

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5, 1951

Beggar On Horseback

Despite the hero's welcome accorded him in Teheran on his return from the United States, Iran's Premier Mohammed Mossadegh is today a bewildered and most unhappy man. For his crusade against the British, although successful in the sense that the dragon was slain, also brought untimely death to that other mythical figure known as the goose that laid the golden egg.

The fatal mistake of Iran's ailing Premier was that he acted on the assumption that Uncle Sam's fear of Communism would impel him to bail the Iranian Government out of the economic mess resulting from the loss of British royalties following seizure of the Adaban refinery. Washington, to Premier Mossadegh's dismay, declined to become an accessory to Iranian crime by purchasing oil stolen from the British.

Those who know the weaknesses of Iran's economy predict that Dr. Mossadegh can stall off disaster no longer than the end of January. Then, when the failure of his mission to Washington becomes apparent in terms of stark austerity, he must make his choice. That choice offers economic chaos coupled with the threat of the overthrow of his regime by force or, alternatively, the possibility of reopening negotiations with the British and the devising of a compromise settlement.

Fortunately for Dr. Mossadegh, loss of face is not the serious matter in Iran that it is in the Orient. A few weeks from now it is not beyond the realm of possibility that British tankers will once again ply the waters of the Shatt al Arab.

Prices Levelling Off

While the Canadian cost-of-living index shows a rise of six-tenths of a point in September, the last month of record, it is argued plausibly by the Winnipeg Free Press that actually it is doubtful if the cost of living rose at all. The index, the Free Press points out, is based on what is called the "list" price of goods in the stores of Canada—that is the price set down by the storekeeper in his books.

Credit controls affect nearly all semi-durable goods like automobiles, radios, refrigerators and manufactured gadgets purchased by many Canadian homes. The list price of these things may show no drop but at sales they are offered below price and, moreover, their actual price is usually reduced by an increased allowance offered to the purchaser when he turns in his present equipment in the purchase of a new model.

It can no longer be said, therefore, that the Government's attempt to fight inflation by indirect fiscal measures has failed. On the contrary, from the standpoint of merchants who have difficulty in selling many kinds of semi-durable goods, that policy has succeeded only too well.

There can be no doubt, however, about the return of inflationary pressures in the United States. Between August 15 and September 15 the U. S. cost of living index rose from 185.5 to 186.6 or 1.1 points. This was almost twice the rise recorded in the Canadian index during September. Assuming that the United States consumer, like the Canadian, is benefited by bargain sales not accounted for in the index, it remains true that the U. S. prices, as the index indicates, have risen much more rapidly of late.

The latest Canadian and United States index figures do not suggest, however, that the inflationary problem is fundamentally easier than it was a few months ago. Perhaps the most disturbing immediate fact in the world economy is that United States

prices advanced more sharply in August and September than at any time since they were "frozen" by law. When United States prices rise they carry all world prices up with them, simply because the United States is the dominant factor in the world economy. No nation which trades, directly or indirectly, with the United States can escape the end results of its price level.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The farmers' cash crop this year is better than ever, and the quality, up to the top notch. Island potatoes rule the market.

With the closing of the season on geese today shooting is about over for most hunters, but they are certainly not left without outside interests.

Cabinet representation for this Province becomes more important rather than less as time goes on. Far more so than a few years ago the cabinet is the real forum in which policy is debated and determined.

The price fixing-loss leader controversy has become a classic battle between doctrinaire advocates of controls and equally doctrinaire free enterprisers. It is hard to find anyone considering the actual result to be expected from the respective policies.

Legislation will be introduced at Ottawa to permit the Minister of Public Works to let contracts for work without advertising in advance. At present such authority is limited to contracts of \$25,000 or less. The new bill removes the ceiling.

Reports persist that notwithstanding the protest lodged in Parliament over the temporary release of Kurt Meyer, he will soon receive a full pardon to enable him to assume control of the Western German Army.

Too great expectations should not be built on the truce talks. The Reds know and may seek to exploit American sentiment to "get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas". For U. N. negotiators such sentiment must be irrelevant compared with reaching a sound agreement.

Islanders seemed to have dominated the oyster feast at Ottawa the other day, but that really was not so. The celebration was given by the Provincial Secretary, Hon. J. W. Arsenault, and Mr. George Fraser of the Tourist Bureau and all the Island members were amongst the others present.

Alexandre Dumas, celebrated French author, died this date 1870. The literary works of the author of "Les Trois Mosquetaires" are almost countless and replete with wonderful high spirits, miraculous adventures, hairbreadth escapes, splendid fights and indomitable courage. His dialogue is tense and brilliant, the repartee glittering.

At a Federal Liberal caucus, Prime Minister St. Laurent set the members' minds at ease in two respects. First he said there was no idea of having a general election next summer, and second he had no immediate intention of resigning from the leadership. He added the proviso that this could all change if circumstances arose which could not be foreseen. Anyway the members' minds were relieved.

Another naval masquerader comes to grief. Herbert S. Powell, who had never been more than a deck hand on a tug, bluffed his way into an \$8,400-a-year job as a maritime adviser, and had five naval captains and five sea ports in Columbia under his command, a London court was told. He was unmasked, brought home, and charged with obtaining credit without letting people know he was an undischarged bankrupt. For that he was sentenced to five years in jail last week.

Hon. Onesime Gagnon, Quebec Provincial Treasurer, in highlighting the phenomenal growth of mining production from \$90 millions in 1944 to \$220 millions for the past year, said there was no telling what it may be ten years hence. Certainly there is every evidence that great things lie ahead for Quebec in the mining field. In fact, Mr. Gagnon may be proven far off the mark in predicting that Quebec ore production and Alberta oil extraction will combine to stabilize the Canadian currency in a few years. Such growth as he envisions will inevitably be attended by a corresponding pickup in general Canadian affairs. Cities will again arise out of wilderness, and cities already great will become greater. New citizens will come in to help carry out this development and industry, commerce and agriculture will have to increase their production to meet the needs. So, at least, claims the Montreal Gazette.

Bossie's Not Keeping Up!



Contrariwise... Its Logic

(Montreal Gazette) "Contrariwise," continued Tweedledee. "If it were so, it might be; and if it were so, it would be; but as it isn't, it ain't. That's logic." This may not be an excerpt from Hansard, the official record of debates in the House of Commons. But perhaps it comes even closer to reporting the Government's explanation of the Claxton incident.

In fact, little Alice would have been even more bewildered in the House of Commons these last few days, than ever she was in Lewis Carroll's "Wonderland" or "Through the Looking-Glass." Mr. George Drew's criticism of Mr. Claxton's European indiscretions, and Prime Minister St. Laurent's response, perhaps find their very best record in the Louis Carroll version:

I said: I very loud and clear; I went and shouted in his ear. But he was very stiff and proud. He said, "You needn't shout so loud!"

Mr. St. Laurent's method of explaining Mr. Claxton to the House, was very nearly as nimble as Humpty Dumpty's method of explaining himself to Alice:

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." "The question is," said Alice, "whether you CAN make words mean so many different things."

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master—that's all!" Alice was too much puzzled to say anything; so after a minute Humpty Dumpty began again: "Impenetrability! That's what I say!"

"Would you tell me please," said Alice, "what that means?" "Now you talk like a reasonable child," said Humpty Dumpty, looking very much pleased. "I mean by 'impenetrability' that we've had enough of that subject, and it would be just as well if you'd mention what you intend to do next, as I suppose you don't mean to stop here all the rest of your life."

"That's a great deal to make one word mean," Alice said in a thoughtful tone.

Perhaps some people might find it rather hard to accept or to understand Mr. St. Laurent's interpretation. But when the Opposition expressed its incredulity, it received an answer very like the one that Alice got from the imperious Queen:

"I can't believe THAT!" said Alice. "Can't you?" The Queen said in a pitying tone. "Try again; draw a deep breath, and shut your eyes." Alice laughed. "There's no use trying," she said. "One CAN'T believe impossible things." "I dare say you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes, I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

But it seems (all explanations notwithstanding) that the Claxton business may be something of a mess. One might picture what has gone on behind the scenes at Cabinet meetings, since Mr. Claxton put his foot into it, by talking about footing the bills.

If Mr. St. Laurent might be taken aside, and induced to speak out of his heart of hearts, he might really admit that cleaning up the mess may take quite some time. He might even reply, as the Garter replied to the Walrus: "If seven maids with seven mops Sweep it for half a year, Do you suppose," the Walrus said, "That they could get it clear?" "I doubt it," said the Carpenter. And shed a bitter tear.

In the meantime, Mr. St. Laurent does not seem to get very far. He has been running energetically around a single point, without making much progress toward the main issue. Perhaps he should be admonished, in the language of Lewis Carroll:

"No, HERE you see, it takes all the running YOU can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

Notes By The Way

An advertisement for insertion in our classified columns came to our attention. It advertised "registered Yorkshire bores". Well, we don't know about people in Yorkshire, but we do know that in Ontario there are so confoundedly many bores that it would be impossible to register them. The best thing to do with bores is to slaughter them, so we have heard—(Peterborough Examiner).

A state trooper testified before a magistrate in a New Jersey court that the defendant he had haled before the court was driving too slow at a rate of about 40 miles an hour. The court agreed with the trooper and assessed a fine of \$10 on the offender under a recent provision of the state's motor vehicle code. There's no question but that the so-called "road-mop" can be and is a cause of serious accidents as well as a trying and aggravating test on the nerves of the normal operator. However, it is hard to conceive that even on the finest stretches of super-highways that 40 miles an hour is slow driving.—Boston Post.

Ottawa has never had a Speaker who could understand Gaelic, but has had at times many members who could. The late Hon. Ian MacKenzie once made a speech in the House in Gaelic. The most unusual speech was that of the late Glen Campbell, who was elected to the House for Dauphin in 1911. His father was a Hudson Bay factor and his mother a Cree. When he made his first speech in the House he spoke for a time in Cree, explaining that it was really his mother's tongue and that the native language should be recognized.—(London Free Press).

Hungry diners in a Warsaw restaurant waited for waiters to serve them but waited in vain. The Polish evening newspaper Express Wieczorny made it perfectly understandable by explaining that the waiters were attending a meeting to discuss the problem of better restaurant service. Poland isn't the only place where time has been thrown away in jangling about what should be done instead of simply doing it without palaver. One has been in restaurants not too far away where the waitresses have been too engrossed in their own enchanting conversation to condescend to bother about the customers. Who does a customer think he is anyway? The very idea.—(Sydney Post-Record).

Is the United States going to the dogs? Statistics point that way. The dog population south of the border has been increasing faster than the human population for 30 years. It has soared 200 percent. Also to be noted is the fact that the canine standard of living is bordering on the fantastic. All told the 23,000,000 dogs in the United States represent spending power of about \$500,000,000 a year on such items as food, clothing, shelter, training, recreation and medical attention. Evidently it is no longer as tough as it used to be to lead a dog's life.—(Kitchen-Waterloo Record).

Always pay good cash for work done on your car. Never give the fellow who did the work a sweepstake ticket instead of money. Because if you do, chances are you will some day feel as miserable as Maurice Holmes of Edmonton is feeling. Once upon a time Mr. Holmes gave Winston Joseph Bannister, also of Edmonton, a sweepstake ticket in exchange for work done on his car. Then he drove away, perhaps thinking that he had made a good bargain. Nothing happened for quite a time. Then one day excited newspaper reporters got hold of Mr. Bannister and informed him that he was the owner of a sweepstake ticket worth \$34,900.—(Lethbridge Herald).

The Census Bureau announced that the population of Douglas,

Ark. is 1; the population of Ophir, Colo., is 2; and that of Mercur, Utah, 3. The bureau may be wrong about Mercur. The farm town of Douglas was washed away years ago by an Arkansas River flood, and it became a lake. One of its residents, Lee Whitney, adapted himself to the new situation and is now a fisherman on the lake. Ophir, Colo., is the ghost of a mining town. Its two general stores and its two hotels have fallen into ruin. But Mrs. Nellie Tatum, who went there in 1896, lives there now. So does a former mule train packer, Jimmy Noyes, who still hopes to sell the lots into which he put his life's savings. Mercur, Utah, also used to be a flourishing mining town. Its remaining inhabitants are Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Crane. They say they are the only two residents, and that the census taker erred in counting a visiting grandchild.—(New York Herald Tribune).

Fishermen are returning to the Shenandoah after years during which industrial pollution had largely spoiled that stream. The sport now is good. The bass grow steadily fatter. The reason is that the waters have become vitamin enriched through an escape of B-12 from an industrial plant. This, as the National Wildlife Federation points out, is industrial pollution in reverse. We may be on the verge of great developments here. If tossing a few vitamins into a lake will make the fish fatter, fiercer and more numerous, we can imagine a brand new market opening up for the drug companies. Provided of course that we don't carry things too far. If the vitamin-rich bass develop the tendencies of man-eating sharks, we can see trouble ahead.—(Montreal Star).

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) LARGE OATS SHIPMENT "The steamship Prince Edward, with cargo consisting of 73,500 bushels of oats, 37 boxes of potatoes, 279 pieces of deal and ends, 1 barrel buffalo robes, 1 box surgical instruments, 1 case Indian goods, and 53 bags of cracked oats and barley, shipped by Peake Bros. & Co., sailed for Queens town, N.B., on the 5th inst., calling at Pictou to take in her bunker coal. We believe that this is the largest shipment of oats that has ever left this Island in one vessel."—The Examiner, Dec. 5, 1951.

The Poet's Corner

THE HUMAN SEASONS Four Seasons fill the measure of the year; There are four seasons in the mind of man: He has his lustrous Spring, when fancy glows; He has his Summer, when luxuriously Spring's honey'd cud of youthful thought he loves To ruminate; and by such dreaming high Is nearest unto Heaven: quiet covers His soul has in its Autumn, when He furthest close; contented so to look On mists in idleness — to let fair things Pass by unheeded as a threshold brook:— He has his Winter too of pale misfeature, Or else he would forego his mortal nature.

—John Keats.

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part Three (All Rights Reserved)

BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

The opening paragraph of the chapter on Voluntary Societies in the recent Massey Commission Report reads thus: "The voluntary society has played an important part in modern history from the religious sects and the salons of the seventeenth century through the political clubs of the revolutionary era down to the nineteenth century with its innumerable organizations to aid, prevent, propagate or promote every conceivable end. The importance of voluntary societies in a democracy needs little emphasis in this generation which knows that their suppression is the first move of a dictatorship, but it is perhaps not fully realized to what extent democracy depends upon their activities."

In Prince Edward Island, and indeed all over the western world, we see the need for greater co-ordination of effort in our local organizations and in the work of voluntary societies. People in all ranks ask: why are we not making the progress we should? Why are the people not responding to calls to meetings, to public speaking contests, to studies of marketing programs? Why are they not taking advantage of our library services, our short courses, our discussion forums; in fact all our voluntary societies.

Are there too many projects being paraded before our rural people? Is there any unnecessary or harmful overlapping in this field at present? In addition to a little more top level co-ordination and planning, could not greater results be obtained if we had at least a general pattern to follow and facilities for closer social integration at the local level? Is it possible to get local groups working together in such a general pattern? Would there not be greater support for this work if a clear-cut, long-term program were mapped out, a program which the people would support, reject, or amend as required? Where can we commence, in a practical way, locally?

Our appraisal has strongly indicated that the local units of the Federation of Agriculture need to be re-organized, that the Junior Farmers are not making the progress they should be making, that district convention areas of our Women's Institutes are neither of the most convenient size nor are they properly centered so as to achieve the greatest progress. Our rural libraries are not being used as much as they could be; our vocational school is not being widely patronized; the high school, which is a coming and necessary feature of the whole rural program, is not being too widely considered; and our electoral districts need to be re-organized.

Now, would it be possible for each of these agencies—the Federation of Agriculture, the Junior Farmers, and perhaps the Women's Institutes, the libraries, the educational authorities—to get together and to decide on a general plan of local regions? We seem to need a definite pattern of local areas so that each group can support the other and all work together as much as possible instead of each dividing the Province up and carving out a separate empire of its own and going separate ways.

It has been found, in similar organizations elsewhere, that a rural area of about six to ten miles radius is the most practical and workable unit. If the Province could be divided into about 25 local units of this kind, with a library and film council, a central board of school administration, a community hall, and sports center, with all the local organizations embracing the same area and working together around the same centre, progress and advancement would surely be greater. It might even be possible to effect a personal re-organization of the societies mentioned above, based on a revised plan of electoral district centers and divisions. It seems apparent, that we must base any new social blueprint, that will work on two fundamentals: 1st, a reform of the individual citizen; and, 2nd, organized outlets for group energy and initiative.

Such provincial plan could be expected to lessen greatly the over-lapping in local activities, and, by having young, qualified and energetic persons as part-time secretaries of two or more of those social organizations, (e.g.: rural library and school board and/or Federation) in the main centres, greater efficiency could be attained. Women's Institutes, of course, would not be affected, except to revise the areas of their district conventions. In each of their districts too, the Institutes might have a special executive or central committee which could work with the other organizations on matters like education, etc., which are of mutual concern. These "districts" would probably have to be divided along the present school district and county boundary lines, rather than on township divisions. However, it would seem feasible if any of the above groups are contemplating re-organization of their original areas that a co-ordinated plan should be worked out and submitted to the people.

(To be continued)

The Age-Old Story Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

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