

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 8,137 All Others 821 Total Net Paid 13,048 President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. 'The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink'. CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, DEC. 27, 1951

They Also May Serve

A great many opportunities for national service are restricted to those living in large centres of population. The reserves of the fighting services and also civilian defence, so far as it is organized at all, tend to be concentrated in areas where they can both draw upon a considerable population for personnel and have available the equipment needed to attain a high degree of efficiency.

The contrary is the case with the proposed ground observer corps of the R. C. A. F. Instead of it being a disadvantage to live in a remote area, it is essential that the great majority of members be scattered throughout the length and breadth of the nation. It is a more or less simple matter to keep track of aircraft near important flying fields or large cities but to obtain rapid reports on other flying in this vast country it is necessary to recruit and train observers, many of whom must live "back of beyond". That there will be a ready response to the opportunity can be confidently predicted.

Watching Soviet Propaganda

Tass, a Russian news agency, but primarily engaged as a medium for the distribution on a global scale of Communist propaganda, has had its claws clipped by the recently elected Government in Britain. Claiming to be a department of the Russian State and in consequence entitled to diplomatic immunity against court proceedings under the Libel Act, Tass had frequently made damaging statements about various persons in particular, refugees from Eastern Europe. Operating a listening post tuned to Moscow radio, it distributed to certain newspapers and others the Red broadcasts. That service has been banned. Tass has been informed that its facilities will be curtailed until it waives immunity to the Libel Act—a course which was taken because a court in 1949 had held that the agency was entitled to diplomatic privileges.

That immunity is now under the consideration of a parliamentary committee. Recently it was strongly urged that as nothing more than an espionage agency, Tass should be banned from the Press Gallery at Ottawa.

Provincial Budgets

Recently attempts have been made by a Senate committee, the Bank of Canada and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to analyze provincial expenditures. The results vary, since slightly different periods are covered by the different inquiries, but the steady upward climb of provincial budgets is not in dispute. The figures of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics are the most comprehensive, since they include capital as well as current expenditure. Taking the differing fiscal years of the provincial governments and using those of the year ending nearest December 31, 1950 (in most provinces this means the fiscal year 1950-51), the Bureau calculates all provincial expenditure at \$1,023,713,000. In the fiscal year ending March 31, 1952 (all provinces being on that basis now) this figure is expected to rise to \$1,067,770,000.

According to the Bank of Canada, in 1926 the provinces were spending only \$124.5 millions on current account (capital expenditures at that time not being stated.) From then on current expenditures rose rapidly, reaching \$198.6 millions in 1933; \$275.7 millions in 1937; \$346.3 millions in 1945; \$616.7 millions in 1948 (almost doubling in three years); and \$724 millions in 1949. As the Bureau of Statistics calculates, in 1950 current and capital expenditures stood at just over a billion dollars and will reach \$1,067,770,000 in the current year. The commitments already being made by many provincial governments apparently assure a still higher total in the next year. At present, therefore, Canadians, in addition to bearing a heavy weight of Federal taxation, enhanced by the defence programme, in addition to carrying municipal taxation totalling some \$700 millions, must pay a per capita cost of about \$70 a year for provincial government.

As against this year's expected total expenditure, current and capital, of \$1,067 millions, the provinces are expected to collect \$924 millions. Since large items of capital cost, included in the total budget,

will not be paid for in cash but by borrowing, it would appear that on current account the provinces as a whole will enjoy a revenue surplus which has been customary since the middle years of the war.

Despite these surpluses the provinces have been going steadily into debt. Their total direct debt, less sinking funds, was \$843.8 millions in 1926 and by 1950 had reached \$2,077.4 millions, the Bank of Canada states. This year's borrowings by many provinces will increase the total. If indirect debt, such as the guarantee of various bonds, is included, the total obligation of the provinces now stands at over \$2,800 millions.

"It may appear at first sight surprising," notes the Winnipeg Free Press, "that debt has been rising though the provinces have enjoyed current budget surpluses for many years. The explanation is to be found in heavy borrowings for capital expenditure. The interest on money borrowed for such purposes must be met annually and at some point repayment also becomes a current cost to be met through annual taxation. It would seem that while the provinces have been creating new debt through capital investment, they have not been using their annual surpluses providently to reduce the dead weight of debt and the cost of supporting it." As a result, the net cost of interest on provincial debt, the Bank of Canada states, has risen from \$21 millions in 1926 to the 1951 figure of \$52.5 millions.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Yesterday was practically the first of the business week.

Many millions, we are told, went to church Christmas day. But not to any extent here where not a few of the churches were closed that day.

The safety record over Christmas is remarkably good, particularly in view of what must have been about the most treacherous driving conditions on record.

Some members of Parliament must be wondering if the present Special Session, called only to deal with old age assistance, is not going to run into the next regular session early in the year.

Practical Christianity has made advances in recent times. The poor, the fatherless, the aged and the sick received special attention at Christmas but do not suffer from complete neglect for the next twelve months.

Outdoor skating has an attraction that lures even those who have not donned skates in years as well as youngsters. The new-found enthusiasm should rebound to the advantage of attendance at regular rinks.

Reading of the loss of life in fires should cause everyone to note and remove the hazards they daily encounter. Recognizing a dangerous situation of practice is a good deal more useful than diagnosing the cause afterwards.

Charles Lamb, English essayist, died this date 1834. Such children's works as "Tales from Shakespeare" have long been popular but it is for his essays, many published under the name Elia, that Lamb is famous. His charm of character and his whimsical humour shine through his writing and the essays have the fascination of the living voice.

Finance Minister Abbott, whose surplus is the envy of every finance minister in the world, (and collected from Income Tax), has been invited to tour Western Germany in an endeavour to get that country on its economic feet so as to be of material assistance in revivifying Western international trade and commerce.

The suggestion that Quebec's provincial election will take place in March is doubted at Ottawa, as that would mean interference with spring farming operations and result in a reduced number of voters at the polls. Premier Duplessis depends heavily on the agriculture vote, and it is unlikely he would wantonly sacrifice that by an early election. The only March election in Quebec was in 1892.

The House of Commons, or at least the official Opposition, are perturbed at the prospect of the application of closure on the debate on the abolition of fixed prices by manufacturers or wholesalers. This closure means merely confining speeches to 20 minutes each, and when all have spoken to call for a vote. It has been applied previously both by Liberals and Conservatives, first in 1913, then in 1926, and again in 1932. It is a means adopted to present undue delay in passing legislation by too many and too long speeches; in a word to overcome organized obstruction.

Family Time



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) DR. WALSH'S JOURNAL

Recently acquired by the Public Archives at Ottawa was the manuscript of a "Journal of a Voyage from Portsmouth to Quebec," by Dr. Edward Walsh, an Englishman who came to Canada in 1803 as a medical officer of the 49th Regiment. His documents were salvaged from the old family papers in Ireland by the writer's grandnephew, a Colonel R. H. Walsh of Romsey, Hampshire, England. Sailing from Spithead in August of the above named year, Dr. Walsh was aboard one of eighteen vessels that were conveyed by a British frigate and cutter. His writings detail the six weeks' trip to the port of Charlottetown and he remained here from Sept. 25 to Oct. 9.

Photostats of the pages of the journal relating to Prince Edward Island have been obtained at Ottawa by Mr. J. Angus MacLean, M.P., and will be quoted from here. Chiefly they deal with the island's geography and climate, its vegetation, animal life, history and conditions, of which a much fuller and more accurate account appeared three years later in John Stewart's well-known history. But the Walsh journal has some original touches worth noting.

The date of the author's arrival (Sept. 25) fell on a Sunday. "The wind having shifted during the night to the southward, early in the morning we bore up for Point Prim—the western extremity of the harbour of Charlotte Town—and at noon we came to anchor in the middle of the basin abreast of Charlotte Town, soon after which we went ashore, and the Quebec party took up their quarters at an indifferent inn kept by a Mrs. Hutchinson."

Hillsborough Bay, "capable of maintaining all the Navy of England," impressed the writer very favorably; but Cardigan or Three Rivers Bay on the east side is esteemed still superior. It is undoubtedly much easier of access, being equally convenient for ships passing thro the Gut of Canso, or coming round Cape North of Cape Breton."

By far the greater part of the Island, "perhaps seven eighths," was covered with wood. The trees in general were slender, few exceeding a foot in diameter, with no underwood. Most numerous were the spruce pine, "so tenacious of the soil, that it is impossible to extirpate them. No sooner is a tract cleared of wood, than a young grove of spruces immediately springs up." The hemlock pine, "one of the greatest and tallest in the country, grows straight to the height of 60 feet and is found sometimes 6 feet in circumference. Of this tree the writer notes that "it makes beer of the decoction of the bark, which is esteemed far superior as an antiscorbutic to that made from any spruces." Remedies for scurvy were much sought after in those days.

Of native birds, two kinds of partridges are noted. "Both perch on trees and are such foolish birds that a whole covey may be shot one after the other. The natives take them by means of a tall slender wand which they slip over the bird's head and so pull it down from its perch." Plover and snipe in abundance are mentioned, also "a large species of thrush with a red breast, which on account of its familiarity is called a Robin." Reference is made to blackbirds, snow birds, humming birds (?), and flocks of wild pigeons. Of birds of prey there are Black and Grey Eagles, Kites, Hawks, Owls, Goshawks, Crows, Jays and Woodpeckers.

Of fish, then as now, cod, mackerel, herring, bass and haddock abounded, with ample supplies of salmon, sturgeon, perch and eels in the rivers and bays. Lobsters and oysters were in such abundance that a middling sized boat may be loaded with them in 2 or 3 hours." The writer, however, found them "inferior in flavor to those of Europe." Seals and sea cows were frequent on the coast. Fox breeders will be interested in the mention of "red, silver, grey and black" varieties of this animal in Dr. Walsh's journal. Bears, polecats, wild cats, martens, muskrats, squirrels and hares are also noted.

The island's freedom from fog is contrasted with the conditions common in Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Nova Scotia. Its backwardness as a colony he attributes rightly to the absentee landlord system. Of its million-acre acres, not more than 7,000

The Age-Old Story

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Floating "Ice Islands"

(Sault St. Marie Star)

No less than four floating ice islands have been discovered in the Arctic Ocean within the past five years. Two of this islands are of great size—300 and 400 square miles each, and 240 to 1,600 feet thick. The other two are smaller.

Mystery as to their origin exists, but they probably have broken off Ellesmere glacier, on Canada's Ellesmere Island. If this theory is correct, the youngest of the islands is centuries old: the oldest perhaps thousands of years.

Since they've been sighted, the islands have not diminished in size. Melting a little in Summer, but making up the deficit in Winter, they should last for centuries more. Their potential scientific value is immense, a stable platform for which measurements of weather, currents, magnetic fields, gravitational forces, and the topography of the ocean floor can be made. The first island scientific base will probably be established within a year.

Strategically the islands are valuable too. Airfields to accommodate the largest bombers could be built on them without difficulty. They are several hundreds miles closer to Russia than nearest land bases, and their great thickness would make them impervious to bombs or torpedoes.

They were cleared and in a state of cultivation. Several large tracts of the best land, which had been cleared and cultivated by the Acadians, had now relapsed into a wilderness condition. "There are 7 flour and 5 saw mills at present established; formerly there were twice as many."

In Charlottetown the houses numbered seventy-two, all of wood, the newest erections being the Barracks and St. Paul's Church. The author adds quaintly that "the streets are parted off from the fields by wooden railings and produce fine herbage."

At this time Fort Amherst had been dismantled, but there remained "a Block House, which makes signals at the Harbour mouth, and a Fort at the Point of Charlotte Town of 8 24-pounders." The garrison consisted of two companies of foot and 4 artillerymen. There were also three companies of "Native Militia."

Somewhere along the line the writer must have fallen foul of the "Scotch Highlanders," in which category he places the greater number of farmers on the island. These he describes as being "ignorant, indolent and selfish in the extreme," as having "no ideas of agriculture," and as being "contented to clear away some wood in a slovenly manner, in order to breed cattle from which they derive their sole subsistence." In consequence, he adds, "of this very defective system of colonization, a stranger on his arrival at the island, finds every necessary of life dearer and more difficult to procure than in the Metropolis of the British Empire."

This is the sharpest note of criticism sounded in the journal, and may well have been inspired by some personal affront. At any rate, the author was scarcely here long enough to form a just estimate of the virtues of the Scotch pioneers. Though his visit occurred only a few weeks after the arrival of the Selkirk settlers at Belfast, he makes no mention of this important event.

The Poet's Corner

AN OLD SONG RE-SUNG

I saw a ship a-sailing, a-sailing, a-sailing, With emeralds and rubies and sapphires in her hold; And a bosun in a blue coat bawling at the railing, Piping through a silver call that had a chain of gold; The summer wind was falling and the tall ship rolled.

I saw a ship a-steering, a-steering, a-steering, With roses in red thread worked upon her sails; With sacks of purple amethysts, the spoils of buccaneering, Skins of musky yellow wine, and silk in bales, Her merry men were cheering, hauling on the brails.

I saw a ship a-sinking, a-sinking, a-sinking, With glittering sea-water splashing on her decks, With seamen in her spirit-room singing songs and drinking, Pulling claret bottles down, and knocking off the necks, The broken glass was chinking as she sank among the wrecks.

—John Masfield.

The Session at Ottawa

(J. A. Hume in the Ottawa Citizen)

A review of the fifth session of the 21st Parliament, now drawing to its close reveals an impressive list of legislative accomplishments, many of them far-reaching importance. Amongst the major achievements of the session might be listed the following:

- 1. Approval of a 2-2-2 formula of income, corporation and sales taxes toward the \$380,000,000 annual cost of universal \$40 monthly pensions for 700,000 Canadians 70 years of age and over and similar pensions for 145,000 of those in need between 65 and 70 years of age.
- 2. Increases of from 33.3 to 45 percent in the pensions for 161,486 disabled veterans of World Wars I and II, 19,759 war widows, and 124,000 dependent children thereof, making an additional cost of \$27,916,885 annually to the federal treasury.
- 3. Graded salary increases for upwards of 211,000 members of the Civil Service, RCMP, and the armed services, at an additional cost of about \$43,000,000 annually.
- 4. An amendment to the Combines Investigation Act outlawing resale price maintenance practices. (The controversial debate on this measure continued but the government proposes to push it through!)
- 5. Establishment of a three-man St. Lawrence Seaway Authority to spend up to \$300,000,000 for the deepening of the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes waterway system, either in co-operation with the United States or for Canada to carry out the project on her own.
- 6. Approval of an agreement between Canadian and Ontario governments whereby Ontario will put up about \$200,000,000 for the development of 1,000,000 horsepower of electricity on the St. Lawrence.
- 7. Authority for the Board of Transport Commissioners to effect equalization of the Canadian freight rate structure and payment of a \$7,000,000 annual subsidy to the CNR and CPR railways on maintenance costs for the so-called "railway bridge" across Northern Ontario.
- 8. Approval of the despatch of the 27th Brigade and two of the proposed eleven RCAF squadrons to Europe as part of Canada's commitments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization integrated forces being built up against the threat of Communist aggression.
- 9. Abolition of all regulations under the Foreign Exchange Control Board Act.

Other business this season, of slightly less importance, might be listed as follows:

- 1. Legislation to provide \$6,250,000 annually as additional financing for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the next four years beyond continuance of the \$2.50 annual radio license fee.
- 2. Special \$20,000,000 emergency credit arrangements to aid Western wheat farmers, due to unprecedented weather conditions, whereunder they have been unable to harvest and sell their

Notes By The Way

Regulations of a strict nature are being enforced to prevent Canadian soldiers abroad from sending home "battlefield souvenirs. Had such regulations been enforced during the last war and after its close, covering just one item, Luger's, a lot of grief would have been saved on this continent. And incidentally, a lot of crime might have been avoided. — St. Catharines Standard.

It happens in the best of families. The "black sheep" that is, When Conductor Harry A Taylor took the Pennsylvania Limited out of Fort Wayne, Indiana, the other night on his last run he had a special train crew made up of six of his sons, from engineer to flagman. But another son is a bus driver. Now, what can you do about that? — Christian Science Monitor.

In 1888 Sir Wilfred Laurier declared that Canada had enjoyed "legislative independence absolute" for fifty years. A pity Sir Wilfred isn't here to talk to some of his successors, who are afraid that the word "Dominion" makes colonialists out of them. — Peterborough Examiner.

Windsor police are cracking down on under-age youths in beer parlors, arresting six one night. Most youths who start drinking do so because they think it is the smart thing to do. If they only understood, they would know the really smart thing to do is to leave liquor alone. Starting to drink at an early age just isn't smart; it's stupid. It isn't too smart at any age. — Windsor Star.

So the police have made liquor raids on some Vancouver night clubs again. So they've rounded up a cartful of booze from under the tables and booked some citizens on having liquor in a public place. The law. But it is a law that has been flouted right and left all over the province for years. This bottle-under-the-table tipping in cabarets and dance-halls has been going on with mock secrecy for so long that it has become standard social practice for those members of the public who like a drink when they go to a night club or a dance. Yet the law says that this sort of thing isn't permitted. — Vancouver Province.

The Allan Moses collection which was entrusted recently to the care of the Grand Manan High School is best known for its mounted sea birds. But it includes also a great many curiosities of Nature, among them a lobster which could have made a meal for an entire household, and a full house of glass. The overall length of the glass was three and a half feet, and it weighed from 25 to 30 pounds. Really big lobsters are very rarely caught. It's not that they aren't down there, crawling around the sandy bottom of New Brunswick's coastal waters, but their very size prevents them from getting into the traps. One fish dealer comments that the largest lobster he has ever seen — and he has handled millions of pounds of them — weighed fifteen pounds. The only reason it fell into the

crop in the customary orderly manner. 3. Amendments to the Government Annuities Act raising the amount of annuities which can be purchased from \$1,200 to \$2,400. 4. An increase in the Government Printing Bureau revolving operational funds from \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000 annually. 5. Approval of a protocol expanding the 12-member state North Atlantic Treaty Organization to take in Greece and Turkey as members. 6. Approval of the Financial Administration Act replacing the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act and other financial statutes. 7. Amendments to the National Gallery of Canada Act enlarging the board of trustees from five to nine members and effecting other improvements in its operational set-up. 8. Amendments to the Canada Elections Act. 9. Announcements of government policy to proceed with construction of a \$22,700,000 causeway for vehicular and railway traffic across the Strait of Canso and Cape Breton Island and for a committee, headed by Wm. Hogg, former Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission engineer to conduct a further investigation on the proposed \$103,000,000 irrigation and power dam on the South Saskatchewan River. 10. Amendments to the Civil Service Commission Act as to the salaries and tenure of office of the commissioners.

Most controversial subject at the session has been that concerning the abolition of resale price maintenance practices. The official opposition levelled sharp criticism at Defence Minister Brooke Claxton for what it claimed was an important announcement of government policy outside Parliament in a recent speech at Rotterdam.

The session saw more business referred to committees for detailed consideration and report than perhaps ever before in any session. A special committee on defence expenditures just had time to begin its work. A noteworthy feature about the session was the great extent to which government legislation implemented the major recommendations of earlier appointed royal commissions. These included the Turgeon commission on national transportation problems, the Massey commission on national development, the arts, letters and sciences, and the interim report of the MacQuarrie committee on operations of the Combines Investigation Act.

Hands of the fishermen was that it was sitting on top of the trap still trying stubbornly to find a way to reach the bait inside, when the trap was hauled up. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

It is going on 35 years since The Journal began to use the column prepared by Dorothy Dix on social and emotional problems of the day. It is our oldest feature (save the comic strip "Bringing Up Father") and still one of the most popular of them. Miss Dix wrote as a woman viewing the passing scene with tolerance and understanding and a sense of humor and advice to adolescents on their crises, to married persons in matters of adjustment and repair, to women (and men too) seeking guidance, must have done an infinite amount of good—because it was sound advice. Now Miss Dix is dead. She was Mrs. Elizabeth Gilmer of New Orleans and she had lived 90 years, more than 50 of them given to her very wide correspondence and to her column. Hers was, we are convinced, a useful life, and The Journal is proud of its long association with Dorothy Dix, feels it speaks for thousands of readers who have been aided by her experience, her knowledge, and her philosophy. 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.

WELL HEeled LIQUOR TRAFFIC

Sir.—In this age money represents a power that is frightening. Its powers to lure men into temptation and fell strong men, ranks next to the power of Almighty God. It has brought the American Nation to the brink of ruin. The Senate Crime Commission has revealed financial corruption in high places that has startled the nation. The liquor traffic, taking advantage of this power, has entrenched itself in the economy of the nations of America. Its agents are seen in the lobbies of Washington and Ottawa. It is a well known fact that here in Canada, huge sums of money from the liquor trade find their way into the campaign chests of both the old parties, and when the proper time comes the brewing companies claim special legislation.

These last years colleges have been very short of money; and when agents of brewing houses come along and shake twenty-five thousand dollars before the eyes of a college council, telling them, "Here are burasias that will draw to your classes brilliant students and give to your college name", it constitutes a temptation that not every college council has been able to withstand. We can easily guess the effect of such gifts upon our colleges. We can see the drinking parties and hear the songs sung in praise of the brand of liquor behind the gifts. You see how serious this is for Canada and our democracy.

No bounds can be set to the money power in the traffic. There is not any considerable corporation here in Canada, oil, lumber, milling, but booze barons are on the directorate, entrenched solidly against the day when a movement might get afloat to nationalize the liquor traffic. You see, Sir, how far-seeing the brewers are.

There is no present prospect of prohibition in this Dominion; but some churches have adopted the policy of nationalization of the traffic. Take out private profit they say, devote the income (1) to compensation, (2) to alcohol education, (3) to ameliorate the effects of liquor, wherever possible.

Of course, it will readily be admitted that this is a very difficult problem. The constitution would have to be amended. The Canadian people would have to be educated to demand nationalization; but this liquor problem is becoming desperate; and many people are beginning to think seriously of some effective way of curbing the power of this evil that is so severely threatening the welfare of our country.

I am, Sir, etc.
W. I. GREEN
Stanley Bridge.

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