

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20, 1950

The Shrinking Dollar

It is not so long ago that most people thought the dollar bill was a nice, comfortable thing to have in their pocket. A ten dollar bill, of course, was even better, and, for most people a twenty dollar bill was the best, of all.

Right now, the dollar bill is no longer quite so popular. Instead of stowing the ubiquitous "greenback" away in the bank, or getting a bond which guarantees the return on the due date of one hundred dollar bills, plus interest, people are trading their greenbacks for goods.

It's a bad thing, this loss of faith in the dollar. It's bad because it makes people do foolish things, like buying more than they need, or even buying something they don't particularly want.

Professor Summer Slichter of Harvard, who happens to be one of the world's most famous economists, says the way to restore confidence in the dollar is more production. So long as goods that people need are available in sufficient quantity to be exchanged for dollars, and the public know that they can be exchanged, people will hang on to their dollars and not spend them willy-nilly for fear they will lose value.

Such a scheme sounds pretty good, provided everybody can get on the escalator. The trouble, of course, is that a lot of people would not be able to get on at all. People who purchased life insurance retirement pensions would not get on, because life insurance presently in force has no "escalator clause".

Somehow or other economist Slichter seems himself to have missed the escalator with this sort of reasoning.

Changing Climate

Whether our climate is getting warmer or colder is a question on which there is little agreement. The Halifax Mail-Star goes out on a limb and flat-footedly states that old-timers are all wrong about the weather, that "science" says that this country and all others are colder than they used to be.

There is general agreement, of course, that from about 3,000 B.C. the climate has been decidedly cooler. Saxon England, for example, enjoyed a balmy climate that would be the envy of Mediterranean lands today.

What should be noticed, however, is that there have been many signs that the cooling process has ceased and even been reversed. Glaciers both in North America and Europe are definitely receding and temperature records show that at least the short-term trend is towards higher temperatures.

No one can be very dogmatic about what the future may bring and, of course, there will be plenty of Arctic-type weather to chill the enthusiasm of those who look for sub-tropical conditions to make their appearance here.

Sales Tax

The proposal made at the recent Dominion-Provincial Conference that the constitution be amended to allow the Provinces to impose indirect taxation has aroused protest in various quarters. The reason for the proposal, of course, is the very great difficulty of collecting a sales tax directly from the consumer.

on low income groups because of the higher proportion of their income which they must expend on goods for immediate consumption. That portion of income which goes into investment escapes the levy altogether.

It would be a step in the wrong direction for the Provinces to have surrendered the right to collect income tax only to turn to the pernicious indirect taxes for needed revenue.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is not going to be a green Christmas after all and no one even seemed to be singing that they were dreaming of a white Christmas.

Developments in the fishing industry are expected to enable the fisherman to pursue his calling even during the winter months. It is scarcely surprising that his reaction is less than wholly enthusiastic.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) constituted this date 1922. It includes over 50 local autonomous governments and controlled by the Congress of the Soviets of the Union with an executive of which Joseph Stalin is President.

The reported invasion of U. N. headquarters by field mice has its encouraging side. Rats do not seem to have made an appearance at all but it is reassuring that at least the mice show no signs of deserting.

With its powerful homing device the R. C. A. F. Station, Summerside, will undoubtedly provide a welcome service to fliers in difficult navigational conditions, even though many will never come near the airport itself.

A team of U. K. Research scientists have begun a five months' period of investigation of the behaviour of cosmic rays. They are conducting their experiments at the international research station in Switzerland, on the highest slopes of the Jungfrau Mountain.

The U. S. A. auto service is defying the U. S. Government which has ordered that no increase meantime be made on the price of new autos. It is most unusual for a government to resort to such a measure, and one can sympathize with the companies in kicking against the pricks.

The Brussels meeting of Atlantic Pact foreign ministers shows the 12 member nations to be very definitely on the same team. Russia's truculence may affect the measures which the meeting will agree to adopt but at the same time consolidates the common front as nothing else could do.

The Monday night storm played havoc with our light and power systems. The Maritime Electric Co. Ltd., under the direction of Mr. V. A. Ainsworth, rendered yeoman service in keeping the plant and circuits in operation. The Guardian had light, heat and power cut off, and got to press with the generous assistance of Mr. W. A. Gaudet and Mr. Jack Dillon of the Patriot, who placed their stereotype plant at its disposal, enabling the paper being put to press as soon as power was restored.

The Rt. Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent has accepted the invitation of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews of which the Hon. Arthur Meighen is president, to serve as honorary chairman of Brotherhood Week which will be held February 18-25, 1951 and yesterday in Ottawa gave his statement of acceptance to Richard D. Jones, executive director of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews the national organization that sponsors the Brotherhood Week celebration.

Egg prices on December 15 this year and previous years. The prices quoted below are for Grade A Large. At Montreal and Toronto the prices are those at which graded shipments are selling to wholesalers. At other points quotations are prices to shippers for ungraded eggs.

Table with columns for City (Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Charlottetown) and years (1950, 1949, 1948) showing egg prices.

Table with columns for Province (B.C., Alta., Sask., Man., Ont., Que., N.B., N.S., P.E.I.) and years (Dec. 2, Nov. 25, Nov. 18) showing egg prices.

Christmas Season—Family Round-Up Time



(Reprinted by request)

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.

MUSEUM MATERIAL

Sir,—In your issue of Dec. 13th, 1950, you have a news item of interest regarding a handicraft building for the Plowing Match Association at Dundas.

I would suggest you make it a Museum, so as to include that piece of through road from Dundas to Albion Cross, or the pavement at Dingwell's Mills, for a public thoroughfare. I don't think there is worse on P. E. Island.

I am, Sir, etc., TRAVELLER, Peter's Road, P. E. I.

WE STAND CORRECTED

Sir,—The enclosed Editorial Note based, I suppose, on the C.P. dispatch in Saturday's Guardian shows how dependent the governments are on the liquor traffic for revenue. I note however that you say that in this Province we spent \$560,722 for what we drank of which \$280,361 went into Government exchequers. A closer look at the dispatch would show that it was the \$300,722 that went into the Government exchequers as that was the profit made by the Province. The amount we paid for what we drank was \$1,919,837 in this Province alone for the year ending March 31, 1949.

In view of the fact that this enclosed comment suggests the liquor situation is not as bad as the figures show, you may wish to make some further comment revealing our actual expenditures for what we drank.

I enjoy reading your Editorial Notes very much as well as many of the Editorials. I am, Sir, etc., HOWARD CHRISTIE, Hunter River.

CAR INSURANCE RATES

Sir,—I noticed in last Wednesday's "Guardian" that car insurance rates are to be increased on the Island. I, for one, would like to register my protest against this act of the insurance companies.

For example a 1950 Ford, used on business, can be covered with fire and theft, radio, public liability up to \$10,000, passenger hazard up to \$40,000, collision with \$25 deductible, property damage up to \$5,000, death benefits for anyone involved in the accident (including the driver) up to \$10,000, plus a \$20 weekly indemnity for lost time with medical, hospital and funeral expenses covered—all this for \$27.50 a year. The rate is smaller on older cars.

This insurance is not only paying its way—but the Government Insurance Co. has built up a surplus of over a million dollars. More than this the private insurance companies have lowered their rates in Saskatchewan recently. The Wawanesa Company recently

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Refrigeration SALES and SERVICE Repairs To All Makes MOTORS Rewinding and Repairs ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE Repairs Palmer Electric PHONE 1444

The Poet's Corner

THE NATIVITY

Unfold thy face, unmask thy ray. Shine forth, bright Sun, double the day.

Let no malignant, misty fume, Nor foggy vapour, once presume To interpose thy perfect sight. This day, which makes us love thy Light.

For ever better, that we could That blessed object once behold. Which is both the circumference. And center of all excellence; Or rather neither, but a treasure Unconfined without measure. Whose center and circumference, Including all preeminence, Excluding nothing but defect. And infinite in each respect. Is equally both here and there. And now, and then and every where. And always, one, himself, the same.

A being farre above a name. Draw near then, and freely pour Forth all thy light into that hour. Which was crowned with his birth. And made heaven envy earth. Let not his birth-day clouded be. By whom thou shirrest, and we see.

—Christopher Harvey (1597—1669).

lowered its rates from \$16.50 to \$15 in rural Saskatchewan for a policy which is designed to compete favorably with the regular Government insurance which costs from \$4 to \$10 depending on age of car.

Why should we on P. E. I. have to pay still higher insurance rates now when the C. C. F. is making it possible for the Saskatchewan people to have such reasonably priced protection? Why can't our Government do as much for us as the C. C. F. can do for its people? In the face of the Saskatchewan experience one thing seems dead certain—we're being forced to pay far too much for car insurance on Prince Edward Island.

I am, Sir, etc., IRVING M. TOOMBS, Albany, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CLOSING HOURS

"The merchants' clerks of this town have, in a very reasonable and forcible circular, addressed their employers, requesting them to commute the hour of closing their establishments from 9 to 7 o'clock, and we are glad to hear that it has, with but two or three exceptions, met with the approval of all the principal merchants.

"Some employers have looked upon it in the light of a strike; but surely they are mistaken. The employed make no demand, but respectfully urge some seven or eight very cogent reasons for the abridgment of their hours of labour; and we feel assured if all the merchants would agree to the shorter time, that their business would be no less, their interests would be as well attended to, and they would have the pleasure to feel—surely no slight one to an honorable mind—that they were increasing the usefulness and happiness of a portion of mankind."

—Hazard's Gazette, May 16, 1853.

The Age-Old Story

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

AIDS SHUT-INS

STOCKHOLM — (CP)—A "telephone newspaper" patterned after a Swiss system may be introduced in Sweden. By dialing a certain number the subscriber may hear the latest news bulletins, recorded on gramophone discs six times a day.

FAMOUS OPERA

Adapted from the famous fairy tale, the opera Hansel and Gretel was first performed in Germany in 1893.

Notes By The Way —

The unanimous approval accorded by the United States General Assembly to a study program which includes a plan to stimulate land reform in underdeveloped countries will find a welcome response in those many national communities where men and women have for ages yearned to possess and till land of their own. Oppressive systems of feudal land tenure, precarious tenancy and grinding farm labor have long loomed in their minds as the prime obstacles to personal security, health and dignity. It is magnificently fitting that as the United Nations strives to introduce collective military security into a disordered world it should simultaneously bend its energies to the constructive purposes of human welfare. — New York Herald Tribune.

It will be something of a miracle if the people on this continent don't become convinced that our world crisis is being handled by the wrong men. Maybe the radio commentators should be given the job. These persuasive gentlemen are more of a hindrance than a help at a time when clear thinking is tremendously important. Hearing them through our loudspeakers they sound wonderful. They have insight, foresight, hindsight, analysis, logic and a dash of military genius. It is hard to escape the impression that London and Washington are making frantic attempts to draft them for policy-making. Most of us retain a fundamental suspicion of the "wise guy," the fellows with all the answers. That suspicion should be on the alert these days. — Vancouver Province.

The subject of strange wills should not be allowed to drop without a note on an eighteenth-century lady, Madam Beswick, who had a pathological fear of being buried alive and who bequeathed \$26,000 to her doctor, Dr. Thomas White, of Sales, on condition that she was embalmed and kept unburied for a hundred years. Dr. White himself died in 1776, only twenty years after his patient, but her request was honorably observed, and her mummified body passed into the keeping of the trustees of Owens College, who, perhaps to their relief buried it in Harpurhey cemetery on July 22, 1868, just 111 years after Madam Beswick's death. Not unaturally this earned her the title of the "English Mummy". — Manchester Guardian.

Carrying an armful of textbooks and obviously a student returning from school a youth arose in a bus on a recent afternoon and offered his seat to an elderly woman; as he did so, he raised his hat. His kindly and gentlemanly act was so unusual that it attracted attention; a generation ago, the failure of any younger man to thus give up his seat would likewise have focused attention upon the delinquent and perhaps have earned him a muttered rebuke. The incident reveals to what a lamentable degree the public manners of society have deteriorated within recent years. This young student became an object of regard because he did the manly thing and considered a thing. Some of the judgments in the rear of the vehicle, however, even sneered at him, thereby giving further evidence of lack of breeding in some young folk who appear at times quite unable to appreciate the obligations of youth to their elders. — Hamilton Spectator.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for Dr. W. R. Carson (Chiropractor), J. A. McGuigan (Barrister), Matheson & Peake (Barristers), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), M. Alban Farmer (Barrister), Gaudet & Hazard (Barristers), MacPhee & Trainor (Barristers), Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister), Fredric A. Large, K. C. (Barrister), J. S. Taylor (Optometrist), H. R. Doane & Co. (Chartered Accountants), and McDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).

to top it all — a fingertip atomizer Bouquet Lenthéric the daytime fragrance Johnston & Johnston PRESCRIPTION DRUGGISTS PHONE 33