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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1951

Federal Expenditures

The Senate finance committee's scrutiny of the 1951-52 Parliamentary estimates throws vivid light on the fact that after military and defence production costs are deducted, social security obligations and statutory commitments such as the public debt, deficits, movement of mail, etc., are provided for, less than one fifth remains for standard routine departmental expenditures.

Defence costs alone take \$1,664 millions of the total \$3,587 millions main estimates or 46.6 per cent.

The treasury statement prepared for the committee shows that only \$685 millions represents so-called standard departmental operations and expenses for 1951-52. Actually, the total is really only \$672.8 millions if \$12.4 millions the departments provide for government officials and employees' pensions and superannuation is properly transferred to the social security account.

The social security costs as set forth in the tabulation accompanying the first of this series take \$722.5 millions or about 20 per cent of the total main estimates of \$3,587 millions. That is, too, without including \$258 millions estimated for the new 70-year pensions without a means test.

It seems from the foregoing figures that any trimming that could be done on only one-fifth of the total budget, other than the \$35 millions cut off by Hon. Douglas C. Abbott, is not going to make very much difference to taxpayers. What this points out is the vital necessity for most scrupulously careful administration of social security payments.

Farm Production Costs

The view frequently expressed that farm prices are exorbitantly out of line with other commodity prices finds no justification in an authoritative article on Agriculture and Defense, by W. M. Drummond, appearing in the latest issue of "Public Affairs", published by the Institute of Public Affairs, Dalhousie University. The issue is devoted to special articles on Preparedness, and covers a wide range of activities.

Mr. Drummond points out that in the general price rise following the outbreak of war in 1939, farm product prices remain relatively unchanged for quite a long time whereas prices for many manufactured articles climbed fairly promptly and appreciably. The general result was that, during the first year or two of the war, the economic position of the farmer was actually worsened because the relationship between his selling and buying prices became steadily more unfavorable. It was not until about the middle of 1941 that the special demand for food incident to the war caused agricultural surpluses to be replaced by rapidly rising farm product prices. By the end of 1942 the post-1939 rise in selling prices had actually surpassed the corresponding rise in buying prices. From then until the end of 1946 selling prices continued to rise faster than buying prices.

Since that time, however, the opposite has been true. Buying prices have risen faster than selling prices, and this has been especially true during the past year. Whereas the index of farm selling prices actually showed a two-point drop in 1950 compared with the previous year, the farm buying price index continued to rise from an average of 202 in 1949 to 216 in August 1950.

While it is true that the total increase in farm selling prices since the start of the war is considerably greater than the corresponding increase in farm cost prices, the more recent narrowing of the margin between prices and costs means a reduction in net farm income. These prices apply to Canadian farmers as a whole. The price index for field products has fallen steadily and quite appreciably ever since 1948 whereas the animal product index has continued to climb during the same period. This means that at the present time the price-cost relationships of producers of field crops are far more unfavorable than those of producers of animal products.

Consideration of various factors detailed in Mr. Drummond's article suggests that farm prices will have to rise higher if present production is to be maintained. One point emphasized by the writer is the increasing scarcity of farm labour and the fact that the opportunity for reducing total cost per unit through operating at fuller capacity is considerably less now than

formerly. Operating cash costs have gone up because of the cost of operating and maintaining the new types of machinery; because of the increased use of fertilizers and of spray materials for controlling weeds, insects and other pests; and because the tendency to use more purchased as distinct from home-grown grains. This fact that operating costs now make up a larger percentage of the total may make farmers somewhat more hesitant about maintaining or expanding production in the event of a price decline.

Among other contributors to the current issue of "Public Affairs" are Hon. L. B. Pearson, Hon. Brocke Claxton, Hon. Milton F. Gregg, Air Vice-Marshal F. R. Miller, Major-General G. B. Howard and Eugene Forsey. Every side of Canada's preparedness programme is discussed, the whole making up a symposium of authoritative opinion on matters of pressing importance to every Canadian reader.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There is still the First of July coming on which to sing about a land with glorious sunshine blest.

There is to be a Fall session of Parliament. The present session will be adjourned till October, and then a new session summoned there and then.

Nova Scotia Legislature is to hold a special session to impose new taxes to meet income and expenditure meet in their 1951-2 budget.

Twenty-five cases involving drunkenness were disposed of in the City Police Court yesterday. Even allowing for the holiday weekend, this is a disturbing state of affairs.

The stalemate in the Irish general election is another reminder that while a system of proportional representation assures minority parties of some seats, it does not result in strong government as does the simple ballot.

There must be a feeling of regret amongst R. C. N. officers and men as they take prizes off Korea. Such activities would have meant wealth for all hands in time past but, alas, prize money is no more for Canada's seamen.

Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velazquez, greatest of Spanish painters, was born this date 1599. He long remained court painter and favourite of Philip IV. He represents in art the dignified, aristocratic national types although he began as a painter of peasant life.

An important forward step is announced by the Fredericton "Daily Gleaner", which now has available the resources of the University of New Brunswick Press, including a modern mechanical plant and photo-engraving equipment of a standard equal to any metropolitan newspaper. Since its establishment in 1880 the "Gleaner" has lived up to the best newspaper traditions and its president, Mr. J. Alex Crockett, and colleagues are to be congratulated upon this latest development in providing up-to-date service for their readers.

This is the 7th anniversary of D-Day. The Germans were expecting an attack on a port but allied landings on the open beaches and the pre-fabricated "Mulberry" port proved a surprise. Canadian fighting in the following days included their famous advance towards Falaise. In that "pocket" the German Seventh and Fifth Panzer armies were ruined and the pocket itself eliminated on Aug. 22. American forces carried out a vast enveloping movement and then turned east to capture Le Mans on Aug. 4. The German commander of Paris surrendered Aug. 25.

Island MacLeods will be interested to know that Flora Macleod of Macleod, twenty-eighth chief of Macleod, of Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye, has announced in Edinburgh that by her wish her 15-year-old grandson John Wolrige Gordon, who it is hoped will be accepted as twenty-ninth chief of Macleod, is assuming the name of John Macleod of Macleod. Consent to this change of name has been granted by the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney. The twin son of the late Captain Wolrige Gordon and of Joan, younger daughter of Flora Macleod, John was born 40 minutes before his brother Patrick at their Aberdeenshire home. The twins are now at Eton. John has been invited to accompany the present chief when she takes part in the Scottish celebrations in Nova Scotia in July and August to mark the centenary of the sailing from St. Anne's, Nova Scotia, of the Rev. Norman Macleod and nearly 1,000 Highland-born Scots of his congregation to found the settlement of Waipu in New Zealand.

Found: The Quickest Way To A Man's Heart



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.

LIQUOR SALES ON INCREASE

Sir,—In the Government propaganda, in preparation for the new Temperance Act, we were told that Prohibition is a failure and that this new legislation would be a great improvement in less drinking and drunkenness. Many became hopeful, and voted for the new law. But now, after two years' trial, it is evident that the real aim of this act is the sale of more liquor, bringing in more revenue, just as with any other merchant who seeks a greater turnover. The published accounts of sale, for the past year, proves this. The increase of sale over 1949 is \$227,000; and the increase of permits issued is 18,000.

This increase is shown in four of the liquor stores retailing drink, Charlottetown, Summerside, Souris, and Cardigan. The Summerside store shows a decrease of 2342 permits sold, which they say, is due to the religious meetings held there last year. Drink and the religion of Jesus never did go together. It is bitterly disappointing that this beautiful Province of intelligent people, spent last year, per capita, \$22.55 in strong drink that does no one any real good and some people much harm. A family of 5 persons, wasting \$112.00 on drink for the year 1950, is something to think about in a world where millions of people are starving. It is no compliment, either to the intelligence, or the Christian spirit of the people who drink. The whole business of making, selling, and drinking booze is on the low level of self first.

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

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

DRASTIC LEGISLATION

The Prince Edward Island Register of Tuesday, May 11, 1950, gives the following outline of a Bill "against Foresters and Regulators" which was passed by the Legislative Council, sent to the Assembly, and not agreed to there: "The first clause of this Bill enacted, that whatever person shall buy any victuals, or provisions of any kind, for the purpose of selling the same again in any market in the Island, except at a greater distance than five miles therefrom, shall be deemed a Forester."

"The second clause enacted, that whatever person shall, by any means, get into his hands in any market in the Island, any corn, hay, fish, mutton, lamb, veal, beef, pork, pigs, geese, capons, fowls, chickens, pigeons, partridges, hares, or other dead victuals whatsoever, brought there for sale, and shall sell the same again in the same place, within a month after receiving the same, shall be taken for a Regulator or Regrator before two Justices, shall be fined, at the discretion of the said Justices, in any sum not exceeding Five Pounds, and for non-payment of the fine, to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding two months, for every offence. "Such," adds the Register editorially, "is the outline of the Bill sent down by the Council. Our readers will not be greatly surprised to learn that it never reached a second reading in the Assembly."

ANCIENT SCRIP

Egypt's "Book of the Dead" is a series of formulas collected by the priests of Heliopolis about 3300 B.C.

Notes By The Way

"Life Is Threatened, Iranian Premier Fainis." Somehow we don't think he's quite rugged enough for Middle Eastern politics.—The Edmonton Journal.

The bone frame of the average whale, it is reported, weighs about 45 tons. That's not surprising when you think of all the fish lines it has broken in Ontario alone.—Hamilton Spectator.

Has handwriting become less legible down the years? This subject is troubling teachers in many lands, including our own. In the United States a pen company conducted a survey of school principals, and a fair majority believed penmanship is improving. In Yonkers, New York, citizens scrambled through attics for old letters and recipe books. The writing on these was compared with that of children now at school. In virtually every case the children of today wrote better. Mrs. Irene Burke, chairman of the committee on writing in Yonkers' schools claims the improvement is the result of the simpler type of writing instruction now current, and the dropping of the old emphasis on "arm movement". She says the more utilitarian writing of today is not likely to deteriorate so much under pressure. "When people get overburdened they scribble", Mrs. Burke said. "Doctors are our worst scribblers—next to newspapermen."—London Free Press.

The racial barrier in American university education is slowly melting away, even in Southern states in which it was firmly maintained until a few years ago. A useful short survey of recent developments has just been published by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America. One thousand or more Negroes, it estimates, are now attending university classes in the South alongside white students, who are reported to accept them for the most part without show of hostility. The movement seems to have gone farthest in Arkansas, where two hundred Negroes are now attending the state university, most of them in the School of Education. In Oklahoma, Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri (which is not strictly Southern) Negro students are working alongside white, though in some cases they do so only if the course which they are following cannot be provided at a Negro college. In seven states—the heart of the "Old South," apart from Virginia—no Negroes have been admitted yet to the white universities, but in North Carolina the university trustees have decided to admit qualified Negroes to the university's professional or graduate schools for courses not available at segregated institutions. The barrier is still far from disappearing. The great bulk of Negro undergraduates in the South attend colleges for their own race only; it is only in the post-graduate field that they are crossing the barrier in appreciable numbers. In the schools segregation is still strict. But the progress of the last few years would have been almost inconceivable twenty years ago; and it will gather force quickly as time goes on.—Manchester Guardian.

One hundred years ago Mrs. Amelia Jenks Bloomer made her notable contribution to the women's clothing industry. It was in 1851 that she created the style of a short skirt worn over loose pantaloons. Mrs. Bloomer was a woman of conviction and determination, disdainful of the criticism that burst about her head. Her pantaloons were attacked as improper, indecent and a threat to public morals. But Mrs. Bloomer stuck to her pantaloons and fired broadsides at her critics. The old Toronto Globe on May 15, 1851, carried the following report: "The

Yankee Ladies were all bustle a few years since; now they are all pantaloons. It appears by the Syracuse Standard that in that town they wear extremely short dresses, over loose pantaloons. "As a matter of course this extraordinary change in their costume, has given rise to censorious remarks among old bachelors and ill-natured husbands, but the dear little creatures have found a friend and advocate in Mrs. Bloomer, Editress of the Lilly, a paper published at Seneca Falls. She says: "Those who think we look queer, would do well to look back a few years, to the time when they wore ten or fifteen pounds of petticoat and bustle around the body, and balloons on their arms, and then imagine which cut the queerest figure, they or we. We care not for the frowns of over-fastidious gentlemen; we have those of better taste and less questionable morals to sustain us. If men think they would be comfortable in long, heavy skirts, let them put them on—we have no objections. We are more comfortable without them, and so have left them off. We do not say we shall wear this dress and no other, but we shall wear it for a common dress; and we hope it may become so fashionable that we may wear it at all times, and in all places, without being thought singular. We have already become so attached to it that we dislike changing to a long one!"—Winnipeg Tribune.

The Age-Old Story

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

The Poet's Corner

AND A NEW EARTH The rain, arriving on a million hooves Rides at the trampled hill—but this is not The apocalyptic horsemen, as it proves; Ruin and wrack are not the meadow's lot. See when they pass, the million spears uprise, Greener and taller than they were before— We need another legend to compare This bright reversal of the darker lore. No wildest horsemen that our fears have known Ride with such thunder at the objective hill. In numbers that would topple towns of stone,— And pass, to see their high, impetuous will Has decked the field with glory not their own. Shining in grass-blade or the daffodil. —David Morton.

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Rural Readers Penalized

Globe and Mail, Toronto The significance of the proposed increases in second-class postage rates was well placed before Parliament by Opposition Leader Drew. It is clear that there has been much misunderstanding over the purpose of the rates. They were originally established not with the intention of subsidizing the publishers of newspapers, but as assistance to rural readers. They were intended to make it as easy as possible for citizens remote from the centres of population to maintain contact with the affairs of their community, province and nation. It was recognized by national leaders of an earlier day that this was important to the working of democracy—that people without information could not be expected to judge wisely the issues on which self-government depend. That they should be able to obtain this information and have freedom of choice about where they will obtain it is quite as important an aspect of the freedom of the press as the right to print it. The newspapers of Canada have respected the purpose behind second-class mailing rates. In proof of this is the sharp differential to be found between home delivered rates and rural mail subscriptions. For this newspaper, the carrier-delivered rate is \$13 a year; a mail subscription is \$7. The postage rates are to be raised to one and a half cents a pound to four cents a pound. This will mean that \$6.24 of the rural subscriber's \$7 will go for postage alone. Obviously, with all but 76 cents of the present subscription rate going to the Post Office, the newspaper will have no choice but to pass on the increase. In the face of this Mr. Joseph Noseworthy, CCF member for South York, made an absurd attempt to represent second-class rates as a subsidy to the publishers, enabling them to make "considerable profit." Whatever he may feel about the content of newspapers is entirely irrelevant to the issue of second-class postage rates. Mr. Noseworthy and

his party are now on record against the rural reader. It does not matter what he reads, if it comes by mail the CCF intends that he should pay more. We are not going to attempt to rationalize Postmaster-General Rinfret's decision to increase the rates. In our opinion, he has wrongly assumed that deficits on second-class matter are caused chiefly by newspapers. Relatively few of them are carried for any distance through the mails, and the proportion of their total circulations which is mail delivered is not substantial. A far heavier burden is imposed by magazines, virtually all of which are exclusively delivered by the Post Office, but which will continue to have a preferred rate. This is of a piece with the no more defensible discrimination against newspapers brought about by the Government's application of the 10 per cent sales tax on newsprint. The magazines do not pay the sales tax nor do certain weekly newspapers which for purposes of evading the tax claim to be magazines. It is significant to many people that the Government which is imposing higher rates on the distribution of newspapers is the same Government which has justified heavy subsidization of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on the grounds that it provides information and entertainment to rural listeners beyond the range of the big city stations. Its inconsistency may be explained by its power to command the services of one and not of the other.

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