

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 1951

Value For Price Supports

There are strong arguments both for and against price support for agricultural products but when support is given it has two objects. One is, of course, to save the farmer from ruin. The effect of the Government buying in even a small proportion of a crop may easily be to stabilize the market and give the farmer a reasonable return for his labour and investment instead of facing a heavy loss.

The other, and equally important, aspect is to help maintain agricultural production. There is the very real danger that losses will mean that farmers get out of unprofitable production and the consumer soon finds that the products concerned are in short supply and that he must pay accordingly or turn to substitutes.

This danger is not adequately met by such stop-gap support prices as have been used. Farm production must be planned far ahead and last minute guarantees against loss may come too late to prevent a swing away from the production of the product being given support. If the consumer is to get value, in the form of steady production at a high level, then price supports must be made applicable over long enough periods to have maximum effect on the farmer's programme.

Governor General's Status

In an address in New York last week, Viscount Alexander gave what the Ottawa Journal hails as "the most striking explanation we have seen of the status of the Governor General in the Dominion of Canada." He said:

"The title of Governor General is a misleading term since I am neither governor nor general. I am the personal representative of our monarch, the King.

"I am above party politics in the country to which I am accredited, as our King is above party politics in the United Kingdom.

"I have no connection at all with the government of the day in London. My official contacts and channels of communication are with Buckingham Palace—the seat of His Majesty the King. I act on and only with, the advice of my Canadian ministers.

Thirty Days To What?

Twelve months have elapsed since Chinese Communist forces 100,000 strong poured out of the hills below the Yalu river in North Korea to shatter General MacArthur's "end-the-war" offensive in Asia. Today United Nations military leaders sit huddled in rain-swept tents at Panmunjom, facing with Communist negotiators the task of working out a truce as the first step towards ending the fighting in the Orient.

The men at Panmunjom have thirty days in which to arrive at the terms of agreement on which the armistice must be based. Already decision has been reached on the thorny and controversial question of where the "cease-fire" line is to be drawn. Three fundamental issues yet remain to be resolved before the thunder of the guns is silenced in devastated Korea.

First, there is the problem of policing the armistice. United Nations commanders are determined that the "cease-fire" shall not provide the Chinese with a breathing spell during which to build up their forces for a new attack. This means behind-the-lines inspection, presumably by joint reconnaissance teams of Chinese and UN officers.

Second, there remains the matter of arranging for an exchange of prisoners of war. The issue is heavily charged with emotion because of confusing statements issued by Eighth Army commanders regarding the murder of UN captives by the Communists.

Third, there is the obscure item of "recommendations to the Governments concerned." This embraces the basic issue of arrangements for the withdrawal of opposing forces from the theatre of war. UN negotiators properly demand that this is a matter for the diplomats and must be referred to the Foreign Offices of the countries concerned.

Such are the issues that must be faced and upon which agreement must be reached by Christmas. There are compelling reasons in the minds of the men in Washington as well as in the Kremlin why the

fighting should end. Casualties on both sides have been enormous. The United States and the Soviet Union, both bent on seizing the diplomatic initiative by peace offensives, find the Korean war an incongruous, jarring deterrent to the success of their efforts. Both recognize that Korea is not the real issue between East and West.

Korea's thirty days present some ground for optimism, despite the formidable difficulties in the way of the military negotiators, for a "cease-fire". There is even reason to hope that an armistice may ultimately be reached. That peace for the world will follow, however, seems a forlorn hope. The Kremlin still remains.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, Second Sunday in Advent.

Over 12,000 Dutch settlers are expected to reach Canada next year, 700, including women and children are due to arrive at Halifax in February.

The matter of farmer immigrants is receiving a proper degree of attention. More, however, could be given to bringing in immigrants with particular skills, in the interest of establishing industries.

December is late for commencing building operations, and Canada Packers are to be congratulated on making a start with their new adjunct. Probably Mr. McLaine will follow suit with his new building which has already had two unfortunate set-backs.

Lieut.-Col. Fielding should prove an excellent Deputy Provincial Secretary. He has had extensive experience in this office already, as well as in departmental work generally, besides having a fine war record.

It is satisfactory to hear officially that our tourist industry is making much progress and creating records. It would undoubtedly get a great boost were there an additional ferry steamer between Wood Islands and Caribou.

Since Islanders have become aware that it is the presence of fertilizers in the waters that makes this Province a fishermen's paradise there is apt to be a different attitude taken towards the farmer who washes out fertilizer bags in a near-by pond or stream.

There will be little concern here at the suggestion that the substitute for the Maritime Freight Rates Act may make the preferred rates applicable all across Canada instead of only to Levis. What does evoke concern is any tendency to spread the benefit of the Act to other areas, thereby robbing it of effect.

Jean Sibelius, Finnish composer, was born this date 1865. Harried by Tsarist police for his early patriotic work, Sibelius turned to the brooding vigor of nature to inspire him. His orchestral creations have caused some to link his name with that of Beethoven. His piano and voice compositions, though numerous, are rarely so outstanding.

Federal Health Minister Martin should not be badly off for sacred scriptures these days. He has received a total of 8,604 bulky family Bibles so far, besides 3,349 other documents, pictures, scrolls and record books in proof of the age of applicants for old age pensions which go into effect next month. It is interesting to learn that no fewer than 307,842 persons have qualified as "seventies", while some 309,000 others receiving the means-test pension will qualify for the universal old age pension.

An esteemed reader, approving of the recent suggestion of bringing Christ back into Christmas, sends us a copy of "Saint John's Eagle" with the following marked selection: "Before Christmas comes Advent. The Bishop of Blackburn, England, once wrote the following in his diocesan leaflet, (The Crozier). 'Of recent years commercial interests have anticipated Christmas by a fortnight or more (were the Bishop in Canada he would say six weeks or more. Ed.) and to our very great loss we have been tempted to follow this example. Christmas does not begin until December 25th and there should be no sign of holly until Christmas Eve. This great, joyous festival of the Incarnation goes on until Epiphany, January 6th, and in a lesser degree until Candlemas, February 2nd. Surely that gives us plenty of time for carols and plays and parties. Why should we allow the shops to make this glorious Christmas month fizzle out like a damp squib (English for firecracker. Ed.) when the Festival Season has only just begun?" Is this the explanation as to why, on Christmas Day, many of us are too tired out to be merry, and why, on Boxing Day, we feel so flat and dull—all over for another year? It has just begun!"

Good Word From The Forecasters



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

ROUNDING CAPE HORN

From an account of the voyage of the Brig Fanny from Charlottetown to California, as given by Artemas Davison in a letter appearing in The Islander of Oct. 26, 1850:

"We sighted Cape Horn on the 6th of March, making the run from Bahia in 33 days. The weather was delightfully fine, such as we experience on the Island in August. At 5 o'clock, p.m., with a slight breeze, we had arrived at the southern extremity of the American continent. As we neared this long anticipated point, the land presented the most rugged and sterile appearance, and was most picturesquely diversified by towering rocks and arid vales, entirely destitute of vegetation. The wide clouds rested in sluggish grandeur on the greatest heights, giving to the whole scene a singularly romantic appearance. All who had a taste for the sublime were now busily engaged in taking sketches of the Horn. The 'tops' were well manned on this occasion, and some of the more aspiring artists were to be seen on the top-gallant-ways. At 12 o'clock the wind changed to S.W. and commenced to blow fearfully. We carried sail as long as we could, but towards morning were compelled to lay the ship to. We were now to the westward of the Cape some sixty miles. The gale continued until the morning of the 9th, when we again sighted the Cape, having been driven back. On the 14th we experienced another heavy gale, which lasted until the evening of the 16th. On the 19th we had another gale, and again laid to. On the 23rd we were again compelled to lay to until the next day, when we made sail.

"In a few hours the gale freshened again, and the Fanny could show nothing but a clove reefed main-top-sail. These gales were often accompanied by fearful squalls, with showers of sleet and hail, which added much to our misery. "On the morning of the 25th, the wind had increased its fury and the sea ran higher than we had yet seen it. I never saw so terrible a sea, and a sight as far as the eye could reach the long undulating swell could be seen rolling towards us in sullen grandeur. Its crested summit lashed into angry foam by the biting blast of the gale. The Fanny, however, seemed to ride the billows like a thing of life, and we all felt safe; but we are the creature of circumstances, and our fond assurances prove some times vain. "About 9 o'clock, a.m., we shipped a heavy sea which stove in our weather bulwarks from the bows to the main chains, and very nearly swept our decks. I was washed overboard, clear of all, but was fortunate enough to regain the vessel before she righted. James Howatt and Laughlin MacLean saved themselves only by clinging to the top-gallant-sail. We were taking our breakfast on the quarter-deck when this happened. It was cold comfort I assure you.

"From the time we sighted the Horn until the 7th of April we experienced rough and disagreeable weather, with prevailing head winds varying from N. to W. during this time. We intended to call at Juan Fernandez but could not on account of the winds, so steered our course for Valparaiso on the 17th of April. We were a week at this port, and enjoyed ourselves very much. We left on the 24th, and immediately got the trade winds blowing N.E. and carried them to the Line, which we crossed on the 16th of May in long. 103 deg. 20 min. W.

Notes By The Way

One grave difficulty, in the proposed exchange of Canadian and Russian university students, is that we could have no certainty at all that the persons the Soviet would send to Canada would be legitimate students. We should have to expect the number would include a proportion of spies, government agents, and perhaps saboteurs. — Ottawa Journal.

The production of pigs and hens reached a peak in September, helping to hold the line on food prices. If some way could be found for cows to give milk as effortlessly as hens seem to lay eggs, the cost of food might not take such a large slice out of the average family's weekly budget. —Ottawa Citizen.

It is to be remarked that Thomas B. Costain is making a contribution to Canada, in more ways than one, in undertaking to write a history of this country in three volumes. First, there is the time and effort and capability involved. Next, there is a real financial sacrifice on Mr. Costain's part. How is that? Well, "The Black Rose" has now sold more than 2,000,000 copies, and several other novels of his have gone past the million mark. Royalties roll in accordingly. But with history books, no matter how well written the audience is more limited and the monetary returns proportionately less for publisher — and author. — Brantford Expositor.

Members of a Baptist congregation in Fort Worth, Texas, came to blows over the dismissal of their pastor. Even if force is not a very sensible way for church members to settle their differences, usually at least no one gets seriously hurt in the process. Among nations, though, the use of force to settle differences is today a luxury that the people of the world can scarcely afford. — Ottawa Citizen.

The Poet's Corner

FROM MARTIAL Ah, fading joy, how quickly art thou past! Yet we thy ruin haste: As if the cares of human life were few, We seek out new And follow fate that does too fast pursue. See how on every bough the birds express In their sweet notes their happiness. They all enjoy and nothing spare: But on their mother Nature lay their care. Why then should Man, the lord of all below, Such troubles choose to know, As none of all his subjects undergo? —John Dryden.

The Age-Old Story

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Up to the 2nd of June we had light variable winds and calms, when we got the wind from the northward. This wind prevailed with very little easing in it, so that we had to run considerably further to the westward than we wished, when we fell in with calms. But to be brief, we arrived at the land of promise on the 28th June, all in excellent health.

Robert W. Service wrote "The Shooting of Dan McGrew" and a host of other poems about the Yukon, made himself a pot of money on which he has lived comfortably in Southern France for many years. He was the poet of the gold rush and the mining camps. Now Service, approaching his 78th year, has given an interview to the Associated Press in which he says: "I'm disgusted with life. I'm almost an anarchist. I no longer believe in anything but nature. . . I would like to turn my back on the world and live with nature. If I didn't have a family I would withdraw to a monastery. . . I like to write about misery and suffering. Suffering is good for humanity. Man is enabled by suffering. The poor fellow has lived too long. Anybody who says 'I'm disgusted with life' has lived too long. What a melancholy admission to have to make—'I no longer believe in anything but nature!' — Ottawa Journal.

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.

SUNDAY READING

Sir,—We attended the young people's social evening under the auspices of the "Trail Rangers" and the "C.G.I.T.". What a trainee they are getting and receiving that was denied to their grandparents. With all these boys and girls choosing the straight and narrow way, there will be that many less for the enemy of young lives, to lure to the haunts of vice, and they enjoy it immensely. The Lord loves the hilarious givers, whether it is in time or money. And I notice they prefer to give a dime, rather than a nickel. We learned something during the sing-song, when the Negro spiritual, Ezekiel saw de wheel, away in the middle of the air (repeat). And the big wheel run by prayer. And the little wheel run by the grace of God. A wheel within a wheel, in the middle of the air. Quite a jumble of words, until music is supplied. The saying—a wheel within a wheel, we never thought comes from the book of Ezekiel, 1st Chap, and 10th Chap. Next thing, look it up. First we find the book quite lengthy and not interesting to us earth bound mortals. But the religious minded Negro grasped the meaning of the wheels as being a solution of the problem, of prayer moving the arm of God, and the doctrine of His sovereign rule. "None durst say unto Him—what dost thou." So, to sum the matter up, "the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him. And our prayers, to be effective, must be dictated by the Holy Spirit." We know not what we should pray for. But the Spirit helpeth our infirmities." It would be a fine thing to be one of the cogs in the great wheel of prayer. St. Paul said—not I but Christ that dwelleth in me. So, if the coloured race made this discovery in theology, they have made a contribution. They turn their heartfelt longing into a song, whether exuberant or pathetic. They have been forced to bear the cross that the white man, in his cruelty and greed, has been placing on his shoulders. He bore the cross that the Roman soldiers placed on Simon the Syrian, on the way to Golgotha. I am, Sir, etc. ARCH. MACKENZIE, Kensington, P.E.I.

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Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

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

ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS

After this study tour, the Co-operative Movement, in itself, reflects the impression that it is of greater economic than social significance. Its most important work is in the economic field, and by doing this work in the most efficient and most modern way possible, social improvements will inevitably follow.

The scope of the Co-operative Movement, however, if it is to do the job that is necessary in the economic field, must be clarified in the minds of both the leaders and the people. In order that we analyze this question properly, let us divide our organizations into three categories, which it seems are separate and distinct in themselves, though all are a major part of the blueprint which we are discussing. Marketing Organizations

The orderly marketing and distribution of farm products is a special field in itself, and can be divided into several special phases. We have seen from practical experience that the Rochdale pattern does not apply wholly, nor has it ever worked successfully in completely solving agricultural marketing problems. This is especially true where exporting is involved, or where central storage is required for seasonal production.

An orderly method of distribution must be enforced in an area where there are still people who cut prices, undermine markets, manoeuvre around quality regulations and are generally more concerned with their own gains than with the interests of the producer or the consumer. Therefore, marketing controls and regulations are necessary and are quite in keeping with democratic principles and changing world conditions.

In any group or industry where controls and regulations are desired by the majority of the producers, the minority should be properly required to abide by a system that is protecting the general welfare. If twenty percent of the people were inclined to steal and eighty percent of the people are honest, conscientious and good citizens, would not some restriction be justified? Why should not the producers of food, like any other workers or professional groups, be allowed the benefit of legislation by which they may jointly negotiate and discipline themselves to protect and develop their industry? What farmers, in general, need is stability in prices and markets; and what farmers in the Maritime Provinces, in particular, need is an effective Maritime Marketing Policy.

If all other groups in our economy, in the professions, industry, and business, would drop their control regulations and price policies and resort to a completely free and open system of competition (which has disappeared years ago) then perhaps the farmers and workmen would not be so badly off.

And then perhaps agricultural marketing boards would not be necessary. Farmers cannot sow money, nor can they fatten it; they need to plan for the future and have some control over their own business. Fishermen, miners, and other primary producers are in the same position. However, marketing boards will not be successful nor supported if they are just a method of "price rigging" to offset inefficient production or excess overhead costs.

Speed and efficiency are as necessary in the marketing, as they are in the production of food. In modern times, we must modernize our methods must change. Farmers have accepted new and radical changes in production methods; they have bought expensive machinery, demanded new methods of transportation, etc., to meet changing conditions. Is it not just as important to keep up to date in our marketing system?

Our goal in marketing (and it should not be too far distant either) should be centralized marketing, at least on a Maritime basis. If big guns, atomic bombs, and the most modern equipment in warfare are required to protect our rights from political invasion and suppression today, then it is equally important that the people modernize their techniques and equipment to fight their social and economic battles.

The small village canning factory, for example, that was such a vast improvement in the fishing industry only 10 or 15 years ago is today as outdated in its field as the cavalry is in warfare. Where there are fifteen small canneries operating today, one would often be sufficient; it could afford large cold storage facilities, modern equipment, process fish, meal and utilize all the by-products. It could be situated where the larger boats come in and could operate on a year-round basis.

The same might be said of our dairy plants. Today two large dairy plants, on Prince Edward Island, could produce butter, cheese, dried milk, ice cream, reduced milk and process all the possible dairy products that are produced. Amalgamation of those factories, and centralized marketing, are essential if farmers are to continue owning their farms.

Production and consumption figures show that, in the Maritime Provinces, there are markets for our dairy products, all our small fruits, and all our eggs, as well as for many other products that we, in the Maritimes, can produce economically. Surplus fish, potatoes, lumber, and a few other products would have to be exported, but can they not be processed to the state of a "finished product" of greater value before being shipped out? For a start, could our Dairy-men's Association and similar organizations in other Maritime Provinces be amalgamated and a "Maritime Dairy Marketing Board" established? Such a board could regulate the marketing and distribution of all dairy products in the Maritime Provinces. The dairy farmers themselves, through a small commission on their product, soon accumulate enough money to buy up small inefficient plants and turn them over to some other group for the development of small industries. Or in many cases it would be economical to dispose of them at a loss. They could set up a dairy research laboratory, promote artificial insemination units, and have money and facilities to store and hold their products during periods of surplus. Where this pattern has been followed in other countries, immediate progress and improvement were made.

As a long term program we should visualize, also, a Maritime marketing board, (including Newfoundland) for the marketing and distribution of all the fish caught around the Atlantic Provinces. These fish could be centrally sold, and, as in the case of the farmer, a fund, raised and controlled by the fishermen themselves, would provide for many scientific and technical advances.

This would be a trend, directly away from Socialism; a trend in which the people would discipline themselves and assume responsibility for their industry at the same time. A similar plan must be considered for eggs, livestock, vegetables, and small fruits—all on a Maritime basis, and all operating on the central marketing system. However, there are two changes in our marketing board structure which must be suggested: first, on each and every board, there should be representatives of the consumers, perhaps nominated by and from the labor unions, and there should also be a representative with special training in economics, appointed jointly by the Maritime Governments. Marketing legislation may not provide for all these details now, but it is up to farm organizations and labor unions to secure proper amendments when necessary.

The second suggestion is that those marketing boards must be founded on a system of sound, efficient, and well equipped local co-operatives. For, the Government might see fit at any time (and might have just reasons in some cases) to withdraw those powers and controls from the board. Then the producers, without local co-operatives, would be left entirely at the mercy of speculators who can manipulate markets and prices to their own selfish advantage.

We can never hope to—nor should we want to—have one hundred percent of the marketing done through local co-operatives, and we cannot hope to get one hundred percent voluntary support of the locals for a central co-operative organization. This being so, a voluntary federation cannot effect stability in marketing or price levels, especially in surplus producing areas and seasons. But co-operatives are necessary in a sound and effective marketing system; first, as a firm foundation and "measuring stick" for the whole marketing board system, and second, as a safeguard in case producers should lose the powers of regulation.

Marketing boards should, through their licensing system, give preference to the most efficient local business units. If the co-operative is the most representative and efficient local unit then it should have priority but we must admit that there are many small centers where private enterprise can do, and is doing, a much more effective job than could a small local co-operative.

All marketing boards should be required to report their accounts and activities in detail to a central economic research bureau, established by and responsible to the Governments of the three (or four) Provinces. At such a bureau those reports would be analyzed and a close watch kept on the tendencies and activities of the boards. The Governments could remain outside as a referee and not become involved in the commercial field, and yet be in a position to check any tendencies of exploitation or autocracy that might develop, and be injurious to any group.

This "Maritime Government economics and research bureau" would have the facilities, figures, and all inside information on marketing conditions, as well as on the trends and decisions of the boards. It would be in a position to carry out research work and investigations on particular marketing problems that come up from time to time.

All those marketing organizations could be federated at the top, for co-ordinating purposes. For purposes of discussing marketing policies, and the problems of such groups concerned, provision should be made for representatives of labor unions and consumers' co-operatives to present any critical or constructive suggestions for improvement of the whole distributing system in the Maritimes. This is provided for in the Maritime Co-operative Union which is explained later.

(To be continued)