

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. CIRCULATION Total City Zone 2,765 Retail Trading Zone 8,437 All Others 826 Total Net Paid 13,048

Editor and Managing Director, J. B. Burnett Associate Editor, Frank Walker. "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink" CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, FEB. 26, 1951

National "Deviationism"

Whether or not the Red Army will march in Europe this year, or the year after or not at all will depend in no small measure upon the extent to which a dangerous political malady already affecting the satellite states spreads. Dubbed "National Deviationism" by adherents of the Cominform, it takes the form of putting national interest before Soviet interest.

What Moscow overlooked in its efforts to bring the countries of central and southeastern Europe under the hammer and sickle was the intense nationalism which has always characterized the peoples of those regions. Polish antipathy for Russia is, if anything, even more bitter than that which has bedevilled Franco-German relations over the past century.

Nor is any love lost between Czechs and Hungarians. The Kremlin's efforts to superimpose allegiance to the Soviet Union to the exclusion of national interests has merely changed the direction of these mutual and deep-rooted antipathies and turned them upon Moscow.

Brutality and terror have thus far been sufficient to control the latent hostilities which Soviet imperialism has engendered in the peoples of most of the Iron Curtain countries. The economic gain to the Soviet Union from holding in thrall the millions of people in the satellite countries has undoubtedly been enormous.

The Iron Curtain is not air-tight by any means and in one way the Reds constantly give themselves away. They seem unable to refrain from accusing others of conduct and motives which correspond with their own. A case in point is the charge that the F. B. I. has installed microphones at U. N. headquarters to listen in on conversations.

Senator Inor's Figures

The pace at which industrial centralization has been proceeding to the exclusive benefit of the Central Provinces was strikingly shown in Parliament by Senator Gordon Inor the other day. Here are some of his figures:

In the period from Dec. 18 to Dec. 30, 1950, 194 contracts in excess of \$5,000 were placed throughout the country. Of these, 64 went to Quebec and 86 to Ontario or a total of 150 to the two Central Provinces, leaving 44 for all the other Provinces. The total amount represented by the 194 orders was \$14,916,198.

The total amount of the orders placed in the whole of Canada from Dec. 1, 1950, to Jan. 13, 1951, was \$32,948,755. Of that total amount there was expended in Quebec \$14,487,392, and in Ontario \$15,129,972, or a total in the two Central Provinces of \$29,617,364.

Taking the \$32,948,755 as 100 per cent, we find that the value of the orders placed in Quebec was 43.78 per cent of the total, and in Ontario 45.61 per cent. In other words, the total for the two Central Provinces was 89.39 per cent, leaving for the rest of Canada only 10.19 per cent.

Senate Curb Needed

Amid all the demands for Senate reform on the basis of making it a more useful branch of Parliament it is generally overlooked that a curb on Senatorial powers is essential before it would be prudent to adopt a formal procedure for amending Canada's constitution at home.

Although one would never suspect it by its recent behaviour, the Senate is an extremely powerful body. Its members, appointed for life, need have little regard for the popularity or otherwise of their actions and, unlike the House of Lords, the Senate's power of vetoing legislation proposed by the Commons is unlimited.

At present the ease of constitutional amendment acts as an effective check on any possible defiance by the Upper Chamber of the will of the people, as represented by the majority party in the House. A cumbersome method of constitutional amendment or one requiring the approval of that body would make the Red Chamber a practically immovable obstacle to any measures of which it might disapprove.

It is highly necessary that curbs be placed on Senate powers before or simultaneously with the transfer of the power to amend the B. N. A. Act to this country.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Now that Alberta is producing real wealth in the form of 27,149,318 barrels of oil a year we hear little of the "funny money" proposals which were popular when the real wealth was lacking.

Mr. W. R. Shaw's recommendation that the limits of tablestock potatoes be reduced by slightly raising the minimum and lowering the maximum will meet with the approval of the housewife. One of the attractive features of Island potatoes is their uniformity in size and a further improvement in this matter would prove popular.

The British steam troopship Birkenhead was wrecked in Simon's Bay, South Africa on this date 1852, when 454 of the crew and soldiers perished. The gallantry of those on board, and especially of the troops, will be ever remembered. A gun belonging to the military commander of the Birkenhead was brought to Charlottetown by a niece many years ago.

The Iron Curtain is not air-tight by any means and in one way the Reds constantly give themselves away. They seem unable to refrain from accusing others of conduct and motives which correspond with their own. A case in point is the charge that the F. B. I. has installed microphones at U. N. headquarters to listen in on conversations.

While the new National Advisory Council on Manpower is studying prospects of moving workers to where they are in demand it might take some time out to advise the Government of where it can best locate new industries to utilize manpower reserves without the necessity of uprooting them.

Production of margarine in Canada last year amounted to 94,032,000 pounds, as against 261,736,000 pounds of creamery butter, according to figures tabled in the House of Commons the other day. The Government, however, was unable to enlighten Parliament about the quantities of raw materials imported for the manufacture of margarine, or about the amount collected as duty on these importations. These questions were asked, but the reply was "no information."

One item in the year's estimates to be approved by Parliament, notes Canadian Business, will serve to remind Members of the way things change. Trade Minister Howe will ask for \$30 million to build another atomic pile at the Chalk River atomic research establishment. That will be more than Canada's entire expenditure on national defence in the years before the Second World War. And it will probably be passed in a fraction of the time, with no objections whatever from the representatives of the taxpayers.

The current Bank of Nova Scotia's Monthly Review, which presents a valuable survey of the Canadian economy during the last quarter century, contains an observation which, because obviously not partisan, should correct some misconceptions. Referring to the "thirties" it notes, "The only bright spot in this otherwise gloomy picture was the early recovery in Great Britain and the sterling area which, with the aid of the substantial rise in Empire preferences negotiated in Ottawa in 1932, led to a significant increase in Canada's trade in Empire markets." The United States market was not so easily regained, of course, but it is well that the effect of the Ottawa agreement should be on the record.

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.

ONCE CURIOUS, NOW CONFUSED

Sir,—From the sidelines I have been watching this "sniping from the hills" over the potato levies. Contrary to the unsupported statements by "Curious" (Feb. 24th), the latter of Mr. Jerome O'Brien cleared the air more than any in this series. His "feeble excuse," as it was termed by "Curious," submitted a proposition which has thus far been left religiously alone. It would appear, then, that we must agree with "Curious" that O'Brien's offer "would not likely be taken up." Especially must we agree when we gather from news items that, while it was a crime not to pay the 1940 levy, it appears equally a crime to be caught paying the 1950 levy. Was it Confucius or Curious who said: "In plain words, two wrongs make a right?"

In asking the manager of Island Cooperative Services about (1) "his works," and (2) to whom the Co-op Services shipped, "Curious" is blessed indeed with the true innocence of childhood. It is difficult to interpret "his works," but it appears O'Brien is at least required to open his books,—all of them. A very brash request indeed. As for (3) cooperatives shipping without licences, it is common knowledge that the products of cooperatives are shipped by Island Co-op Services which holds licences from the Marketing Board and the Federal Department of Agriculture. This information is easily secured.

A very long aspect of these pious rantings against Mr. O'Brien is the inference that he "is attempting to discredit" Island dealers, Willis Co., Associated Shippers, and others were mentioned. We find no evidence of such an attempt. Mr. O'Brien answered in a forthright manner a pointed attack by the President of the Dealers' Association upon his organization — acquitted himself well, too. Now he is singled out for a personal attack which makes us wonder who is really stirring up antagonisms.

Many suspicions arise in our minds: (1) that the real "straw man" is not O'Brien at all, but this whole verbose, confusing, and evasive discussion as carried on by his critics; (2) that behind this "straw man," propping him up, is a frantic fear on the part of these critics lest farmers or farmer-owned organizations have a chance on tampering with the potato market; (3) that these critics were not interested in the levy at all, but in a campaign of sheer vilification against marketing boards and cooperatives, — a campaign which might in the long run do severe harm to everyone concerned, farmers and dealers alike.

In all their fulminations against producer-participation in marketing, these critics are punching in the dark. They should come out into the light. It is later than they think.

I am, Sir, etc., CONFUSED Charlottetown.

PRICE CUTTING

Sir,—In the campaign for the Potato Marketing Board, and in recent statements and radio broadcasts, the Federation of Agriculture and its active supporters here have accused the potato dealers of price cutting to obtain a volume of business at the expense of the growers.

If those who talk so glibly had any idea of the principles which govern the daily potato market, they would not be so free with their condemnation of both the cooperative societies and independent dealers who are marketing potatoes anywhere from Florida to Winnipeg. Our small volume of potatoes here cannot control the market, and the dealers must conform to the general average market price throughout a large area, watching carefully for the market which will give the best net return. If, perchance, one market will pay a better net price for a potato in New Brunswick, every potato in that area would immediately be offered to that market, unless the other markets rise to the strongest level.

As an example, for the past three months our prices have been governed by the sales our dealers have made to the South Atlantic area, where competition was met from potatoes from Long Island, New York State, and Pennsylvania; and it was not until their prices advanced 40c to 50c a cwt. below their low point that potatoes could move in quantity by water from our ports. Our dealers did well to obtain a premium of 20c to 30c per bag above the above-mentioned potatoes, otherwise it would have been impossible to ship.

With the quota filled, the double duty now on, we are out of that area for this season; and the Canadian market will be the controlling factor as the season progresses. The price in Canada will be affected by the buyers and sellers of the supply that is available from Eastern Canada for the immediate and future requirements of the industrial areas.

The larger consuming markets strengthen, so will the smaller ones—likewise if the larger markets weaken, the smaller ones will follow; otherwise every ear will be offered on the smaller markets. This is not a condition of "price cutting," but rather of "market leveling," whereby the various markets level off and pay approximately the same net return to the shipping area.

To listen to those who delight in berating the potato dealers as a

New Cars And Assorted Types



"AHEM... I'VE HAD A CHANGE OF MIND ABOUT MY EARLIER VOTE FOR CLOSING OUR ROADS TO AUTOS." "THE SCOPER-ELEGANT, DELUXE MODEL FOR ME - WITH ALL THE ACCESSORIES NATURALLY." "NOW, WHAT I WANT IS A LITTLE NUMBER THAT WILL FOLD RIGHT UP!" "I'LL BE RIDIN' IN CLASS THIS YEAR TOO... THEY'RE GETTING THE LAST WORD IN PADDY WAGONS HERE!"

ice to Rocky Point was unsafe, because it had never been bushed. They also knew that the mild weather would, in short order, close all roads and highways to vehicular traffic, including tractors and trailers. At the same time these officials, without regard for the welfare or needs of the residents of Rocky Point, severed the only link of communication to Rocky Point by authorizing the stoppage of the Fairview ferry, for repairs. They not only isolated the people of Rocky Point in doing so, but they encouraged the people to travel by ice, which they had already announced was unsafe to travel on.

Apparently the local branch of the Federation of Agriculture is endeavoring to do what has been attempted at various times and in various places, and the result has always been lower prices to the grower. Witness the late last attempt of the Potato Marketing Board in the Southern Ontario Counties, which after its tragic experience has now been cancelled by vote of the farmers.

We are, Sir, etc., POTATO DEALERS' ASS'N. Charlottetown.

REMOTE ROCKY POINT

Sir,—May I take this opportunity to enlighten the Provincial Government about remote Rocky Point? When I say "remote," I mean that the inhabitants of Rocky Point are miles distant from Charlottetown, and in their present proximity. It is disgraceful that the Government should permit such conditions to exist in a Province as democratic as Prince Edward Island.

I note by our local papers that the S. S. Fairview only recently established a record for late crossing between Rocky Point and Charlottetown. All well and good, and a big feather for the captain and crew; but remember, owing to the very bad winter, the same captain and crew could, beyond a doubt, have surpassed all records and kept continually making the usual trips to Rocky Point and therefore kept the residents of that community in communication with the outside world, until conditions improved whereby people could travel by road, or other means. This is not said by way of reflection on the captain and crew of the "Fairview," who have sacrificed themselves by performing valuable service to the people.

But I cannot overlook the responsibility of the Premier and his portfolio members, who have practically closed their eyes to the situation, and shifted the burden on the shoulders of Mr. Gordon White, Deputy Minister of Public Works. It seems that only recently a delegate went to see the Premier, but the Premier, I understand, informed him that the boat would be tied up for repairs and that they had access to the highway around to Rocky Point, and advised them to make use of it. At the same time Mr. White, being the Deputy Minister, knew that the mild spell, if it prevailed, would at any time oblige them to close the roads to vehicles of 5,000 pounds or over. This very order went into effect on the 23rd day of February.

On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 18, a very regrettable accident happened on the North River ice between Brighton and York Point shores, when a truck driven by Gordon Lewis, of Parkdale, accompanied by his wife, went through the ice. We know the result; a life was lost in the person of Mrs. Lewis. At the time of the accident, the ice from Brighton shore to the opposite shore was bushed, and traffic was free to cross from one shore to the other. Immediately after the sad affair the "do not enter" sign was put up at both approaches, and people were warned that the ice was unsafe to travel on. It was also announced over the radio that the river ice was unsafe for travel, especially to and from Rocky Point; it was dangerous for foot traffic. No doubt this was, as we say, locking the barn after the horse was stolen.

I presume these instructions were authorized by the Government. Certainly the officials knew that the

Memoirs Of The Hon. A. E. Arsenault

Former Premier and Retired Justice Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island Elevation To The Bench

In the spring of 1921 Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island and Vice-Chancellor of the Court of Chancery, unexpectedly died in the month of May. I was named to succeed him. Judge Fitzgerald had been appointed to the Supreme Court in 1894 and so had sat for twenty-seven years. He had a distinguished career as a Judge. He was an indefatigable worker and was most meticulous and orderly in his work. He had indeed and had made a digest of each case tried by himself and his brother Judges during his twenty-seven years on the Bench. I found this digest of much value to me in my work. He had also consolidated the different Chancery Acts into one volume which is still in use in the administration of our Chancery jurisdiction.

He had been in great demand as a lecturer, and had prepared and delivered many lectures in various parts of the Province. He had done much valuable work during the First World War, had attended recruiting meetings, had heard applications for exemption under the Conscription Act, and had subscribed to, as well as administered the Patriotic Fund, a fund raised to assist the wives and children of soldiers overseas. I was sworn in at the June Term of the Supreme Court in 1921. Only last week he purchased a well constructed and serviceable hand sleigh, in Rocky Point. He started on foot, with sled trailing, for the city. Upon arrival he parked the sled by Paoli's wharf (no meters) and after tying it securely, went up to get his supplies and the mail. When he returned to the "parking space," he found the sled had gone. Yes, the sled was stolen on his own expense, he said, a light vehicle and unaccompanied by mail and supplies around by road, twenty miles, to Rocky Point, then had to deliver the mail over his route, approximately fifteen miles. If that man isn't a faithful public servant, then show me one who is. This would be an ideal occasion for the Government to come to the aid of such a noble man; and I suggest, if the S. S. Fairview cannot be ready at short notice—which I doubt, as they take Saturday afternoons off—then put a motor boat on, at once. Get prepared for an emergency, because you cannot at present drive any kind of vehicle around by road. They tried it Saturday evening, and got as far as Cornwall, had to borrow a team to complete the trip. So we are back to the pony express, as far as the highway is concerned.

I doubt at the present time if you can contact Rocky Point even by phone. There you have it, my own flesh and blood, isolated and only a stone's throw from the historic seat of Confederation. Many of those families that are marooned are not farmers with full and plenty, but depend solely on their day's labour and family allowances to tide them over. They are in no position to hoard up a supply to stand them over for any period of time. It would be impossible to get a doctor there in case one was needed. I am sure Paul's Flying Service would think twice before landing

Continued on page 5

In my twenty-five years as a Judge, I held Court in Georgetown at least once, and often twice a year. Yet in all those years I never had to sit on a criminal case there. This does not mean that no criminal cases were heard in Georgetown during that time, but merely that none of them happened to fall to me. King's County, however, at least in my experience, has been freer of crime than either of the two Counties, Prince and Queen's. King's County has a fine law-abiding class of citizens. The majority of them are of Scottish descent and have preserved the characteristics, customs, habits, and thrift of their ancestors.

During my career as a Judge, I had, on several occasions, young men before me who were convicted of crime of a more or less serious nature. But I am proud to say that on one occasion when I had found that they had no previous criminal record, I let the young men off with a suspended sentence with the consent of the Attorney-General when such consent was necessary. It is gratifying to me that not a single one of those young men ever appeared before the court again.

A Judge assumes a grave responsibility when he sends a young man or young woman who has not previously erred to the Penitentiary. A young man, if committed to a penal institution, becomes branded; he is placed in company with hardened criminals; and, nine times out of ten, emerges from the penitentiary with a grudge against society smouldering within him. If there is any way of saving him from such a life, even at the risk of erring, then the Judge, in my opinion, should be prepared to take that risk. My experience has been that the risks I have taken in such cases have more than justified my taking them.

There is another aspect of Court life I am glad to report, so far as my personal experiences have been concerned. I refer to litigation between relatives and neighbors. When such cases came before me, I invariably made it a practice to talk to the parties concerned and to their counsel. In almost all cases the lawyers were glad to co-operate with me and thus I was often able to effect an amicable adjustment of quarrels which otherwise might have gone on for generations. It is not my intention to preach a sermon on the subject, but I cannot forbear saying that it is a serious matter to a settlement to have whole families and their relatives and friends embroiled in arguments and dissensions. A whole countryside can be drawn into such disagreements. In fact, I was always influenced that my judgments on such cases that could not be settled out of Court by remembering what had happened in a certain village. That whole village had divided and taken sides in a quarrel between two families whom I shall call the Jones' and the Smiths. Unfortunately, the pastor had resigned himself with the Jones' and for the remainder of his stay in that village the Smiths and their friends staid away from his church. Finally, he had to be removed. A new pastor came and poured oil on the troubled waters and peace once more came and the village, now one of the happiest and the most prosperous in the Province.

The Age-Old Story

(To be continued)



The Poet's Corner

DAWN A thrush is tapping a stone With a snail-shell in its beak; A small bird hangs from a cherry Until the stem shall break. No waking song better begun. And yet birds do not hurry And throng in the elm's gloom Because an owl goes home. —Gordon Bottomley.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) MUSSEL MUD YEAR "The winter of 1888 will be remembered in after years on account of the enormous quantities of mussel mud which have been taken from the beds of our rivers and harbours. We believe that it will be found that upwards of a quarter of a million tons of this valuable manure have, within the last three months, been applied to the land." —The Islander, April 3, 1888.