

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Barnett
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1950

"The Third Party"

Another application for increase in rail rates is forecast as a result of the majority finding of the Federal Conciliation Board, which recently granted an increase of 6.8 cents per hour in wages, permitting the average railway work week of 46.5 hours to be reduced to 44 hours with no reduction in average take-home pay.

The Conciliation Board in its majority report, having shown that the railway worker under its award would be more highly paid than other comparable workers in this country, and that the further increase is being sought at a time when the Canadian economy, while still far above pre-war levels, is experiencing serious difficulties because of the loss of export markets, goes on to say:

"In the consideration of increases of this magnitude in railway wage scales there is, besides the employers and the employees who conduct the negotiations, a third party, unheard at the council tables, whose rights must be weighed,—the ordinary Canadian citizen. Higher rail wages mean higher freight rates and higher passenger fares throughout this country. Since this country is peculiarly dependent on rail transportation, these rates will result in higher prices for all goods consumed in this country. They will also affect the competitive position of the products of mines, farms and forests in the export market which supplies a great part of the living of our people. The granting of unduly high wages to railworkers will mean that while they receive more for their labor, many other persons will receive less. The export prices of a bushel of wheat, a ton of newsprint, or a case of fish are not elastic, and if the transport worker receives more than his fair share of the dollars for which these goods are sold then the farmer, the fisherman and the paper-worker must receive less than their fair share. This argument must not be utilized to unduly and unfairly depress the wages of railworkers. It is merely an additional reason for the exercise of care by this Board to ensure that railworkers shall not unfairly benefit at the expense of the general public."

Netherlands' Gratitude

The Netherlands parliament has voted to express gratitude to this country by giving something that Holland will really miss. Five years after liberation, Canada is being presented with a rare painting, "The Two Watermills" by Meindert Hobbema (1638-1709), in recognition both of Canadian military efforts and of the hospitality extended by this country to the Netherlands' Royal Family during the occupation of their homeland.

Although Hobbema lived and died poor, his pictures later attracted great interest and several are in the National Gallery, London. He is rated, with Cuyper and Ruysdael, at the head of the Dutch school of landscape painters, his strong points being perspective, chiaroscuro (treatment of light and shade), and coloring. "The Two Watermills", moreover, is one of only four of the 17th century artist's in the possession of Dutch museums and an association of painters has described the work as a "very precious possession of the Dutch people."

Canada is highly honoured in receiving this gift and more than usual thought should be given to its disposition.

Ontario Farmer's Warning

Referring to reductions in farm income through lower prices for butter and cheese, Mr. V. S. Milburn, secretary of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, has sounded the following warning: "The farmers of Canada will have to insist that labor and industry cease demanding pay and profit increases. Farmers are the only people in the nation whose income is being reduced. Labor is demanding and getting higher and higher wages which result in higher production costs for the farmer at the very time his income is reduced. There has to be a change."

Mr. Milburn's pronouncement touches on a fundamental economic principle: wage-price inflations inevitably lead to inflation of the currency—the most vicious of all inflation's manifestations. Most certainly, comments the Globe and Mail, there has to be a change. And Mr. Milburn did well to point directly to the portion of the economic field occupied by industrial labor as that in

which the next move should be made. In too many recent instances considerations of national welfare have been abandoned in demands for increases in industrial wages. These demands, if granted, are exactly the kind of influences which compel disastrous currency inflation, and which can only cure the evil at the price of complete economic collapse. When pay demands which cannot be met by industry, and could only be financed out of the public Treasury, make their appearance, the day is in sight when labor will lose even its bargaining power by one of two courses: It will either subject itself to the control of a Government bureaucracy—its new paymaster—or it will force bankruptcies that cause industrial shut-downs and eventually substitute unemployment relief for wages.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Co-operative potato warehouses do not seem to be productive of any marked amount of co-operation between the Premier and Federal Liberal member for Queen's.

The routine of the amateur gardener just now seems to be to begin enthusiastic cultivation until worms begin to show up, and then to succumb to the temptation to chuck it and go fishing.

The Government of British Columbia is as energetic as any in its efforts to relieve the housing shortage. It must be discouraging to find Doukhobors burning their homes and behaving so as to require to be housed at Government expense.

The safety measure of the Canadian National Telegraph Company here of applying brilliant safety strips to bicycles of messengers deserves to be applauded and imitated. In addition, it would be wise for those who walk on the highway to provide something of a similar nature. Once upon a time ladies' stockings showed up in car headlights but those days have long since gone.

According to the Montreal Gazette most people now think there is far too much bunk, junk and drivel, far too many nerve-shattering interruptions by special pleaders on radio who think they have a right to invade anyone's living room at any time and shout opinions. CBC is in a poor position to handle this problem. If it goes in one direction it is accused of trying to squeeze out its rivals, if it goes in the other it is accused of being weak.

Tom Hood, British humourist and poet, died this date 1845. Educated as an engraver, he became sub-editor of London Magazine, and subsequently published Hood's Comic Annual, the predecessor of present day comic features in newspapers. He had a serious side as well, and is best known as the writer of "The Song of the Shirt", published in Punch, which drew public attention to the hardships endured by sewing women before the advent of the sewing machine.

New Brunswick Government has completed negotiations for two issues of debentures totalling \$5,000,000, including a three per cent short term issue of \$1,500,000 maturing May 15, 1965 at three-and-a-half per cent; 20-year issue of \$3,500,000 maturing May 15, 1970. Proceeds from the sale of the issue will be used as follows: \$1,500,000 three per cent debentures for the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, and \$3,500,000 3 1/2 per cent debentures in the amount of \$2,000,000 for hard-surface roads and \$1,500,000 for vocational school grants.

Our Island M. P. for Saint John-Albert, Mr. D. A. Riley, has been distributing among his colleagues in Parliament half-pound blocks of maple cream. The wrapper on each block announced that it was from the district in which New Brunswick's new Fundy National Park is situated. His purpose, says the Telegraph-Journal, was to make the attractions of his constituency better known to Canada. In linking the park and maple cream, he may easily have struck on something which his Albert County constituents could turn to profit. For the park will bring them more tourists than they have ever had in the past, and the tourists will be potential buyers of maple products.

The Federal Government appointed an expensive Commission on Art, etc., which has just concluded its hearings in time to learn from Canada's leading art dealer that the hey day of fine art has ended. Mr. A. Lascombe Carroll, whose midtown galleries have been a Toronto showplace since 1922, said he is gloomy about the future for Canadian artists. He believed there was less opportunity for them than at any time since Confederation. Probably no more than 10-top-flight men were earning a comfortable living from fine art. Other high-ranking artists "would be living in garrets" but for supplementary income.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

THE HIGHWAY ROUTE

Sir,—An agreement has been reached between the Federal Government and our Provincial Government in reference to the building of our section of the Trans-Canada Highway, the cost to be divided on a fifty-fifty basis. This much information we seem to have for a fact, but for some undetermined reason, the exact route in this Province is being kept a dark secret.

For one who do not regard it as idle curiosity to know where this road is to pass, would like to know before the usual work commences the exact route decided upon by the contracting parties.

The principal argument against giving out this information seems to be that it might lead to land speculation. This, in my way of thinking, is a very poor argument, for if the route were known immediately and definitely, this would put an end to all speculation.

Under the terms of the contract there is a clause which binds the Federal Government to reimburse us one-half of the amount we have already expended in improving and upgrading, preparatory to hard-surfacing, from the season of 1928 up to the actual laying of the asphalt; this does not include the cost of rights-of-way. This repayment to the Province would represent a very considerable amount of our share of the cost of the road; but even with this sum the cash outlay is a large item to a Province such as ours, with our very limited revenues.

A considerable mileage of the most feasible route is already sub-graded and with some touching up should be in perfect shape for paving. This applies particularly to the section from Charlottetown to Tryon, via North River, Cornwall, Clyde River, New Haven, Churchill, Hampton and Crapaud, and also along the route east of Charlottetown along the Shore Road.

There are a good many miles of paved roads needed in other parts of the Province—roads leading to shipping and fishing centres. We cannot afford to throw away money on some extravagant, spectacular scheme for our part of the Trans-Canada Highway.

If taking an interest in how the people's money is to be expended is "idle curiosity" my self admit to some idle curiosity myself.

I am, Sir, etc. W. F. ALAN STEWART, M.L.A., First Queens.

The Poet's Corner

PRELUDE IN A MINOR

(Chopin)

Perhaps it is a silent garden where The ghosts of smiling childhood stank up from The rank grass and flowering weeds, or some Old image kneeling sadness mid the fair Of life; or when beside some grave a prayer Is sighed; or when, alone, the bleak vision Of waves that chant the slow eternal song Heard all night through, the saddest theme to hear.

Was this the saddest music that he heard? I hear the waves within its harmony. In the recurring phrase, the minor third, The modulation and monotony Of rhythm, chords and theme. The waves have surged Upon the shore. I see the sea, his sea!

—Irene Haugh.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

BIG BEAR BAGGED

"A large bear, that was in the habit of paying frequent unwelcome visits to the farmyard and out-houses of Mr. John McEachern, Cardigan Road, leading to St. Peter's Bay, and destroying his sheep, was killed a few days since by means of the following stratagem:

"Mr. McEachern placed in a barrel the remains of a large sheep which the bear had killed and partly demolished on the previous night, in which loaded gun was fixed, with a piece of mutton on the muzzle, attached by a string to the trigger, that the bear, in taking a first bite, was likely to be satisfied. The plan proved successful, for a report of the gun was heard by Mr. McEachern before bed time, when he proceeded to said barrel, and beheld, to his great satisfaction, his lordship (the bear) a corpse, the gun having discharged and the whole of the contents lodged in his body. This huge animal, it is stated, weighed 700 pounds."

—The Islander, Oct. 30, 1846.

The Age-Old Story

Come and let us return to the Lord; for he hath torn, and He will bind us up.

He Shouldn't Need To Stand There Long



The Byng Incident

(Ottawa Journal)

London dispatches have quoted Viscount Simon, famous constitutional lawyer, as saying that if Prime Minister Attlee met defeat in the House this week and then asked the King for dissolution it would be within the power of His Majesty to refuse and to ask Mr. Churchill to form a Government. Emphasizing this possibility, Simon said: "This would be one of the rare surviving cases in which the Sovereign exercised his own discretion in deciding upon his public action."

With one exception—the case of the notorious "Byng Incident" in Canada—the prerogative of the Crown has never seriously met challenge. As late as 1923 Mr. Asquith, a former Liberal Prime Minister, and as renowned as Lord Simon for his constitutional learning, said:

"The dissolution of Parliament is in this country one of the prerogatives of the Crown. It is not a mere feudal survival, but a part—of our constitutional system. It does not mean that the Crown should act arbitrarily and without the advice of responsible ministers, but it does mean that the Crown is not bound to take the advice of a particular minister to put its subjects to the tumult and turmoil of a series of general elections so long as it can find other ministers who are prepared to give contrary advice."

In the "Byng Incident", our so-called "constitutional" crisis of 1926, Lord Byng, representative of His Majesty in Canada, properly and legally refused dissolution to Mr. King when Mr. King, less than a year after a general election, found himself unable to carry on in the House and sought to avoid a motion of censure through the device of another election.

The result was one of the most discreditable episodes in our political story, a perversion of truth and a shabby and false attack on "Downing Street" which, unfortunately, the country failed to rebuke. Lord Byng refusing Mr. King dissolution, and calling upon Mr. Meighen to form a Government, was completely and unchallengeably right, was but acting as the Crown had acted (and with far less justification) time and again through a hundred years, and notably in the Dominions. But the truth was clouded, and lamentably by appeals to ignorance and prejudice, the clear rights of the Crown, and indeed of Parliament, forgotten, with a resulting verdict that was unjust to Lord Byng as man and Governor General, unjust to Mr. Meighen, and a blot on our political history.

BUTTER PRICES SLASHED

TORONTO, May 2 (CP)—Retail stores slashed butter prices today as a result of the drop in wholesale floor prices. First grade creamery butter was selling as low as 58 cents a pound—six cents cheaper than Saturday. The Federal Government announced early last week it was cutting its wholesale support price to 53 cents a pound from 58. Retailers reported generally-increased sales.

SINATRA ILL

NEW YORK, May 2 (AP)—Crooner Frank Sinatra suffered a throat hemorrhage last night, and cancelled the remainder of a singing engagement at the Copacabana Night Club. He will take a two week's rest.

Advertisement for W.K. Rogers Agencies Limited. Text: "Here's WHY You must have insurance. . . You can't run away from the damage that may follow an accident on your property. But, you can have liability insurance and breathe easily, knowing you are financially protected." Includes logo and contact information.

Notes By The Way

What we most regret in later years is not what we did but what we said, beginning with remarks in the presence of a supposedly deaf aunt. —Winnipeg Tribune.

Life was rugged along the old frontier and full of uncertainties, none of which was now to fasten a corsage on the strapless evening gown. —Winnipeg Tribune.

Any inclination to turn Quebec into a Spain or Portugal within the confines of this Dominion will split the country with a fury which will not abate for centries. Quebec, which has prospered under tolerance, must learn that Canada's freedom of religion and civil liberty does not stop at her borders. —Peterborough Examiner.

It is to English jurists of a century and a half ago that we mainly owe the elimination of the savage criminal laws of our ancestors, laws that prescribed the death penalty for the theft of four shillings and the like. Jurists refused to convict in these cases, where the judges of the time would have had no hesitation. It would be impossible to count, too, the number of official "frame ups" and ambitious schemes of religious or political persecution, which have foundered because of the stubborn refusal of some jury to bring in a verdict of guilty. —Edmonton Journal.

A friend of ours made the mistake of telling a taxi driver that she was in a hurry; he took her seriously, whizzing down the street at a gay pace. In one short block he managed to cut into a safety island a few inches, careen through a just-turned-on red light, tick a bus which was proceeding at a speed only slightly less mad than theirs, and halt with a screech of brakes at a signal from one of those men on a motorcycle. The law grimly dismounted. He approached the caddy with deliberation. He looked at the passenger and scowled at the driver. Then he reached into his hip pocket and brought forth a large white handkerchief. "Okay, Hopalong Cassidy," he said, "jesse. Just how good you really are. I'm gonna put this on the white line at the next corner. If you kin pick it up with your teeth as you go by, keep on goin'!" —Wall Street Journal.

Hugh McDiarmid, 58-year-old Scottish poet and Nationalist — who refused to sign the Covenant because he is a republican owing no allegiance to the crown — has been given a Civil List pension of 150 pounds a year by the King. Mr. Attlee, the Prime Minister, made the recommendation to the King. In a letter to the poet the Premier says the pension has been given in recognition of his "great services to British literature." Mr. McDiarmid's real name is C. M. Grieve. Literary critics have called him "a

Advertisement for Electrical Contractor WIRING AND REPAIRING. Name: ERNEST R. RAMSAY, 129 Elm Ave Phone 1063J.

Advertisement for COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION and ANALYSIS. Name: G. F. HUTCHESON & SON, Optometrists, 53 Grafton St.

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