

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, J. K. Burnett Associate Editor, Frank Walker. "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 1950

Prescription For Preparedness

Prescriptions for preparedness have come a dime a dozen since the Government was caught napping when the Communists marched into South Korea six months ago. In that brief space of time the various nostrums propounded by economic soothsayers in and out of official circles have been so numerous and so varied that it is little wonder the Government still does not know what course to follow.

Bank of Nova Scotia President H. L. Enman is neither a soothsayer nor an economist. Rather, he is just a plain, old-fashioned banker whose job requires that he exercise a prudent and careful stewardship of the funds entrusted to his colleagues and himself. Mr. Enman's prescription for preparedness, therefore, stands in a somewhat different light from that proffered by economic brain trusters and the like. Indeed, it sounds a little like the old-fashioned home remedy of a good linseed poultice for the chest cold which has failed to respond to half a dozen different patent medicines.

"The central task," says Mr. Enman, "is to build up our power to produce. . . . Though it is most desirable to check inflation, it is desirable to do it in such a way that we shall not impede the growth of our power to produce. . . . No doubt some types of capital investment can and should be curtailed. . . . But there can be no question as to the importance of proceeding with resource and power development, and with industrial and agricultural development in many ways. Moreover, though some curtailment may be unavoidable, it seems to me that the need for improving transportation facilities and for housing and educational facilities deserve a high priority." The question is whether anybody in Ottawa is listening. For Mr. Enman's advice is sound.

That Tax Proposal

Ottawa's reported willingness to permit the Provinces to levy an indirect sales tax on certain commodities at the retail level, comments the Globe and Mail, is rather too glib to be consonant with a sound revision of tax fields. A drastic amendment to the national constitution would be necessary to open the field of indirect taxation to Provincial authorities. If any such constitutional amendment is to be considered there should be a reappraisal of the entire field of tax sources so that municipalities as well as the Provinces and the Dominion may obtain revenues commensurate with their responsibilities.

The proposal, notes our Toronto contemporary, comes from five Provinces now collecting direct sales tax on specified merchandise sold at retail. They have encountered certain difficulties arising from the necessity of designating every merchant selling taxable items as a tax collector. They also are meeting a good deal of public opposition, as the new legal direct tax must be shown on individual sales slips as an addition to the standard retail price. Under the proposed change the levies would be hidden in the single retail price quoted by the merchant.

If the Government at Ottawa now believes, as reported, that a tax on sales is fairer than the income tax, it has the power to substitute this kind of tax for a part or even all of its income tax collections. But Ottawa is obviously unwilling to take such a course for a reason which is clear. It already has multiplied indirect taxes which are hidden in prices to a point where the national price level no longer is an index of economic conditions. It is a combination index of Government extravagance and fundamental economic factors; but owing to the pyramiding of taxes it has become extremely difficult, if not impossible, to determine how much of each is involved in a given price.

There is little evidence that Ottawa really believe the sales tax to be fairer than the income tax. But if such a conviction is held, the Government is free to abandon the income tax altogether to the Provinces, bring its hidden taxes out into the open, and increase its present sales tax to a level that would compensate it for the loss of revenue. If there is any sincerity in the Dominion Government's offer to open indirect taxation to the Provinces, it cannot in honesty do so without first considering this alternative and stating why it is not acceptable.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It evidently does not pay to be too far from Ottawa when important appointments are to be made.

To a great many of the younger generation Christmas is still a season which comes after the half-yearly exams.

Newfoundland's agricultural products survey will undoubtedly uncover great opportunities for the farmers of that Province but it is to be hoped that the survey is not largely concerned with alternatives to the trade developed with this Province.

The more auto accidents we have, the more money we have to pay in insurance to provide compensation. It is just like old age pensions and baby bonuses, the more we have the more taxes we must pay to provide for them.

Sympathy is extended to Rev. and Mrs. T. H. B. Somers in their bereavement, Mr. Somers' brother-in-law, Mr. Frank R. Ashworth having passed away at Halifax, N. S., on Wednesday at the early age of forty-eight. Mr. Ashworth had been on a hunting trip when he suffered a heart attack and had to be conveyed ninety miles for medical attention at Halifax.

The United Nations general assembly has decided to provide a decoration for those who participate in Korea in defence of U. S. principles. Perhaps a new order of chivalry is being born, not unlike the originals which were international in scope before the great national states reached the peak of their power.

Izaak Walton, English author and angler, died this date 1683 at the age of ninety. After retreat from business as a linen draper, he spent most of his time visiting various country parsonages. Among his friends were Michael Drayton, (English poet, author of the great sonnet "Since there's no help, come let us kiss and part"), Ben Jonson, Sir Henry Watton, (poet and diplomat, whose poems, letters, etc., were edited by Walton). Walton wrote several admirable biographies, including that of Donne, but his masterpiece is "The Compleat Angler", a dissertation on angling, interspersed with entertaining reflections on life and nature.

The deserved honour paid to Mr. Pappin by the potato interests on his retirement from the Civil Service, besides being appreciated by him will tend to encourage other Government officials to follow his example in putting all their enterprise, knowledge and experience at the service of the particular public they serve. Mr. Pappin has never spared himself in attempting to make two bushels of disease-free potatoes grow where one grew before. When he comes to write the history of the white potato industry of the Island, it is to be hoped he will not overlook two or three pioneers who were in the project from the outset, namely Mr. McIver, Kin-kora, who shipped the first consignment of white potatoes, Mr. John MacFadyen, Augustine Cove, who followed up, Mr. John O. Hyndman, who brought the new potato industrialists into contact with the Provincial Government and Board of Trade, and, above all, Professor Paul Murphy, who saw the enormous prospects of such an industry, and carried on the propaganda for the purpose of convincing and encouraging farmers to forsake the old time blue for the marketable white potato.

What impresses the thinking and paying public in the presentation of a policy is the vigor and personality, the courage, determination, and convictions of the man presenting the case. Premier Jones and Premier Smallwood, are instances that may be cited. They are as different in build and make-up physically as it is possible to conceive, but in mentality and resourcefulness they are as two pins. Whenever they stand up to speak all eyes and ears are on them, and seldom do they sit down without having created a favourable impression on thinking listeners. This is borne out by a report received from Montreal of the Island oyster dinner given there recently. It is claimed that rarely, if ever, was there a better attendance of leaders in public life, both business and political, and when Premier Jones was called upon to speak, he did not disappoint expectations. He presented the case for the Island with vigor, sincerity and as with one having first hand knowledge. Our informant says Mr. Jones did not mince matters, but hit out straight from the shoulder, leaving an impression that it will be difficult to efface. His presentation of the Island's case carrying conviction, is bound to bear fruit. That is the advantage of having duly elected, live, informed authoritative representation at important functions.

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.

THE MUSEUM PROJECT

Sir,—Quoting from Tuesday's Guardian: "It would be worthwhile for some citizen or citizens to do something to prevent mementos of our historic past from being scattered," etc., may I point out that many citizens are interested in just such a project, but they scarcely dare make any move after hearing or reading Dr. MacKinnon's address at the recent dinner of the Arts and Crafts Society. Amateur historians and collectors of so-called "junk" articles, which are largely "junk", are not to be encouraged! Are we all wrong in our idea that the work of officials of archives and museums is the sifting of just such junk, retaining the things which their specialized training enables them to recognize as of value?

There are many individuals on the Island tremendously interested in its history and people, who have given 40 to 50 years in cases—in acquiring a collection of data which could be invaluable if properly used. I could refer to such well-known names as Mr. T. Edgar McNutt; the Old Charlottetown columnist in The Guardian; Prof. Blanchard, formerly on the staff of P. W. C. There are many, many others throughout the Province, including the Misses Holman of Summerside.

However much the Premier and his Government may sympathize with the need for a suitable museum building (and we feel they do), reasonable people recognize that with the present outlay for welfare, and the imminent outlay for defence, it would be difficult to justify a large expenditure for this at present. But as in all natural progress, which is to learn to sit up, to stand, to walk before we run, may we not now proceed to stand? Through the efforts of private citizens and organizations, such as I. O. D. E. and Women's Institutes, we feel the first stage has passed. Could we not somewhere find a safe place to store a "junk" pile of things of value, to be catalogued and exhibited properly, when we can afford a proper place?

There is a strong feeling of resentment that the present aroused public interest for a Provincial Museum Building is being utilized as a carbouse to drag along an almost defunct Arts and Crafts Centre, and that the coupling of the two has resulted in a setting back the museum project for the other. If the city of Charlottetown can and will afford a community centre, that would be an excellent thing, and very badly needed; if such a community centre could provide accommodation for an Arts and Crafts Centre, that too would be an excellent thing. But the archives and museum building is a Provincial project, is a Provincial necessity.

I would like to suggest the re-birth of the Historical Society of Prince Edward Island: we had one years ago—the society published a magazine, too, copies of which are collectors' items today. Such a society could provide a spring-board from which to launch the project of preserving the items of historic interest which are fast disappearing along with the "antics" which used to shelter them, and the older inhabitants who knew the history attached to each item.

I am, Sir, etc., INTERESTED.

LARRY GORMAN'S POEMS

Sir,—The Guardians of November 16th and 17th containing the letters of Meditating Larry Gorman with writing "Prince Edward Isle Adieu", arrived here some days after I had mailed my letter stating that I had heard Larry Doyle named as the writer. If I had seen those letters before writing I would have let Doyle's claim (if any) go by default, as I have nothing in the way of evidence other than a prevalent local opinion. But just what is there of real evidence as to the authorship?

As to Larry Gorman, I must confess to an almost complete lack of knowledge of either he or his writings. The lone exception to that is this: within the last few years I saw an article in some publication naming Gorman as the author of the song "Peter Emberly", which was a popular nostalgic "Come all Ye" of the eastern lumber camps at the turn of the century. This came as rather a surprise to me, as in 1900 working on Mt. Moosilauke, near Warren, N.H. I made the acquaintance of a man named Nelson, and he told us he wrote it. He was a New Brunswicker, a quite intelligent man; said he was there when Emberly was killed, and gave a very detailed account of it all. None of us saw any reason to doubt him, but of course he may have been merely a very plausible liar. However the article giving the credit to Gorman gave no evidence to support his claim either: so I still am not fully convinced that Nelson was lying.

I would be much interested in

The Age-Old Story

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

He'll Stay Awhile



any available information regarding Larry Gorman and anything he is known to have written. If he wrote much, and any of it was published, there should be something yet extant that would be of interest today.

Thinking it over I recall having met with many such orphaned wandering walls of poems; poems that through the years have been passed verbally from person to person; and so changed in the passing that the author would scarce recognize them. Of such poems, that there should be confusion regarding the authorship is not to be wondered at, as even Shakespeare's authorship goes not undisputed. For years there's been contention

'Twixt scholars of renown; To test each clue that points just where Should wear the Shakespeare crown. And so each Bard should stand on guard To keep such errors down.

But at this time, to prove whose rhyme Was this "Spud Isle Adieu"; Can't make the name or clench the fame Of either; nor undo Their Laurel Wreath there neath the heath, Nor one small leaf renew.

What would denote which Larry wrote This song of long ago, Is something done by either one, Some manuscript to show By their own pen, just where and when And why this tale of woe.

Was nothing left with those bereft To solve this mystery? Can none who toil on that red soil Encircled by the sea, Find neath some roof the written proof Of whose the Fame should be?

What we maintain is all in vain Unless we give some clue; For what I've heard, you've but my word, And e'en though that be true; My word alone (as may be shown) Is doubtful proof to you.

But be their grave neath Storied Nave, Or some far field alone, Can aught of fame that clasps their name Or blazons Bronze or Stone, Disturb their deep and dreamless sleep When Life's last spark has flown

I am, Sir, etc., G. L. McINNIS Vancouver, B. C. December 11, 1950.

The Poet's Corner

FROM 'LOLLINGDON DOWNS'

Flesh, I have knocked at many a dusty door, Gone down full many a windy midnight lane, Probed in old walls and felt along the floor, Pressed in blind hope the lighted window-pane.

But useless all, though sometimes when the moon Was full in heaven and the sea was full, Along my body's alleys came a tune Played in the tavern by the Beautiful.

Then for an instant I have felt at point To find and seize her, whoso'er she be, Whether some saint whose glory doth anon Those whom she loves, or but a part of me, Or something that the things not understood Make for their uses-out of flesh and blood.

But all has passed, the tune has died away, The glamour-gone, the glory; is it great advance? Is the unfeeling mud stabbed by a ray Cast by an unseen splendour's great advance? Or does the glory gather crumb by crumb Unseen within, as coral islands rise, Till suddenly the apparitions come Above the surface, looking at the skies?

Or does sweet Beauty dwell in lovely things Scattering the holy hintings of her name In women, in dear friends, in flowers, in springs, In the brook's voice, for us to catch the same? Or is it we who are Beauty, we who ask? We by whose gleams the world fulfils its task.

—John Masfield.

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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. The aggressive participation in United Nations councils by our representatives is not without its effect. — Fort William Times-Journal. The point should be kept in mind that there is no objection to hunters or anglers using airplanes to and from the wild-life country. In this respect the airplane has been a boon to busy people who can't take the time to organize an expedition that lasts a week or two. However, the idea of sniping at deer from the air in New Brunswick is not a thought that commends itself to anyone who is interested in conservation. Nor does it sound particularly safe for other hunters on the ground. It may be an effective device for killing off wolves in open country in Central or Western Canada, but it is repugnant as a method of sport hunting. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Down at St. Jo, Mo., they've discovered the most-despised man of all time. Of whom the News-Press says, "He wouldn't have any friends even if he had money!" — Ottawa Citizen. A pamphlet tells us that the redwood trees are the oldest living things on earth and that they grow only in California. More than that, they are the tallest in the world, one in California being 367 feet tall. There is a redwood tree, that has been called the General Grant which is thirty-six feet in diameter and estimated to be 4,000 years old. One drawing going with the pamphlet shows a tree that started to grow at the beginning of the Christian era and is still going strong in the Atomic Age.—Lethbridge Herald.

Mystery over the decrease of British immigration into Canada deepens with the British House of Commons statement that there have been no discussions between Canada and the United Kingdom. Immigration Minister Harris has just announced a plan to "stimulate" immigration to Canada through government-subsidized air transport. The plan is based on the assumption that scarcity of shipping on the Atlantic deters many prospective immigrants. It may have something to do with it. But the main cause is the British government restriction on the movement of capital out of the country. And the real mystery is Ottawa's failure to consult with London and take steps to overcome this difficulty. With goodwill it can be overcome but offering subsidized air passages can accomplish little until it is. — Vancouver Sun.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) FIRST STEAM FERRY "We are much pleased to learn that John F. Bourke, Esq., the contractor for the conveyance of passengers, horses, carriages, etc., across the Charlottetown Ferry, purposes placing a Steam-boat on the line, of 20 horse power, at an early stage of the ensuing summer. Mr. Bourke has just returned from England, where, we understand, he has entered into a contract for the machinery, which is to be completed and shipped on board of one of Messrs. A. and J. Duncan and Co.'s ships on the first of April next. The engine is to be put together and tested by an eminent engineer, accompanied by A. Duncan, Esq., before being shipped. "Now that there is a probability of an efficient Boat being placed on the line, capable of making her trips with regularity at all seasons and in all weathers, we hope that in proper places for landing on both sides of the river will be erected, and that we shall hear no more complaints about the bad management of the Charlottetown Ferry. Reddin's Wharf appears to us to be about the best place for landing on this side, as it is almost directly opposite the landing on the south side of the Harbour. A considerable sum of money might easily be raised by private subscription, and with a little assistance from the Government, proper slips erected." —Hazard's Gazette, Feb. 1, 1853

A speaker in Eastern Canada last week claimed that Canadians have failed to sell Canada to the rest of the world. We believe the charge is untimely—out of date. During the past ten years, Canadians have done two things well. They have diversified and expanded their industries to meet greatly increased demands of domestic and world markets, and they have performed a remarkable public relations job for themselves among other nations of the earth. The conduct and performance of the members of Canada's armed forces during the war was a splendid sales effort for this country. The contributions which Canada made in cash and materials to allies engaged in the common task of defeating Hitler was indirectly selling Canada to others.

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