

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1950

The Railway Situation

The threat of a Canada-wide railway strike in the middle of the Korean crisis, when world peace is hanging in the balance and Canadian forces are already being mustered for action, is something which should bring prompt intervention from the Government. It is true that the strike would not directly involve the running trades—locomotive engineers, firemen and conductors—but by tying up telegraph and express services, repair shops, roundhouses and even railway-owned hotels, it might well prove a calamity. It would undoubtedly stultify our defence efforts as well as our transportation activities in other directions. The deadline for the threatened strike is August 22. Both sides have left the door open for further negotiations, however, and it is up to the Government to see that this opportunity does not miscarry.

By reason of our insular position, this Province would perhaps be more affected than any other part of Canada by a rail strike. Potato digging has now started and seed shipments will require to be moved shortly to the southern U. S. market. The turnip season will soon be coming into full swing. The lobster season opens August 10 and express shipments will be particularly heavy during the month of September. There is also the fact that we are dependent almost entirely on incoming railway freight for our feeds and foodstuffs, gasoline, oil, coal and other essential commodities. Last year some 52,000 railway cars crossed on the Borden-Tormentine route, and the traffic this year is expected to be still heavier. Even a partial tie-up of railway services would seriously affect this movement.

The same, of course, applies across Canada. Trains cannot run without the communication and repair services required to keep them on schedule. Even when supplemented by all the truck accommodation available, the business of the country would suffer calamitously. Hence the urgent need of avoiding a deadlock, through Government intervention which seems now the only course likely to prove efficacious.

Bacon Exports

The advantages of large scale co-operative or state run marketing schemes seem to be taken for granted in this day and age. Yet we are not without examples of the failure of Government experiments in this direction. Canada's bacon trade with the United Kingdom is a case in point. Although state buying and selling is popularly supposed to give certainty to both the producer and consumer, in this case it has done the opposite. The Canadian farmer has been faced by baffling shifts of policy on the part of the British Government, each understandable in the light of contemporary events but disastrous to trade because of the natural reaction of the farmer to the caprice of his one overseas customer. It is scarcely surprising that of this year's sixty million dollar contract for bacon we have so far filled less than a quarter and will probably not succeed in filling three-quarters.

Cabinet's Dilemma

Thoughtful citizens who ponder the reasons for the Canadian Government's indecision on the issue of whether or not to send ground troops to support United States forces fighting in Korea find it difficult to explain the official attitude on any of the traditional grounds. For, with the single exception of Jean Francois Pouliot, members of Parliament were unanimous in the view that naval units should be sent to the Far East. There is no reason to believe that they would be any less unanimous were Parliament's views to be sought on the sending of ground forces. The attitude of Quebec, it is certain, is not in issue.

Real reason for the Government's reluctance to become further involved in the Korean affair is quite different. In 1939, total spending of the Federal Government was \$548.9 millions. Today total annual spending is \$2,400.1 millions. And Government revenue is only slightly more than what is needed to meet outstanding commitments.

In other words, the Treasury at Ottawa just has not enough money to finance any extensive war effort and at the same time maintain the welfare state commitments which have kept the present Government in power. Only way out of the dilemma is to cut spending on welfare state projects or

raise taxes, neither of which would be popular and therefore not politically expedient.

The Government's dismay at its present predicament is not unlike that of the small boy who thought he could have his cake and eat it too.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sandy's "Theatre Under the Stars" is becoming a highly popular rendezvous for autoists—a novelty in the way of entertainment and refreshments.

It seems a pity that when Canada's dollar reserves position should be at last really improving, the dollar question should no longer seem a matter of life or death.

One good word has been heard for "slow time". Children anxious to see the coloured lights playing on the fountain in Queen Square are able to do so without being up past their bedtime.

Two State funerals in Ottawa practically within a week is a record, and, if it may be said, a regrettable one, as the services of the experienced Minister of Labour at this juncture could be ill-spared.

Statistics indicate that there are more tourists and Island cars here than ever before. It is only necessary to wander through the center of the city to find that in this case statistics do not lie.

Halifax County is reported to be in a position to reduce its tax rate from \$4.50 to one dollar as a result of a new assessment survey. The correction of assessment inequities here will hardly have such a drastic effect but the possibility is intriguing.

We are to have a regular air mail service within the next three months between Vancouver and Tokyo, which will take only 22 hours. So the Deputy Postmaster-General announces. It is wonderful the progress and development war, and the threat of war, bring about.

The late Hon. Humphrey Mitchell rose from the ranks to become Minister of Labour, without any benefit from University training in sociology and economics. He was a natural born leader, and knew intimately the art of how to please the rank and file and to direct them the way they should go. He thus became a popular Minister of Labour, retaining office longer than any of his predecessors or colleagues.

Rupert Brooke, English poet, born this date 1887. In early life he travelled extensively in Canada, U. S., the South Seas, as well as on the continent of Europe. At the outbreak of Great War I he joined the Royal Naval Division in Oct. 1914, and served with the Mediterranean Expedition Force in 1915, dying on the French hospital ship at Lemnos. His "Letters" and his "Poems" were published in 1918. He had a remarkable poetic gift, and his output, though small, was of a high rank; he was a master of the sonnet form.

"If I should die think only this of me: That there's some corner of a foreign field That is forever England."

An Ontario exchange notes that on the scale of income tax payments in 1947, the civil service salary list of the current year will consume over \$2 million more than half of the total revenues from this source. Thus well over one-half of total income tax receipts is required to pay civil service salaries. It is to be noted that this expense includes salaries only. It excludes all allowances for travel and other recoverable expenses. Moreover, the figures as quoted from official sources are not all that will be required for the fiscal year, as final supplementary estimates for the period have not yet made their appearance.

A certain boys' camp project almost collapsed here this summer, and the promoters indicated it was due to the fact that the camp leader last year was too much of a lecturer. Boys' camps ain't what they used to be, according to a Montreal expert. In fact, Mr. C. A. Wylie, executive director of the Montreal Boys' Association, told local Lions Club members that the camps are "boring" for the kids because they lay too much stress on educational programs. "Modern camps with their extensive round of activities tend to overlook the fact that junior goes to camp to have fun," Mr. Wylie said. Old-style camps with poor facilities but good camp leaders, who looked on camping as a holiday, often did the job better. Not all camps suffer from the modern tendency for too much education, Mr. Wylie said, but those that do have too many activities, many of which are similar, and some of which are identical to the things the boys do during the rest of the year. Mr. Wylie's remedy: "Boys should be allowed to be boys. When this primary object is overlooked then camping fails so far as the boy is concerned."

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondence of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

MEMORIES

Sir, — Years ago, when one's imagination was young and vivid, there was a land that became, through the printed word, more real than the people, houses and streets that surrounded one in the northern English town in which one was born. Rainbow Valley was peopled with children whose laughter rang clear and gay in one's mind; the smell of frying trout and potatoes was delicious in one's nostrils, one easily became a member of the group of children that sat round to eat the savoury meal; one's dreams accompanied Emily in her quest for literary success and fame. The scraps of paper with abortive attempts at poems, short stories and novels accumulated, the few completed efforts finding a place in the plank and blue-leaved album that was kept in the securest and most secret place one could find.

Then, as the years passed on, Rainbow Valley, Avonlea, and Green Gables were crowded out of one's mind by more pressing matters, the exams that one had to pass, the friends who provided fresh interests, work and play, love and marriage, until the name of Lucy Maud Montgomery became a vague dying echo. Not even the fact that a dear sister was to make her home in Prince Edward Island awoke the faint memories, or stirred a breath of the old romantic joy.

Lucy Maud Montgomery would probably never have come back to take her place with the company of one's dear old friends had not the opportunity arrived of coming on a visit to Prince Edward Island, and a friend exclaimed on hearing of the proposed visit, "Oh, and you'll see the country of Anne and Green Gables!" I was not the only Englishwoman whose early days had been irradiated by the Island authoress.

Yesterday, we went to Cavendish to the lovely North Shore, that L. M. Montgomery loved, saw the house in which her books were written, stood near the "Lake of Shining Waters" gleaming under a setting sun, looked over the rolling, forested country she saw each day, — and the cabins and cars, the golf course and club-house faded away, Emily came walking slowly over the lawn, listening eagerly for the longed-for whistle from the bush over beyond the garden; Fawn Meredith, fear and determination struggling for the mastery in her heart, walked away to tell Norman Douglas to come back to church; Carl stooped low to watch a colony of ants busy about their affairs; and Anne, lovely, tender Anne of Green Gables, smiled a happy, understanding smile as she whispered that all was still well with her beloved Island.

Then the sound of a car-engine, the voice of a friend, an arm tucked in mine, — and the vision faded again. But Green Gables, Anne, and their creator, Lucy Maud Montgomery have come back from their long sleep in my mind and heart, and will not be easily forgotten.

I am Sir, etc. RUTH SILLITOE At Crowlands, North River Road, Charlottetown.

BENEFITING FROM CRITICISM

Sir, — A great effort is being put forth at the present time throughout rural Canada to improve the economic position of the farmer. It is being said that he has not been getting a square deal, and the time has come for him to effectively assert himself, to the end that he obtain a fairer share of the consumers' dollar. I don't think there can be any argument presented in equity against that contention. The farmer's role in the general scheme of producing that annual wealth from which we all derive an existence, has always been an important one, and perhaps for the past decade, more so than at any other time. Much could be written on such a topic, but general recognition of the fact seems unnecessary.

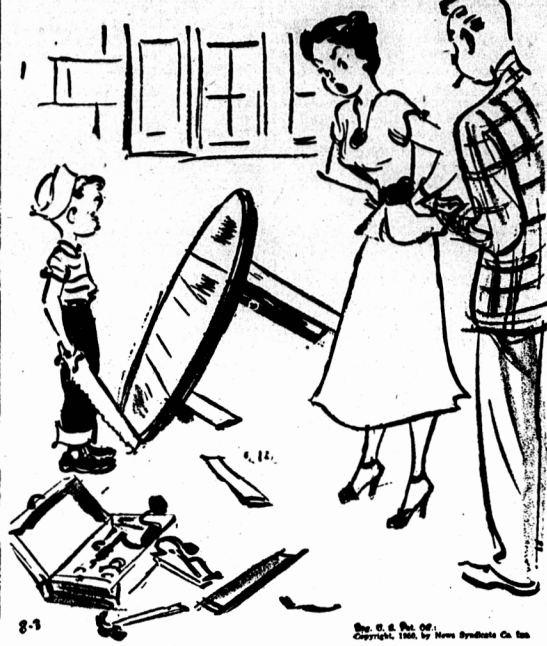
Let us forget for the moment what may be in motion in other parts of Canada; their problems are, at most, only partly similar to ours. There is a school of thought that maintains the farmer's economic difficulties are mainly due to the fact that he does not control the marketing of his products and the purchasing of his commodity has been the individual "Free Enterprise" system of trading, which has been in use since the days when the bartering of goods was the sole means of exchange, has been used to exploit him going and coming. Leadership that would release him from such bondage, recommend the Group or Co-operative method of transacting business.

Co-operation between individuals, or groups, or larger bodies, has proved itself on many occasions and in a variety of respects. "Tree Enterprise" constantly uses certain phases of co-operative technique to its own advantage.

The interest of the primary producer in this Province has been served for many years and for varying periods of time through the activities of different co-operative organizations. But in every instance the period of their usefulness was of comparatively short duration. For the past fifty years or more, attempt after attempt has been made to "organize" farmers and others to the end that their economic affairs would be funnelled through co-operative channels.

The Neighbors

By George Clark



"Your Aunt Emma sent him this carpentry set. What can we send her to get even?"

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

BRIGHT FUTURE PREDICTED

"One of the first and most prominent circumstances that attracts attention on this Island, is the increased impetus that has been given to our industrial energies. Every man that is willing to work, has plenty to do, and what is better still, is well paid for it. Within our own memory, which reaches some thirty years back, labour was never remunerated at so high a rate as it has been during the past season. A common labourer demands and receives his dollar a day, or the worth of it in Island currency. The demand for mechanical labour has been still greater, perhaps, and equally as well paid. "It rejoices our hearts to see so many excellent buildings erecting and erected during the course of the past summer, in different parts of Charlottetown; all we regret is that more have not followed the example set by Messrs. Duncan & Foster, of building with the more permanent and less combustible material — brick.

"Then if we turn our eyes to the Shipyards, we shall find equal cause for gratification. The number of noble vessels that have been built and despatched to the respective markets, will tend to render the balance between our exports and imports greatly in favour of the former. We never see a gallant barque sailing out of the harbour, but we feel the desire to ascertain how much beef, pork, wheat, potatoes, hay and oats have been incorporated into her hull and rigging.

We are also well pleased to hear that the quality of our ships is greatly improved, that they are better and more faithfully built, and more highly finished. The "Dorothea," by the McGills, is said to have been a vessel that would do honour to any establishment.

"As to our farmers, they have even, by their own confession, and that is saying a great deal, nothing to complain of: good seasons, plentiful harvests, and brisk markets, have in some degree compensated them for previous hard times.

"And as to their future prospects, we think they are more cheering than they have been for years. When the free intercourse under the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States shall have continued for a year or two, there can be no doubt but that the list of enumerated articles will be greatly enlarged, until we shall have every restriction upon commerce reciprocally removed, and free trade in the most extensive sense of the term established between us.

"The railroad from Shediac to the Bend will facilitate inter- and equally often, failure overlook each experiment.

"What is the reason? There may or may not have been minor contributing causes, but what has been the one predominating factor incidental to every failure? After one-third of a century's association with and participation in co-operative activity, I have no hesitation in saying, the one outstanding reason to which co-operative failures can be attributed is that the human being has been destined an individualist and cannot be harnessed into permanent team work. Some of us have been optimistic enough at times to believe it could be otherwise, but experience has taught differently.

I am, Sir, etc., J. A. GILLIES

Mr. Vic Runtz is on vacation. Consequently his cartoons will not appear again until August 10.

"Should the fisheries be prosecuted with the ardour which it is but reasonable to suppose they will, a market nearer home will be afforded to those farmers who live contiguous to the fishing stations, for much of their meat, potatoes, butter, eggs, poultry, &c., which will be the means of adding considerably to their comfort, though it may be at the expense of the revenue, for smuggling, rife as it is at the present day, may be then calculated upon with a greater degree of certainty.

"We have been mercifully preserved from the pestilence that has been such a scourge to the neighboring Provinces, and we trust that with common prudence, the use of those sanitary precautions which experience has shown to be efficacious in warding off disease, or mitigating its type when present, may, under Providence, insulate us as we are, and with fresh and invigorating sea breezes on every side, be the means of keeping this terrible and devastating enemy from our shores.

"On the whole, a fair prospect is before us, and if we do not mar it by imprudent legislation on our part, or fail to realize the advantages it holds out by want of energy, and the adaptation of the necessary means, we may safely calculate upon laying a broader and firmer basis than we have ever yet seen, whereon to raise a superstructure of future permanent prosperity."

—Hazard's Gazette, December 2, 1854.

The Poet's Corner

FROM EPILOGUE TO "A JUDGMENT IN HEAVEN"

There is no expeditious road To pack and label men for God, And save them by the barrel-load. Some may perchance, with strange surprise, Have blundered into Paradise. In vasty dusk of life abroad, They fondly thought to err from God. Nor knew the circle that they trod; And, wandering all the night about, Found them at morn where they set out.

—Francis Thompson

The Age-Old Story

Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgments; seek righteousness, seek meekness; it may be ye shall be hid, in the day of the Lord's anger.

ANNOUNCEMENT

During the next few weeks our representative MR. H. W. PLETCH will be calling on all our accounts booking for fall deliveries of coal from the Inverness and Riverside Mines.

Future business will be transacted as before, either directly with Mr. Pletch or by letter to P. O. Box 331 or telephoning 78.

EST. J. M. RATTENBURY

Notes By The Way

Next year's models may see the running-boards back on cars, so that the speed cops will have somewhere to put his foot. — Ottawa Citizen.

Police recently stopped a man going over Niagara Falls in a barrel for fear he might be killed. Then they let him spend the rest of the day in Sunday highway traffic. — Edmonton Journal.

A Russian venture we applaud enthusiastically is the creation of a "symphony" of steel and stone in the construction of fine new Moscow buildings. Skyscrapers instead of guns, we always said. — Ottawa Journal.

The habit of hitch-hiking during recent years has grown to such proportions that it has become a public nuisance, a major traffic hazard, and a bad habit. During the war years when transportation was insufficient and it was patriotic to give a fellow a ride, there was some excuse for it. Today there is not. — Simcoe Reformer.

At last the cinema has reached Yell and Unst — the two most northerly points in the United Kingdom. Once a fortnight, the 1,806 people who live on Unst, and the 2,129 people on Yell, at the very tip of the Shetlands, can leave their fishing and their stocking-making to go to the pictures. The Highlands and Islands Film Guild supplied William Williamson, Yell's radio engineer, with a projector and screen packed in a van in which he tours Yell twice a month. Then a motorboat ferries him and his films across the sea to Unst. The largest audience he has had on Yell was 167 — on Unst 168. — UK Information Office.

The end of the war saw a large influx of ex-service men and women to British universities. Many of the students are now mature men and women as compared to the teen-agers from school, of pre-war days. The dash of enthusiasm of the younger students, beside the serious determination of those who had taken an active part in the war, provided an interesting contrast of attitudes to work and play.

The levity of the younger members of the married undergraduates; who is often subdued by the solemnity are sometimes seen wheeling their first-born in prams along the "backs". There are today probably half as many christening parties as there are cocktail parties. — Miss Nargah Guder from Bombay on BBC Broadcast.

A bronze tablet is being unveiled at Chatham, England, in August to the crew of the merchant cruiser, "Jervis Bay". One hundred and ninety officers and men lost their lives when she was sunk in the North Atlantic by a German pocket battleship, the Admiral Scheer, while defending a 36-ship convoy on its way from Canada to Britain in 1940. The captain of the "Jervis Bay" ordered the ships to scatter and headed straight for the raider, making smoke to cover the withdrawal of the members of the convoy. He engaged the German in a tight to the death, enabling the merchant ships to escape with their vital cargoes under cover of the smoke screen into the gathering darkness. Badly hit and on fire, the gallant cruiser continued to keep the raider fully occupied until her last gun was silenced. She went down with her colors proudly flying. — UK Information Office.

The little human touches that come spontaneously from Robert H. Saunders, chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, and Premier Leslie Frost are factors that contribute to the popularity of these two men in Ontario's public life. Dignitaries by the dozen were present at the official opening of the hydro tunnel project near Thessalon. Many would have enjoyed the honor of pressing the button that put the 56,500-horsepower plant into operation. Both Premier Frost and Mr. Saunders stepped aside in favor of a workman, a master mechanic-blacksmith, who had toiled by the sweat of his brow by the side of his fellow workers to materialize a blueprint. The gesture was a fitting tribute to the men who performed the actual manual labor. — Sudbury Star.

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