

Published every week-day morning at 136 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I., by The Thomson Company Limited.

Parliament And Foreign Affairs

Canada, it is clear, has undertaken a number of important commitments under the Paris agreement covering the rearmament of the West German Republic and her admission to NATO.

Were Parliament now in session, early ratification of the Paris agreement would undoubtedly be an important psychological factor in securing the necessary ratification of the French National Assembly, the Bonn Parliament and other national legislatures.

Mr. Pearson is to be commended for his contribution—which is substantial—to the recent achievements of Western diplomacy.

A Canada Council

Canada is without any official body similar to the British Council to support and encourage the arts.

Among the proper functions of such a council, as outlined in the report of the Massey Commission of 1949-1951, would be the underwriting of tours of musicians, ballets and scholars both abroad and in Canada.

The Times story hints broadly that the whole matter is being kept quiet because of Quebec sensibilities but a much simpler explanation is simply that it is not yet a matter of Government policy.

The Only Difference

Mr. Anthony Nutting, Britain's new Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, told a Conservative Party conference the other day that it would be folly to imagine that the new tactics of the Soviet Union mean a fundamental change in that country's foreign policy.

During the late years of the Stalin regime the West was relatively weak, a situation which made threats from the Kremlin a practical political weapon.

haps Mr. Malenkov had heard the old saying to the effect that more flies can be caught with molasses than with vinegar.

One persuasive bit of evidence against the genuineness of the new policy is the fact that every now and again Soviet representatives in the United Nations and elsewhere seem to forget themselves and lash out at Western "imperialists and warmongers" in the best pre-Malenkov fashion.

S-D Day

Of all the many special days which fill the United States secular calendar, none is more important than the one coming up, by Presidential proclamation, on Dec. 15.

It is to be called Safe Driving Day—in popular usage, S-D Day. Already an extensive educational program, directed to service clubs, civic organizations, church groups, schools, and labour unions, has been set in motion.

It certainly is an ambitious objective in view of the lamentable fact that one person is killed on American highways every fourteen minutes and one injured every twenty-three seconds.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The announcement by Prime Minister St. Laurent that a conference on taxation may be held before the end of the year is fair warning for the Provinces to make a close study of the workings of the present agreements.

"Instead of putting the dangerous criminals in still closer confinement, we should leave them where they are and take the reformable men out," says the magazine of the Canadian Welfare Council.

Canada's experiment in encouraging Eskimos to "go North" seems to be proving successful. At least the R.C.M.P. report that a group moved to Grise Fiord on the southeastern tip of Ellesmere Island and within 1,000 miles of the Pole are happy and prosperous in their new and richer hunting ground.

Birch dieback is now blamed on higher average temperatures by the director of a Federal forest pathology laboratory at Quebec. Records since 1875 indicate that 20-year temperature averages have risen three degrees Fahrenheit in eastern Canada.

The Battle of Inkerman was fought this date 1854. The 8,000 English met nearly 50,000 Russians in battle at the little village east of Sebastopol.

A colony of bees placed on every acre of a cranberry bog instead of one to every two acres increased the cranberry yield from 25 to 43 barrels in an experiment in New Jersey conducted by a Rutgers scientist.



The Maids Want A Free Hand In The Milking

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.

MR. SCALES AND THE POTATO BOARD

Sir,—My letter of September 29, 1954, read in part, "I accuse th... P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board with issuing annual statements incomplete, obscure and at variance with statements made on the floor of the House."

Since September 29 Mr. MacDonald and others talking on behalf of compulsory marketing have persisted in saying that my accusation had no foundation and that the Board's financial statements were true and correct.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"Your claim that the Board's financial statements for each of the years ended May 31, 1952 and 1953 are wrong is correct, in that they show neither the correct liabilities nor the correct surplus."

"With reference to the contents of our letter of September 29, 1954, to the Manager of the Potato Marketing Board which referred to a letter in the press over your signature, and which was read by Mr. D. A. MacDonald in his address in the Forum on the same day, may we state that we now find it was misleading."

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The Age Old Story

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

Hon. Minister of Agriculture to questions asked by George Kitson must have been erroneous. In an endeavour to try and clarify this I wrote the Chairman of the Potato Board on October 19, 1954, as reported in my letter in the press of October 27, and requested him to supply me with a letter that would permit his auditors to discuss with me the correspondence which was a basis of a part of the auditor's report.

our surplus potatoes before the birth of the Potato Marketing Board. I make reference to that quite satisfactory Federal assistance in placing large quantities of our potatoes on the English market, in starch factories, etc.

The compulsory marketing of our Island crop through our agency is not necessary to realize the benefits of the Marketing Act. Again, should the growers of this Province not come under the Act during the current season, it does not debar them from coming under it in any future year.

Again and again the Western Marketing Pool and the Western Provinces has been referred to a sound reason why we should have compulsory marketing of potatoes in this Province. It is quite evident that not all wheat growers are in favour of the Pool. The fact that there has been some measure of success in the Pool marketing of wheat in western wheat is no index that there can be any measure of success in the Pool marketing of potatoes.

At a recent public meeting Mr. McIsaac stated that the Potato Board was making plans regarding the financing of farmers on fertilizer purchases for the growing of potatoes. I am informed that such a matter has not yet been discussed at any regularly called meeting of the Potato Marketing Board.

"I do not want to be misunderstood. Our dealers' system is not entirely to my liking. It, however, is in my opinion much better and safer than the proposed compulsory selling. If one has been selling potatoes through an honorable dealer, stay by him. If the dealer has not been honorable try another. In many sections we have co-operatives that appear to be doing an excellent job. In such sections one can market 'co-op' and be satisfied that there are no middleman's profits. There is no evidence that the co-operatives, as a body, are supporting compulsory selling."

"It is not wise to eliminate our existing sales outlet for a single selling agency. With all due respect to Mr. MacDonald, Mr. McIsaac and their supporters, one should not vote for compulsory marketing; he will later regret it."

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The Poet's Corner

BEFORE DAWN

A slow wind moved like a thief behind the hedges, And the water, veiled in moonlight, turning swelled; Every twig was held; each twig, like a finger held; To the lips, the whispering, hesitant lips of a child.

Muffled in falling flight, a bird came— A swift, winged hunger of the night. And passed where the slim waters moved like a question— A shadow between a moon and a moon's light.

—W. H. Boone in John O'London.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

With the steady improvement in automobile tires, there's a serious danger of a general... educational advantage of having listened to father changing a flat.

Serious crime is increasing sharply in the United States, up eight per cent already over the same period a year ago. Daily average for 1954 to date has been: murders, thirty-five; assaults, 252; rapes, forty-eight; cars stolen 608; robberies, 197. Experts disagree on the reason for this trend.

If he is frank. But one should vote for the Marketing Board. By all means vote. Show Mr. MacDonald resign in the event of compulsory marketing being voted out, surely he can be replaced.

The latter part of this week I shall be leaving the Province for about ten days. This must necessarily be the last of my series, the plebiscite being history on my return.

I am, Sir, etc., AUSTIN A. SCALES

Freetown, P. E. I.

BOARD SUPPORTER'S REASONS

Sir,—I have learned that there is some talk going around the country to the effect that I have received some compensation from the P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board in settlement of losses incurred by me during the 1952-53 marketing season.

I am supporting the Potato Board in this Plebiscite because I am disgusted with some of the tactics that are being used against it by the opponents, particularly at the public meeting in the Charlottetown Forum and at several other meetings since held.

I am, Sir, etc., MURDOCK DAWSON

Albany, P. E. I.

MR. MCISAAC'S FIGURES

Sir,—On Wednesday Mr. McIsaac published a set of figures, part of which may be correct and the balance is only a guess.

The main point in the letter is apparently the fact that it costs the taxpayer about .29c per bushel for every bushel handled last year by Messrs. MacDonald and McIsaac, and we are supposed to consider this a blessing.

Today the P.E.I. farmer is receiving more for his potatoes than the grower in Maine, N.B., Que., or Ontario in spite of the fact that we are the farthest from the market. This is because our quality and starch content is excellent and our salesmen are on the job. Let us keep it that way.

Our only interest in this whole campaign is about the same as last year and the crop of our customers shall receive the highest possible net returns and we are positive that a Compulsory Pool can not give it.

We are, Sir, etc., GEO. E. FULL & SON

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THE WHEAT POOL COMPARISON

Sir,—Mr. Drummond's letter in your issue of the 2nd inst., should have attracted my attention. We suggest that even Mr. MacDonald, to whom praise from whatever source must be welcome just now, might balk at being compared to a bulldozer. The simile has no bearing on the subject right through, and wants a "stabilized market," and quotes an example of the Western Wheat Board as controlled by the Federal Government, at the request of the farmers. We would appreciate having some knowledge of the perspective from which Mr. Drummond so glibly points to the happy status of the farmer in the West.

Before this article in Maclean's was published we spoke briefly at the meeting in Souris and when the wheat board was lauded, we were told by Mr. Thos. Kicham, M.P., as an example to follow. We played such lack of knowledge of actual conditions in the western country, that we doubt if we are answered affirmatively. If your readers, Mr. Editor, wish an informed opinion from an authentic source, of conditions prevailing in the West under a Federal Wheat Control Board, they should read Mr. Fred Bosworth's article in Maclean's Magazine, one of our most reputable and conservative publications. The conditions existing under the management of

The lead pencil is 400 years old, and in all this time nobody has been able to understand how it was arranged so that they are always clear across the room when you want one. —Winnipeg Tribune.

Heart disease should not necessarily keep persons from work. Dr. Leonard Goldwater, professor of medicine at Columbia University, told the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions at Quebec.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. STUFFED BIRD EXHIBIT

"We were, yesterday, shown a variety of fish-eating birds, selected by Lieut.-Colonel Duvar, as part of the Island exhibit at the London Fisheries Exhibition. They consist of gulls (great and small), loons, fish-hawks, kingfishers, etc. They were stuffed by Prof. Earle, and their present appearance shows that he is a taxidermist of superior taste. We regret that the selections made by Col. Duvar are not to form a separate exhibit or the fish, fish-eating birds, shells, etc., of the Province. They have been ordered to Halifax and will be forwarded from that place to form a part of the Dominion Exhibit at London. Had Prince Edward Island been allowed to have a separate exhibit, we feel sure that under the supervision and with the careful selection of Col. Duvar, our little Province would occupy a prominent position in the great London Show." —The Examiner, Nov. 28, 1952.

this board, are definitely and demonstratively, the worst one could conjure in his wildest fantasy. They are in such a mess that the farmers are in despair. Granaries, schools, homes, skating rinks, and anything and everything that has a roof over it and can be rented is plugged to capacity with wheat; this year's crop last year's crop and the crop of the year before are an incongruous muddle of misdirection, mismanagement, poor judgement, inexperience, indifference and incapacity. The Western farmer is fast using up his nest egg in the banks if he had one. He is exhausted in stocks and banks and he is smothered with his own wheat in a world that is starving for bread. If our farmers wish to parallel that condition with our potatoes—a much more perishable article of food than wheat infinitely more difficult to store—then all they have to do is to contact the compulsory Marketing Board, and a one desk Selling Agency, with Mr. MacDonald at its head on Nov. 10th.

In 1912 we worked on a western farm, in fact on quite a few of them, as second boss on a threshing outfit. There was a labor problem. It was difficult to get sufficient help to handle the wheat, which ran as high as fifty bushels per acre. There was no disposal problem. With a free hand to transact business the wheat dealers and so-called speculators, anxious to do a profitable business, and with keen competition as a spur, scoured the markets of the world, attained and maintained a price which made elevator operators continuously cast their shadows over mile-long freight trains, creeping forward slowly as car after car was filled with the life-giving wheat destined for the hungry mouths of Europe.

Despite the fact that they were making independent fortunes and in a few years many of them were gone to Brandon, Regina, Calgary, or Vancouver, and live comfortably for the rest of their lives off their savings, the type of unrest that has always and ever afflicted some farmers crept in. They should be transacting their own business. So they organized voluntary pools, which with some government backing, conducted business successfully and amicably alongside commercial independents. However, having emerged from pioneer status, and stimulated by early success, some of them determined that none other than the farmer in their composite society should share one half of the produce of the farm, and they should transact all their own business. Accordingly they approached their representatives and succeeded in having legislation passed giving them absolute control. The result is the worst mess in the marketing in the history of our world. One farmer named Mike Sisko, farming in a district south of Lethbridge, farming 2,000 acres, carried over fifty thousand dollars worth of unsold wheat from the 1952 and 1953 crops, and when he gets his 1954 crop under some kind of cover if he can find any, he will have over one hundred thousand dollars worth of wheat on hand. This autocratic marketing board, comparable to the potato marketing board, will permit him, let me repeat that permit him, to sell three hundred and fifty dollars worth of his total holdings this year,—enough to pay one hundred days' operating costs. Discontent is rising, and grumbling is loud on all sides from the farmer who allowed a noxious bill to become law and create such conditions,—a law enforced with fines and restrictions and other penalties for its breach.

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our surplus potatoes before the birth of the Potato Marketing Board. I make reference to that quite satisfactory Federal assistance in placing large quantities of our potatoes on the English market, in starch factories, etc. Since the proposed compulsory marketing scheme does not guarantee to market all the production of our growers, some producers, in a year of over-production, may be left without a market notwithstanding Mr. MacDonald's personal assurance otherwise.

The compulsory marketing of our Island crop through our agency is not necessary to realize the benefits of the Marketing Act. Again, should the growers of this Province not come under the Act during the current season, it does not debar them from coming under it in any future year. Further, any organized group in this Province can this year or any year operate under the Act. It is not required that all producers join such a group. I assure that any objection to any group marketing in this manner is entirely unwarranted. It is my understanding that the advocates of compulsory marketing expect to improve the average price to the producers by eliminating competition among ourselves. If such be an evil, there are times when, apparently, it is to a relatively small extent, it must be taken under serious consideration whether or not it is wise to allow our whole potato crop to be marketed by inexperienced people who have no investment in the business and, hence, nothing to lose in order to try and correct a relatively minor evil.

Again and again the Western Marketing Pool and the Western Provinces has been referred to a sound reason why we should have compulsory marketing of potatoes in this Province. It is quite evident that not all wheat growers are in favour of the Pool. The fact that there has been some measure of success in the Pool marketing of wheat in western wheat is no index that there can be any measure of success in the Pool marketing of potatoes.

At a recent public meeting Mr. McIsaac stated that the Potato Board was making plans regarding the financing of farmers on fertilizer purchases for the growing of potatoes. I am informed that such a matter has not yet been discussed at any regularly called meeting of the Potato Marketing Board. May I ask, therefore, the origin of Mr. McIsaac's information? If the Potato Board has not yet seriously discussed such a matter it appears very irregular and improper to introduce the matter on the eve of the plebiscite.

(Continued on page 5)