

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 1951

Pulling One's Weight

The number of Canadian servicemen on active duty is still small compared with wartime strength but for that very reason it is important that the high morale of our fighting men be maintained.

During the Second World War it was found that one of the greatest influences on the serviceman was the letters, or lack of letters, from home. Men who were regularly assured that all was well on the home front could devote themselves cheerfully to the task on hand.

On the other hand, long periods of silence as to what was happening at home, or depressing news about troubles which they were powerless to do anything about, served only to make the unfortunate soldier, sailor or airman wish with all his heart and soul to be quit of campaigning.

It is a vital duty of the "folks at home" to cheerfully shoulder their added difficulties and responsibilities and to assure those who are fighting for them that they are not being let down.

Auditor's Nightmare

Auditor-General Watson Sellar is a painstaking and conscientious officer of the Crown. He is required by law each year to report to Parliament any and all irregularities, errors, omissions and evasions that occur in the public accounts of Canada.

"Cost-plus" contracts are one thing which comes under Mr. Sellar's eagle eye. Especially the cost of the High Commissioner's residence in London. The External Affairs Department, it seems, paid 22,000 pounds for the lease of premises until the year 1952.

The principle that Parliament shall control the purse is constantly violated by the practice of a number of departments of government of holding over monies not spent or returned during the fiscal year.

The Auditor-General's eye is the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Some of the interdepartmental accounting between the CBC and its International Service in respect of the four million dollar transaction for the old Ford Hotel provide material for an auditor's nightmare.

The Canadian Family

Changes in the number and average size of Canadian families will be revealed by the 9th Decennial Census of Canada, to be taken in June this year. During the ten years from 1931 to 1941 the average number of children per family decreased.

In 1900, we had 1,038 dairy cattle for each 1,000 of population, but in 1950, we had only 650 head of dairy cattle for each 1,000 people. In some areas milk production declined as much as 20 per cent last year.

Regarding the factors in family formation, there has been an average of 106,800 marriages yearly over the period 1941-49 of persons marrying for the first time, while in the period 1931-40 the yearly average was 75,200.

In 1951 there were 4,965,000 children on an average of 2.3 per family.

In 1941 the number was up to 5,200,000, but the average per family was down to 2.1 children. The reduced 1941 average reflects the lower birth rate of the 1930's, the average birth rate for this period being 20.9 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 24.1 per 1,000 over the period 1926-30.

Since the 1930's the birth rate has risen; for the period 1941-48 the yearly average was 24.9 per 1,000. However, the increase in the 1940's was due largely to the increase in marriages and, consequently, in first and second births, and not to a relative increase in the birth, say, of fourth, fifth and later children.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 2nd Sunday in Lent.

The Senate provides a convenient platform from which to publicize grievances.

Premier Jones is scheduled to address the newly-formed Prince Edward Island Club at Halifax today.

Evidently some of the Liberals and Conservatives in the British Parliament do not want a general election—hence the increase in the Government majority on the third vote of censure moved by Mr. Churchill.

Rural school districts are proud of their accomplishment in the inauguration of new, up-to-date school accommodation. It will not be long before the old red school house will be but a memory.

"In target areas such as Prince Edward Island, the Canadian Legion is doing a great deal in training civilian defence workers." So Major General F. F. Worthington told an Ottawa gathering.

The United States, or at any rate State Secretary Dean Acheson, has advised all communists to revolt against the domination of Moscow. The example of Marshal Tito and, more recently of Italian communists gives some grounds for thinking that communism and Russia may no longer be synonymous.

It is hard to see what the Canadian Mayors can accomplish on their visit to Ottawa re housing shortage. The Government is closing down on building material except for specific purposes in specific areas.

Moliere (pseudonym of Jean-Baptiste Poquelin), French dramatist, died this date 1673. He brought originality into play-acting by studying his characters at first hand. He took nothing for granted, sitting even in market squares to see how people behaved, and then pictured them accordingly.

In 1900, we had 1,038 dairy cattle for each 1,000 of population, but in 1950, we had only 650 head of dairy cattle for each 1,000 people. In some areas milk production declined as much as 20 per cent last year. A careful survey in an area not far from Ottawa showed that the average farmer faced loss of \$174.50 on his milk production, and that, after he had charged only 50 cents per hour for his labour.

Describing the one-time popular domestic industry of rag rug making, Windsor Star says: The old rag carpets lacked something of the softness and comfort of modern rugs. But they served their day, and served it well. There may be a few of them around the country still.

In the past few years there has been a trend by women back to these handicrafts of earlier days. There still are some women, now elderly, who possess the know-how. In Windsor there are a few who can make very nice hooked rugs. It is a good trend, and not merely for the intrinsic value of the products.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of current events. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

THE POTATO LEVY

Sir,—It must be rather amusing for the farmers of this island to read from your paper the views of the potato dealers of Prince Edward Island in regard to the 1 ct. per 100 lbs. levy on potatoes shipped by them, together with the fact that some so-called shippers, better known to us farmers as speculators, no doubt would like to have a free hand in paying the farmer as small a price as they can get his product for, in turn selling the same for as much as they can get, with no consideration for the farmer with whom they are dealing, nor the industry or the country in general, all of which are of vital importance to the farmers of this country.

As far as this 1 ct. per 100 lbs. levy is concerned, I am told that some dealers will not do much for the potato and then deduct the levy from the amount that they were paying the farmer, and my confidence has got rather shattered in this way of doing business. It is quite within the realm of possibility that the 1 ct. levy remains with the dealer to be used later in the going gets tough, or to buy a new car or some other convenience; something that the farmer will never be able to enjoy just as long as he is selling 30 ct. potatoes or depending on some interested party to look after the marketing of the product of his labors.

My advice to the farmers is to hold what they have gained and try for more.

I am, Sir, etc. W. B. McLELLAN.

Alma, P.E.I.

MARKETING BOARDS

Sir,—Kindly permit me some space in your fine paper to add my expression of opinion on recent newspaper reports of the Marketing Boards. As a small dealer with some experience I have followed the proceedings of the last year or so in the potato industry with mixed sentiments of distrust, disgust, amusement and amazement.

The whole situation very apparently needs a thorough airing so that the producers and the public in general will fully realize just what is going on. There is no doubt but that it would reveal a trend towards bureaucracy by a few who are tainted with the sloppy Socialist thinking of Saskatchewan and Cape Breton—such as we do not want here. Furthermore the local and Federal Governments have shown an insufficient interest and responsibility in the potato producers' problems this year.

The Marketing Board was set up here when this form of marketing was being turned down by the producers in Nova Scotia, and the trend was away from it by the potato producers in the United States and Upper Canada. The system as applied to potatoes and other crops is being very strongly criticized in the Canadian western provinces, as it had been the cause of losing millions of dollars for the primary producers.

It is amusing to hear people argue for or advocate a Marketing Board for potatoes here such as that functioning in British Columbia. That Board handles a 95% local market whereas ours is about 95% export to many different and distant countries in competition with various heavy producing areas.

Last year's plebiscite on this problem was something which is open to considerable criticism. "Steam-roller the thing through fast" seemed to be the idea, and "promise the producers that this is the answer to their price problems." What a cruel awakening with prices the lowest in years and the Board completely helpless and useless to do anything about it. The Board very strongly advised the farmer deliberately played down the irrevocable law of supply and demand which is a dominating factor in marketing. Many people voted in the plebiscite who were not registered growers and in at least some instances where there was little response a house-to-house canvass was made.

It was stated that such a Board was necessary to handle price support, large shipments, etc. No price support has been given even though the potato producer has been forced to work well below the cost of production and no large contracts have been arranged. Both these matters have been very easily handled before without the costly machinery of a permanent board, and probably handled far better than they would be handled under the present set-up. I refer to the British contract and the price support provided two years ago.

The big problem is whether we want to give up our freedom of marketing and let the all-important question of price fixing and quota marketing on a very perishable commodity be in the hands of those who have definitely shown themselves to be amateur economists. It has proven un-

How Their Answers Look From Here



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

TAVERN LICENSES

Tavern licenses, which were freely granted in early colonial days in Charlottetown, became subjected to close scrutiny as temperance sentiment developed. This is apparent from the following report of a meeting of the City Council, held on Nov. 7, 1868, at which application was made by one Henry Green for a license to open a tavern in his premises on Prince Street.

"Mr. Councillor Allen said he would oppose the application, not indeed on account of the applicant's character, concerning which he was not aware of any damaging facts, but solely on account of proximity of the premises, which he sought to have licensed, to two places of public worship.

"Mr. Councillor MacNeill thought that, were the applicant—who had bought a piece of ground and built a house thereon, for the purpose of therein carrying on a lawful business, and who had, besides, duly fulfilled all the requirements of the law, with a view of obtaining a license so to carry on that business—be denied a license merely on account of the proximity of his premises to places of worship, he would have reason to think himself rather hardy dealt with. He (Mr. MacNeill) was by no means desirous to see taverns opened in the immediate neighborhood of places of worship—very far from it indeed; but he could not but think it a great pity that, with reference to the site in question, the members of one or the other, or of both the churches in its immediate vicinity, had not the wisdom to buy the ground at the time it was put up at public auction, especially as some of them were present at the auction, and knew for what purpose it was intended by Green, should it be obtained by him.

"It would have been well indeed, he thought, if, like the Bishop of Charlottetown, who had bought the sites of two or three taverns which, for the best of reason, he desired to have closed; and, as also, for similar reasons, had in two or three cases, been done in Halifax; one or other, or both, of the religious bodies in question had combined to purchase the parcel of ground on which Green's house now stands, and so have had it completely in their power to prevent its being employed for any purpose of which they conscientiously disapproved. He thought the parties more immediately interested in the question should, by such timely and prudent action as he had indicated, have prevented Green from sinking his little capital for a purpose, the accomplishment of which would be felt by them as a very serious grievance."

The subjoined communication was then read by the Clerk, the whole Board acquiescing in the propriety of the recommendation: "We, the undersigned residents of Ward No. 2, having been informed that it is the intention of some persons to open a Tavern in the house now being finished, adjoining the Bible Christian parsonage, and opposite the Wesleyan Church, would respectfully ask that no such License be granted, as there already are too many rum-shops in that vicinity."

Signed—John Chapple, B. C. M., Rev. F. W. Moore, John Davis, Baptist Minister, Bertram Moore, James Davison, Thomas Davy, Henry Pope, Jr., Wesleyan Minister, Donald Cameron, W. B. Wellner, William W. Wellner, Charles Full, H. J. Cundall, Charles Desbross, William C. Desbross, John Newson, Wm. Cundall, Henry Weston, Paul Cowan, John Cowan, John Quirk.

The Poet's Corner

SNOW IN THE SUBURBS

Every branch big with it, Bent every twig with it; Every fork like a white web-foot; Every street and pavement cutes: Some flakes have lost their way, and grope back upward, when Meeting those meandering down they turn and descend again like a wall, And there is no waft of wind with the fleecy fall.

A sparrow feeds the tree, Whereon immediately A snow-lump thrice his own slight size Descends on him and showers his head and eyes. And overturns him, And near inurns him, And lights on a nether twig, when Starts off a volley of other lodging lumps with a rush.

The steps are a blanched slope, Up which, with feeble hope, A black cat comes, wide-eyed and thin; And we take him in.

—Thomas Hardy.

The Age-Old Story

Let no man deceive you with vain words... And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them... Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

ed, adjoining the Bible Christian parsonage, and opposite the Wesleyan Church, would respectfully ask that no such License be granted, as there already are too many rum-shops in that vicinity."

SPRING SAMPLES HAVE ARRIVED AT J. P. MacPherson & Son Men's Clothing That Fits 157 QUEEN ST.

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Memoirs Of The Hon. A. E. Arsenault Former Premier and Retired Justice Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island Some Statesmen I Have Known

I have been privileged, during, and even before, my political career, to meet many of the leading statesmen of Canada. I have met Sir John A. Macdonald, though I cannot say I knew him very well. He came to Prince Edward Island several times. I heard him address a public meeting in Charlottetown, but my knowledge of him has been gained more from rather direct contact than from personal contact. His outstanding quality as a statesman was his vision. He took a long view of Confederation. He did not look for any great immediate benefits but saw the advantages which would result from a united Canada.

As an example of his vision, I was told by a member of the House of Commons who had it from a member of Sir John's Cabinet, that when the Parliament Buildings were under construction, he urged the purchase of all adjoining lands because he felt that such lands would be needed for the building of Government offices within a relatively few years. The Cabinet pooh-poohed the suggestion with results that are only too well known today: the scattering of Government offices all over the City of Ottawa.

Sir John had a great sense of humour. On one occasion, upon a visit to Charlottetown, he visited the Chamber where he had sat as a delegate to the Confederation conference in 1864. On this, his second visit, he was asked to sign the visitors' book. He wrote his name and address and, pausing to consider what he should put down for his occupation, turned to his secretary, Joseph Pope, and said, "Joe, what shall I put down as my occupation?" Without waiting for an answer, he wrote "cabinet maker." His signature and the words, "cabinet maker" can be clearly read today. They had good ink in those days.

I have heard Sir Wilfrid Laurier speak in Charlottetown. I also met him during the visit of the French representatives who came from France on a good-will mission during the First World War. I happened to be in Ottawa during the visit of those French representatives to the Capital. A luncheon was given them by Mr. Brodeur at his home. I never learned how my presence in Ottawa became known to Mr. Brodeur, but he had a telephone message come to me at the Chateau inviting me to the luncheon. Among those present, apart from the guests of honour and the host himself, were Sir Wilfrid, Mr. Lemieux, Mr. Jacques Bureau, Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, and many others whose names I cannot now recall.

I sat at Sir Charles's right with one of the French delegates to the left. In the middle of the luncheon, Sir Charles turned to me and said, "Why, this will never do; you should be sitting by the French delegate and conversing with him. Saying this, he rose, picked up his plate, knives, and forks and placed them before me. Then he took my plate, knives, and forks and put them in front of his chair and made me change places with him. It was only a simple thing, but I shall never forget Sir Charles's memory for the kindness and thoughtfulness which prompted the act.

For the second time I met the French good-will mission in Quebec and for the third time when they came to Charlottetown where I acted host to them.

Sir Robert Borden I knew very well. As a member of the Government, I had occasion to have frequent interviews with him, and almost invariably he would ask me to have luncheon with him at the Rideau Club where he and other members of the Government usually ate their lunch together. He was a genial host and loved to tell a story.

On one such occasion after lunch we were sitting before the fireplace when I was asked to tell him one or two of the amusing incidents that had befallen me during my student days in London. I spoke of Sir Charles Russell and of his father, Lord Russell of Killowen. He interrupted me and called out to some of his colleagues, "Arsenault tells me that he studied with Charles Russell in London." (Russell was solicitor in London for the Dominion Government.) He then got me to tell them what I had been telling him.

M. Alban Farmer B.A., LL.B. MONEY TO LOAN Charlottetown, P.E.I. J. A. CARRUTHERS R.O. OPTOMETRIST PHONE 2872 123 Kent Street (Next to Simpson's Agency) Bell, Mathieson & Foster Barristers, Solicitors, etc. R. R. BELL, K.C. D. L. MATHIESON, LL.B., K.C. G. R. FOSTER, LL.B. Loans on City and Farm Properties. 150 Richmond Street Charlottetown, P. E. I. BYRON J. GRANT O.D. OPTOMETRIST 128 1/2 Kent Street PHONE 579 Adjoining North American Hotel. H. R. DOANE & J.D. (Chartered Accountants) 148 Great George Street, Charlottetown Randolph W. Manning, C.A. Erna F. MacPherson, C.A. W. Grant Thompson, C.A. PHONES: 590 - 1647 McDONALD, CURRIE & CO. MASTERED ACCOUNTANTS Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Saint John, Sherbrooke, Vancouver, Kirkland Lake, Moncton, Hamilton, Charlottetown, Currie Bldg., Charlottetown Telephone 169.