

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. CIRCULATION

Total City Zone 3,765 Retail Trading Zone 8,451 All Others 826 Total Net Paid 13,045

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, DEC. 29, 1950

Into The Breach

Canada's participation in the United Nations' resistance to aggression has not been marked by heroics, but at the same time it is far from being something to be ashamed of.

We have been remiss in allowing the fighting machine built up from 1939 to 1945 to disintegrate in pell mell demobilization.

The rebuilding of a fighting machine has been undertaken with considerable reluctance but as rapidly as conditions seem to permit.

Inverted Pyramid

The importance of a basic industry is strikingly illustrated under almost laboratory conditions by the little community of Rapid Blanc, deep in the Quebec bush.

Most people would regard an industry which employed 12 men as being very small potatoes indeed. Yet look at the record. Mount Blanc exists for one purpose only, as it is described in a recent Canadian Press story.

The twelve essential workers have their families. They require carpenters, plumbers, repair men, school teachers, police, merchants and firemen to maintain them and all have their families, and all require services so that a community of the size stated has grown up about the twelve men whose work is essential.

The lesson is obvious to any community which wishes to grow. Encourage the establishment of industries, no matter how small and all the rest will be added to make a bigger and better community, in the ratio of something like thirty to one.

Railway Rates

As expected, the railways reacted promptly to Mr. Justice Kellock's wage award. Their application for an immediate 5 per cent increase in general freight rates followed by only two days his award of a 3-cent-per-hour wage increase to the non-operating unions.

The railways are also asking for a deferred increase of an unspecified amount in freight rates. This, too, is a direct consequence of the Kellock award since it is to cover the cost of instituting the 40-hour week, which under the award will take effect next June 1.

This is the point which must be borne in mind in connection with the present 5 per cent application. It should, of course, be scanned most closely and critically by the Provincial Governments who, since 1946, have made themselves the guardians of the public interest in this regard.

It must never be forgotten that if granted, this increase will confront the public with its fifth freight rate increase since the spring of 1948. The first, effective in March of that year, was for 21 per cent; the second, effective in September, 1949, was for 8 per cent; the third, effective in March, 1950, was for 7.4 per cent, and the fourth, effective in May, 1950, was for 3.4 per cent.

As the increase in each case is expressed as a percentage of the existing rate, the cumulative increase since the spring of 1948, has been slightly over 45 per cent. If the present application is granted, it will bring the cumulative increase since that time to more than 52 per cent.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The second fire of London broke out this date 1940.

Christmas saw the Island fortunately unscathed by a toll of serious accidents. May the New Year safety record be as satisfactory.

The thermometer and official weather reports serve a very useful purpose at least in letting us know that the weather is not really as bad as the impression it makes.

1951 will come 13 hours earlier to troops in Korea than to this Province. For half a day they will be living in what is next year to those at home.

It is well that it was only after Christmas was past that a buyer was reported as comparing Nova Scotian Christmas trees invidiously with those of New Brunswick.

The past half-century followed upon the Victorian Age which saw the idea of Empire grow and develop into that of Commonwealth. The twentieth century, for all its setbacks, saw the gradual development of international organization on a global scale.

This is from the Montreal Gazette: "Chester S. McLure, the veteran Prince Edward Island Progressive Conservative, is reputed to be closer to the succulent shellfish residing off the coasts of his Island than any other."

A Reuters bulletin from Frankfurt, Germany, says: Hessian authorities feared legal tangles when they found a justice of the peace in a county hamlet was using a stamp dating back to the time of Emperor William II, before the First World War.

Liverpool Advance, Nova Scotia's leading weekly, under the editorship of Mr. C. L. Day, had another monster issue of 22 pages on December 21st. It was packed full of live news, seasonable articles, and pungent editorials, not to mention advertisements galore.

Hydrographers originally "tied in" Newfoundland with Canadian surveys by the headlights of a car on Cape Smokey on Cape Breton Island, so it would seem that a microwave telephone and telegraph connection with the tenth Province would be practical, as has been proved here.

William Ewart Gladstone, British statesman born this date 1809. He entered public life as a Conservative, but later became a Free Trader, and joined the Liberal Party of which he was the leader for the greater part of his life.

There are certain Ottawa circles (says Montreal Gazette) which will tell you there is a lot more than meets the eye in the extension of Viscount Alexander's term as Governor-General.

The recently published Russian Encyclopedia says: "The theoretic possibility of obtaining atomic energy through the synthesis of helium from hydrogen has tremendous importance, because it opens a new and far richer source of raw material for production of atomic energy."

Heavier Load To Drag



The Attlee - Truman Meeting

By Sebastian Haffner

The Poet's Corner

A PRAYER IN DARKNESS

This much, O heaven—if I should brood or rave, Pity me not; but let the world be fed, Yea, in my madness if I strike me dead, Heed you the grass that grows upon my grave.

I Was Just Thinking

(Sandy Todd in Weekly Scotsman)

The international situation ought to be cleared up any day now. The United Nations General Assembly is getting down to it at Flushing Meadow; an International Tariff Congress has gone into a huddle at Torquay; and an International Laundry Association has been formed.

Of the three, I think the last has as good a chance as any of ironing out the difficulties that are always cropping up between nations. Of late there has been far too much amateur washing of dirty linen at international conferences.

It is unwise, however, to be too optimistic. Other international organizations which have begun like the International Laundry Association, with a fanfare of trumpets, have let us down badly.

It would be interesting to know how the men of the Kremlin and the ordinary citizens of the Soviet Union manage the simple everyday affairs of life, such as maintaining a supply of clean collars.

But, whether the International Laundry Association is truly global or not, it is deserving of every encouragement. May it always present a united as well as a stiff front to the world!

If there is any dirty linen washed at the International Trade and Tariff Congress at Torquay, the public are not likely to hear much about it for quite a long time.

But we, the public, don't understand anything about such matters. After the experts have been in secret conference for several months, we will be told just as much as it is good for us to know.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) WESTERN MAIL ROUTE

"The mail will be made up this evening at the Post Office, and dispatched tomorrow morning, the first time, by the western route to Cape Tormentine. At that place a runner is employed, at the expense of this Government, to carry it to Amherst, from whence it will be forwarded to Halifax, etc., by the regular post man. The mail destined for this Island will be forwarded, during the winter, by the same route."

Taxation Prospects (The Letter Review)

As to taxation, difficulty is that the present system of taxation has proved totally inadequate to check inflationary pressure. Even with the admission of necessity for heavy military expenditures, price levels were still rising steadily in Canada, with no interruption in sight.

Admittedly, present inflationary pressures do not arise from the existing type of taxation. This merely adds to them. There is also the question of monetary policy. Ottawa thinking has moved in the direction of higher interest rates, but by no means to the necessary extent.

Consist in a constant stream of joint thinking and reasoning rather than in any cut-and-dried agreement. If this is borne in mind, it will be seen that the seemingly so general communique issued after the meeting says a great deal more than appears on the surface.

Advertisement for Kenwood Overcoats, featuring a coat illustration and the text 'Sold and Featured by Jack Cameron the Store for MEN'.

Notes By The Way

No wonder the horse and buggy were not able to compete. They couldn't produce an attractive station wagon job. — Victoria Times.

In Toronto an annoyed woman, splashed by a careless motorist, took the car licence number and complained to the police. The latter, investigating, arrested the driver on a charge of car theft.

The idea that we on this continent and Britain must stand together is not a new one. Its truth, however, was demonstrated in World Wars I and II, and will be in the event of another.

Disturbing remarks from various Ottawa sources, to the effect that there must be a drastic reduction of both public and private capital investment. There are evidently still some people in Ottawa who believe that this country can operate, on a long term basis under the rigid planning of bureaucrats.

A Montreal man is being held by police on 21 charges of false pretences. It seems that this dastardly fellow has (says Peterborough Examiner) been fleeing lawyers. He is alleged to have gone about soliciting orders for rare European law books, to have taken down payments and not to have delivered the goods.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Grid of professional advertisements including Dr. W. R. Carson (Chiropractor), J. A. McGuigan (Barrister), M. Alban Farmer (Money to Loan), MacPhee & Trainor (Barristers), John P. Nicholson (Barrister), Palmer & Haslam (Barrister), Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister), Joseph R. MacMillan (Barrister), J. A. Carruthers (Optometrist), H. R. Doane & Co. (Chartered Accountants), and McDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).