

THE GUARDIAN

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President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, DEC. 18, 1951

For Better Dental Health

It would appear to the average layman that the greatest single advance in the field of dental health was made in the discovery of the effect of minute quantities of fluorine in the drinking water.

In Canada its use is being urged by distinguished members of the dental profession, and Dr. D. P. Mowry, dean of the School of Dentistry at McGill University has gone so far as to say that if the City of Montreal acts soon in the use of this chemical in the water supply, in 50 years plates won't be necessary to the ordinary person.

An equally astonishing factor is the extremely economical cost of treatment estimated at between 5 and 16 cents per year per capita. It goes without saying that the average family would be delighted at a yearly dental expenditure of this amount in payment of at least half of the dental bill.

Prince Edward Island has already made great strides in its health services and the fluorine developments have doubtless been closely watched by this department of the government, but as yet there has been no announcement as to whether or not its use is practical in this Province.

Government Salaries

One of the serious problems of Government is to get and retain the services of qualified top level administrators. With the ever increasing activity of Government the problem becomes the more difficult.

In Government there is a strong resistance to rewarding particularly able men according to their deserts and although the average civil servant probably has an income roughly equivalent to what he could earn in private employment, there are jobs to be done in the public service calling for extraordinary ability which pay little more than average.

Some nations meet the problem in part by lavish distribution of honours for public service. In Canada this is hardly the case so that financial rewards must be depended upon to retain the necessary administrators.

A Century Old

Commenting on the proposals for celebrating last week the twentieth anniversary of the Statute of Westminster, the Globe and Mail points out that the date of the Statute (Dec. 11, 1931) while important, should by no means be regarded as a sort of independence day, marking the emergence of this Dominion as a sovereign nation.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose word should be good enough for most Canadians including all Liberals, said in 1899 that Canada had enjoyed "legislative independence absolute" for fifty years. This is not what the history books say but it is just possible the historians haven't read their sources thoroughly and that Sir Wilfrid, who ran the country, knew more about it than the men who merely wrote or write about it.

The old Toronto Globe, another unimpeachable authority, in its issue of Nov. 17, 1849, noted that "Canada is now as free from 'baneful domination' as any country under the sun." Since the grant of Responsible Government, The Globe went on to say, the people of Canada had exercised "full power over the public affairs." This was a considerable time before the framers of the Statute of Westminster or the current generation of Canadian politicians got into action.

Canada, of course, has far more im-

portance, prestige and influence in the world now than it had in 1899 or 1849. This gain, however, was not achieved by charters, declarations, statutes, documents or even political speeches. It was achieved by the mainly non-political activities of Canadians in industry, commerce, war and other fields.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Seven more days till Christmas.

The latest estimate of the Gaspé copper ore reserves places it at 75,000,000 tons. Isn't that a windfall, and so near here?

A few years ago, one would not have considered it possible for the Government to have 20 snow ploughs operating at one time. Yet so it was over the week-end.

The opening of Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation marks the nationalization of Canada's cable communications with the world.

The hockey team visiting Cape Breton suffered two misfortunes—they got blanked out, and then got stalled at Borden on the way home.

Everyone is thinking about a very special tree at this season, but should not forget the Veterans' Tree at Moore & McLeod's.

Slavery was abolished in the U. S. A. this date 1862, ten years after the publication of "Uncle Tom's Cabin". The result of the Civil War, 1861-65, assured that the abolition would be effective.

Some 50 tourists fleeing from New York's wintry weather for Florida's summer clime on Saturday went instead and unexpectedly to their long rest. The uncertainties of life.

In a world where a diplomat may not even be given a traffic ticket because of his status it is little short of astonishing to have two being shot and wounded as was the case in Czechoslovakia.

If you want anything from Ottawa you must go after it personally, as the Premier found in connection with the Hillsboro Bridge. Correspondence and phone calls are all right in their way, but for action the personal interview has it all over them.

A cheaper method for providing piped water to outlying farms, estates and villages is being used in the U.K. It consists of a tractor-drawn mole drain plough which lays special copper tubing underground at a speed of 100 to 150 feet a minute.

The lifting of currency restrictions both by this country and by the United Kingdom will undoubtedly bring a flurry of foreign buying, but more important it should result in greater interest by outside investors in these two countries.

It is announced Quebec families of moderate means will save about \$600,000 to \$700,000 a year because of the legislation modifying the Succession Duties Act. The amendment provides that in estates of not more than \$50,000 there was to be exemption of the first \$10,000 when the heirs are in the direct line, and of \$1,500 for each child under the age of 25.

To him that hath Christmas holidays more are to be given. Thousands of civil servants who are employed on an hourly wage will get the same Yuletide holidays as civil servants employed on regular salaries. The Federal Treasury Board decided to extend the extra two-day holiday with pay—the day before Christmas and the day before New Year's—to all prevailing rate workers in the Federal Civil Service. The holidays will be granted providing there is no rush work to be done. If the employees have to work on those days, they will be granted compensatory leave with pay at some other time.

His Majesty the King will be part of this Christmas, as he has been for years, and his father before him. On Christmas Day he will follow the happy ritual of broadcasting to his people "from his home", and of gathering all together, as a family of nations, bound by the strength of family ties and interests. There will be something that touches the heart in its deeper places in this Christmas. Whenever an invalid, long absent from the family circle, returns, there is a very special tenderness to the welcome. So will the King be welcomed into our homes this Christmas, before the warm hearth of a glowing and grateful affection.

"Don't Forget, Huh, Santa?"



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.

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. CONNOLLY

Sir.—Through your popular paper, the President of the Navy League of Canada, P. E. I. Division, Officers and lads of our Sea Cadet movement, wish to express our warmest congratulations to Captain J. J. Connolly on the termination of a most distinguished Naval career. We know him best for his interests in our movement, and everything pertaining to our welfare.

On Friday evenings, from 7 until 9 p. m. (two hours packed with lecture and training). Captain Connolly is usually on the "SHIP" with his cheery smile, good advice and encouragement, for without his cooperation, we would not have survived. On that night, the "SHIP" equipment, etc. is ours. "Captain J. J. Connolly won't be forgotten by the lads. He holds a big spot in their hearts. We say, "Thank you, Sir."

J. J. MORRIS, President, Navy League of Canada, P. E. I. Division.

CHRISTMAS CLUB MONEY

Sir.—Some years ago, when residing in the United States, I found that the Banks carried on a Christmas Club every year and anyone could join the club and pay anywhere from 25 cents per week in. There was no compulsion to pay up regularly, and you could not draw your account out. That was the good point. The Club started around Dec. 16 and ran for a year to December the following year, and at that time the bank sent you a cheque for the amount you paid in. There was no interest and no charge for the service. If you only paid in fifty cents you got it back; fifty dollars the same way. And believe me, that cheque came in very handy at Christmas.

I believe it would be a wonderful thing for us here in Charlottetown, to have a note or a lesser one at next Christmas. I would leave us with fewer small bills in the stores to be paid during the following months. Fifty cents or a dollar per week as one saw fit would soon show up big on the pass book. Of course this is all up to the banks, and if they want to do this I am sure there would be some on the list who would at the end of the month, check over to a savings account. No matter how much you pay into the Christmas Club it stays there—until the banks sent you your cheque—that is the beauty of the plan. Now would be the time to start saving for Christmas 1952.

I am, Sir, etc. WALTER A. O'BRIEN, Charlottetown.



ONCE IN DECEMBER Once in a decade of Decembers There is one sunset that is flaming gold. When the sun, this great circumference of light, Restrained for days behind gaunt clouds, Malevolently cold, Leaps at the rim of night From those grim fethers, To a new perfection of transcendent glow, Gold flecked with copper sheen; The hanging rays between This sphere of gold and the hovering clouds Are slim festoons of burnished fire; The damask sun of May, The carnation of July, Are pale beside this light: Once in a decade of Decembers There is one sunset that is flaming gold.—Miriam Whitney White

Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England:—British plumbing, like our cooking and the weather, has long been a source of condescending amusement to visitors from overseas, particularly those from North America, who may perhaps feel that in these respects they are somewhat better served at home. Whether in fact they are or not—and there is probably some doubt, if the truth were known—they are encouraged in their belief by many of our own citizens, who help to foster the illusion that our arrangements in such matters are so bad as to be comical. The real joke is, of course, that we ourselves don't believe it; except, naturally, when a sudden freeze-up causes our pipes to burst, but that is liable to happen to almost anybody. We wouldn't claim that we are exactly the envy of other races, but we get by. Our lugubrious self-criticism is no more nor less than a characteristic.

Another subject on which we accept a certain amount of good-natured banter from our cousins from other lands is our methods of keeping ourselves warm indoors, and more specifically, our apparent reluctance to have anything whatsoever to do with central heating. In our homes, that is; elsewhere, for instance in offices, factories, shops and so forth, we have come to accept that there is a lot to be said for it.

But not quite enough to sell us completely on the idea as far as our homes are concerned. It is not mere coincidence that makes those Christmas cards and calendars among the most popular, year after year, which show a fine picture in warm reds and browns of ruddy-complexioned, old-fashioned gentlemen of a century or so ago, gathered convivially round a roaring fire in an open hearth. If the picture also shows icicles outside the windows and snow in the street so much the better; it helps to indicate how lucky those chaps are to have such a grand fire round which to toast themselves. Oddly enough, "toast" is just about right if there is much of a draught from under the door, in which case one gets very warm on the side facing the fire, and very chilly on the other. Yet this is not considered anything like an overwhelming argument against open fires. After all, a draught can be blocked, and in any case that is only one of the misfortunes of life and not to be blamed on the heating system. Considering the real disadvantages of the coal fire—the sooty chimneys for example, and the need for disposal of the ashes, not to mention the high price of coal, which is rationed anyway—there must be some reason for its undying popularity. It must be its welcoming cheerfulness. Or, perhaps, its facility for the quick disposal of combustible garbage, cigarette butts and, of course, the written word!

However, progress is inevitable, and perhaps one day the coal fire will be a thing of the past even in our homes. There are signs even now that nostalgically of the old days and the flames making flickering patterns on the walls in the twilight. Never more so, perhaps, than in the Christmas time: for old Santa Claus would need some protection against radio-activity, for

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

The first so-called ice-breaking steamer supplied by the Dominion Government to this Province was the "Northern Light", of whose efficiency a characteristic instance is cited in the following clipping from the Pictou Standard, reprinted in The Examiner of Feb. 8, 1928:

"The Gulf steamer 'Northern Light' has met with her first trial of this season, and has somewhat ignominiously succumbed to King Frost. On Wednesday last, while rounding a floe some three miles from the mouth of the harbor, she was caught between floating masses, and, in endeavoring to extricate herself, succeeded in jamming herself in such a manner that it was impossible to move in any direction. On Thursday an attempt was made by those on board, after landing the passengers and mails, to cut through the surrounding bergs, but to no avail, and the steamer had to be allowed to rest in quiet, till a gale should disperse the heavy floes holding her in their rigid grasp.

"The fields imprisoning the vessel were moving shorewards during the closing days of the week, and much alarm existed as to the ship's keel striking the bottom, in which event she would go to pieces; but as yet she has not grounded, and we hope may escape that threatening danger. As, however, the draught of water of the 'Northern Light' is about 18 feet, it will be seen that she is always confronted by the danger of being ground, as well as of being crushed in the ice. There is not now very unfortunate that the steamer should be so firmly fastened in what little there is."

The Age-Old Story

For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many), but to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom all things, and we in him, are one thing. And those fine old-English gentlemen on the calendar would look pretty silly huddled round an atomic pile.

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands, Dec. 17 (AP)—The Dutch Government started a crackdown today on Communists in civil service jobs. In a new move to strengthen internal security, the government published a list of Communist or pro-Communist organizations to which government employees may not belong.

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Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

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

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

A man put this question to three workers: "What are you doing?" The first man replied "I'm working for \$1.00 an hour." The second, "I'm chiseling granite." The third, "I'm helping to build a great cathedral."

Until we change the social outlook of the masses of the people by effective education techniques, little or nothing can be done to make democracy really work. Complete capitalism is not the answer; state socialism is not the answer; a voluntary cooperative movement is not the answer. Why? Because to one of those plans, in its own form, has proven a solution in the past, and they have all been tried in varying degrees with many ages and classes of people.

Why are people more dissatisfied now than ever before? Why is it necessary to wage war in order to have prosperity? In basic economics, it is this vicious circle: labour wants a raise in wages, because the costs of food and other requirements of living are too high; the farmer wants higher prices for the food because of the costs of the products of industry—such as machinery, fertilizers, electricity, building supplies and fuel—are so high that they cannot continue farming without mining the soil or slaughtering the forests to the detriment of the country.

For a start, why cannot agriculture and labor, both groups of primary producers, get together? Who is keeping them apart? This is the first step in reaching a solution to the present economic problems in almost every country in the world. In Sweden, considerable progress has been made in this respect with the Government acting as a referee; and the resulting prosperity and security of the people of Sweden is quite evident.

How can we combine the good and necessary features of socialism with the good features of competition and capitalism; and with the good features of co-operation?

In countries all over the world, it has been proven that governments can and must operate certain public utilities if they are to be operated on an efficient and economic basis and in the best interests of the public. The reason why many public utilities have not been financially successful under Government operation is because they were a mess as far as efficiency and finances were concerned before being taken over.

These public utilities include electricity, post office, railways, national banks, roads, telegraph and telephone, water and sewage disposal in urban areas. We must accept the fact that these utilities can function more efficiently and more economically under Government direction than under any other agency. It seems quite ridiculous, in this day and age, to find two telegraph offices in one small town, two railway stations, two telephone or electricity companies competing for rights along the same highways, commercial banks and finance companies with selfish and private profit interests almost completely in control of the monetary machinery.

In countries where these utilities are controlled and regulated by the public interest, efficiency, good service and economy result. This is especially true where Government operated those utilities from their beginning.

One hundred and fifty years ago the chief concerns of Governments were first, agriculture, and second, foreign affairs. But now almost one half of Governmental attention is given to military preparation and research, industry, transportation, and public works. Each is a national problem, but in each of these, Government appears to be only a day to day pacifier, pleading with the "grasping element."

ent" to "be good fellows now because the rest of our family must live too, you know", and offering them rewards for their behaviour in the form of further contracts or special privileges, if they chose to cooperate.

Would it not be possible to evolve a workable system based on the following points? First, education; a complete and positive educational system would require each and every normal citizen to attain a minimum standard of education that would develop his intellect to a point where he would at least weigh propositions or problems from different angles and consider his responsibilities to himself and to his country before making hasty decisions or marking a ballot.

Second, nationalization or Government control of the public utilities suggested above; a full report from each public utility would be provided annually for review and criticism by representatives of labor, agriculture, and industry.

Third, the setting up of a national price regulating commission that would use the most economical cost of production of food in the various Provinces and on the various types of soil and under different production conditions as the basis for a formula to establish prices that would be fair to all groups. By the actual operation of the most efficient units and methods of production in each circumstance and with the supervision of qualified economists, this formula could be worked out to form a basis for calculating and determining in advance, a minimum or maximum price range for our main food products—those prices would be based on delivery to the factory, processing plant or unit from where the consumer distribution would commence.

There would have to be similar cost-of-production units established in each of the primary industries and consideration given to the diverse conditions and circumstances involved in each area. Those "cost-of-production units" could be watched closely and supervised by the "price regulating commission" set up on a national basis and representing labor, agriculture, industry, transportation, and the consumer.

This commission would see to it that no inefficient or unnecessary element was allowed in determining those costs, and that the people involved were being treated fairly in regard to living conditions, working hours, leisure, and the other necessities of a full life.

The economists representing labor on this commission, would carefully watch the food producing unit, while the agricultural representatives could closely scrutinize the activities, habits and efficiency of labor. Industrial and all processing costs would be subject to inspection at all times by the commission.

The general levelling out process would take place at least annually to determine future prices and costs within a reasonable range, with the Government acting as a referee or mediator. If any adjustment were necessary after such decisions were made, this commission would be responsible for reviewing the case in full and granting any concessions that were warranted. In many cases it would be necessary to establish price levels for more than one year in advance.

The marketing and distribution of farm commodities of coal, and of other raw materials, would be done through marketing boards. This would necessitate each group in our economy being fully organized, and fully informed on the problems and conditions of other groups. Commodity marketing not

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