

Published every week-day morning at 126 Prince Street, Charlotteville, P.E.I. by the Thomson Company Ltd.

By Carrier: Charlottetown, Summerside \$15.00 per annum. Elsewhere in P. E. I. \$9.00. Other Provinces and U. S. \$12.00 per annum.

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

FRIDAY, DEC. 23, 1955

The Christmas Spirit

It is impossible to ignore the impact which materialism has made on our times; and the secularization of Christmas has gone far beyond its legitimate limits.

Surely, this is something worth recording. It is a specific application of Christian faith and doctrine. In helping an unfortunate fellow-citizen, the residents of Chesley have done honour to themselves—yes, and glory to Him who said: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these ye have done it unto Me".

Yes, the world is beset with many evil things these days. The hard hand of exaggerated secularism lies heavily on human relations in almost every department of life.

India's Reaction

Now that the Russian leaders have returned home after their free-spending tour of India, much speculation is going on in Western political circles over what they may or may not have accomplished in the interests of Soviet strategy.

Evidently, Agriculture Minister Gardiner does not subscribe to the popular belief that "figures don't lie." He is still clinging to his view that there is no butter surplus in this country, despite the huge figures released by business agencies.

The Westinghouse Electric Corporation of Pittsburgh has offered to lend \$100 to each of its striking employees "to provide Christmas essentials for their families"; the loan to be repaid in easy instalments after the men return to work.

The Students' Executive Council of McGill University has decided to give the City of Montreal \$5000 by way of reparations for damages caused in the recent riots.

As the New York Times pointed out in a recent issue, one thing seems perfectly clear: there is less assurance than there was before the Russians' Indian jaunt of India's siding with the West in the event of war.

About A Hat

There's important news from London; and it has nothing to do with the cold war, the Middle East crisis, or the hydrogen bomb. It's all about a hat, the one that has been used in the House of Commons for more than a half century.

The decision to buy a new one was not arrived at hastily, however. That would have been most unseemly in a chamber noted for prolonged consideration of serious questions, especially about matters the origins of which go back to the formative years of Britain's greatness.

A lot of fuss about nothing? There would be good reason for saying so. Yet, perhaps there is better reason—though it would be difficult to put it into words—for congratulating the Commons on taking time out from discussing weighty matters of the present to pay homage, in a characteristically round-about way, to an old institution that has managed to survive the modern tendency to disparage anything that is not "practical."

EDITORIAL NOTES

It does not take much to set Premier Smallwood travelling, especially if the trip is likely to result in new business for Newfoundland.

While not attempting to analyze in full the Board's statement as the report has already been summarized through the Guardian, I would like to make one or two comments on certain portions of the report that are of interest to the public.

The fact also stands that the United States grower requires our good northern seed, and needing this commodity and recognizing vastly changed conditions under which we are operating at the present time, it would seem rather unusual to expect that our position either in Canada or the United States would be worsened by insisting on a reasonable measure of potato tariff reform.

Coming back again to the overall report I would again state that aside from slight differences of opinion expressed by the Board and the inclusion of its own interpretations on certain conditions, the report does not substantially differ from the representations as outlined in the briefs. In the main it supports



THE MORE, THE MERRIER

PUBLIC FORUM

THE TARIFF BOARD REPORT

Sir,—Rather critical comment from the press and interested private citizens has greeted the recent report of the Canadian Tariff Board on the potato tariff investigation. Such comment appearing at this time could prove somewhat prejudicial to the main issue. It would almost appear from some of the criticisms that the whole question of tariff adjustment has been settled with the Board's report. Nothing could be more misleading. The Board has been a fact finding organization and its terms of reference did not provide for any recommendations. The report has been placed in the hands of the Federal Government and the responsibility for action rests with that body.

Reference is made to the fact that imports to Canada are made chiefly during the six weeks period when new potatoes are coming into Canada under a tariff. At the same time, however, the Board draws attention to the fact that imports are being spread out during recent years and larger proportions are coming in during the month of May. This is exactly what the submissions indicated and that the impact of these late crop imports have had the tendency to demoralize and set the prices on the Canadian market. Even in years of a surplus in Canada these imports have seriously interfered with prevailing prices. This was indicated in the 1953 season.

The Board takes some exception to the statement that the past four years provide a normal trading pattern and feels that this period is more or less transitional. I would entirely disagree with the Board in this respect other than to say that the transitional aspects seem to be ushering in a definite normal pattern in potato trade. Some comment is also made regarding transportation, and it is explained that United States importers are not permitted to take advantage of the Maritime Freight Rates Act. The Act can apply however on broken shipments, that is potatoes may be taken across the border and rebilled in the name of a Canadian shipper. If this practice is followed the impact is the same. It is assumed however that most of the movement is by truck and in this respect we have contended that under conditions obtaining in Maine where large producer-owned trucks, purchased under cheaper rates and with lower servicing, catering very often to two-way shipments particularly south are in a very much more favourable position to transport tubers than are our Island or Maritime growers.

Reference is also made to violent yearly fluctuations in production and the influence in this connection to abrupt price levels. These fluctuations cannot be completely attributed to price factors. The fact remains that since the late U. S. crop has been diverted to our late season market our growers dread this threat have faced a measure of uncertainty in productive practices. It is quite reasonable to expect that a measure of tariff protection would at least partially eliminate abrupt fluctuations and restore a measure of stability in the industry.

The Board has quite properly pointed out that the United States growers near the Canadian border can easily enter our market and do enter and influence our price levels. Reference is made to the lowering consumption per capita in both Canada and the United States. This condition may be expected in view of the large variety of fruits and vegetables now available in our supply depots. With the influence of improved manufacture and the need in a cold climate such as ours for a starch food I do not feel that there will be a material lowering of per capita consumption of potatoes below the present levels. In any event it would seem difficult to prevent this trend, although our growers are doing a better job in catering to consumer demand.

Coming back again to the overall report I would again state that aside from slight differences of opinion expressed by the Board and the inclusion of its own interpretations on certain conditions, the report does not substantially differ from the representations as outlined in the briefs. In the main it supports

ket for large United States producing areas straddling our border and in a better position to supply our markets than we are in the Maritimes, British Columbia and other areas.

Under these conditions it is impossible to think that some very substantial redress shall not be taken in the very near future to remedy a most unfair and unjust position.

The time has arrived when the full impact of all our interests should be coordinated toward the achievement of this objective. It may well be that the Dominion Government may need further information and a clearer explanation on some of the matters presented by the Tariff Board. If so the Horticultural Council and associated bodies and I am sure potato and fruit and vegetable interests across the country will be ready to provide every support in this case. The Federal members of Parliament are in a strong position in this respect and we hope to see them taking an aggressive part both within and without Parliament, as well as the provincial authorities, in securing this im-

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

CHOOSING AN EYE DOCTOR. Do you have an ophthalmologist? Now don't go running to the medicine cabinet. An ophthalmologist is a physician, not a virus. He is a physician who specializes in treating eye defects and diseases. Eventually, many of you will have need to consult an ophthalmologist.

THREE GROUPS. It has occurred to me that many persons don't know whom to consult when they need glasses or eye care. I think you should be acquainted with the type of work performed by three groups of persons who can help your eyes.

The ophthalmologist or oculist is an M. D. He is a physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery. Trained in treating defects and diseases, he is the one to consult for cases of crossed-eyes and similar disorders.

An optometrist is not a physician. He is licensed to examine your eyes and to prescribe and provide contact lenses, even though you have visual training. He probably will refer you to an oculist if you need medical attention for an eye disease.

An optician is the one who supplies your glasses. He is trained to fit and to grind lenses and is equipped to examine your eyes for defects.

Now that you know what type of an eye man to see, don't try the penny-wise shortcut to eye care. Resist the temptation to save a few cents by purchasing a cheap pair of glasses over-the-counter at a store.

The correct spectacles for you can be determined only through a thorough examination by a competent professional. Such an examination is also the best way to learn whether your eyes are healthy.

Besides, your eyes sometimes act as sort of a barometer to warn of some deep-seated conditions such as hardening of the arteries.

So, if you're past 40, have your eyes examined, even though you think you don't need glasses. Most persons of this age do, at least for reading.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

M. V.: My physician advised me to take insulin to control my change of life. Recently, I noticed my hair falling out. Could taking the hormone shots be responsible for this condition?

Answer: It is possible that the taking of the male hormone by a woman might cause some loss of hair. However, loss of hair could come from many causes. Examination by your doctor will be necessary to determine the cause in your particular case.

W. R. SEAW. I am, Sir, etc.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Sir,—With reference to the recent letter appearing in this column I should like to add the following remarks.

Employers should realize that during the month of December along with the Christmas rush from day to day their staffs have been called upon to work at least two extra nights and three extra Saturday afternoons—some more even than this. This is the equivalent of at least three extra days.

Now, should the employees not be entitled one extra holiday at Christmas home with their families? Surely this extra day would not mean that much to the employers—after all had Christmas taken on any other day of the week, they would have had no objections to a Boxing Day holiday.

Oh, incidentally are the employers not also in need of the extra day's rest.

I am, Sir, etc. ANOTHER FAITHFUL EMPLOYEE.

SENATOR KNOWLAND

Sir,—In the column "Editorial Notes" on Wednesday you commented on Senator Knowland's statement that if Mr. Eisenhower has not made an announcement on whether or not he will run again in 1956 by mid-January he himself will declare presidential intentions. Your observation was that "Mr. Knowland is the leader of the extreme isolationist right-wing group in the Republican Party," and that "the fact that he feels strong enough even to enter his name in the state primaries is evidence that isolationism is still a factor in United States politics."

This comment amazed me very much and I seriously doubt that it is true. On the basis of fact available to me I cannot read isolationism into the Senator's record. Right-wing, yes, but right-wing and isolationism are not synonymous terms, no matter how much prominent American "liberal" publications would make it appear so.

I am, Sir, etc. JOHN ELDON GREEN

NOTES BY THE WAY

A tremendous press at Lehigh University can push down with a five million pound force. But the story doesn't say if they lend it out to suitcase packers.

Time and again we hear the much-quoted aphorism attributed to Laurier that the twentieth century belongs to Canada. That will only be true when Canadians realize that they are living in a competitive world in which leadership goes only to those with the initiative, enterprise, industry and courage to deserve it.—Ottawa Journal.

Moscow is not deliberately setting anybody free, in Berlin or elsewhere, now or ever. It has not liberated the people of East Germany. It is not liberating the people of East Berlin. On the contrary it is trying to enslave the people of West Berlin and of West Germany. Berlin, betrayed by Hitler, ruined in the war Hitler began, divided since 1945, remains a great city—the western half of which is now ironically regaining a measure of prosperity. The freedom of its western sectors was not lost in 1948-1949, under the Russian blockade. It will not be lost now.—New York Times.

Time was when the only index of economic conditions needed by the ordinary meat-and-potatoes guy was the price of pork chops. Tell him what you were paying for pork chops and he knew whether the country was going to the dogs or was on a big boom. Today, however, Farm policy can't seem to find the right size umbrella to shelter all agricultural products. Two years ago hogs fetched \$26 for 100 pounds, but today they are down to \$10.25 per 100. No one loves a hog at that price—not even the pork chop rich consumer.—Boston Post.

It is true that the pattern of living (in Newfoundland) has altered in many ways. We burn coal instead of wood. More and more people are discovering such amenities as electricity and running water. More intensive competition is making some inroads upon our leisurely ways. But the basic kindness and hospitality and easy-going manners of the Newfoundlanders have been too well and too long engrained to allow them to disappear under the influence of the first winds of economic and social change. We shall continue to be hospitable, we shall not easily lose our taste for fish and brewis and pork scrunchings or for flippers or cod tongues or pork and cabbage, we are likely to retain our idiosyncrasies of speech, and we are certain to adhere to that insular independence which rightly or wrongly has been our badge throughout the centuries since settlement first began.—St. John's News.

The woodshed often is referred to as the place to which bad boys once were taken to receive corporal punishment. That did sometimes happen but most men with a rural background will remember the woodshed for other reasons. The procedure on the farms was to cut down the trees during winter, saw the logs into stove lengths, and then split these into large slabs. They would be piled in the woods and left to dry at least until the next autumn. Green wood makes poor fuel. The sight of a full woodshed was a satisfying one. Good maple and beech were the best woods. Keeping a steady, hot fire. One knew the family wouldn't freeze, no matter how low the temperature might fall, as long as there was an ample supply of wood. Many farmers on this day rely largely on wood, though others do use alternative fuels.—Galt Reporter.

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