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

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1950

Public Account Puzzles

Not only is Parliament asked to vote large sums with vague explanation, says Montreal Gazette, but the structure of the public accounts abounds in confusions or anomalies. In his recent testimony, and previously, Mr. Walter Sellar, Auditor-General, has drawn attention to the conglomeration of confusing statutes governing spending, to the "mass of paper work" made necessary by obsolete administrative methods, to methods that by-pass Parliament, and so on through a long catalogue of cumbersome obscurities.

"These are confused methods of accounting for more than two and a quarter billion dollars. Yet Mr. Abbott is convinced that there is no waste, extravagance or duplication. When Mr. George Drew suggested that there might be, the Finance Minister replied: "I categorically challenge that statement; I categorically deny it. In my judgment, there is no duplication, waste and extravagance."

"To speak so categorically, Mr. Abbott must be a "whiz" at examining the accounts. But perhaps the Finance Minister might be a little more patient with the members of Parliament who, like the Auditor General, find it very hard to discover what is involved in a particular proposed vote, and just as hard afterwards to police it.

"Most members, like Sem Weller in "Pickwick Papers", have only normal vision. It will be recalled that when Sam was asked why he had not been able to see easily something that had happened beyond a flight of stairs and a deal door, he replied: 'Yes, I have a pair of eyes, and that's just it. If they were a pair of patent double million magnifying gas microscopes of hextra power, p'raps I might be able to see through a flight of stairs and a deal door; but bein' only eyes, you see my wision's limited' "

Mosquitoes

At this time of year it is difficult to take very seriously the prospect of mosquito annoyance later in the summer. It is now, however, while these pests are still in the larva stage that measures taken against them would prove most effective. Before long they will have raised a numerous progeny and it will at best be possible only to reduce their numbers without any real chance of ending the annoyance.

In other Provinces swamps are receiving an application of oil. Smaller pools are being drained and even aircraft being used to spray the whole countryside with insecticide. The latter is certainly a drastic step, particularly in highly cultivated areas where good crops depend upon cross pollination by insects, but the possibility of a warm wet summer, and the enormous increase in the mosquito population that would result, makes even some loss of farm production well worth while, particularly as beef and milk production would gain by herds being free from the annoyance of flies and insects.

Canada's Influence

The influence of Canada in the institution, development and continuance of the British Commonwealth of Nations was extolled recently by Mr. J. B. McGeachy, associate editor of the Globe and Mail, and known to many here, in an address to the Women's Canadian Club, Montreal. The "business" of the Commonwealth, the speaker said, was to "keep the peace, extend the area of freedom and promote trade." Suggesting that the idea for the Commonwealth originated in Canada, Mr. McGeachy said it was an institution "of which Canada has particular reason to be proud." He saw the Commonwealth's history as a "creative dynamic, progressive process." Canada's rank as a nation had been greatly magnified in 80 years, owing to the magnificent performance of its men in two wars the achievement of the country in industry, the development made possible by expansive railway lines, contributions in the field of diplomacy and in the arts and sciences. The Commonwealth had suffered setbacks, he said, but he felt that "on the balance we are in a stronger position than the Commonwealth ever occupied before."

Importing Pedigree Stock

A plan to increase the export of Scottish pedigree cattle to Canada was announced by Mr. Thomas Fraser, Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, at a recent press conference in Edinburgh. Mr. Fraser said that the Secretary of State and the Minister of Agriculture had decided to send two livestock officers, Mr. W. M. Sinclair (Scotland)

and Mr. T. Allsop (England and Wales) to visit Canada this summer. They will attend the main Prairie Fairs—Brandon, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Regina in July and August—and display photographs and literature designed to increase the sale of British cattle to Canadian buyers and encourage more Canadian breeders and buyers to visit Scotland and attend the leading bull sales. Later in the year one of these officers will visit the Toronto Winter Fair. Leading breed societies and the Highland and Agricultural Society will cooperate in the venture. Mr. Fraser figures indicating the importance of agriculture to Scotland's economy and the export drive: the present annual value of Scotland's agricultural output is about £100,000,000 (\$300,000,000) and of this total about £70,000,000 (\$210,000,000) was contributed by livestock and livestock products.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Coronation Day, 1937.

Catholic Emancipation this date 1829.

Tomorrow, the 5th Sunday after Easter.

Tomorrow is Mother's Day but she will probably find just as many things to think about and do as on every other day of the year.

With Dr. Lantz, Mr. H. J. Kennedy and Commander G. H. Buntain, all live wires at the head of the Exhibition Association if bids well for another successful Old Home Week and night racing season.

"Clean-up! Paint-up! Plant-up! Light-up!" is the slogan of the National Beautification Campaign now starting in many Canadian centres. It seems a bit involved but the spirit is certainly the right one.

The annual blessing of the fishing boats which takes place at Rustico tomorrow afternoon is of very ancient origin, but to these hardy fishermen, has lost none of its significance.

Loose panes of glass have been falling in the 50-year-old library of Parliament building in Ottawa since a storm last week. As usual, it is only the conscientious members who are in any danger.

General Manager Reddall relied on the doctrine of corporate entity in expressing views on policy in a way which would have been impossible to a civil service departmental head. In a slightly different matter the Chief Justice not long ago coined a most appropriate expression. The public will readily pierce the "cellophane curtain" to see behind the P. E. I. Industrial Corporation, the controlling hand of the Jones ministry.

Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe is still the leading optimist in Ottawa and throughout the country. He believes Canada is potentially the greatest undeveloped country in the world, situated midway between Europe and Asia, offering abundant opportunity to youths and industrialists generally to seize and develop. Mr. Howe says he would gladly exchange his present position in Canada "to start on the road to adventure and service with 1950 scientific equipment." That is a spirit worthy of a statesman.

With regard to teaching singing by blackboard demonstration recommended by the Musical Festival adjudicators, it may be recalled the invention of the musical staff—first four and then five lines on which the notes of the scale are arranged—is attributed to Guido of Arezzo, who died 900 years ago. He also gave the notes the names they bear today, at least in the Latin countries; and, lastly, he is supposed to have introduced the bass clef. His many treatises entitle him to be regarded as the greatest musical theorist of the Middle Ages.

Apart from the Red Cross, is anything being done locally to assist the distressed in Quebec and Manitoba? What is everybody's business, is usually, nobody's business. Perhaps the Provincial Government and the City Council may be induced to send letters of sympathy! We suggest our subscribers and the public generally should read the article from the Hamilton Spectator in this issue on the decadence of the spirit of true charity since governments and huge organizations usurped the place of individuals and Churches in providing help in the time of need.

Wipe out our stagnant pools and we'll be rid of mosquitoes. Complete success has been reported from the nation-wide campaign in Brazil to eradicate the aedes aegypti mosquito, the urban yellow-fever carrier, according to the WHO monthly Newsletter. It is expected that all aedes aegypti in that country will have been wiped out by the end of 1950. This achievement has led a WHO expert group on yellow fever to recommend similar eradication programmes in other parts of the world.

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.

TO AID TOURIST TRADE

Sir,—Last summer I had to make a few business trips over to different parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and into the States, and my biggest worry on the return trip, was to catch the car ferry at Tormentine, whether or not I would make the boat in time or have to wait some considerable time. This would always be the chief worry, and one could not get information anywhere on the mainland as to the time of departure of the boat.

I would like to make a suggestion for the benefit of the tourists, etc., travelling to P. E. I., that large signs be erected at different points of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and Maine if possible. One on this side of Port Elgin, one between Moncton and Sackville, Sussex and Moncton, St. John and Sussex, between St. Stephen and St. John, one into Maine, and then other points, giving the time of the crossings of all the ferries to the Islands. I believe that signs would do a great work and give the people the information that was needed on the way to the Island.

Also large cards could be printed and left at hotels and restaurants throughout the above Provinces and State.

This is merely a suggestion for the benefit of the tourist trade.

I am, Sir, etc. JOYRIDER, Bloomfield Station.

"LET'S TRY A DRAGGER"

Sir,—The main topic these days is fishing—lobster fishing, trout fishing and so on and of course the cod-dragger is often spoken of and referred to as the lawful robber of inshore fishermen.

One fisherman may tell you that if these draggers are allowed to operate around our shores they will kill the fish business by glutting the market, etc. I have listened to all sorts of arguments concerning these draggers, as to what they are going to do to the inshore fishermen and the local markets, and I have decided that most of the criticism is as phony as a three dollar bill. Why, this last six months the only fish one can buy here in Kings County (and I suppose all over the Island) is the same as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick dragger-caught fish. Why send to Nova Scotia or New Brunswick for fish when we have them swimming past our doors?

I would say, let's get a couple of those draggers and give 'em a try. If Nova Scotia and New Brunswick fishermen can catch fish with them, so can we P. E. Islanders.

I feel sure the fish we catch and land can be sold. I am an inshore fisherman and I can sell all I can land to the fish peddler; and speaking of fish peddling, it's about as good a paying business as anyone could get. One fish peddler told me that he has cleared an average of 25 to 35 dollars a day. That's good pay. Why more people are not at the business is more than I can understand.

Lots of farmers during the summer come to me to buy fish and I ask why they come all the way to do so and I am told they have not seen a fish peddler all summer. That's not the way it should be, for we all know that during the cropping and harvest seasons the farmers have no time to go looking for fish which they all require at least twice a week. So they go to the meat barrel and grab a hunk of beef or pork. So let us get busy and supply these farmers, villagers and townspeople with lots of good fresh, corned or dried fish at a reasonable price. We fishermen don't expect to get rich at 3c per lb. Our motto is "Live and let live." We fishermen will catch 'em, and the peddlers will peddle 'em: let the draggers drag 'em.

I am, Sir, etc. INSHORE FISHERMAN Newfrage, P. E. I.

MOTHER'S DAY

Sir,—Once more it's the month of May and once more comes Mother's Day, one little Sunday set aside for Mother, your mother and mine. This year I write these lines in a little summer house I call home only a few yards from my own mother's grave.

Though many years have passed since she was called from this world her face and her smile shine as fresh as ever before me tonight. This one day should be reserved for Mother, alone and in many homes it will be. But in others sadness, sin and shame will break the heart of mothers; drunkenness and abuse will greet mothers in other homes; sad to say. But despite the blows, despite the shame we may pile on her heart, she is still our mother and like the blessed "other who stood beneath the Cross, nothing can turn her away.

In travelling we find those who have fallen to the depths of sin and shame; those who through crime and sin are shunned by their very own pals in their trying hour when they are down, alone, cold and hungry—they may stand behind steel bars, they may wear the world and those who brought them into it, curse every one who brought them to this hour of terrible sadness, but despite all the curses, despite all that is said and done the loving heart of Mother will raise above all its sorrow and come to us this day.

Mother's heart this day and every day is like the eternal light, it burns for us everlasting, day and night, burns for her very own. From the depths of sin and shame, from the blackest crimes



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) ADVERTISEMENTS

From the advertising columns of The Islander, July 9, 1947: E. R. Humphreys, Esq., headmaster of the Central Academy, announces that the half-yearly public examination of pupils will be held on Tuesday, the 13th. Charles Hensley, chairman of the Steam Navigation Company, advises that a general meeting of the shareholders will be held, July 20, in the Court House. A Mr. A. Warden respectfully gives notice to the inhabitants of Charlottetown that he will give a series of lectures on "Ancient Jerusalem," illustrated with splendid paintings, in the Masonic Hall. Theo. Desbrisay, at the Apothecaries Hall, has a tempting variety of new drugs and medicines "just received, per the brig 'Annabella', from London." He also has for sale "eligibly situated building" near Mr. Petick's Brewery, 43 by 70 feet, as well as the leasehold interest in 110 acres of good land fronting on the South West River, New London.

H. W. Lobban, auctioneer, at his store in "the Desbrisay Buildings, opposite the Market House," offers London goods for sale cheap. Thomas B. Tremaine assures patrons of the Prince Edward Tobacco Factory that he has "personally selected his present supply of leaf tobacco in the United States market," also that he has "ten casks of pickling vinegar on consignment."

Tombstones and monuments made to order are advertised by John Carmichael, "at Mr. MacKinnon's, opposite the Gazette office, or at Mr. Peake's Yard, at the head of Queen's Wharf." N. Rankin announces the opening of his new store on premises lately occupied by P. Macgownan, Esq., while John Davis, Jr. reports having cheap for sale a new Spring supply of dry goods and hardware.

The Academy of Music is advertised to open "under the instruction of Baron De Fleur," with 40 hours' tuition on the piano forte in the month, for the sum of £2, Halifax currency; no charge for practice, nine in number, which may be used by pupils.

A. H. Yates announces the auction sale, on the 13th, of "the two-story house and grounds situated at the rear of the Scotch Church, and near the Government House, grounds, the property of Dr. Poole, including orchard and garden planted with fruit trees and vegetables, many of which have been imported from England." Another desirable property advertised by Mr. Yates is that of "Willow Cottage," on the 13th, of "the two-story house and grounds situated at the rear of the Scotch Church, and near the Government House, grounds, the property of Dr. Poole, including orchard and garden planted with fruit trees and vegetables, many of which have been imported from England."

Available at reasonable terms are the services of "the Entire Blood Horse 'Saladin', bred by Lord George Bentinck and imported by the Royal Agricultural Society in 1845 and sold to the present owners for \$220."

Charles McQuarrie states that he intends running the fast sailing schooner 'Armada' between Charlottetown and Miramichi, once a fortnight, for the accommodation of passengers, luggage, etc., while Charles Walsh advises that the brig 'Othello', Capt. Ellis, 207 tons, sailing for London on or about July 1st, has "good accommodations for three cabin passengers."

ever thought of by human souls we can turn to her. Yes, turn again to the heart we have broken, turn to the face we have shamed, and she will take us back to a warm heart that beats for us. Tomorrow is Mother's Day; let us all turn and remember her no matter where she is, no matter if she is old or young her loving heart bleeds for us and will plead for us today, tomorrow and every day as only Mother can, so tomorrow remember her.

I am, Sir, etc. W. A. O'BRIEN

Morell, P. E. I.

TOBACCO DISEASES

Black-root rot virus mosaic and brown-root rot are the major tobacco diseases in Canada.

Every day we are asked to pay taxes for new "welfare" schemes on the government level and at the same time we are asked for increasing donations for welfare

The Poet's Corner

THE VOICE AND THE DUSK

The slender moon and one pale star. A rose leaf and a silver bee From some god's garden blown afar. Go down the gold deep tranquilly.

Within the south there rolls and grows A mighty town with tower and spire. From a cloud bastion masked with rose The lightning flashes diamond fire.

The purple martin darts about The purlieu of the iris fen; The king-bird rushes up and out. He screams and whirrs and screams again.

A thrush is hidden in a maze Of cedar buds and tamarac bloom. He throws his rapid flexile phrase, A flash of emeralds in the gloom.

The rapture from the amber height Floats trembling along the plain. Where in the reeds with fairy light The lingering fireflies gleam again.

Buried in dingles more remote Or drifted from some ferny rise, The swooning of the golden throat Drops in the mellow dusk and dies.

A soft wind passes, lightly drawn. A wave leaps silverly and stirs. The rustling sedge, and then is gone Down the black cavern in the firs.

—Duncan Campbell Scott.

Where Will It End?

(Hamilton Spectator)

There was a fuss in Toronto not long ago about bringing in American social welfare experts to make local surveys for the Community Chest. From an original angry outburst about "scandalous" salaries paid these outsiders there developed a spatter of charges against ignoring Canadian specialists, spending on high-priced talent money that could be better spent elsewhere and multiplying charitable organizations to a point where every one was confused and irritated.

The incident might be minimized as a tempest in a teapot. Could it not—in the interests of charity—be looked on as a tempest in a teapot? Because many people are getting puzzled and concerned about charity and welfare and an endless pressing flood of organizations asking for donations they see only hazy borderlines—if any Others appear to conflict; to cross each other's fields. Taxes and cost of living are being pushed upwards by government welfare spending. Organizations call for help from one another and governments call for help from other levels of government, but in the end the money must come from the householder's pocket.

In the eyes of the public, charity, which begins at home, has become remote and professional. Possibly in the process it has lost its essential meaning. From neighbourly help by individuals and small associations, and from tireless, devoted work by the churches' members helping those who were in distress, it has arrived at a straight transference of money on a vast scale—convenient but precarious. Those who would never think of questioning the wonderful work of the Chest and the Red Cross and others might still be alarmed by the "bigness" of charity and government welfare, the proliferation of organizations and campaigns and wonder if perhaps it might not be soursing the spirit of spontaneous giving.

No government can legislate charity in its real sense and no organization can originate it. Increasingly individuals are being asked to give to public bodies so that abstract general welfare (including their own) may be protected, and in doing this they are losing the ability and even the incentive to accept responsibilities.

Every day we are asked to pay taxes for new "welfare" schemes on the government level and at the same time we are asked for increasing donations for welfare

Notes By The Way

We all have personal, intimate attachments to the place where we grew up, and though afterward we may travel far, form new attachments, and settle into a different life altogether, we can never quite forget the people and places we've left behind.—Richard Harcourt in BBC Broadcast.

An art dealer in Toronto, who has been selling pictures for more than fifty years and is closing his business for lack of buyers, has made some interesting comments on changing trends in Canadian art. He tells of an earlier day when persons of wealth frequently bought paintings worth from four to five thousand dollars. In later years he had found it difficult to obtain one thousand dollars for equally fine art; in fact, few men of means today would go beyond that figure when buying a picture, no matter how outstanding an artist and his work might be. The dealer is disposed to believe that heavy income taxation is largely responsible for the diminishing demand for fine art in Canada. Another reason he gives is this: Forty or fifty years ago the wealthier classes spent more time in their homes, whereas the present generation are restless; they move about a lot and evince no desire to put a fortune on the walls of their houses. A new car is vastly more important.—Hamilton Spectator.

While doubting Thomases ask for proof, and congenial skeptics

on the community level. Where one begins and the other ends it is not always easy to see. The pressure increases. Where are the most deserving? Who should have the first call? How is the individual to choose? There is a limit to his ability to give.

It is certain—if nothing else is certain—that all this will bear with increasing weight on the average citizen. The large donations and big tax slices that long held up charities are being reduced in the equalizing pressure of taxation. Small earnings will be more deeply taxed. Charity, which should keep contact between the heart of the giver and the benefits to the given, must suffer. There will be indeed there has been—a demand that government "take the whole thing over." That would be a cure for disease, once both simple and fatal. The bigness of professional charity would be swollen by the experts of bureaucracy. There would be no more questions.

On Being A Family

(Royal Bank of Canada News Letter)

When citizens keep their fingers in the recreation pie they are giving wisely. It does not do to give over such an important activity wholly to experts. Recreation together is one way of helping to keep the family together. It is a creative experience not only in regard to muscle and mind, but of sympathy and heart.

The danger of parents' abdication is vividly portrayed by George Orwell in his unhappy forecast of what regimentation might bring by the year Nineteen Eighty-Four. Here is his picture: "This was the second time in three weeks that he missed an evening at the Community Centre; a rash act. In principle a Party member had no spare time, and was never alone except in bed. It was assumed that when he was not working, eating or sleeping he would be taking part in some kind of communal recreation."

Besides taking part in home and community recreation, parents need to show an interest in the commercial activities which cater to their child's appetite for amusement. Children need to be shown how to discriminate, how to avoid mental indigestion through surfeit of any one kind of fare, and how to arrive at their own standards of selection. It is interesting to watch the evolution of children's tastes, and it is not wise to become alarmed when they seem to go overboard about this or that programme. We can listen with them to the radio they enjoy, go with them to movies they fancy, and then invite them to join with us in our listening and seeing. In families, taste is contagious.

It is the privilege of parents to listen to the problems which crowd children's minds. What they see on the screen and hear on the radio and both see and hear on television confuses them. We need to

The Age-Old Story

If thou return unto the Almighty thou shalt be built up, thou shalt pay away iniquity far from thy tabernacles.

refuse to believe their eyes, the Marshall plan nations participating in this year's Toronto Trade Fair will give tangible evidence of industrial progress already won and of the specific means by which further progress is to be achieved. On May 29, the doors will open of Canada's third International Trade Fair, and between the lines of statistics on the variety of products and the distribution of floor space among exhibitors one may read the story of recovery made with the help of Marshall aid. In 1948 only 40 per cent of foreign nations were taken by export nations; this year's exhibits from abroad will take 70 per cent. Britain alone is more than doubling her display while Germany and Austria are joining the fair for the first time. In 1948 and 1949 most of the wares were for consumers. There was only a sprinkling of powered machines and other industrial equipment. This year more than half of the goods shown will be in the capital goods class, a sure sign that Europe's industrial equipment makers are catching up with European needs and starting to provide that surplus for export upon which full recovery depends. Canada herself is not slacking off, although she is yielding larger percentages of space to guest nations, she is increasing the size of the fair by almost 50 per cent over last year. The increasingly international character of the fair is a credit to her enterprise.—New York Herald Tribune.

interpret conflicting standards of behaviour. The task laid upon parents is not easy. From marriage through all the experiences of raising a family there are thousands of decisions to be arrived at, things to be done, and choices to be made. Every one of them is pregnant with meaning for Canada's next half century. It is no exaggeration to say that what Canada is in the year 2000 depends upon the mothers and fathers of today and tomorrow. That responsibility demands maturity of outlook. What does "maturity" mean? A person cannot be mature if he is dependent on others or if, contrariwise, he is puffed up with pride in his independence. None of us can get along without others without affection, without being looked after in situations where we cannot look after ourselves. But that must not lure us into leaning on relatives, neighbours, the community or the state. Maturity means not playing at being slightly because we are afraid of being looked upon as old fogies. It means not thinking of adulthood as merely a time of glory departed. It means not being afraid to participate. It does mean having a buoyant and courageous impulse to seek ways of achieving a new significance in adulthood. To sum up: there are several things a family must be if it is to keep its pre-eminent place in our civilization. It must be permanent, companionable, and cooperative. It must provide both partners and their children with a major opportunity for self-development. It must have a spiritual centre. It needs to be unified, democratic and adaptable. It must work intelligently with church, school and community. Lord Halifax stated four basic principles of life which are quoted with approval by the United Church of Canada commission on marriage and the home: 1. The religious principle of the absolute value of every human soul in the sight of God. 2. The moral principle of respect for human personality. 3. The social principle of individual liberty. 4. The domestic principle of the sanctity and solidarity of the family.

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