

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, OCT. 30, 1950

Some Striking Figures

"Why Municipalities Are Hard Up" is the subject of an illuminating editorial in the Financial Post. The statements made are based on an official release from Ottawa, showing how taxes—federal, provincial and municipal—are collected. Altogether, these taxes now total about \$3,600 millions—or about \$260 for every man, woman, and child in the nation. In 1939 it was about \$95 per person.

But examination of how the three levels of government share in the tax take shows the urgent importance of revision of the present financial arrangements between governments.

Today the Federal authority gets 67% of the total tax take. In 1939 it was 48%. Today the Provinces get 20% compared with 22%.

Now the Municipalities get \$500 millions or 13%. The contrasting figure is \$315 millions or 30%.

But in the past decade enormous new loads of spending responsibility have been thrust on the Municipalities. Education costs have been soaring, not only because of a bigger school population but because of the rising standards and increased variety of the educational services offered. Health and welfare costs have been mounting for the same reason and particularly because of growing public opinion favoring almost everything and anything bearing the revered name of "welfare."

The enormous increase in motor traffic has involved municipalities in greater costs for more and heavier pavement, wider streets, more police and traffic controls. And about 75% of all municipal revenue comes from real property taxes—about the same proportion as a decade ago.

The trouble with this situation isn't just that the real property tax has, in the words of the Citizens Research Institute "drifted further and further from being a sound measure of ability to pay." The increasing reliance of municipalities on being able to coax grants out of the provincial treasuries is a business full of danger. Having one government spend money collected by another is a poor system at best.

"The municipal services are those most intimately affecting our daily lives, our comfort, our personal safety," says the Post. "The basic laws under which we are now fumbling along were designed for a society very, very different from today's. Continuing with the present situation of chronically money-starved municipalities, most of them with a poor tax system, doesn't make sense."

Bonus Inefficiency

In the steadily narrowing field where free competition holds sway the price of goods and services is determined by the cost of the most efficient producers who are able to supply the demand. Others in the field must perforce operate at a loss and eventually go out of business unless they can make adjustments which enable them to compete successfully.

It is otherwise in the case of monopoly, as was shown a few days ago by a decision of the Nova Scotia Board of Public Utilities. The Board, after a thorough investigation, found that the water system of the town of Mahone Bay, "instead of (being) a new, modern and thoroughly efficient system, was badly constructed, thoroughly wasteful and inefficient, and quite the opposite of what would be expected of a system which was only recently installed."

On that finding the Board granted the desired increase in rates. They could not, of course, do otherwise. There can only be one water system servicing a given locality, but it once more shows the folly of extending public ownership or other form of monopoly to any field in which it can be avoided.

Too One-Sided

One characteristic which sets Hansard apart from a host of other official publications pouring out of the office of the King's Printer in Ottawa is that it reports not only the views of those who sit to the right of Mr. Speaker, but those of people occupying the Opposition benches as well. Somehow or other, when public utterances of members of the House of Commons find their way into departmental publications, only those of government adherents seem to survive the transmission. Consider, for example, the Monthly

Bulletin of the Department of External Affairs. This publication started out rather modestly a couple of years ago, only to grow into a somewhat elaborate periodical which is a tribute to the craftsmanship of the King's Printer. Utterances of cabinet ministers on matters affecting external affairs are usually reported verbatim in the External Affairs Bulletin. Views of the Leader of the Opposition, or Opposition critics in the realm of foreign policy, however, never seem to find their way into the publication.

In view of the fact that Hansard reports both sides of any question, and does not go in for editorial and printing frills, economy-conscious Canadians wonder why it is necessary to print for a second time, and at considerably more cost, the words of wisdom uttered by Messrs. Pearson, Claxton and others on the floor of the House of Commons.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The King's County Memorial Hospital starts its annual campaign for funds today.

The best investment of the week is in the Blood Bank. One never knows when it might be a matter of life or death to be able to draw on it.

Wreath sales by the Legion are reported to be up to last year's mark. That could be improved upon if firms not contacted would voluntarily do their bit.

Mr. MacNaught is receiving well deserved congratulations on being chosen one of the delegates to attend the conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in New Zealand, with a subsequent visit to Australia.

British Defence Minister Emanuel Shinwell is to visit Ottawa for conference with our Defence Department officials on Thursday, and will later visit Montreal, and defence establishments at Kingston and Trenton. It is not recalled when a British Minister of War previously officially visited Ottawa.

The Moncton meeting today may set minimum prices for the sale of potatoes and eliminate much unfortunate price cutting. The Marketing Boards can only agree on making the best of the market, however. They are not in a position to buy surplus stocks if the price agreed upon proves too high.

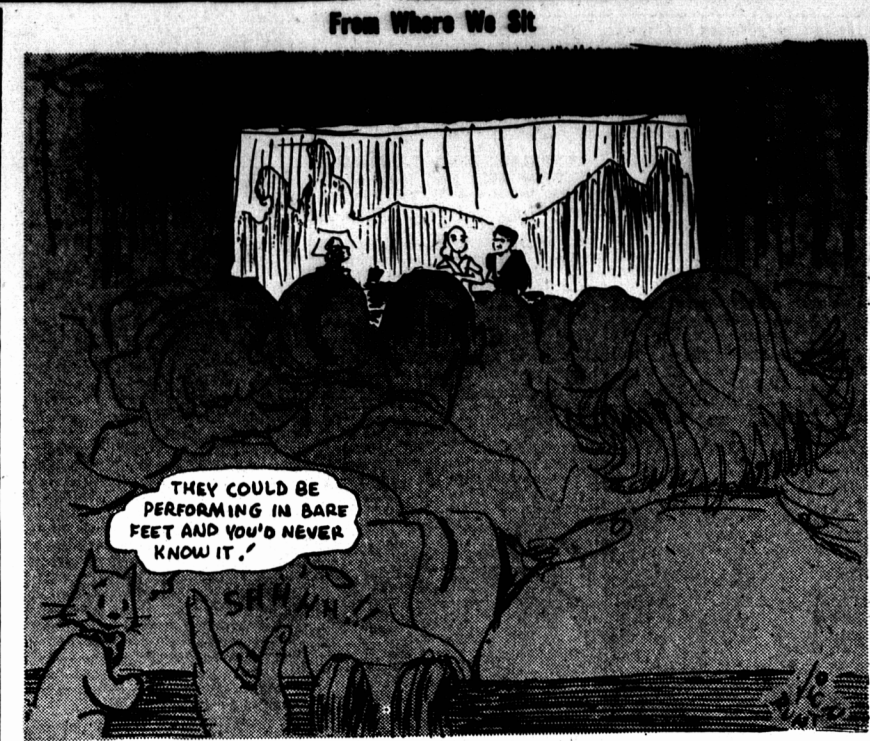
Field Marshal Alanbrooke has been appointed Constable of the Tower in succession to the late Field Marshal Earl Wavell. William the Conqueror appointed the first Constable nearly 900 years ago and Viscount Alanbrooke will be the 147th man to hold the office, since the death of the Duke of Wellington always held by distinguished soldiers.

An heiress once caused a sensation by running away from her home in Quebec and taking a job as waitress in Vancouver. She was discovered and taken back home. Now she has occasioned another sensation by marrying quietly the man of her choice without letting her society friends know her intentions in advance.

There may be Russian objections to the proposed ending of the state of war with Germany by non-Communist members of the United Nations, but the old Germany is no more and it would be difficult to justify a continued state of war with the German Governments established by the victorious powers themselves.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Anglo-Irish dramatist, politician and orator, died this date 1816. He was a grandson of Swift's biographer, Thomas Sheridan, D.D., and was born in Dublin. Educated at Harrow, he made a romantic marriage with a beautiful singer, Elizabeth Linley of Bath, for whom he fought two duels. Later he went to London, and with his father-in-law took Drury Lane theatre where "The School for Scandal" was produced in 1777, and "The Critic" in 1779.

Dr. Brock Chisholm, who, when he was Deputy Minister of Health at Ottawa, caused a sensation by advocating the abolition of Santa Claus so that children would not be fooled at Christmas, now, as director general of World Health Organization, tells us that the atomic bomb is obsolete, but makes our flesh creep by declaring that biological science could release diseases which would be much more powerful weapons than the atomic bomb. These diseases could eliminate more than 50 per cent of the populations against which they were directed, he said. Not very comforting is it? About the only difference is that with the atomic bomb burial would be unnecessary whereas by biological diseases the survivors would have to become grave-diggers.



(One reason we'd like to see a new auditorium for our own and visiting artists, actors and speakers—an on-the-spot sketch at a recent concert).

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

POTTER'S CLAY

"We heard the late Captain John Stewart, Paymaster, tell as an anecdote, that at a very early period of the settlement of the Island, the troops were in want of pipe clay for the purpose of whitening their belts, and the high price offered for it induced some country people to bring for sale some white dirt, as they termed it, which on inspection proved to be as good pipe clay as that imported; and for a while the inventors made a profit by the commodity, but the secret of the place where it was to be found having leaked out, put an end to speculation, and the soldiers went and helped themselves, and thus saved their pence." "Gallows Point was the place he mentioned, and the late Col. Holland, who confirmed Mr. Stewart's story, informed the writer that it occurred in other localities. Now we should like to be satisfied upon this point. If pipe or potter's clay of any description exists in sufficient abundance, here is an article which may be turned to an available account. In an agricultural country the demand for earthenware is great. It is far better for the dairy purposes than wood or even metal (though many prefer the latter). There is a wholesomeness and cleanliness about it, that is not, in our opinion, to be found elsewhere. Now, though earthenware is very cheap in Britain, yet from its fragility, and the space it takes up and the consequent freight, the price here is considerable. A few potteries would be of great advantage to the rural population, and benefit that of the Town in no inconsiderable degree." —Hansard's Gazette, June 14, 1856.

Death Of Privacy Brings an Outburst

(Windsor Star) We are gathered here today to mourn the death of privacy. Privacy is dead; long live the commercial. You can't turn on a television set without having a box of breakfast food thrust in your face; you can't spin your radio dial without a raucous rooster squawking at you; in a growing number of cities you can't doze on a bus because of the commercials blaring at you; and as Ogden Nash once remarked about the disappearing pleasures of motoring: "I think that I shall never see a billboard lovely as a tree; Perhaps unless the billboards fall I'll never see a tree at all." The next stage in this commercial invasion of our privacy will undoubtedly be commercially-wired homes.

When we shut the bedroom window in the morning, a concealed loud speaker will remark, "Got a hang-over? Take Fizz." In the bathroom, a sepulchral voice will growl, "You need Laxo." The tooth-brush holder will chide, "Your gums are too soft. Try Gumbo." As we turn on the shower, a girl will murmur, "For my sake, please be careful. Use Sahli!" If you don't relish the prospect of having every move you make in your own home subjected to the derisive comment of a hidden commercial voice, there are two things you can do about it. You can take out a patent on the idea and make enough money out of it to retire to an uncommercialized island paradise in the South Seas. After all, the chap who proscribed the good old tune of John Peel to the sordid tinkles of the Pepsi-Cola song is reputed to have got \$75,000 for the deed. "Commercially-wired Homes, Inc." should be worth a lot more than that.

The alternative is to become a charter member of the Consumer Resistance League. The motto of the league, "Nemo me impune lacessit", (freely translated: "You can't get away with that stuff around here, bub") tells us precisely how to boycott all products whose advertising violates our privacy or offends against our good taste. We already have several applications for membership. One chap says he hasn't smoked a Lucky since that insufferable tobacco auctioneer first appeared on the Hit Parade back in the thirties.

Farming Experiment

(B.B.C. London Letter)

More than three dozen young American farmers are in Europe this year as part of the Farm Youth Exchange project while a similar number of junior British agriculturalists, members of the Young Farmers' Club, are in the United States and Canada. Thirteen of the Americans are in Britain. Nine of them, four girls and five boys, belong to the 4H association, whose four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health, all of which should be fully used in good farming and good community life. The remaining four young men belong to the Future Farmers of America; another farming organization, but one slightly more technical than 4H in its approach to the subject.

The young farmers are spending six months in Britain travelling about the country and living for short periods in different districts as guests of their British counterparts, the Young Farmers' Clubs. The Americans come from many parts of the United States and while they are in Britain the B.C.'s North American Service is producing a great many programmes about their work here. These programmes are then broadcast to America and relayed from the stations to the young farmers' own districts so that their friends and families at home can hear what they are doing on British farms. A BBC producer and recording car goes to the places where the visitors are staying, interviews the young farmers and their hosts, records a sound picture of the farms, and generally provides a picture of life in varying British rural communities. One of these programmes was recorded at Britain's biggest agricultural show of the year, the Royal, and another covered its Scottish counterpart, the Royal Highland Show. A special American team came over from Maryland to take part in the stock-judging contest at the Royal Highland and they took part in the broadcast. The young Americans are critical of British farming in some respects; dairy hygiene, for example, and the tendency to produce home grown beef in quantity rather than quality, but for such things as British pastures and the development of ley farming they have nothing but praise.

Soviet Elections

(Winnipeg Free Press) Many people have entertained the erroneous notion that the ultimate in farcical elections had been attained under the single list system in the Soviet Union. This is everyone knows produces an affirmative response measured by the figure 99 followed by a decimal which is apparently worked out in some obscure division of the Russian statistical service. Despatches from East Berlin indicate however that the same system with a little help from western sources can produce a situation even more ridiculous. Single list elections were held Sunday in Soviet Germany. The announced results follow the prescribed form. What is most unusual, however, is that the commentary, the appraisal of these results, preceded the actual voting. This was accomplished by the device of organizing under western auspices a free though undercover vote, the results of which were announced two days before the Communist

The Poet's Corner

STARFALL

The meteors that streaked Beyond the night-hawk ridge Set a lone fox barking High on the balsam ridge. The blazing star that tumbled Beyond the barley wall Blew up in green and gold. Its tails Streaming fire, and tail. It shook me from the doorstep; Cricket and fox went still; There was no sound of wind or hawk Hunting the hemlock hill. My heart against the breathing world, Against the warm dark loam, I shared the night with a fallen star That had chosen earth for home. —Frances Frost.

The Age-Old Story

Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness. —Ezekiel. I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth; thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them; and thou shalt rejoice in the Lord, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

electoral pantomime was due for presentation. To obtain a free expression of opinion in the East, West Germans invited their countrymen in the Soviet zone to mail in the stubs of their September ration cards as an indication that they disapproved of the Communist regime and its totalitarian elections. At some risk and despite official threats, no less than 375,712 citizens of East Berlin posted protest stubs. The last official voting in East Berlin brought out 778,780 voters. Let it be assumed, a most unlikely proposition, that all the voters not heard from last week are supporters of the regime. It still very obviously follows that the Communists claim little more than 50 per cent of free choice ballots. Presumably the pattern elsewhere in the Soviet zone reflects generally that in Berlin. Sunday's organized and well-policed demonstration at the polling booths is thus convincingly exposed as racketeering of the most transparent type.

Advertisement for watch repair services. Text: "Be sure your watch is repaired by a GUARANTEED WATCHMAKER. This Store Employs Watchmakers Certified by the Canadian Jewellers Institute. LOOK FOR THIS SIGN. This identification is given only to those who have passed the Canadian Jewellers' Institute's rigid examination in watchmaking. It is your assurance of qualified and competent care for your watch. THE CANADIAN JEWELLERS' INSTITUTE. A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH PROTECTS YOUR INTERESTS."

Notes By The Way

In an Oklahoma prison a man is serving two life sentences. In any other country that would take him several years. — Brandon Sun. Out on Vancouver Island, where one of the Cowichan Indians has predicted a Winter of heavy snow, a reporter asked the tribal chief how his people reached such conclusions. Said the chief: "Maybe they listen to the weather reports on the radio." That recalls another story of someone who was deeply impressed with an Indian's prediction of a long, cold winter and asked how the Indian had so decided. "Easy," said the Indian. "While I'm out in a lot of wood." Experience has shown that Indians' weather predictions, by which some people set great store, are over-rated. They are akin with predictions based on the habits of squirrels, the amount of fur on various animals, and scores of other signs. None of these seems to be really dependable. — Halifax Chronicle-Herald. There is not likely to be much official comment from Ottawa on the despatch from Moose Factory reporting on tales from Indians and trappers of weird objects in the sky and on James Bay. But a clue to these unusual phenomena may be found in a speech by Dr. O. M. Solandt, Chairman of the Canadian Defence Board, in which he gave in barest outline the work of defence scientists at various points in Canada. At Fort Churchill, he said there is a research laboratory which is the hub of experiments on weapons suitable for Arctic warfare. Dr. Solandt said the work at this station is secret that it cannot be discussed. Fort Churchill is about 750 miles distant from Moose Factory in a straight line. It is possible the James Bay Indians have been witnessing some important experiments in scientific research on defence. — Toronto Telegram.

The Kitchener Board of Health is entertaining the idea of adding fluoride to the city water as a means of combating tooth decay. Further information on the subject is being sought before the decision is made. The advisability of this method of treating the teeth was aired at the annual Fall clinic of the Montreal Dental Clinic. Dr. Alfred E. Seyler, past president of the American Society of Dentistry for Children, recommended it strongly. He said it has been found that by adding fluoride to public water supplies that dental decay in secondary teeth can be reduced by as much as 60 per cent with very little cost. When he was asked why this method of combating tooth decay was not used in every city, Dr. Seyler explained that city officials have been saying "But its effectiveness has not been established." This, he added, was nonsense. According to Dr. Seyler, experiments have shown that while fluoride had no visible effect on a child's first teeth, the second teeth resist decay much better. Evidently adults do not benefit from fluoride to any great extent. But it is believed that it does provide some protection to the front teeth which come in contact with fluoride when a glass of treated water is being consumed. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

LONDON, Oct. 27 — (Reuters)—Britain's first reported snow of the season fell today on high ground near Bath, Somerset. Ground in the London area was white with frost at daybreak.

Advertisement for J. P. MacPherson & Son. Text: "Men's Clothing That Fits SUITS - TOPCOATS - OVERCOATS 157 QUEEN ST. Out on the Bath Road, at the edge of Heathrow Airport, there is a public-house called The Old Magpies. The old part of the building"

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

A collection of professional cards for various services including optometrists, dentists, barristers, and accountants. Examples include: "Watneson & Peake A.W. MATHESON, K.C. A.H. PEAKE, B.A., LL.B. Barristers, etc. Collections — Money to Loan 90 Great George Street Charlottetown"; "J. A. CARRUTHERS R.O. OPTOMETRIST PHONE 2872 123 Kent Street (Next to Simpson's Agency)"; "Dr. A. L. MacIsaac DENTIST Dental X-Ray GLORIA BUILDING 179 Grafton St. Phone 291"; "John P. Nicholson, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR. Etc. 154 Prince St., Ch'town. Phone 2838"; "Palmer & Haslam A. J. HASLAM, B.A., LL.B. Barrister, Etc. Bank of Nova Scotia Chambers Charlottetown, P.E.I. MONEY TO LOAN"; "Bell & Mathieson BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, etc. R.R. BELL, M.L.A. D.L. MATHIESON LL.B., K.C. Attorneys at Law LOANS ON CITY AND FARM PROPERTIES 150 Richmond St. Charlottetown, P.E.I."; "Gaudet & Haszard GILBERT A. GAUDET, B.A., LL.B. Barristers and Solicitors Money to Loan Canadian Bank of Commerce Bldg"; "J. A. McQuigan NOTARY, ETC. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR CURRIE BUILDING BYRON J. GRANT O.B. OPTOMETRIST 126 1/2 Kent Street PHONE 879 Adjoining North American Hotel"; "E. E. DOANE & CO. Chartered Accountants IN CHARLOTTETOWN Randolph W. Manning, C. A. Branch M. Sears, C.A. W. Grant Thompson, C.A. Phone: 2080 - 1467"; "McDONALD, CURRIE & CO. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Saint John, Sherbrooke, Vancouver, Kirkland Lake, Moncton, Hamilton, Charlottetown, Currie Bldg., Charlottetown Telephone 1698"