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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, JAN. 22, 1949

Aids And Hindrances

From Ottawa have come reports of the perfection of a radio direction finder for installation in small dories so that the boats of a fishing fleet can maintain contact with the mother ship even in the worst weather. Other fishery scientists have been working on new types of boats which will keep fish fresh and enable the seafood to be landed without spoilage and ready for market.

Similarly, at the Pacific Fisheries Experimental Station at Vancouver, B. C., a mechanically-refrigerated railway car has been built and is ready to undergo severe tests. Fish fresh from the ship will be loaded into the cars and rushed across Canada. A recent three-day test of the car with a shipment of 24,500 pounds of frozen packaged food took place when average outside temperatures were 32 degrees above zero. This temperature was not conductive to a real test of the car's refrigeration possibilities. Nevertheless, the station scientists revealed that the results indicated the equipment has the capacity expected and that it will operate under railway service. Merely by flipping a switch, the cooling unit of the experimental car can be made to act as a heating unit, and further road tests for both the heating and cooling performances are planned. The equipment, of course, should prove equally serviceable to fishermen on the Atlantic Coast.

While science is thus laboring to put money in our fishermen's pockets and to establish the industry on a more stable basis, the recent exorbitant 40 percent increase in express rates on all fresh fish shipments by the Canadian railways is having quite the contrary effect. Our cartoonist has amusingly illustrated the inconsistency of this policy in today's *Guardian*, but this is only to emphasize the seriousness of the situation. This is a matter on which our Maritime representatives should be prepared to speak out strongly and unitedly at Ottawa when Parliament convenes.

Review Of Trade

The year has begun with a "mixed bag" of portents as regards demand, production and prices, comments the Bank of Montreal in its latest monthly *Business Review*. It can no longer be assumed that all trends are uniformly favourably, the *Review* stresses, but to date there are relatively few indications of major recessive tendencies and certainly no signs of an over-all contraction sufficient to bring about a setback of depression proportions.

Uncertainties of external trade are occasioned by weakness in overseas markets where both U. S. and Canadian dollars are scarce currencies. While an increase in Canadian exports to the United States more than sufficed to offset the contraction of shipments to other areas during 1948, this large and rapid shift in the pattern of trade has had diverse effects as between different industries.

The review notes that, to a considerable extent, Canadian exports to England and Europe have been supported by off-shore purchases under E. R. P. It is significant, however, that Canada's role in this regard has been mainly that of a supplier of bread grains and other foodstuffs. The possibility must be faced, that as European recovery progresses, requirements of E.R.P.-financed foodstuffs from Canada may tend to diminish without a corresponding increase in Canadian shipments of industrial equipment and other goods coming within the scope of the recovery program. Thus, the steady improvement in Canada's U. S. dollar reserves during the past year, welcome as it has been, serves to emphasize the predominant influence of American prosperity and policy on this country's trade. Canadian interest attaches also to legislation being sought by the President of the United States for completion of the St. Lawrence Seaway and for extension of the Administration's power to enter into reciprocal trade agreements.

Turning to the main sources of domestic demand, the Bank of Montreal comments that it seems only reasonable to expect that the rate of new capital expansion may be reduced in some directions from the record levels of the past two years. But in view of the still considerable need for housing, public utility and municipal services and the possibility of additional defence outlays, capital expenditure should continue as an important sustaining influence.

Latest reports show no signs of a downturn in the trend of employee earnings, the review points out, and aggregate personal buying power will be bolstered by the repayment in March of some $250 millions of compulsory wartime savings, by retroactive pay increases recently authorized to the armed forces and the Federal civil service and probably by further retroactive payments to Western wheat farmers under the Government pooling arrangement. It appears however that, for a growing number of consumer goods, supply is coming abreast of demand. Reflection of this trend is seen in an abatement in the general rise of prices and in the appearance of some specific soft spots in the price structure. Moreover, the growing proportion of sales on credit undoubtedly indicates that for many persons the accumulated backlog of readily spendable funds has become sharply diminished. Under such circumstances, consumer attitudes and decisions may in the coming months exert a much more important influence on general business trends than for some years past.

A Distinguished Islander

A distinguished Prince Edward Islander passed away recently in the person of Colonel James Alexander Macphail, C.M.G., D.S.O., retired head of the department of engineering in McGill University and a brother of the late Sir Andrew Macphail. A native of Orwell, Colonel Macphail graduated from Prince of Wales College before proceeding to McGill, where he specialized in civil and mechanical engineering.

Colonel Macphail commanded the First Divisional Engineers of the Canadian Corps in World War I, after having organized the Queen's University unit of Engineers which he commanded for a time in France. He was decorated for his war services, which were of outstanding value, particularly in the closing campaign of 1918, when his men were engaged in the building of bridges under constant enemy fire.

Colonel Macphail also served for one session in the Legislature as Conservative representative for Belfast.

His record, both as a soldier and educationalist, placed him in the front rank of Canadian citizens. He was an Islander of whom we should all feel proud.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, third Sunday after Epiphany.

* * *

Hon. Horace Wright, Bedeque, is being mentioned as a prospective Senator.

* * *

With a bit of luck we may see the harbour and rivers frozen in suitable condition for ice boating and other sports. If so, the boats with steering rudder forward will again run away from the older stern-steering types.

* * *

Sir Alan Herbert has named Winston Churchill as "the first humorist of the age." There are few who would question "A. P.'s" qualifications to make the award, but Churchill, after turning down a peerage is not likely to assume this infinitely more onerous distinction.

* * *

There is going to be a lot of skinning done in Toronto on January 26th. The C. P. reports that 170 members of the Ontario Trappers Association are each asked to bring a dead beaver to their convention for the purpose of a skinning competition.

* * *

Farmers have had a great innings this past week or so with feasts of reason and flow of soul from specialists and scientific instructors. Soon the practical dirt farmer will be heard from in the organization annual meetings. After that the Legislature will have the opportunity of dotting the "i's" and stroking the "t's" of the suggestions mooted and submitted for its consideration.

* * *

There are two sides to proposals for legislative reform. The New York *Times* forecasts that some 10,000 bills will be introduced during the lifetime of the 81st. Congress, and that around 1,300 will become law. A streamlining of the procedure in committee joint conference of the two chambers, might have the disastrous effect of bringing the output of laws in line with the fantastic number of bills introduced.

* * *

British-American military co-operation is not a new development. The Restoration of the Royal Marines Memorial to its site on the Mall, St. James Park, London reminds the London *Daily Telegraph* of an odd event depicted on one of its faces. During the Boxer rebellion a party of Royal Marines was led by the American officer in command of the United States guard at Peking. He took command when all the British officers had been wounded.

* * *

An improvement in the demand for and price of silver fox pelts is appreciated by those ranchers who held on to their stock in spite of depressing and discouraging business in the immediate post-war period. Those in the know claim there is certain to be an encouraging comeback as soon as the European political situation clears up. Silver fox furs are a luxury which the discriminating wearer appreciates, as they may be worn all the year round giving a dressy and finished touch to any costume.

* * *

Queen Victoria the Good died this date 1901. She had a long and glorious reign from 1837, during which the British Empire was developed and solidified by acts providing self governments for the dominions, and semi-independent administrations for colonies. Several major wars were fought and won, the last of which was the Boer or South African war. More was done for spreading the gospel of peace under her regime than in all the preceding reigns, and at her death the civilized and uncivilized worlds mourned her as a saint or goddess: "Oh, that peace may come!" Her Majesty exclaimed, after the relief of Ladysmith, by General Butler in Feb. 1900.

* * *

How is this for a tall one quoted by Saint John *Telegraph-Journal:* One of the best raconteurs is Mr. Cornelius Imhoff, veteran naturalist, who lives near Bathurst. There was the time, for example, that he accompanied an American moose hunter across a lake in one of those collapsible rubber boats that you blow up when you need to use it. After the hunter bagged his moose, they hung the carcass up on a tree to call back for it later, and they carefully put the moose head in the boat so that the antlers would not poke through the rubber. Then they paddled homeward across the lake. It seemed to be extremely hard going, and they had to strain to reach finally the opposite shore. Cornelius stepped out and — swoosh! — the boat and the hunter and the moose head zipped back in an instant to the side of the lake they had just left. The explanation: they had forgotten to untie the rubber boat!

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.

APPRECIATION

Sir,—On behalf of the Prince Edward Island Junior Farmers' Federation I would like to express to our daily papers our very sincere gratitude. Your co-operation and consideration of our humble efforts toward enhancing the standards of activity among the young people in our rural districts has been widely recognized. Commendation has been heard not only from the Junior Farmers themselves but from farm people in general who appreciate a fair presentation of their problems and endeavours.

We realize that during our provincial conference and short course more publicity and assistance from the press was received than perhaps our activities warranted. However, the interest and enthusiasm shown by the public and the press, not in any individual or local group but in the general cause, need and possibilities of the Junior Farmers movement, is certainly encouraging.

With your support we shall strive to live up to our ideals and to what is expected of us in future.

We hope to expand on a solid and intelligent basis, improve our own lot and develop among the young farm people of the Province a spirit that will merit your continued attention. I am, Sir, etc.

LLOYD MARTIN,
President
P. E. I. Junior Farmers Federation.
Cherry Valley, P. E. I.

A SUGGESTION

Sir,—I presume that the owners of several of the dwelling houses in the block which is to be taken over for a Federal office building will obtain the privilege of removing their dwellings to some other location. I think that such procedure would be desirable and I would like to suggest to several of such owners that they should make application to the City Council for the privilege of moving their dwellings to the eastern end of Connaught Square. This location would take care of five or six dwelling houses and would improve the appearance of that part of the City. The old Jail was formerly located there, and if the site could now be used as a residential area it would help out materially and bring in revenue to the city.

Not more than 100 feet of the eastern end of the Square would be required, so that ample space would be left as a play-ground, etc. The land could be sold at a reasonable rate and under regulations approved by the Council, with prohibitions against any of the land being used for any but residential purposes.

The application to the Council could be made by one or more of the interested property owners, but it would be well to have five owners sign and have a supporting petition signed by other citizens. The necessary legislation would be required from the Provincial Legislature representing the Crown and granting the Council the right to dispose of the land as indicated and to convey a title in "fee simple" to the purchasers.

I trust the above suggestion may be considered sound and that no delay will occur in taking the initial steps to make the scheme effective. I am, Sir, etc.

J. F. W.

FREIGHT RATE INCREASE

Sir: The contention of the president and directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company that their railway requires an increase in freight rates equally with that of the Canadian National Railway is, no doubt, causing much surprise to those Canadians old enough to remember the exceedingly liberal terms granted to the original promoters of the Canadian Pacific about seventy years ago. The enormous territory of the Hudson Bay Company had just been purchased by Canada at a price that gave the impression that an acre of Prairie land had cost the Dominion so little that the Government could afford to grant the C. P. R. a permanent right of sale of a considerable portion of every section of that land. During the last half century, while millions of acres have been granted free to immigrants and Canadians who settled on the land, many of these settlers have purchased acres adjoining their free land from the Canadian Pacific Railway at prices named by the latter company which I am under the impression were not limited in the terms of the original deal with the Canadian Government.

In addition to the farm land section there were many districts of woodland, especially in British Columbia and in sections of the Rocky Mountains, that the original promotors demanded and received as a necessary set-off to the huge risk that they were taking in finding the money necessary to build and equip the railway from Port Arthur to Winnipeg; a section full of quagmires, from Winnipeg to Calgary a wonderfully level district of Prairie land and from Calgary to Vancouver, traversing what was then an unknown and unsurveyed country of immense peaks, dense valleys with huge lakes and fast running rivers.

The whole world has, for long, been surprised at the ten per cent annual dividend paid on C. P. R. shares. The company, on the other hand, for many years displayed a remarkable ability in the promotion of new enterprises including the disposal of all the city lots and harbors of Vancouver and other places now well established. Not only was there no difficulty in paying the dividends on the stock but there was at no time any lack of fresh capital to invest in promising undertakings.

According to Canadian Press news the Provinces of the Dominion plan to show that the C. P. R does not require, as the C. N. does, to increase their income by charging, in future, higher freight rates on merchandise carried. Such an undertaking would call for many months' services of a whole army of chartered accountants. Not only that, but such an undertaking, to be successful would depend upon the willingness of the railway authorities to divulge the required information.

In my opinion, the above is not the best means of solving our freight controversy, and with your consent I shall deal with another phase of the matter in a separate letter.

I am, Sir, etc.,
Charlottetown, Jan. 21.
H. K. S. HEMMING

MENTAL CASES—WHY?

Sir,—I wonder if you are laughing with me over the item "Dominion Health Department worried about Mental Ailments"? 50,000 cases; more than the total for cancer, T.B. and infantile paralysis! Unless the cost of living comes down immediately, the accumulated strain of the past six years is going to show up in 100,000 cases in the next year or two. What else is to be expected? Everyone responsible for financing a home is awake hours every night, wondering how next payday's check can be stretched—not for luxuries, just necessities. Yet every column you print of advice re care of the body, etc., stresses: "Don't worry—worry is immediate cause of cancer, etc." Is it not also the cause of mental ailments?

If milk was put back to a 10 ct. per quart basis (and it could be if the city were zoned for deliveries; in many cases now three or four vendors deliver to one apartment house. For anyone who didn't like the milk delivered in his zone, what's the matter with his getting it at a store in a nearby zone?); if meat prices were cut in half; if butter or margarine sold at 45 cents per lb., then the baby bonus total could be extended where it would really benefit—to the children in food, and not as now in many cases to the vendor's or to bingo halls, etc. Those who are using the bonus properly, would then be able to save it.

There was a time in my life and that of my children, when a slice of bread was of interest only as a support for a thick slice of butter, with brown sugar on top if "Mom" wasn't looking. I'd like to see that time come back again for all children. When the baby bonus is really used as it was intended to be, a lowering of prices on even these three commodities would result in the same amount aproximately; it would afford an opportunity to the thrifty to put away a few dollars each month for education, for emergencies, for old age. There would be an incentive to work and save. Under present conditions, the more you work the more drones you support.

Now our Federal Government is "sitting pretty" with an incredible surplus from direct and indirect taxes, and they are doleing back to us in health programmes and baby bonuses and old age pensions the money which has been squeezed from us at the expense of lack of care to bodies and minds which are now causing concern to the Health Department! Why not let us get back to a self-respecting basis where we can take care of what minds and bodies we have left to us, and where at least the crushing burden could be lifted? There would not be the tremendous payroll for administration of course; but on the other hand, if the thousands of young, active minds and bodies now taken care of by that payroll were turned loose into productive fields, we would not be having a "shortage of production of consumer goods" as one cause of the high cost of living.

Nothing that anyone can say, it appears, can stop this steam-roller which is crushing the joy of life out of the middle-aged living on small fixed pensions or annuities, or the average families. But let our Mr. Abbott and Mr. Martin not fool themselves; the majority of adult voters in Canada know why mental cases are increased to a registered total of 50,000—with many thousands unreported as yet.

I am, Sir, etc.
ONE OF THE "WORRIERS"

The Poet's Corner

IN THE DAYS OF OLD

In the days of old,
Lovers felt true passion,
Deeming years of sorrow
By a smile repaid.
Now the charms of gold,
Spells of pride and fashion,
Bid them say good morrow
To the best-loved maid.

Through the forests wild,
O'er the mountains lonely,
They were never weary
Honour to pursue;
If the damsel smiled
Once in seven years only,
All their wanderings dreary
Ample guerdon knew.

Now one day's caprice
Weighs down years of smiling,
Youthful hearts are rovers,
Love is bought and sold;
Fortune's gifts may cease,
Love is less beguiling;
Wiser were the lovers
In the days of old.

—Thos. Love Peacock (1785-1866).

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SOME RECENT FINDS

Amongst a rubble of old books, pamphlets and manuscripts, tucked away in an attic of the City Hall and smothered in the dust of several decades, a number of interesting finds have come to light recently through the efforts of Mr. Bramwell Chandler, M.A., head of the Prince Edward Island Libraries. Among other items, Mr. Chandler has rescued some of the literary effects of the late Mr. Laurence W. Watson, a well-known Island scholar, and removed them to his Library office.

A hundred-year-old "Plan of the Town, Common and Royalty of Charlotte Town" by George Wright, Surveyor General, dated 1840, was also discovered. The map is about 30 inches square, and drawn with meticulous care and fine workmanship to a scale of ten chains to one inch. It shows the town bounded by Euston Street on the north, Government Pond on the west and an unnamed street one block east of Edward on the east. Two wharves are shown at the foot of Pownal and Queen Streets respectively, and the old Fort and Parade Ground at the foot of Rochford Street.

Three buildings only are shown in Queen's Square, the Colonial Building; the Town Hall, on the present Library site, and the "Church of England" on the present site of St. Paul's. Other public buildings shown are the "Roman Catholic Chapel" on the present site of the Basilica; "Scotch Church," where the Kirk of St. James' now stands; the Central Academy on the present site of Prince of Wales College; the Jail on the east side of Pownal Square and the "Lunatic Asylum" on the Brighton Shore. The "Roman Catholic College" is also indicated. Government House was surrounded, then as now by 83½ acres, bounded by Brighton Road on the north.

It appears from the map that the direction of the streets in Charlottetown generally, originated at the waterfront as they are parallel to no other lines on the map. The town was apparently marked off in "hundreds," each being coloured differently and corresponding to our present wards.

Another find was an original sheepskin parchment deed, dated October 5, 1769, and signed by Phillips Callbeck, administrator in the absence of Governor Patterson, conveying 21,000 acres on Lot 23, on the "Island of Saint John" from the original grantees Allen and Lauchlin MacLean to William Winter and John Price.

Any books, pamphlets or old newspapers of the last century, which have been printed on the Island, are welcomed for safe keeping by Miss Jean Gill, Legislative librarian, and will be kept, along with the recent additions found by Mr. Chandler, in the Library for the benefit of the public.

The Age-Old Story

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee; He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Canada's Life - Blood: Trade

V. HARD FACTS vs. IDLE DREAMS
(Part 2)

By
E. L. B. Williamson, M.B.E.

We saw in the previous article that all available evidence indicates that the hope of world-wide, "multi-lateral, non-discriminatory trade" will not be achieved within the foreseeable future. The fundamental conditions necessary for the re-establishment of world trade on a Nineteenth Century basis simply do not exist.

2. What other hopes have been advanced as an avenue of escape from the consequences of our declining exports? The greatest hopes have clustered around the Geneva Trade Agreements made in 1947 and the World Trade Charter which was discussed for so many weeks at Havana early in 1948.

3. The nations previously having found it impossible to restore any true "freedom of trade" in the world, the Geneva and the Havana Conferences concentrated on establishing "non-discrimination"; meaning that no trade-barriers would be raised against **any** country, which would not be **equally applicable** against **every** country.

4. But in the present condition of world trade, such "non-discrimination" between nations can turn into a very real discrimination **against the home-folks.** For example, during the past year it has been absolutely necessary to impose drastic restrictions on certain imports from the United States; had the Government not done so, we quickly should have been bankrupt of American dollars and unable to purchase from them coal, cotton, petroleum, and other **essentials** to business and industry in Canada. In the process of saving dollars, it was necessary to prohibit the importation from America of everything which was not **indispensable;** among many items **embargoed** were chocolate and tomatoes.

5. The chocolate and the tomatoes were put upon the prohibited list because Canada simply did not have the American dollars to buy them and also to buy the coal necessary to keep our industries running. We did not have the American dollars for the reason which we cited in the fourth article of this series: that we buy far more from America than America buys from us. But as we also pointed out in the same article, we had on hand almost as large a **surplus of British Pounds Sterling** as we had a **shortage of American dollars.** We also had a huge surplus of francs from our trade with France. We could have bought chocolate from Britain and France, except that the principle of "non-discrimination" **forbade** Britain and France to sell to Canadians any article which Americans were forbidden to sell to Canadians.

6. Similarly, as regards tomatoes, Canadians could survive without tomatoes, so they were embargoed to save American dollars. But we could have bought tomatoes in the British West Indies with our surplus of Pounds Sterling except that again "non-discrimination" stepped in: the Geneva Agreements said that Canada could not accept tomatoes from the West Indies so long as we did not admit American tomatoes on an equal basis.

7. Also in the name of "non-discrimination", a long schedule of **tariffs** was re-imposed on United Kingdom goods on 1st January, 1948. These duties worked the double harm to Canadians of **increasing** our consumer costs in a time of rapidly soaring prices, and also **cut down British purchases** in Canada because of Britain's lack of **Canadian** dollars.

8. In these and in many other instances, the **effect of the** "non-discrimination" agreements worked nothing but hardship to all concerned. Canadians did without chocolate and tomatoes, paid higher prices for goods, and lost sales to Britain and France; the British and French lost sales in Canada which would have given them badly needed Canadian dollars; and the Americans gained nothing, because we already were spending in America every American dollar that we possessed.

9. There is no reason to suppose that the hopes of Geneva or Havana will be realized. Given continued present conditions, any attempt to impose a general requirement of "non-discrimination" could achieve but one thing: a general restriction and lessening of world trade; because "non-discrimination" forbids **individual** transactions, however useful and necessary.

10. Another great dream of the period immediately after the end of the war, was the "opening up of vast untouched markets." Chief center of attention was South America. After a slight post-war spurt, Canada's trade with Latin America began declining rapidly. The reasons are two: first, these countries, although untouched by war, have as great a "dollar shortage" as the countries of Europe, and no trade in the world is more rigidly controlled than Latin American trade. Second, with the exception of Brazil and Argentina all the countries of South and Central America have very limited natural resources, and the carrying power of the land is so low that there is no basis upon which to build the generally high standard of living necessary to open up large markets.

11. So also with Asia, except for India; but economically India is in the Sterling Area, and will remain there, whether or not India maintains her political connections with the rest of the British Empire. China has been in chaos for forty years, and whatever hopes there may be for peace, they do not alas point toward trade with the West. All of Africa comes within the economic sphere of the Sterling Area or of Western European countries.

12. Thus our **dreams** have been shattered on the hard **facts** of a post-war world which is far from being the familiar, comfortable world of the past. If Canada is to maintain the **export trade** upon which our employment and income depend, we must select one of two alternatives; either to **sell** where we now **buy**, or to **buy** where we now **sell.** The first of these alternatives will be discussed in the next article.

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