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 "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
 the Weakest Ink"
 CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, FEB. 5, 1951

Infant Mortality

This being National Health Week, consideration might well be given to the fact that an average of over 15,000 Canadian infants are dying annually, a large proportion of whom might have been saved by proper pre-natal and post-natal care. Figures presented by the National Health and Welfare department's annual report plus the Bureau of Statistics records show that in three years alone—1947, 1948 and 1949, we lost 46,691 of this category.

Canada's record of infant mortality, while improved by 50 per cent since 1921, is still shocking. The National Health and Welfare annual report, fiscal year 1949-50, gives Canada's infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births during 1948 as 44. That was double the New Zealand and Icelandic rate of 22. The U. S. infant mortality rate in 1948 was 32 per 1,000 live births; that of England and Wales, 34; Australia, 28; Union of South Africa, (whites), 37; Netherlands, 29; Sweden, 23; Norway and Denmark, 35; and Switzerland, 36.

The Canadian rate varied greatly among the provinces—New Brunswick highest, British Columbia lowest, as the following figures from the Bureau of Statistics show for a later year, 1949. Total deaths of infants under one year are given first followed by the death rate per 1,000 live births in parenthesis:

Canada, 15,191, (rate per 1,000 live births, 43); Newfoundland, 651 (53); P.E.I., 135 (48); Nova Scotia, 780 (42); New Brunswick, 993 (60); Quebec, 6,031 (52); Ontario, 3,973 (37); Manitoba, 794, (41); Saskatchewan, 834, (39); Alberta, 823, (33); British Columbia, 858 (31).

The National Health and Welfare report points out that half the infant deaths in 1948 occurred during the first month of life—8,897 out of 15,164 and remarks: "This indicated that the care of mothers during pregnancy should receive prime attention as most infant deaths were due to conditions which had their origin before the birth of the baby. The leading cause of infant mortality was pre-maturity, 3,890 in 1948 or 25 per cent of all infant deaths. Next highest came from pneumonia, influenza and bronchitis causing 2,622 deaths. Third was congenital malformation, 1,987; diarrhoea and enteritis caused 1,472 infant deaths, and injury at birth 1,446.

Moreover, all the above figures do not include still births, of which there were 5,878 in 1948.

British Bacon Ration

The British Government (says The Letter-Review) is making a small increase in the bacon ration, but there is skepticism about the reality of this. A contract has been made with Denmark, but Mr. Gardiner has now publicly abandoned belief in marketing Canadian farm products through Government cartels, except in the sacred case of wheat, where such an admission would be tantamount to political suicide. Now there come difficulties in buying bacon from the Netherlands. Facts are that in the first part of 1950, Dutch bacon shipments to Britain were well above the contract rate. In May, there was a dock strike in London, and the Ministry of Food, afraid of being charged with strike-breaking by diverting Dutch bacon to other ports, actually pleaded with the Dutch bacon factories to stop manufacturing for the time being. Result was that Dutch packing plants sought and found more profitable markets in Germany, and now have no interest in the British market at present prices. Evidence, if any be required, is the folly of trying to trade between nations through Government cartels, which have to subordinate trade to politics every day.

Mr. Garson On Sales Taxes

Should the Provinces unanimously decide to accept the Dominion Government proposal of imposing a 3 per cent provincial sales tax, the man who will have to frame the constitutional amendment required to make this tax legal will be the Minister of Justice, Hon. Mr. Garson. In this connection an exchange recalls that at the 1945 Dominion-Provincial Conference the same Mr. Garson—then Premier of Manitoba—had this to say:

"The indirect tax, in the form of a customs duty or sales tax . . . is proportionately more to the man whose income is small than to the man whose income is large. It is therefore a regressive tax. To make it more briefly, a regressive tax is one

which takes a larger percentage of a low income than of a high one. . . . For Canada to finance its vast post-war expenditures from indirect regressive taxes which retard business, minimize consumption, bear with unusual severity on the poor, and in these and other ways cause unemployment, is wholly unthinkable."

But some of the worst effects of indirect taxes were not foreseen by Mr. Garson. In a time of an unnaturally stimulated boom one of the main effects of such taxes is an inflationary influence. The piling up of one tax upon another, the taxing of taxes, means that a progressively larger portion of the consumer's dollar purchases nothing. This applies to everyone, including old age pensioners, in whose interests, allegedly, the proposed provincial sales tax is to be applied. It is not only a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, but of robbing Peter to pay Peter as well.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Liverpool, England, is evidently taking a lead from us—(or is it the reverse?) and will hold a Festive Week, with all the frills, this summer.

Potato administration and marketing are seemingly becoming a little too involved as witness the discussion and explanations both at Fredericton and here.

There are more people of Canadian origin in Detroit than the population of any Canadian city except Montreal and Toronto. And there are about five times as many in Detroit, Michigan, as there are in Windsor, Ontario, just across the river.

From the Bureau of Statistics returns it will be learned that two of the farmers' main cash crops, potatoes and eggs, are on the down grade, though prices for livestock, hides, skins, fowl, flax seed and onions are registering an increase. Potatoes are likewise included by the Bureau among the increases, but this merely records the fact that there has been a tendency upwards since the zero prices of last September and October.

Sir Robert Peel, British statesman, born this date 1788. He had a hectic political career both in power and opposition, faced with revolutionary movements at home and abroad. He applied strong measures to restore order and to provide ample military reserves. He is best remembered for introducing income tax, which he promised to remove, but didn't, when the Exchequer was replenished. He reorganized the London police as a uniformed force (hence the slang terms "Peeler" and "Bobby" which was used to designate them).

The food industry is in the best shape in its history to cope with the new problems and responsibilities it must face in 1951, states John A. Hartford, chairman of the board, Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company. "Some foods may be in short supply, and price trends will depend on a number of factors over which grocers have no control; but the prospects are bright that people will continue to receive an adequate supply of food. Whatever the handicaps, the food industry's job is to maintain and improve, wherever and however possible, those practices and developments that tend to keep distribution costs down and standards of consumer service up."

Evidently the picturesque Levis ferries (which were recently in the limelight) are to be superceded by a tunnel. Mr. J. A. Racicot of Rimouski, president of Quebec-Levis Tunnel Inc., has announced that Merritt, Chapman and Scott Corporation of New York has been engaged to prepare a report on the construction of a tunnel at a cost of \$20,000,000 beneath the St. Lawrence River which would link Quebec and the south shore town of Levis. Approaches to the tunnel from the Levis side are reported to have been chosen and approved by the Levis Municipal Planning Commission but location has not been announced. Mayor Adelard Begin of Levis says the Municipal Council would wait for "concrete" action in the tunnel project before calling for a referendum on the approaches which would cost \$1,000,000.

Third World War progresses slowly, says "The Letter Review", at about the same pace as the Second World War during the period in which the free nations engaged in active conversation about how little they would do, while the Germans had time to complete their preparations to overrun Western Europe. It should be remembered that it was at least six months after the first attack on Poland that in Canada, for example, we waked up to the fact that we were at war on a scale that the enemy, and not ourselves, had chosen to define. This time it will not be necessary to wait two years for Pearl Harbour before the U. S. goes into action, and that is the great reason for any hope that this may not be as long and bitter a struggle as the last.

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.

QUERY FROM ONTARIO

Sir,—I am enclosing a clipping from a Montreal weekly of Feb. 1, sent by Mr. Kenneth Hill, of Trenton, Ont. Perhaps our good Government, which has the interests of the poor farmer first and foremost could answer this, for I feel that if they kept as sharp an eye on the middleman as they do on the farmer, this just could not be. If the Government cannot answer, perhaps the Potato Marketing Board could enlighten us.

I am, Sir, etc.,
G. S. M.

Kinkora, P. E. I.
(Enclosure)

"Can anyone explain why potatoes grown in the Maritimes retail here for \$1.50 per bag, for which the grower receives 45 cents? And why turnips retail here for 5 cents a pound for which the grower receives 1/2-cent a pound at the waxing plant? And why carrots retail here for 6 cents a pound for which the grower receives 2 1/2 cents delivered to the retailer?—Kenneth Hill, Trenton, Ont."

VETERANS' PENSIONS

Sir—Since the close of World War One, thousands of our ex-servicemen and women, from Germany, Austria, the Balkans, etc., have settled in Canada, and now at the age of seventy, they are drawing the old age pensions, while we, the Canadian disabled war veterans of that war, are debarred from it because we get a meagre war disability pension. How very logical, go overseas to defend Canada's vast wealth and freedom, get shot up, gassed, wounded or blinded, and as soon as you accept a war disability pension, you forfeit your civil rights to a much larger old age pension!

This law is highly detrimental to recruiting, and if Prime Minister St. Laurent is a statesman he will get rid of it at once.

I am Sir, etc.,
TOM L. POULSON
Rochford Bridge, Alta.

ISLAND BUILT SHIPS

Sir,—Being in the course of writing the history of Whitstable ships, I am taking the liberty to write to you to ask for your assistance.

There were at least sixty-six Prince Edward Island built ships owned here. For your interest a list is enclosed.

Through the medium of your paper or good offices could you establish any contacts for me. There must still be some living who remember the golden age of ship-building in your Island. There may even have been a history written of those unexcelled craftsmen whose work is the admiration of all who study it. However the time is fast approaching when that wonderful episode in our history will be a forgotten dream, unless we collect and record the facts now. Any information, however insignificant, of the men who built the ships, the conditions under which they lived, the yards where they worked, and the ships they built, will be gratefully received.

One of my most treasured possessions is the figurehead of Marcella, a silent and masterful tribute to a vanished art and skill! At the time when Whitstable men were sailing your ships all over the world this was a little place of eight thousand inhabitants, and three hundred ships were owned here. It speaks well both for the builders and sailors that even until 1920 some of these ships were still afloat.

Thanking you for any help and advice you may be able to give, I am Sir, etc.,
W. HARVEY
(Councillor)
53 Oxford Street,
Whitstable,
Kent, England.
(Enclosure)

Whitstable Ships built in Prince Edward Island

- Alberta, 1860, Brigantine . . . 197
- Alice H., 1874, Brigantine . . . 199
- Amorel, 1857, Brigantine . . . 159
- Ann Whyte, 1857, Schooner . . . 198
- Ada, 1872, by D. Egan, Brigantine . . . 188
- Albert T. Young, 1874, Barque . . . 306
- Amanda, 1865, Brigantine . . . 193
- Aneroid, 1874, by Ramsay, Brigantine . . . 212
- Arabian, 1866, Brigantine . . . 218
- Aubrey Peake, 1874, Brigantine . . . 262
- Brenda, 1879, Brigantine . . . 249
- Carmenta, 1895, by McMillan, Brigantine . . . 199
- Caroline, 1857, Brigantine . . . 173
- Charles, 1862, Brigantine . . . 178
- Charles P. Knight, 1874, Brigantine . . . 189
- Collins, 1860, Brigantine . . . 188
- Consus, 1874, Brigantine . . . 194
- Craig Alvas, 1874, Brigantine . . . 258
- Cyrus, 1858, Brigantine . . . 149
- Dodd T. W., 1895, Brigantine . . . 178
- Eagle, 1874, Barquentine . . . 217
- Brigantine, by McMillan, . . . 153
- Empress, 1901, by Montague, Schooner . . . 360
- Eros, 1861, Brigantine . . . 189
- Ethel, 1862, Brigantine . . . 138
- Expect, 1864, Brigantine . . . 160
- Fanny, 1859, Brigantine . . . 151
- Flirt, 1869, Brigantine . . . 187
- Floa, 1862, Brigantine . . . 196
- Guide, 1870, by Ellis, Brig . . . 195
- Helen, 1857, Brigantine . . . 194
- Henry, 1872, Brigantine . . . 173
- Hildred, 1878, by Peake, Brigantine . . . 244
- Ris, 1875, by Davies, Brigantine . . . 217
- International, 1862, Brigantine . . . 192
- Iris, 1861, Brigantine . . . 189
- John Picairn, 1864, Brig . . . 237
- Joseph, 1879, by Egan, Brig . . . 197

or 1908 when the system was built it cost \$90,000 which was composed of two overflowing wells (not dry holes), pumps, large brick pump house, standpipe, and miles and miles of 4", 6", 8" and 10 inch iron water pipe, together with a complete sewerage system.

These are private wells in the downtown district producing from 45 to 50 gallons per minute out of a 1-1/2 inch pipe. Now, at this rate, a 6" pipe is capable of supplying 800 gallons per minute, if we were lucky enough to strike such a hole. With this volume all we would need is two 6" wells at a cost of \$4,000.

Why, in the light of this should we drill 10" or 12" wells. Do we, the citizens, have to stand for this? I would as a humble ratepayer, suggest that our Town Council wake up and call a quick halt to this "monkey business" as it is this, the Council, who hand the Commissioners our money for this insane business.

We have a number of Councilors on the job who have served for so many terms that they must be dog tired and have apparently been asleep for years, at least as far as the citizens' interests are concerned. It is too bad that only one is opposed this year. But why not let us get out on election day and elect a new man to show the city fathers that we want some new blood. This transfusion might pep the poor old fellows up for the remainder of their respective terms.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A CITIZEN FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY.
Summerside.

CO-OPERATION APPRECIATED

Sir,—It is now apparent, from reports which have been received from Postmasters in all parts of the country, that over the recent Christmas period, the public co-operated as never before with the Postal Service in early mailing of their Christmas gifts and greetings.

This co-operation has been deeply appreciated. It indicates there is a widespread understanding of the problems which the Post Office faces in the Christmas rush and a general readiness to assist the Postal Service in meeting them.

In its preparations for handling the heavy mailings, which again set a new record in volume, the department took on 28,000 temporary employees. These temporary employees did a good job, although many of them had no previous experience in postal work. Even this enlarged organization, however, would have been unable to dispose of the heavy mailings before Christmas without the effective co-operation of the public. Because mail was posted well in advance of Christmas day, in most instances, our Post Offices were back on an almost normal basis by 22nd and 23rd December.

The newspapers contributed greatly to this happy situation by keeping the public informed through news stories, special articles and editorials, on developments in handling the mails from day to day, and by being so generous, therefore, if I did not thank you for the help your publication gave us.

With all best wishes for the new year,
I am, Sir, etc.,
W. J. TURNBULL,
Deputy Postmaster General,
Ottawa, Feb. 2.

THOSE WELL SITES

Sir,—We, the citizens and taxpayers, have been reading the last few days, numerous letters in the different newspapers of the Province, and it seems that we have been "taken" for thousands of dollars through the inefficiency of some of our Water Commissioners to favor a local well digging concern. Just why they should be so persistent in so doing is hard to understand.

In gathering from the letters that the engineer who was hired by the Commissioners recommended three well sites, and that 6" holes be bored. After getting this advice from the Commissioners of a sudden woke up to the fact that they themselves were experts and had wasted our good money by calling on those consulting engineers. So they gave a contract for the 12 inch 10 inch standpipe well at 12.00 per foot or \$7,950 for this all but dry hole, notwithstanding the fact they could not have drilled an 8 inch hole at a depth of 100 feet for \$4,314 or a 6 inch hole at the same rate for much less than half.

We recognize the fact that the Town, at its present size, needs a minimum water supply of 1500 gallons per minute and the present wells are supplying 430 gallons are at their highest water level and the new well, on a 72-hour test can only produce 100 imperial gallons or 125 wine or American gallons per minute. All this figures to the startling fact that we will have to bore eleven such new wells at a cost to the citizens of \$87,450 plus \$55,550 for pumps, housing and installations or \$142,900 all told. In 1907

"The Chairman and Members, Summerside Water and Sewerage Commission."
Summerside, P.E.I.

"Gentlemen: This will confirm the remarks made by Mr. Carey and the writer during our conference with you on the evening of Tuesday 21st, instant."

"From the information produced to us we are of the opinion that"

Continued on page 5

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

THE ROSE ASHORE

"The Steamer Rose, hired vessel employed by the Government in the protection of the fisheries, went ashore in the gale on Thursday evening last near the eastern wharf of Peter's Island, Rustico, having previously lost one of her paddles. Crew all safe. One seaman seriously hurt. The Rose is now the property of the Hon. Samuel Cunard, having been sold by the former owner James Peake, Esq., last spring when the "Fairy Queen" was employed to carry the mails between this port and Pictou."
—Hazard's Gazette, Oct. 1, 1863.

Memoirs Of
The Hon. A. E. Arsenault
Former Premier and Retired Justice
Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island
Law Studies at Home and in London

Though as a small lad I had attended the village school at Abram's Village, my real education began when, at the age of fifteen, I entered St. Dunstan's College in order to be admitted to a second class teacher's license, taught for two years in a country school, and one year in St. Joseph's College, New Brunswick, continuing my classical studies at the same time. The next year I went back to St. Dunstan's and the following autumn became articled to W. A. C. Morson of the legal firm of MacLeod, Morson, and MacQuarrie. After the usual four years of legal study and law-office training I was admitted to the Bar as an attorney.

At that time, after having been admitted as an attorney, one had to spend an additional year in a law office in order to be admitted as a barrister-at-law. A friend, whose advice I valued highly, suggested that instead of spending this year in Charlottetown, I should spend it in London articled to an English barrister so that I should get a much wider experience than I could hope to obtain at home.

I told my friend that I should like to go to England very much but that such a trip was out of the question for me. I explained to him that the death of my father had left me on my own and that my financial condition would not permit such an expensive venture as my going to England. His reply was that he had some idea of my financial condition but that my lack of funds need not prevent me from going since he would be glad to lend me the money.

I had a desire to study in England and I discussed the matter with an articled lawyer who had been admitted to the Bar as an attorney at the same time as myself. He heartily approved the idea and said if I would go he would come also. We threshed the matter out, decided to go, and made up our minds that it would be better for us to article with an English solicitor rather than with a barrister.

Friends of mine wrote to Sir Louis Davies, then in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Cabinet, and through his kind offices Hon. Charles Russell, son of Lord Russell of Killowen, was prevailed upon to accept me as a student.

Accordingly, we sailed on an old freight boat which made a call at Charlottetown to take on sheep and cattle. Shortly after we left port in the late evening, a storm came up and as a result of a tossing about of the vessel several of the cattle and sheep were thrown overboard. The others were drenched with water and the smell of steaming wool, together with the tossing of the ship, soon sent me to my cabin. The rough seas continued for several days so that I remained below in a most miserable state.

The accommodations on board were not luxurious. We were only four passengers; the other two besides my friend and myself, comprised a crippled gentleman and her five-year-old daughter. How that poor lady and child managed to withstand the rigours of that voyage has always remained a mystery to me. The only attendant was Cockney who was steward and lady's maid combined.

When the storm lessened, I once more went on deck and, since it was dinner time, went to my table where the officers of the ship also dined. The most curious consisted of a man who was just recovering from a siege of seasickness, was not the most satisfactory diet.

The Hotel Balmoral on Northumberland Avenue in London had been recommended to us as a nice place to stay by a gentleman who had once been in England on some sort of Government business. When we arrived in front of this palatial hotel and caught our first glimpse of the doorman arrayed in a gorgeous uniform more resplendent than that worn by Field Marshals or Admirals, we were well impressed. When his eye fell upon our shabby baggage and we noticed his contemptuous look, we became suddenly convinced that the Balmoral was no place for us. But we were strangers knowing no other place to go, so we walked past the doorman, re-entered, and found an index card on the door. We could not muster up sufficient courage to enter the dining room and decided we would go out and have our dinner at some restaurant.

We found one and after having eaten we strolled along the Strand by the Parliament Buildings and along the Thames Embankment. We passed a large building on which was displayed the sign, "Crosse and Blackwell." We were again hungry when we reached our hotel and decided to have lunch in our room. We had some biscuits and some canned goods that we had taken with us from Charlottetown. One can contained devilled ham. The label said it was made by Crosse and Blackwell. The ham had gone from London to Montreal, from Montreal to Charlottetown, and then back to London. It had cost us 25 cents in Charlottetown; it could be had in London for less than six pence. We had brought it to Newcastle.

We did not tarry long at the Balmoral: \$4.50 each for bed and breakfast was more than our limited resources could stand, and we lost no time in hunting up a boarding house where, for about the same amount, we secured room, board and laundry for the week, and three meals on Sunday. Our lunch was taken at an A. B. C. for ten cents.

The Poet's Corner

THE WORLD VOICE

I heard the summer sea
Murmuring to the shore
Some endless story of a wrong
The whole world must deplore.

I heard the mountain wind
Conversing with the trees
Of an old sorrow of the hills
Mysterious as the seas.

And all the haunted day
It seemed that I could hear
The echo of an ancient speech
Ring in my listening ear.

And then it came to me.
That all that I had heard
Was my own heart in the sea's
voice
And the wind's lonely word.
—Bliss Carman

The Age-Old Story

He that hateth dissembleth with his lips,
and layeth up deceit within him.
Whose hatred is covered by deceit,
his wickedness shall be showed before the whole congregation.

J. P. MacPherson & Son
SUITS - TOPCOATS - OVERCOATS
Men's Clothing That Fits
137 QUEEN ST.