

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"
CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1950

A Little Too Obvious

In their arguments advanced against railway freight rate increases the seven dissenting Provinces have sought to make it clear that their chief opposition is not to increased rates as such, but to the unfairness in making the increases on a straight horizontal basis, thus aggravating the disadvantages of the outlying Provinces in the competitive markets of Canada.

One would imagine that this fact would be obvious to at least every Maritime newspaper. The Sydney Post-Record, however, appears to be an exception. It has sought persistently to sabotage the efforts of its own Provincial Government and of the other opposing Provinces, maintaining that the Board's findings are "fair, equitable and only right" and should be accepted as such.

"We have no sympathy for those who have made the claim that the Maritimes and the West have gained financially by delays in the hearings. Any gains which have resulted from this dilatoriness were illegitimate, unfair, and improper. The great charter denounces this very type of legal practice—we will not deny or delay justice to any man—which by dilatory methods causes loss to the injured or suppliant party."

By contrast, Ontario newspapers are fair and reasonable in their comments. The Toronto Globe and Mail, for example, while supporting railway claims for a rates increase, concedes that the opposing Provinces have a just grievance. "They argue," it says, "and this is not denied by Ontario and Quebec, that increased railway charges fall most heavily on Prairie and Maritime shippers and consumers."

Our Sydney contemporary makes no such concessions. It rushes to defend the Board's discriminatory ruling with the zeal of a convert, denouncing all and sundry who have sought "by stalling tactics" to offset the disadvantages to our Maritime farmers and other shippers which will accrue, and dissociating itself entirely from all "cheap and unwarranted propaganda emanating from the Maritimes and from the West" in opposition to the increases.

There is, of course, merit in "daring to be a Daniel," and having the courage of one's convictions regardless of the cost. But in this case we think our old friend the Post-Record protests its rectitude overmuch. We sense the aroma of a nigger in the woodpile,—a quite sizeable capitalistic nigger—who certainly is not without the means of fighting propaganda battles on his own account, and of amply compensating his auxiliaries.

To Prevent Wanton Wastes

The Provincial Government has done a wise thing in acquiring the abandoned R. C. A. F. camp at Mount Pleasant. It is intended to turn over the moveable assets to a local company to liquidate. It is a costly matter keeping such property unoccupied, and, moreover, a source of worry and loss apart altogether from depreciation. The price finally obtained from the Federal authorities was reasonable, after selecting portions of the moveable estate which might prove useful to the Province or R. C. A. F. Station at Summerside, the balance will be turned over to the company at a figure to be agreed upon.

We are familiar with what happened at Farnham, Quebec, and the loss sustained there by theft and misappropriations, due to lack of proper supervision.

The Montreal Gazette, commenting on the subject, says: "It is true that, as present government spending figures go today, the loss involved

at Farnham is a small thing. But there are many military establishments across the country and probably there will be still more. There is a principle involved which directly affects the interests of all citizens. "With the government digging deeply into the pockets of every taxpayer and with unemployment bringing fresh problems, it would seem in order to suggest that the time has come to cease regarding government property as nobody's property. And when something like the Farnham case occurs it would be more reassuring to the harassed taxpayers if it were dealt with in a frank and forthright manner rather than as though it concerned the taxpayer hardly at all."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Legislature resumed yesterday after the week-end recess.

Halifax and Saint John are beneficiaries from the recent spell of cold weather. It will be remembered that icebreakers started to open up the St. Lawrence January 30, much to the dismay of the Maritime ports.

Alberta's Government is in theory the reverse of socialistic, but with bulging coffers from oil discoveries, Premier Manning predicts a record spending programme of \$74,676,791 which will probably provide social services which turn Saskatchewan's C. C. F.'ers green with envy.

"Sixty per cent of U. S. farmers are unfit for their jobs because they hate their animals and hate the soil," Farmer-Author Louis Bromfield said in Kansas City. "A farmer to succeed needs to be part business-man, part specialist and part scientist, and love his job." What percentage of our farmers are in this category?

His Majesty may well be successful in reviving the custom of dressing for dinner. His innovation of a tartan dinner jacket could readily be accepted as the most comfortable wear for after work. In any case many Canadians are already in the height of fashion.

The R. C. N.'s decision to train its own executive branch officer cadets is timely. We owe the Royal Navy gratitude for providing that instruction during the years when our largest ship was a destroyer but now, with an aircraft carrier and a cruiser in commission it is appropriate that we should provide the training for the officers to be.

Defence Minister Claxton gives the proportion of the defence budget for air as being 29 per cent by the U. K., 30 per cent by France, 34 per cent by the U. S. A. and 42.6 per cent by Canada and that, "This proportion will be further increased to 44.8 per cent for 1950-51. The percentages, however, are not the important thing. What is necessary is to provide adequate resources to enable the three branches to be ready for their part in case of emergency."

"You cannot keep a good man down." Mr. T. F. Mitchell, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia for the last two-and-a-half years here, has already been promoted Assistant Supervisor of the Bank's Maritime branches with headquarters at Saint John. In his short sojourn Mr. Mitchell has been exceedingly popular, not only with the Bank's patrons but in the community generally where he has identified himself closely with many progressive and charitable movements.

It is interesting to note that the Massey Commission on Arts and Science has cost so far \$96,000. The five commissioners, headed by Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, collected about \$36,000 in travelling expenses and fees. Travelling expenses and fees of the commissioners to Feb. 20: Mr. Massey, \$7,400; Rev. G. H. Levesque, \$7,000; Dr. Norman MacKenzie, \$8,700; Dr. Helen Neatby, \$7,800; Dr. Arthur Surveyer, \$5,000. Two secretaries are on the commission staff. A. A. Day received \$7,400, and R. Garneau, \$6,400. Peter Wright of Toronto, one of the commission's legal counsel, received \$7,900.

Sir John Frederick William Herschel, English astronomer, born this date 1792. His "Outlines of Astronomy" was the first popular publication which put the subject "on the map" for the average citizen. Until his story of the skies became widely read, the heavens were merely darkness illuminated with the moon and innumerable green lights. Those who sought greater information were called star-gazers, people who had nothing better to do than to spend their leisure evenings trying to trace the milky way and such like. After Sir John's publication, astronomy became a popular subject in High Schools and Universities, and observatories were transferred from the market place and fairs, to scientific institutions.

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.

COPPER TOKENS

Sir,—I have been reading with interest a number of letters which have appeared lately in your Public Forum, relative to some old copper coins which your subscribers have in their possession. These copper tokens, which were made in England, were never "legal tender," but as small change were issued by Island merchants, and would be accepted at these stores. The coins bearing the imprint of a full rigged ship with the inscription "Ships Colonies and Commerce" were issued by the "London House." This store was, I think, situated on the site now occupied by the Royal Bank. The token with the motto "Self Government and Free Trade," I have seen in two dates, 1855 and 1857. From the motto I would infer that they were issued by some strong anti-confederationist. The token with the plow and split cod, bearing the inscription: "Speed the Plow and Success to the Fisheries" are not dated, but were probably issued about the same time.

The old Prince Edward Island Tree cents, as we used to call them, were issued at a time when this island was a Crown Colony. The inscription "Parva sub ingenti" refers to the small island being sheltered by the greater. The only ones of these coins that I have come across bear the date 1871, which would be just previous to Confederation which took place in 1873. I am, Sir, etc., W. F. ALAN STEWART Strathgartney, P.E.I.

Old Charlottetown

(Add P. E. I.)

LEGISLATIVE DEADLOCK

House of Assembly, April 28, 1850: Excerpt from the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, to His Excellency Sir Donald Campbell, Lieutenant-Governor: "Although anxious to proceed with the despatch of the local business, together with the consideration of those important subjects affecting the general interests of the British North American Colonies, to which our attention was directed in the last Session, yet we regret to have to say, that as your Excellency's Speech contains no intimation of your readiness to accede to the wishes of the House of Assembly, in respect to the reconstruction of your Excellency's Government, as indicated by their vote of want of Confidence, in the last Session, we are reluctantly compelled by a due regard for the responsibility we have incurred to our constituents, to adhere to our resolution of postponing the despatch of the general business of the Colony, and the consideration of the important subjects referred to by your Excellency, until such time as it may be found expedient to comply with the wishes of Her Majesty's subjects in this Colony, in respect to the question of Responsible Government."

From the reply of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to the Address, April 29, 1850: "I regret to learn that you do not intend to proceed with the despatch of the general business of the Colony, nor with the consideration of the important subjects affecting the general interests of the British North American Colonies, to which I have directed your attention. I should fail in the performance of my duty, if I did not express my disapprobation of this premeditated neglect of your Legislative functions."

From a resolution adopted by the House of Assembly, April 30, 1850: "That in consequence of the continued determination of His Excellency Sir Donald Campbell to oppose the wishes of the House in the reconstruction of his Executive Council, they have no alternative but still to decline the prosecution of any other legislative business than such as the exigencies of the Colony may require."

"That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in his reply to the Address of the House, on the 29th instant, having imputed to this House the 'premeditated neglect of their Legislative duties,' did, by such expression, violate the privileges of this House and the decorum which ought to be observed in the communications between the different parts of the Legislature, and which this House, up to that date, in regard to His Excellency, had strictly observed; and that such conduct on the part of His Excellency was calculated rather to irritate than to conciliate this branch of the Legislature."

From the Speech by the Lieutenant Governor, proroguing the Assembly, May 1, 1850: "I regret that it is not in my power to congratulate you on the results of the present session. No provision has been made for many of the most essential wants of the Colony, including roads, bridges and wharves, crown prosecutions, the maintenance of jails and prisoners, inland mails, relief of poor persons, and various others, the want of which will be severely felt by these classes



The Age-Old Story

The eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy.

The Longest River

(From the Manchester Guardian)

As every almanack editor knows, the identity of the world's longest river is a matter of passionate interest to the common reader. It must be plainly stated, aside by side with the Signs of the Zodiac and the names of public school head masters; its length should be given to the nearest mile.

A writer in the "Geographical Journal" has lately remeasured from the "World Aeronautical Charts" the major rivers from their remotest sources; where two channels exist he charted a short and a long course. His findings are a nasty knock for the Mississippi-Missouri, which even "Whittaker" puts at the top of its list with a length of 4,502 miles and the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" with 4,200. (In the fourteenth edition it said 6,970.) As most laymen have known from kindergarten days, the Amazon is proved the winner with a length of 4,050 miles.

The Nile comes second with 3,800 miles, the North American pretender third with 3,760, the Yangtze Kiang fourth with 3,500 and the Yenisei-Selenga fifth with 3,365 miles. This news should send geographers scurrying for their measuring wheels. Less emotional persons may care to refer to such reference books as they possess and re-examine the section dealing with rivers.

The New York World Telegram's almanack, for example, awards the palm to the Nile with a length of 4,160 miles; indeed, the river seems to have grown 160 miles longer since the publication of the 1946 edition.

Another American volume, "Information Please," does the same; it also gives the Mississippi-Missouri's length to the nearest mile—3,988 miles—and puts the poor Amazon third. One English encyclopaedia reduces it to a miserable 3,400 miles in length. Such errors do not pass unnoticed.

SCHOOL FOR CAMPERS

MONTRÉAL — (CP) — A new series of evening courses at McGill University's Redpath Museum is tailor-made for the amateur camper and naturalist. Lectures deal with everything from map-reading to insects and nature photography.

of the people which can least afford to lose them. "These and other Supplies necessary for the due performance of the public service having been refused by the Assembly, I do not see that any useful purpose can be attained by your remaining in session, and I will therefore relieve you from further attendance, and enable you to return to your respective homes and occupations."

The Poet's Corner

CHRISTIAN NAMES

In Christian world Mary the garden sweets! Rebecca sweaters on a Hebrew's ear; Quakers for pure Priscilla are more clear; And the light Gaul by amorous Ninon sweats. Among the lesser lights how Lucy shines! What air of fragrance Rosemond throws around! How like a hymn doth sweet Cecilia sound! Of Marthas, and of Abigails, few lines Have bragged in verse. Of coasted household stuff Should homely Joan be fashioned. But can You Barbara resist, or Marian? And is not Clare for love excuse enough? Yet, by my faith in numbers, I profess, These all, than Saxon Edith, please me less. —Charles Lamb (1775-1834).

World Catalogue Plants

(Ottawa Citizen)

Apart from its political usefulness, the United Nations continues to give valuable scientific service that should have its effect on improving living conditions in the world. The work is done quietly without the fanfare that arises from the political clash between East and West. Consequently it receives little public attention. This is a pity, for the result is a tendency to lose sight of the solid achievements of the United Nations in creating a better world.

The U. N. Food and Agricultural Organisation is one of the groups performing these un-dramatic tasks. The F. A. O. is now compiling a world catalogue of genetic stocks, which will eventually enable breeders to learn the characteristics of any plant in the world. Without such a catalogue, it is doubtful whether world plant resources would ever have been thoroughly available to breeders. True, a single government with worldwide contacts, such as the British or American administrations, might have compiled the catalogue. But it remained for an international agency to do the job. It will mean, for example that breeders in Canada will have available to them a list of most of the plants in the world, and information on the type of soil and climate that encourages their growth. It is an enormous undertaking, but its benefits are obvious.

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Notes By The Way

The prophets of gloom have been doing their best to start a depression with talk of tobogganing farm markets and mounting unemployment. Nobody seems to believe them. Meantime we're doing very well here in Canada.—Lethbridge Herald.

The truth will out! All during the past bitter month, Edmonton's canny citizens were pretty sure that nothing like it had ever been seen or rather felt, before. And now the weather office has confirmed the evidence of their ears. January was the coldest month ever recorded here.—Edmonton Journal.

Sirs: Returning from my wedding trip to Hawaii, I began catching up on my reading. I was flattered to see a picture of Mrs. Gable and me in Life. However, I must correct your statement that I said I have turned down 5,000 marriage proposals. This statement was never made by me and has no basis in fact. This quote often crops up to embarrass me. To my knowledge I have never been proposed to by any woman. Clarke Gable, Culver City, Calif.—Life.

The last word in luxury has been spoken. At least, we hope so. The British car which won the Concours de Confort at Monte Carlo was equipped, among other things, with a cocktail cabinet, writing desks and typewriters. Add to these accessories the radio-telephones which are being installed in some American cars, and man may cease to grow legs and live on wheels.—News Chronicle (London).

General MacArthur is asking Russia to send back several hundred thousand prisoners of war. But that is a humane gesture. Japan doesn't need these people. She has too many as it is and her population is growing rapidly. It was 73,000,000 at the end of the war. It is 83,000,000 now. By 1970, at the present rate, it will be 100,000,000. And Japan is a group of relatively small volcanic islands poor in arable land and poor in resources.—Vancouver Province.

It may well be that, within a very few years, Canada will have an oil marketing problem on her hands. Already the Dominion Parliament has had a taste of the problems of gas marketing. One may, therefore, ask just what is the federal policy on oil and gas production and marketing. True, production largely comes under provincial jurisdiction but

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