

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, FEB. 16, 1951

Corrals

The question of controls is not surprisingly being aired in Parliament. By control, its advocates mean, of course, the freezing of prices at present or perhaps lower levels.

All parties seem reconciled to the fact that controls may prove to be necessary in making the transition to a wartime economy. Only the C. C. F., however, among major parties regards their adoption as desirable.

It should not be forgotten that the price structure cannot be simply commanded to refrain from rising. Industries will not produce unless they can do so at least without loss, which means that some of them must be subsidized by the taxpayer.

The economy of a great nation is a very complex mechanism indeed and if the Government is not prepared to regulate and subsidize on a grand scale we can certainly get better results without drastic interference with any particular group of prices.

Best Mail Service

It is pleasing to note that Canadian troops in Korea have the cheapest postal rates on their letters home of any forces in the Commonwealth fighting under United Nations command.

All letter cards from British personnel destined for the United Kingdom are sent postage free but normal air mail letters carry a charge of about five cents for the first ounce with increases for greater weight.

The 38th Parallel

Now that United Nations patrols are again moving north across the 38th parallel, there is some profit in examining the nature of that peculiar political boundary.

Obviously it is a quite arbitrary line, reflecting no real, natural division of any kind. Its origins are not entirely clear though it was beyond question the product of military convenience.

It became necessary to make arrangements for the surrender of Japanese forces and for temporary military administration; therefore at Potsdam agreement was reached that the 38th parallel should be the provisional boundary.

From this standpoint there was nothing remarkable about it. Similar arrangements were made in Germany between the four occupying powers. Austria was treated in the same manner. So was Czechoslovakia.

But since these arrangements were provisional and merely the means of liquidating a state of war, there was no inherent reason why such demarcations should result in trouble. It is significant that high tension or conflict developed only where a line marked the limits of Russian power.

corridor to Berlin. Trieste, far from being an exception to this rule, precisely demonstrated it. There was high tension in that port only so long as Yugoslav arms were an expression of Soviet power.

It thus appears evident that the 38th parallel in Korea derives its historic significance from the fact that Russia does not bring to such arrangements the saving power of good faith.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The current outbreak of 'flu is a mild type, according to report, but some of the victims seem to wish that it were fatal.

The Senate is deeply concerned with its own reform and in particular with the manner of making Senatorial appointments. Senator Grant, however, in his maiden speech, seems to have strayed into the field of Post Office and Civil Service appointments.

Government trading can be as unfortunate as individual transactions that go sour. Britain turned away from one meat market after another because of the high prices prevailing a year ago, and must now obtain supplies at higher prices than ever.

Dollar haircuts seem to be causing more of a flurry in Ottawa than dollar steak, perhaps because the latter is the more enjoyable for appearing on the table less often, while no self-respecting civil servant cares to postpone too long his visit to the barber.

There is really a John Doe in the Royal Canadian Navy, incredible as it may seem. The unfortunate Petty Officer's parents are perhaps a degree worse than Churchill's who would name a baby Winston or a Mr. Frost who named his six children Winter Night, Jack White, Snow, Dew, Hail and Cold.

The Callow Veterans and Invalids Welfare League with its wheelchair busses has done much for chair-ridden cripples by providing comfortable transportation for outings. More than that, because the mainspring of the League is himself physically helpless, its work is an inspiration to his fellow patients.

Li Hung Chang, Chinese National Leader, born this date 1823; was associated with Gordon in suppressing the Taiping rebellion in 1863. He conducted China's foreign affairs for many years, until his death in 1901. Subsequent to his demise a spirit of unrest arose, which provided the opportunity to Russia to spread her Marxist propaganda.

"It is humiliating to hear some of the comments on these practices (bingo and raffles), and still more humiliating to hear of the methods used in some of these organizations," says Archbishop Leger of Montreal. "This ban affects all charitable organizations, all churches and all religious communities, and we remind everyone of the obligation of respecting and having respected, without exception, the law concerning games of chance."

For the first time in his reign of 14 years King George VI got a rise in pay last Tuesday, amounting to about 10 per cent. It came in a backhanded sort of way, for His Majesty will not receive any more cash. Instead, some of his expenses will be paid by Government departments so he can make both ends meet.

The apprehension of those who felt likely to be recalled was tinged with a certain amount of indignation. A favourite argument was that a man who gave six or seven years of his lifetime in the cause of World War II should not be expected to go back for another term that might be just as long.

There were, it is said, large numbers of men who did not serve 'in the last lot' because they were doing vital civilian jobs, and it was argued that they should be called upon to serve now, thereby achieving some sort of equality of sacrifice. Those who were the target for this kind of oblique criticism retorted with their own argument that they would willingly have done their share if they had not been exempted by official order: what's more, they said, to bear the average ex-serviceman's talk, one would think he had the

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

GOVERNOR DALY'S CHORES

"The close of 1854 found Lieutenant Governor Daly at the head of affairs and busy during a short autumn session with the four subjects of Jury Law, Free Trade with the United States, Land Assessment, and the calling together of the Legislature of this Island 'during an adjournment'."

"1855 found the Governor obtaining statistics; information; adding to the Jury law; amending the Sheriff's law; innocently imagining that land proprietors would cash up, to give their tenants military effectiveness, under the plea of encouraging education; making more Bank law; securing compensation to tenants to promote 'improvements of the soil'; establishing a Normal School; stirring up the subject of the Georgetown wharf; depriving Pricetown of the benefits of its four-footed scavengers; continuing the Emigrants' Act; maintaining Customs establishments; proceeding upon controverted elections; partitioning lands for co-partners; appointing road correspondent assistants; continuing the limits of the Jails Act; empowering surrogate to order certain payments; authorizing instruments admissible as evidence; incorporating the Charlottetown Mechanics' Institute; closing up old roads; altering highways; appointing a librarian to the Legislative Library; looking after the fisheries; preventing the running at large of hogs in the Town, Common and Royalty of Charlottetown; authorizing pay for members of the Legislative Council; naturalizing one Mann; licensing grog; incorporating the Town of Charlottetown, dividing the new City into five Wards, and vesting a Mayor and ten Common Councilmen with municipal powers; providing fines to be paid by persons elected to municipal functions; but refusing to serve, and otherwise elevating a 'one-horse' town to enlarged privileges and powers; raising a revenue, and finally satisfying all wants in a liberal list of appropriations."

—From "Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island," etc., 1861, by C. Birch Bagster.

Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England.—In the second act of "King Lear" Shakespeare uses the letter 'Z' as a term of disparagement, describing it with an impolite adjective and making one of his characters insult another by calling him a 'Z', 'thou unnecessary letter!'

For Class Z, of course, signifies the category of Army reservists who are liable to recall to the colours at any time the authorities may think fit. It embraces several millions of men — all, in fact, who were called up or volunteered for service during the last war.

Well, nobody needed any telling that the international situation reached that stage of danger some time ago, and it was consequently no surprise, if somewhat unpleasant, when the dreaded references to Class Z began to be made in official circles. Class G seemed to have been forgotten at first, a fact that gave rise to some hesitant optimism among those of us who had served our time in the air force.

For several weeks after the first hints of things to come no authoritative statement was made. This gave rise to rumour upon rumour, and about four millions or so of men began to go about their daily tasks with an extra furore on their brows, caused by the prospect of an early return to cookhouse fatigues, square-bashing, arms drill, short haircuts and all the other joys of service life; not forgetting a reunion with that backbone of the British Army, the Sergeant-Major, without whom they had managed to get along so well in the last few years.

In the event, as it turned out, there was not quite as much need for furrowed brows as rumour had suggested. Conscription is still in force, and young men are called up for two years' service when they reach the age of eighteen. This has been the rule ever since the war ended — although the length of service was only eighteen months at one period — so that there has been an uninterrupted flow of recruits for about the last eleven years. When the official announcement about recall of Classes Z and G was made, it was stated that those who would be sent for would be those who were most recently released after completing their term of conscription service. This lets out most of the veterans of the war years, and, in any case, recall is only for fifteen days for refresher training.

Getting Into Shape



Notes By The Way

Immigrants, it is claimed, are coming into the U. S. and Canada with diamonds concealed in their shoes for smuggling. That is what is meant by well-heeled. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

A new portable pocket radio calls people to the telephone wherever they may happen to be. Now, to make life completely unbearable, we need only a telephone equipped with television. — Peterborough Examiner.

The ultimate in making dolls lifelike still hasn't been achieved — thank goodness. There is no model of a doll that wakes up at three in the morning and whimpers for a drink of water. — (Kingston Whig-Standard.)

London, England, bettered its infant and maternal health record in 1950. Infant deaths were 25 per 1,000 compared with 27 in 1949 and 60 pre-war. Deaths of children under four weeks old were 13.5 per 1,000 in 1950, 17.5 in 1949 and 24 pre-war. 0.55 per 1,000 mothers died in childbirth, compared with 2.51 per 1,000 pre-war. — (U.K. Information Office.)

That was good news from Mattawa district. The fact that diamond drilling was in progress on what is reported to be a "promising" future mining territory is good news indeed for the people of Mattawa. Fortune has taken to smiling more kindly on Mattawa in recent years. Ontario Hydro's gigantic development under construction at La Crosse is the main reason she has cast so far. It has meant much to Mattawa merchants and the town in general. With the possibility of a vanadium-titanium-iron mine being located there, the town can expect further impetus in its development. It is a new area for mining, although mining men for years have

time of his life in uniform. True enough, when a bunch of the boys get together to talk over old times it would be easy to imagine that they would like nothing better than to get back into uniform. But there were bad times, too. Of course there were good times that were bad because of acute discomfort, separation from home and family, interruption of career; times that were bad because of extreme danger, fright and horror; and times that were bad because in them one saw life itself ending abruptly for one's friends and comrades. Times as bad as those always outweigh the good, even if they are not talked about, as much.

Nor can all the good times make up for the loss of personal liberty in small, unimportant things, the details of life about which we like to please ourselves but about which we are subject to rigid control as soon as we get into uniform. Despite all the preaching that this or that is essential for good discipline, by our nature we don't take kindly to interferences that we don't see the need for. An example came to light recently when it was reported that airmen at a certain U. S. A. F. camp had been forbidden to use brushless shaving cream because, it was said, "You are issued with shaving brushes, so you must use them." (One cannot help wondering about the plight of a bald-headed man if he is unlucky enough to be issued with a hair brush!)

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Indignation has faded with the rumour's quashing. Now only apprehension is left, lest things get worse and we all have to go back under the stress of dire national peril. If that happened my guess is that apprehension would give way to downright annoyance at any enemy that had made it necessary, and Classes Z and G would go and make the best of it, just as before.

The Poet's Corner

Thou chilly month of wind and rain, Of drifting at the whitened pane, 'Tis winter's birth and winter's wane; Thou shrouded month of muffled snows, Of gales from far-off arctic floes, When winter dieth of his woes; Dost thou not through thine ice-bound girth, Hear, in the warmer heart of earth, The young spring dreaming of its birth. When, stealing through thy mail-ed, strong Ice-armor, comes the sweet low song Of pied wind flowers, their streams along, With sweet first-thoughts and prophesies Of warm, wet winds and soft, blue skies And meadows all a green surprise? O, go thy way with gust and blow,— For all thy looks of wintry woe, Thou hadst a warm heart 'neath thy snow. And all thy bluster and thy gust A softer nature did encrust, Which had the whole year's hopes in trust. —Wilfred Campbell.

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.

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Memoirs Of The Hon. A. E. Arsenault Former Premier and Retired Justice Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island

We reluctantly entered Confederation. But we were considered essential to the rounding out of Canada and pressure, considerable pressure was brought to bear to induce us to become a part of the Dominion. In one respect, we were looked upon as a key Province in those early days. From a military standpoint, we were strategically located in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Upper Canadian leaders considered our entry into Confederation as being essential for the safety of the Dominion.

One of the promises made us when we agreed to become a part of Canada was that we should have continuous communication with the mainland but it was many years before this promise was even partially implemented. It was also part of the contract that we should have six representatives in the House of Commons, but through a most unfortunate error, this condition was not clearly set out in the terms with the result that the Federal Government took advantage of this mistake by having three representatives when our need for being heard in the council of the nation was most great, our voice became weaker instead of stronger. Today it is so weak that it is seldom heard above a whisper.

Let us consider for a moment what the Western Provinces have gained by the restoring to them of their lands and natural resources while still retaining the subsidies given because these lands had been withheld from them. Let us further realize the wealth conferred on them and on Ontario when their boundaries extended north to the boundaries of the United States. It is united by tradition and interest to Western Europe and to the mother country of Great Britain; at the same time it is part of the world-wide commonwealth of nations, with strong associations in the East. The very diversity of these ties, combined with Canada's vast opportunities for internal development, could have led to an isolationist point of view. It is due to the credit of her leaders and her citizenry that she has been able to discern so clearly the true path before her, rebuking weakness and matching her commitments to the need. Throughout the Western world there will be a thrill of reassurance as each nation, according to its strength, prepares to do no less than Canada has done. —(New York Herald Tribune.)

I have wandered far from the Inter-Provincial Conference and must return. Apart from the pronouncement of Sir Lomer Gouin on the question of compensation to the Maritimes for our share of the public domains granted to the other Provinces, the Conference came to no agreement on the other questions submitted before it. The Honourable Mr. Mathieson, I am proud to say, made a most favourable impression upon the members of the Conference. In conversation with the secretary, an able man who had acted in that capacity to all inter-provincial conferences held up to that time, I was told that the Island delegation had in Mr. Mathieson the best

Subsequently, the Western Provinces had their demand granted, and their annual subsidies were retained as well. British Columbia and Quebec could not well complain for they had had no more rich territories added to them, but the poor Maritimes were left in the lurch. They have remained on the outside looking in ever since. Manitoba, which, on entering Confederation, had been placed on a par with Prince Edward Island, did magnificently well. Not only were its terms adjusted and revised, but it finally was given all the advantages granted to Saskatchewan and Alberta, and these were related back five years. Prince Edward Island may some day be given justice but I cannot but wonder how long it is going to be before that day comes. (To be continued)

The last Inter-Provincial Conference I attended was that of 1918 when I was Premier of Prince Edward Island. The main object of this Conference was which was called by the Dominion Government was the consideration of the right of the Western Provinces to a grant of the public lands and natural resources of these Provinces. A member of the Dominion Government presided. At the first meeting the question was asked the chairman, "Is it the policy of the Federal Government to grant to the Western Provinces the lands and natural resources withheld from them when they entered Confederation and for the want of which they were given subsidies?" The chairman simply answered, "Yes." "In that case," said Sir Lomer Gouin, "I beg to submit the following resolution: 'That the other Provinces agree to the proposed transfer, but that the annual subsidies heretofore paid them for want of public lands, be hereafter withheld from them, and that the sum total of these subsidies be divided among the other Provinces and that no Province receive less than \$325,000 annually.'"

The Western Provinces objected to the resolution and no progress could be made. The chairman then suggested that the delegates meet in conference by themselves and try to reach an agreement. The delegates met accordingly, but the Western delegates were adamant; they wanted their lands and their resources and their subsidies as well. No arguments made any impression on them, and a report to that effect was made to the main conference and that ended it.

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