reduce the accident toll at this time would be a first class investment.

Carried - 164 To 27

The salary boosts for the Board of Transport Commissioners have gone through despite Conservative opposition in Parliament. The bill, which received CCF and Social Credit as well as Government support, increases the Chief Commissioner's salary from \$15,000 to \$16,000 a year, the Assistant Chief Commissioner's from \$12,000 to \$14,000, the Deputy Chief Commissioner's from \$10,000 to \$13,000, and the other three Commissioners from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

As noted by Conservative members, the salaries of these fortunate gentlemen had been increased only four years ago. Their new salary boost was passed by a vote 164 to 27. That speaks for itself—politically. The need for "economy", which the Commissioners gave as their reason for treating our Hillsboro Bridge agreement with the Dominion Government as a scrap of worthless paper, does not appear to have been given much consideration.

How did our Island Liberal members vote on this issue? We have not seen the details in Hansard yet, but we fear it is the old, old story. In disunity we are getting nowhere fast.

Fantastic Budgeting

Finance Minister Abbott's failure to present a realistic budget has reached embarrassing proportions, as pointed out by the Globe and Mail. A seven-month surplus of \$604,700,000, against a budgetary estimate of \$30,000,000 for the entire fiscal year, no longer bears any true relationship to the taxpaying ability of the nation. It is also out of relationship with the productivity rate of the country, because of the price inflation factor. For the same reason it is out of any rational relationship with the new rates made applicable in the last Budget. And it foreshadows grave dangers to the national economy arising from a complex of fiscal policies which converge in the national tax structure.

For the seven month period, corporation tax revenue was running ahead of 1950 by 65 per cent. In at least two fields, cigaret and automobile sales, there is evidence that the rates themselves have encountered the law of diminishing returns. Fewer cigarets are being consumed, fewer cars are being bought, and production is greatly slowed down. Corporation income soon will show lower levels as a result of these lower marketings.

Personal income tax payments are running 50 per cent above a year ago, although the new rates were relatively modest and have not been applicable for much of the seven-month period. Sales, excise and other taxes levied as a percentage of prices, are running higher than a year ago by 53 per cent, with customs dues up by 39 per cent. These taxes also enter the vicious circle of price inflation, becoming elements of costs which must be recovered in higher prices.

In the meantime, defense expenditures for the seven months have been only a little more than one-third of the estimate for the whole year. While they may soar dur-

ing the last five months, every dollar of this fund as yet unspent will buy less when it is spent. Thus, should the whole allocation for defense be spent by March 31 next, the total of goods and services acquired will be less than that for which the money was voted.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The new scale of truck license fees favours the owner who does a small job with a big truck as against the one who carries capacity loads.

Pulpwood buyers have now the responsibility of seeing wood lot owners comply with the law in cutting wood pulp for export.

The Newfoundland Government has now a clear road ahead to fulfil its promises to the electors to inaugurate a new and extensive industrial programme calculated to take up the slack in emigration.

Signs are increasing that the lean bacon hog is the coming thing in the United States as it has already proved in this country. The unrivalled position of this Province to supply the demand for breeding stock should pay dividends.

There is a difference of opinion among lobster fishermen whether it is better to reduce the width of slot openings or increase the size of lobsters. The result should be the same, but chances are that loose slats may entrap under-sized lobsters.

The new Defence Expenditures Committee of the Commons holds its first full meeting tomorrow. It is empowered to examine all defence expenditures and commitments since March 1, 1950. It should also have an interest in expenditures which should have been made.

It is appropriate that an American, Dr. Lewis Williams Douglas, should have opened Dalhousie University's new arts and administration building. Apart from family links of Dr. Douglas, is the fact that Dalhousie was founded with American money, contributed a little unwillingly perhaps to the British who were temporarily collecting the excise tax in Bangor.

Japan is now competing with Florida in the orange market. A Lakeland, Fla., report says Florida is rushing tangerines to Canada to counter importation of 952,000 boxes of low-priced Mandarin oranges from Japan. Florida's first carload of the zipper-skinned fruit for Canada this season is on its way. The Mandarin orange is small and resembles a tangerine.

Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson (real name Lewis; he adopted Louis), Scottish writer, died this date 1894 in Samoa. Writing was always his delight and ill health did not stay his pen. His first and perhaps greatest success was "Treasure Island", which besides its intensity and vividness, shows imaginative appeal, dramatic progress and moral originality. R.L.S.'s style is clear, exact and smooth and imparts a high artistic quality even to the adventure story.

Some people wonder why so many of our girls take one way tickets to the mainland. It is not to be wondered at. Marriage is more popular than ever in the United States. The Census Bureau says only 19 per cent of women over 14 are single today, compared with 28 per cent in 1940 and 34 per cent in 1890; about 26 per cent of the men are single, compared with 35 per cent in 1940 and 38 per cent in 1890.

Ice cream manufacturers please note. It has long been recognized by housewives that one of the best preventatives of moths is to wrap woollens, etc., in newspapers where the ink acts as an antidote. But here is a new one. Addressing a sales convention in London recently, the chairman of an ice cream manufacturing company said: "No one would welcome increased newspaper supplies more than my firm, for the insulating capacity of a good newspaper is incomparable! Ice cream wrapped in newspaper will stay firm for two or three hours. This fact is of tremendous importance".

There is to be no change in the set-up of Federal Elections Act. The special committee of the House of Commons set up to study proposed amendments, glanced briefly at other systems like the "alternative vote" (used in Manitoba and Alberta), proportional representation, and the "second ballot." On them all, only the alternative vote drew a second glance. Chief Electoral Officer Nelson Castonguay considered that it was only a "slight improvement" on the ancient and honorable relative majority system. The committee, with one or two exceptions, decided to let well enough alone. The Dominion Elections Act, as amended, will provide for continued use of the existing system.

Possible Unforeseen Developments

NEWS ITEM: The eleven deer brought to Nova Scotia in 1894 have so increased as to number a quarter of a million. (Prince Edward Island has imported twelve.)



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.

EASTERN MAIL SERVICE

Sir.—May I avail myself of the opportunity of expressing to your readers through your paper the story that has led up to the change in the mail service to and from Charlottetown and the mainland. My reason for writing is that there is some dissatisfaction with the newly established service and the people are entitled to know all the details and I will present them as I know them.

First, the people in King's County were demanding an improvement in the mail service for the past ten years. The two Boards of Trade, namely, the King's County Board of Trade with headquarters at Montague and the Eastern King's Board of Trade with headquarters at Souris have in the past passed resolutions strongly requesting a change and improvement in the mail service. Naturally I have acceded to those requests that a new mail service should be established. The Post Office officials at Charlottetown were finally convinced and recommended to Ottawa that a change should be made. The Postmaster General in Ottawa, in turn, acceded to the said requests.

As I see it, when any new system is advanced there are always some details to be worked out, which at the time are annoying, but usually worked out to the betterment of the service and to the advantage of all concerned. No one should entertain the idea that their representatives at Ottawa are not deeply concerned with the actual service the change is giving us. The following persons had an interview with the Postmaster General and his experts to try and work out details in the service which would be most satisfactory to all, i.e. Senators Grant, Barbour and McIntyre, also Mr. Watson MacNaught and myself.

My view is that we should give the new service a fair trial before condemning it and asking for a return to the former service. I am most interested in knowing how it is going to work out under winter conditions in regard to the roads, but I cannot see how it can compare with the Railroad service that moves regardless of winter storms and in this we are safeguarded as Mr. C. T. Montgomery has assured that mail truck transfers impossible, the railroad would take the mails.

In my several interviews with the officials of the Post Office Department in Charlottetown and in Ottawa, as well as the C.N.R., I found they were most anxious to co-operate in every way they believed would bring the improved services that the people have long sought and, in this connection, I have received many letters expressing great satisfaction with the new service.

However, my suggestion to our people is, as I have said before, to give it a fair trial and give the Post Office Department and the carriers a chance to show us that it is an improvement and we will act as judges, and, after a reasonable time, if it does not prove satisfactory, I am sure that it will be most satisfactory to the Post Office.

FISHERMEN'S MISFORTUNE

Sir.—I read in your columns of Dec. 1st a short and interesting letter from our friend Mr. J. E. Hiscott, of Stanley Bridge, relating to some of the damage done to the fishermen's gear around Stanley Wharf. We well know that Mr. Hiscott's sympathy goes all out to the hard-working fisherman, as he and his father spent many hard days and nights on the deep, cold waters of the North Shore. Those were the days of iron men and canvas power; days that started in at 2:30 in the morning and ran well into the following gray dawn. The conditions in those days were much different to our present-day accommodations that have done so much for the young fishermen in many parts of our fair Province.

These young men who have encountered the losses that Mr. Hiscott wrote about, are two returned soldiers who have endured plenty of hardships in the defence of our country; and beyond any doubt the charitable goodwill throughout the community in which they are well known, will be fully demonstrated in reimbursing their losses for the coming season. The loss of a good fishing boat and lobster gear means as much to those boys, as the average stock and equipment does to the modern farmer. And our farmers and business men have never been small or disapplying when called upon for donations for such worthy purposes.

The writer has done everything within his power and jurisdiction in the way of waterfront repairs and facilities for those little fishing shelters at Stanley and Bay View. Three years ago the Dominion Public Works Department said it to build a new block some sixty-four feet long by sixteen feet wide at Bay View, on the site of the old Government wharf. The engineer's intention at the time of building was a shelter for a small block which the Gallant boys had built at their own expense a few years previous. Since that time the small block and it no longer exists. The new structure was erected approximately 120 feet from the old remaining approach, and those boys have been asking for some stage or connection to the new block. Had this request been granted, our friend Tommy would be fishing out of Bay View near to his own home, and would still have the boat that went down in the storm at Stanley last week.

Now for Robert Murphy's situation on the Government Wharf at Stanley. One wonders how any of his gear could remain safe through any average tide. The sight of old driftwood and garbage literally covering the surface of a onetime business wharf, surely makes our Island home-owners and tourists look on with amazement as they roll along to the noted Cavendish and Green Gables beaches, and wonder just who is to blame for this grave neglect in the centre of an enterprising village and the picturesque countryside adjoining the beautiful New London Bay.

Let not these boys be discouraged. There is always a bright spot beyond the darkest floods. Our lack of representation on the Government side at Ottawa has been a great handicap towards getting grants for those above-mentioned places. But as the old saying goes, "when one door closes another swings open." The Department of Industry and National Resources is doing some grand work, and when these cases are presented before the Chief Justice Department to return to the former service after they are satisfied that the present system is unworkable; in fact, they have on more than one occasion expressed this view.

I should say, in closing, that any persons who wish to express themselves to me on the subject, the Post Office Department carries all letters free of postage is required—in all letters mail to Members while in Ottawa. I am, Sir, etc., T. J. KICKHAM, M.P. for King's, P.E.I. House of Commons, Ottawa.

But, someone may say, this could not be avoided, the heads of all Provincial organizations were invited regardless of where they lived. Such however was not the case. We have in this part of the country a man who is President of a Provincial organization, I refer to Col. E. W. Johnstone, who, at considerable expense to himself, organized the Rural Beautification Society, which has functioned so successfully for the last six years. Over a thousand farmers have entered these annual contests and the Province, as a whole, has benefited greatly.

FORGOTTEN GUESTS

Sir.—The clergy of the Church of England are to be commended for protesting to Premier Jones about what they believe to be a slight against Archdeacon Harrison and their church in general. While I do not wish to become involved in this controversy, I would appreciate space in your paper to make some observations regarding the invitation to the state dinner at the Experimental Farm.

The letter of the clergy to the Premier reveals that the committee in charge saw fit to invite the President of the Charlottetown Ministerial Association rather than the President of the Protestant section of the population. This might give some people the impression that this was a blunder on the part of the committee in charge. But was it? Anyone looking over the list of invited guests must have been forcibly struck with the disproportionate number of guests invited from Charlottetown.

As citizens, we must become interested in politics, but we need not get our organization involved, or identified with any political party. In discussions on international questions, problems of currency, exchange, distribution and trade tend to confuse and discourage people. Many tend to be unsympathetic to what appear to be insurmountable obstacles. They are willing to pay heavier taxes, and demand governments to take action or reach agreements when it is a matter of outward defense and waging war, but agreement "appears to be impossible" and this excuse is accepted by the majority when it is a matter of "waging peace". There are "niggers in our economic woodpile" that can only be eliminated when we re-design our little woodpiles at home and organize a just system within our local economies.

There promises to be some vast changes in economic methods during the next ten years. If we are to have peace there must be free, or at least freer trade, among nations. Tariff walls and excess customs duties unfair to the consumer must crumble. The present cost of living is not climbing because of higher basic costs of production; it is increasing largely because of the "crazy high costs" of processing and distribution. Advertising, propaganda, salesmen, unper-salesmen, unnecessary freighting, travelling and entertainment, etc., are all inflationary costs which come in between the producer and the consumer.

We must have regulation to maintain a "balance of trade", but it should be "regulation within our own country". We must develop our natural resources by training skilled workmen to produce what we in Canada can produce as well and as cheaply (without depletion of our soil and resources) as any other country in the world.

If washing machines can be sold in the U.S.A. for \$75, why should Canadians pay \$107? If we can import Austin cars from England for \$1,200 why should we pay \$1,907? If we can import good cameras from Germany for \$80, why should we pay \$400 for a camera of equal value in Canada? If margarine manufacturers are allowed

to put out a cheap spread containing 30% water, why are the buttermilk people compelled to retain a maximum of 15% moisture? Why, if Canada can import sufficient butter from New Zealand at 50c a pound, which is produced on natural year-round pastures, should consumers be compelled to pay 75c a pound for Canadian butter, or equally high prices for milk which has to be produced at great costs by winter feeding?

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part Two (continued) (All Rights Reserved)

ESSENTIAL REGULATIONS

We may as well face the fact that if we are to preserve our democracy and our freedom, we must have more compulsion, more restriction, and less petty politics. We must develop a system whereby the government will not become a player in the game of economics but will remain completely outside and act as a referee. We must have a system whereby the people will be educated to the point where they are able to obtain power from the government to regulate their own business, and discipline themselves, while accepting at the same time the responsibilities that are involved.

Here are three or four short, but practical examples of the above remarks, perhaps with special reference to the Maritimes: first, we may consider decentralized marketing boards, with producer, consumer and government representation. These boards would be financed by the industry, with controls delegated by the government; the people themselves would be responsible for the efficient production and orderly distribution of the products concerned.

Second, we may consider the cleaning and care of forestry lots. A committee of forest owners appointed by the majority, for instance, might obtain powers through government legislation to see that our woodlots are not wasted, that, after cutting, the areas are reforested, properly cleaned up to prevent forest fires and to allow new and natural growth.

A third system, if the majority of the school boards agree and the health authorities decide, for instance, that in the interests of health, running water and sanitary flush toilets are necessary in all rural schools, it would be the best interests of all—and to require a restriction of freedom—to require a district rate-payers to pay for the installation of such facilities before the school is granted permission to operate.

The same principle should apply to slum clearance and town planning where people are not aware of what is in their best interests, and where often the petty, selfish or stubborn notions of a few are allowed to stand in the way of improving conditions for all concerned. Such accomplishments may be possible under our present system, after years of loss, pleading, and political maneuvering. But if the great majority of the people are agreed that such steps in progress are desirable and necessary, then a small, selfish and uninformed minority should not obstruct them. This principle was well enunciated by Rev. Vincent McNabb in his book, *Old Principles and The New Order*: "I see no argument against compulsion if the voluntary thing fails."

It is not true that British and American opinion has slowly and reluctantly, but definitely come to understand how often it is necessary for certain liberties to be limited in order that more fundamental ones may be preserved. Another conclusion we have reached is that our future social and economic pattern will be decided in our own generation. Therefore we must all become interested, start studying, play our part, and accept our responsibilities without delay.

As citizens, we must become interested in politics, but we need not get our organization involved, or identified with any political party. In discussions on international questions, problems of currency, exchange, distribution and trade tend to confuse and discourage people. Many tend to be unsympathetic to what appear to be insurmountable obstacles. They are willing to pay heavier taxes, and demand governments to take action or reach agreements when it is a matter of outward defense and waging war, but agreement "appears to be impossible" and this excuse is accepted by the majority when it is a matter of "waging peace". There are "niggers in our economic woodpile" that can only be eliminated when we re-design our little woodpiles at home and organize a just system within our local economies.

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Farmers may as well face the fact that they must organize an efficient farming program for the production of low-cost food. Within ten years there may well be no fluid milk delivered in cities. Consumers should not have to pay a high price for winter milk. It will have to be produced during the low-cost period of good pastures in summer. Then it will be processed to make either "powdered" or "reduced" milk which can be stored and bought off the store shelves in the same manner as sugar or other groceries are distributed now.

These processes are approaching perfection now in various parts of the world. When they are generally introduced, the outlying dairy farmer may have as good an opportunity as the producer near the city to get the top price. This may well mean a drastic change from dairy to dual-purpose cattle which will produce milk well in summer and raise good beef calves in winter. It appears that the old economic theory "produce where production is cheapest", in food production especially, is changing to the principle of "produce where consumption is most economical".

Science is making some far-reaching discoveries. Commercial fishing also may soon be revolutionized. Scientists are now catching fish with electricity. With a light electrical cage a school of fish now is stunned and can be sucked into the fishing boat, graded and the small ones thrown back undamaged.

In some places now fishermen have moved their factories out to sea with them. The large draggers are equipped with cleaning, quick-freeze, filleting and other modern equipment to process and package the fish to the state of a finished product as the boats and crew linger on the fishing grounds.

Livestock breeding may also be simplified; in some countries now by centrifugal force the semen of cattle can be separated so that by the A. I. system it is possible to breed for either males or females as desired.

Social thinkers and planners abroad are today giving a great deal of thought to another trend in agriculture which has not been carefully considered by many people in eastern Canada; M. G. Kains calls it "five acres and independence". This trend may well be of indirect concern to Maritime farmers, from three distinct and somewhat opposing points of view. First, if hundreds of thousands of people in industrial centers move out to the surrounding country and establish themselves on those large garden-farms, market demand for many lines of vegetables, small fruits, etc., from areas of extensive farming will fall. Those people will be not only providing for themselves, but will have small surpluses to market occasionally.

Second, if extensive farmers are sincere and consistent in their endeavors toward real national progress, then they must help other classes and groups to improve conditions and attain a higher standard of life. Farmers should be pleased and anxious to see those young married couples of the industrial class obtain homes and bring up their families out in the fresh country air, close to nature.

Third, if we accept the foregoing conditions (and we must, because the trend is snowballing all over the western world now) then we must accept the fact that as this development grows, far-reaching changes in marketing and distributing conditions will follow.

Also, if overhead costs of extensive farming continue to rise, many of our small farmers may have to start one-man specialized farming, growing small fruits, vegetables, seeds, etc. If costs of food products go too high because of inefficiency and high costs of production, then the trend toward "five acres and independence" will increase in momentum.

Even in cases where suitable land, building materials and transportation costs are high it would be cheaper and much more satisfactory over a long term period for miners, laborers, tradesmen or middle class professional workers to invest in their own semi-communal home. A variety of small power-driven garden machinery is now available and costs of building, transportation, etc., can be greatly reduced by organizing and doing it in a cooperative way.

However, there will always be need for the extensive farming system to supply the general demand for food, but at a price level that will demand the most economical production possible. (To be continued)

Discovered by Columbus in 1494. Jamaica was a Spanish possession until it was taken by the English in 1655.

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