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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, JAN. 8, 1951

Visiting Deputy Minister

This evening Mr. J. A. Lessard, Deputy Minister of Transport, and party arrive for a one-day visit. During his all too brief stay he will undoubtedly be brought in contact with many of this Province's problems of rail, sea and air communications and have impressed upon him the potentialities of the Island which depend upon the services regulated by his department to be made actualities.

One subject which has been neglected of late is the provision of opportunities for followers of the sea to study navigation and allied subjects and perhaps be examined here for certificates of professional competence. It would be a decided advantage if at least local and coastal papers could be obtained more readily than is now the case.

The Trucking Issue

A major issue in Dominion-Provincial relations which has been carried over into the new year is the question of control of the trucking industry. Transport Minister Chevrier, according to press reports, has asked that the Provinces surrender their legal power to control highway trucking in return for promised aid from Ottawa in highway construction. In other words, the quid pro quo for the Federal Government's part in the Trans-Canada highway is to be the abandonment by the Provinces of one of their most lucrative sources of revenue.

This is a matter which goes to the very root of Canada's constitutional system. It follows closely the pattern of the Federal Government's efforts in recent years to reduce the Provinces to the role of pensioners of Ottawa, and to centralize taxing powers with the Dominion.

Every Province in Canada has a heavy investment in its highways. Carrying charges on that investment and funds for highway maintenance have to come out of revenue derived from the licensing of trucks and passenger cars. Highway maintenance has always been a matter in which local and provincial autonomy played a significant part. It is not hard to imagine what the plight would be of, say Prince Edward Island, if the people of this Province had to rely on Ottawa to make road repairs and to maintain truck transportation in the event of another possible railway strike.

Whatever arguments may be put forward by Ottawa, the fact remains that control of the trucking industry by the Federal Government would be a violation both in principle and in fact of Confederation itself. The power to tax is the power to govern. If the Provinces abandon any more of their taxing power to Ottawa they will ultimately cease to be governments at all.

Ottawa's "Pound Of Flesh"

Officials of the regional offices of the Income Tax Division have long been noted for the consideration and courtesy extended to taxpayers who, for reasons beyond their control, are experiencing difficulty in paying off tax arrears. Both the taxpayer and the Government have benefited from the discretion exercised by regional offices in making arrangements for payment of tax arrears.

It is little wonder, then, that tax officials are as bewildered as are taxpayers by the directive issued recently to regional income tax offices to collect, in full, all outstanding balances by March 31. In the majority of cases, such a directive means merely inconvenience. In some instances, however, it means very real personal hardship. Antagonisms are aroused among those who, having been making an honest effort to pay off arrears by installment payments, are now told that they must pay up the outstanding arrears by March 31, "or else".

Income tax officials have reportedly been told in blunt terms that failure to carry out this arbitrary directive may mean loss of their jobs. Deprived of the discretion they formerly enjoyed in the matter of arranging payment, tax officials find themselves in a position no less disagreeable than that of taxpayers who have fallen behind in settlement of tax accounts.

This is bureaucracy at its worst. That some cases will come before the courts seems certain. It is likewise certain that, if the Deputy Minister of National Revenue is not rapped over the knuckles be-

fore then, the courts will take appropriate steps to restore some element of discretion to regional income tax authorities.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Fruit is now being brought all the way direct from Boston to here in refrigerator road trucks, avoiding delays and other risks by railway transference.

Christmas comes but once a year but many canny buyers seem to be taking advantage of the season of sales to do their shopping for next Dec. 25.

Marriage licenses must now be applied for from the Clerk of the County Court instead of from the treasury office. The implication, presumably, being that they can be more appropriately classed with a summons to appear and answer than with a license to drive.

Once more Islanders are replacing old car license plates with new. Perhaps some day permanent plates will be adopted and identification made possible by a continuing record distributed even in neighbouring Provinces and States.

The Town Council of Louisburg has decided to revert to the original and historic spelling of Louisbourg, a most proper decision which will save school children learning one form in history lessons and a different one in geography.

An Ottawa dispatch puts it that Canada is withdrawing special "dumping" concessions on imported British cars next May. It would, perhaps, be more accurate to say that we intend to re-impose discriminatory duties if it is considered that British cars seem to be competing unfairly with the sale of our own and American models.

Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements, died this date, 1941. He was a man with a distinguished military career in India, Afghanistan and South Africa, but his main life's work was to found in 1908 the Boy Scouts, and two years later, helped by his sister Agnes, the Girl Guides. When he died 10 years ago, he had seen the astounding progress of this movement begun, as he loved to explain, "for the purpose of training boys in the essentials of good citizenship."

The Leadership Course just concluded here has been successful and encouraging to the promoters. It is only when a mixed crowd like the students taking the course get together and straighten themselves out, that they discover what a lot they have to learn, and forget, when they attempt to set themselves up as guides, philosophers, and friends of those whom they would seek to lead. The course is expansive and varied, and should no doubt attract even greater interest next session.

Premier Duplessis does not want Quebec to become a province of pensioners. He told a delegation from the Provincial County Councils' Association so in an interview. They had suggested provincial pensions for invalids just as there were pensions for the blind and the aged. The Premier, warning against carrying the pension system too far, said the Government is achieving success with Labor Department branches devoted to rehabilitation and re-employment of invalids. "We must be on guard against any system of premiums on inaction," he said. "Today more than ever we must get back our sense of proportion. We want a charitable, active and prosperous people and not a population of pensioners." Mr. Duplessis told the delegation his Government has acted in the past on a number of recommendations by the Union which represents rural municipalities.

Though retired for many years as Postmaster of Charlottetown and Postal Inspector for the Province, the late Mr. John F. Whear remained active physically and mentally and continued to discharge his duties as a public spirited citizen in a manner which would shame many a younger man. He could look back upon a successful career as lawyer, as member of the Legislature, as City Councillor and as a high-ranking civil servant, but it was toward the future that he preferred always to turn his face. His letters on civic and provincial affairs, which appeared frequently in The Guardian over his initials "J.F.W.", were widely read and appreciated, both for their moderate tone and for their sensible suggestions. At Trinity United Church, since the death of Mr. Henry Smith, he was regarded as the official church historian, and his contributions in this capacity also were widely appreciated. Known to all our citizens, and esteemed by all as a man of exceptional abilities, Mr. Whear's death is a community loss. Sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and family in their bereavement at this time



Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

JAIL LIMITS FOR DEBTORS

During the year 1842 there were committed to the Charlottetown Jail 124 persons, of whom fifty were incarcerated for debt. Every year, in each of the three County jails, a large proportion of the prisoners were debtors. They appear, however, to have had the run of the town as well as of the jail precincts. In 1843 it was sought to re-enact legislation to include the water lots and wharves within the limits of the jails, but this was opposed by the Executive Council on the following grounds as set forth in the Journals of Assembly: "Because the Legislative Council conceive that the legitimate object of Jail limits is to afford air and exercise to persons confined for debt... which object the Council consider will be fully attained by confining the limits to the Towns and Royalities. The extension of the limits to places where persons may obtain employment is not, in the opinion of the Council, important, as, by the Act for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, a person not having property may compel his creditors to pay the maintenance allowed by such Act, or otherwise obtain his discharge; and if such person has property which he withholds from his creditor, the Council think he has no right to complain if he suffer some inconvenience in consequence of his dishonesty in endeavouring to deprive his creditor of such property. "Because, by extending the limits to the wharves and water lots, persons residing in the Towns will suffer no inconvenience from being imprisoned, inasmuch as their ordinary business will not be thereby interfered with; and it is notorious that many persons have avoided the payment of their just debts in consequence of the said limits being so extended; and such extension virtually does away with imprisonment for debt, as to persons in the Towns, but leaves persons residing in the country liable to all its inconveniences. "Because the limits of the Water Lots are not visible - some extending to the channel, and some a very small distance from the shores - in consequence of which, persons confined are much more likely to commit involuntary breaches of their bonds, than if the limits were confined, according to the amendments made by the Council, to the Towns and Royalities - the boundaries of which are, in general, much more clearly defined. "The Council do not conceive that the recent English Acts, abolishing imprisonment for debt, materially bear upon the present question, inasmuch as those Acts contain provision for the protection of the creditor against fraudulent debtors, which are not in force in, and cannot, in the opinion of the Council, be made applicable to this country."

Oban Revisited

(Elizabeth Richmond in the New Glasgow Evening News). One Hundred years ago when Queen Victoria visited Oban, in the Scottish county of Argyllshire, she described it as "one of the loveliest spots I have seen". It was a village then; today it is a beautiful town surrounded by mountains, tree-fringed lochs (lakes) and lovely glens. When the traveller goes to Oban he steps into a Celtic atmosphere. Gaelic is spoken, tartan kilts are still the popular dress, and the skill of the bagpipers can frequently be heard. There are shining yachts and motor-boats in the bay, for Oban is the headquarters of the Royal Highland Yacht Club. A circular building on the town's highest hill resembles the Coliseum at Rome: it was erected in the 1890's by a prosperous citizen named John Stuart MacCaig to find work for the unemployed. Oban faces a long green fertile island called Kerrera where there is a monument to David Hutcheson who developed steam communication along the western Islands. About 1820 the "Comet", believed to be the first paddle steamer, plied between Oban and the Clyde. There are some ancient castles in the neighborhood. One is Dunellie Castle, seat of the MacDougalls of Lorn, who own the famous Brooch of Bruce, one of the finest pieces of Scottish silverwork in existence. It once belonged to King Bruce of Scotland but was won from him by the MacDougalls in battle. They kept it for hundreds of years. When in 1947 one of their castles (in which it was kept) was set on fire by the clan known as the Campbells, it vanished. Nothing was heard of it until 1823 when it appeared in a London auction room. General Campbell of Lochneil bought it and returned it to the Campbells. Durstaffage Castle, four miles from Oban, was once owned by the MacDougalls, but they lost it in battle and it became a Royal castle. At one time it housed the famous Stone of Destiny, which the Scots had brought from Ireland and on which their kings were crowned for hundreds of years. This was taken to Scone, near Perth, and later was removed by King Edward I of England to Westminster Abbey where, until its recent sensational theft it has since been part of the Coronation Chair. Trips to the Isles of Staffa and Iona can be made from Oban, a journey which used to take from a week to ten days. Staffa is noted for its group of basaltic caves which nature has carved fantastically. The best known of these is Fingal's Cave which was described musically by the composer Mendelssohn who visited it in the early 19th Century. More than 200 feet long, it has a natural lofty granite roof. The Atlantic flows into the cave but on a summer's day it shines like a tessellated pavement for the stalactites in the roof reflect scintillating colors. The Isle of Iona is a half an hour's journey from Staffa. More than 1,000 years ago St. Columba settled there and founded a monastery which centuries later was replaced by a Benedictine monastery. The restored Abbey Church is now used as a place of worship by the Church of Scotland and near it are the old crosses of St. Martin and St. John, beautiful examples of Celtic art. The Street of the Dead leads to the old burial place of many ancient Scottish kings and knights.

The Poet's Corner

IN THE COOL OF THE EVENING I thought I heard Him calling, Did you hear? A sound, a little sound? My curious ear Is dimmed with flying noises, and Goes the whisper, whisper, whisper silently Till all its whispers spread into the sound Of a dull roar. Lie closer to the ground. The shade is deep and He may pass us by. We are so very small, and His great eye, 'Customed to starry majesties, may gaze Too wide to spy us hiding in the maze: Ah, misery! the sun has not yet gone And we are naked: He may look upon Our crouching shame, may make us stand upright Burning in terror-O that it were night! He may not come... What! listen, listen, now... He is here! lie close... 'Adam, where art thou?'

The Age-Old Story

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And besides this, giving us diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

Easier Than By Shovel

(H. W. Patterson in C.I.-L. Oval Magazine.) A million calloused devotees of Canada's most unpopular Winter pastime will not be saddened to hear that anti-freeze is musing in on the old-fashioned shovel. Experts estimate that some years may elapse before outdoor "radiant heating" which uses "permanent" anti-freeze in its piping system, will be economical for the average Canadian house holder. But since it was introduced in Toronto in 1948 it has effectively thawed out snow-and skeptics-in most parts of the country. And more and more business concerns find it a highly efficient way to keep Old Man Winter in his place and off their, at reasonable cost. Four years ago, the vice-president of a leading Toronto pipe and tube firm intriguing the neighborhood by having public sidewalks around his Forest Hill home ripped up. In went the pipes, on went the concrete. Then, when Jack Frost started on his gay white way, the executive flicked a switch indoors and a score of shovel-weary neigh-

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Notes By The Way

Looking back over the festive season, it would appear that a good many people think the Christmas spirit comes in bottles. -Ottawa Citizen.

A motorist who is worried about accidentally running down pedestrians in the dark offers good advice for these rainy, busy evenings. "Pedestrians should remember that cars have headlights but they don't," he says. Despite his careful watch on the road, he's been badly frightened several times recently by pedestrians who dashed suddenly into the dark roadway, apparently without looking to see if a car was coming. -Vancouver Sun.

It is about time, it seems to us, to think up some other designation for the screen actor Mickey Rooney. The old "typical American boy" label no longer fits. In the first place he can't go on being a boy forever. In the second place, a third shattered marriage is not typical of the average American boy. Mickey, according to wife No. 3 doesn't like the restriction of marriage. A great many other American boys find these restrictions somewhat hampering at times, but they learn to accept them, and before they know it they are happily tamed. But Mickey, no typical American boy, doesn't like the restrictions of marriage though you might say

Years ago when the Montserrat artist Charley Russell was a cowboy he painted a picture that made him famous. He called it "Waiting for a Chinook." Montserratans, and Albertans, too, have often "waited for a Chinook" during hard Winters since but their Winter is an exception. In fact, quite the reverse is true. Down in Cuba Bank they are praying for a Chinook, the reason being that Howard Hawks, motion picture producer and a retinue of actors, cameramen and technicians have been there to film scenes. Some of the sequences in the film call for Polar scenes but the Chinook has interfered. Snow was rushed in from Glacier Park but, alas, it melted as it was unloaded on location. -Lethbridge Herald.

It is impossible to exercise a control over prices efficiently without a control on wages, for it is wages that in a great measure determine the fluctuations in the cost of production which, in its turn influences the selling price. Whoever therefore agrees to the control of prices should be disposed to accept control of wages. There is perhaps one exception to this economic doctrine, that which has to do with the price of agricultural products. In this case the payment of subsidies may be justified as a measure of compensation directed to the producer, since it is a question of consumer products essential to existence which are at the basis of the official cost of living estimates. The production of these things should be maintained in order to meet public requirements. . . . If a government like the present Canadian one does not wish to have recourse to price and wage controls, it may try to contain the inflationary drive by other fiscal and monetary means; increased taxes and restrictions on credit. - La Patrie, Montreal.

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