

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1950

Whistling in The Dark

Finance Department officials at Ottawa say that if federal revenues hold their present levels, Canada may be able to finance its share of Korean war costs on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. The stimulus of spending the 50 million dollars which cabinet has earmarked for the cost of the Korean commitments, say the experts, will make the existing tax structure more productive than in the past year.

Logic of this sort of reasoning is hard to follow. In the first place, the fact that federal revenues at the moment exceed expenditures by a comfortable margin is due not so much to any substantial gains in corporate income, as to the levies on personal income which accrue in large amounts after April 30 each year. Secondly, it would be folly to bank on keeping the costs of the Canadian share of the Korean war to fifty million dollars. Thirdly, thoughtful people are already asking whether fifty million dollars is enough to bring this country's defences up to strength.

Talk of this sort sounds suspiciously like a trial balloon to test public reaction to increased taxes which will be inevitable if government spending on welfare state schemes continues at its present pace and the Korean war drags on.

Unless the Federal Government drastically curtails its welfare state schemes, higher taxes or substantial deficits in the national budget are certain. The Government's determination to embark upon a social security programme and the cold war too might have had a chance if the cold war had not suddenly got hot. Governmental finance experts who think that Canada can support a hot war and social security too without substantially lowering living standards through higher taxes are just whistling in the dark to keep their courage up.

Engineless Flight

Gliding has not been developed in the Maritimes to anything like the extent it should. It is just about unknown on the Island and scarcely any further advanced in our sister Provinces. A notable exception is the Stanley Field, near Windsor, N. S., headquarters of the Gull Glider Club which each week-end weather permitting, is making eight or nine glider flights.

Gliding bears about the same relation to ordinary flying that sailing does to power boat operation, and enthusiasts claim that the beginner can acquire far more air sense through gliding than is possible in more conventional craft.

There is also the important consideration of cost. Powerless flight is far more readily within the means of junior club members than regular flying, and they can learn much by building and maintaining their graceful aircraft.

Rudeness Causes Accidents

Rudeness is claimed to be the cause of many auto accidents. A Canadian insurance company which does a wide business throughout Canada insuring automobiles has written an unusually blunt letter to its policy holders, says Regina Leader-Post. It points out that many auto-driving citizens lead Jekyll and Hyde lives. When they are out of their cars, they are considerate, courteous and law-abiding citizens, but when they are behind steering wheels their bad side seems to come out. They acquire delusions of grandeur. The latest "sheer rudeness and lack of courtesy" comes to the surface. When surrounded by the framework and metal of a car, with a powerful motor at their instant command, some motorists appear to feel a physical immunity, probably somewhat akin to the feeling of the chap at the controls of a big army tank. They will try to "get away" with acts they would never attempt if it wasn't for the machine. All this boils down to one point, namely that more accidents are caused by sheer rudeness and a callous disregard of traffic regulations and the rights of other drivers than by any other cause.

Operation "Peanuts"

Britain's Food Minister Maurice Webb has written finis to socialism's most ambitious enterprise. Operation "peanuts", the Labor Government's plan to set the plains of Africa blazing with nuts from which to produce essential fats to cope with a no longer existent world shortage, has been abandoned.

2000 pounds sterling from an investment which exceeded 36,000,000 pounds. The whole unfortunate enterprise is now to be merged with a more general scheme for colonial development which, while probably a lot more costly than raising peanuts, will offer the advantage of being less politically embarrassing.

Lesson of this unfortunate adventure is that, had it been undertaken by private investors they alone would have had to bear the loss, and probably would have pulled out of the venture before being confronted with so staggering a bankruptcy. The British Labor Government, however, finding it politically inexpedient to admit failure, stuck tenaciously to the undertaking until even the Treasury was concerned at the mounting losses which had to be met, in the last analysis, by the British taxpayer.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Puritans sailed for America this date 1620.

Tomorrow, 9th Sunday after Trinity. Transfiguration.

Scotland exports over \$10,000,000 worth of certified seed potatoes annually.

Queen's County goes amphibian at the Y's Men's swimming meet today.

The state of science today seems to be close decision as to whether it will first destroy mankind or cure the common cold.

The Federal Government is too much occupied with Korean affairs to give time to the consideration of P. E. I. senatorial and gubernatorial appointments.

It is noteworthy that the "conscience money" sent to Governments almost always comprises small amounts. Apparently big money does not weigh heavily on the owners' conscience.

Canada still loses more than two citizens a day by drowning, according to Health Minister Martin. A general observance of the basic rules of water safety could reduce that figure markedly, with the saving of immeasurable heartaches.

A Fall sitting of Parliament, though necessary in connection with the sending of ground troops to Korea, is not very welcome to members and senators, who have just settled down in their constituencies after a long and arduous Spring and Summer session.

The taking of senseless risks is folly, but when it involves also danger and loss to others it is inexcusable. The Carlins who are trying from Halifax for the third time to circle the world in an amphibious jeep are not only risking their own lives, but will certainly cause trouble and loss to others who are not so foolish as to run such risks, but who cannot ignore their distress.

Henri Rene Albert de Maupassant, French author, born this date 1850. He belonged to the naturalist school with Flaubert and Zola, but stood alone in grace, wit and epigram. At first a poet, he abandoned verse for the short story, of which he became a master; his cynicism, habit of jesting at all things, art and imagination, find typical expression in the most malicious of his tales, "L'Heritage."

Prime Minister Menzies of Australia will be in Ottawa Monday. His advocacy of "functional union" of the Commonwealth and the U. S. A., and also of a Commonwealth secretariat are unlikely to be formally adopted at any foreseeable time, but so far as practical acceptance is concerned he is no longer a voice crying in the wilderness. The danger of ignoring his suggestion is too great.

What we lack. From Saint John-Telegraph-Journal: "The New Brunswick Museum is experiencing one of the busiest of its summer seasons. Between 85 and 100 visitors have been registering there each day the museum is open. Miss Margaret Evans, archivist, has found that her department is a special attraction for a large number of the visitors. They have come from all parts of the United States and all the provinces of the Dominion and a large percentage of them wanted to look up family records and trace their descent from Loyalist times."

Much has been written about applying blood or breath tests for drunkenness in case of auto accidents. For some reason the writers assume that the tests are reliable and are only prevented from being accepted as conclusive by the backwardness of the courts. Apart from individual variations, which may be considerable, there is also the inevitable error of the technician. In some cases even the alcohol used to swab the subject before taking the sample has raised the apparent percentage of alcohol perceptibly.

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.

"AS WAS—UNTO THE FOURTH GENERATION"

Sir—I am enclosing a copy of a letter I am sending to an old friend, the editor of the Grimsby Independent, Ontario. I think it may interest you and your readers.
 I am, Sir, etc.
 V. W. JACKSON.
 Orwell, P. E. I.

(Enclosure)
 "This tight little Island keeps things 'as was—unto the third and fourth generation.' Of the three-score of mill sites in this country, four are still running by water power as of yore—a century ago. Casting for brook trout Tuesday, I came across a huge overshot water-wheel turning silently and powerfully. Going inside I found a grist mill and meal mixer turning out sacks of 'Shurgain' in general use on the Island. The dusty miller informs me it runs daily to keep up with the demand. His grandfather had a mill there in 1860. In 1897 they ordered this copper-vaned overshot wheel from Mr. Fritz of Hanover, Pennsylvania. Fifty years later Mr. Fritz came to see his 32-vane overshot, running silently as ever—and still going strong—on forty horse-power, when flood gates are full on."
 "Wednesday, fishing along an adjoining creek, we came upon a sawmill run by a turbine, with only eleven foot head of water. This is the second turbine (Ontario made); the former one is buried in the grass. And today I have seen three old granite mill stones buried in the grass. The mills of the gods do not always grind fine—or long. Just to the third generation."

(Prof. Jackson, who is professor emeritus of biology at Manitoba University and is vacationing here, adds as a footnote in his enclosure: "Perhaps you could run a 'daily double' Saturday—guessing what two P. E. I. mills are described herein by a tourist, fishing around. And add, at the end, that some enterprising American will likely establish a hotel at Borden, Summerside, Murray River or Montague, and gather together these old mill stones, turbines and wooden cogwheels, on the front lawn—as ads. for his hostelry—and old Brougham lights for his office door—"as was—a century ago."—V. W. J.

"ELLEN" COMMENDED

Sir—I see these heart-warming sentiments expressed in "Ellen's Diary"—one of the features, by the way, which marks-off The Guardian from the many other journals I read—concerning rural electrification: "And what will you do, Ellen, when we finally get electricity here?" James smiled to us over our breakfast yesterday morning. And we replied: "Do? Why when the lights are first turned on—that instant when the dark turns bright, it is likely that the tears will commence. But they'll be glad tears. . . . Over the miracle of it, we suppose. . . . And mixed with them will be a regret for the lamplight evenings we have had—and proven good."
 The above picture "by an Island farmer's wife" reminded this reader of three very different, yet related, points in my reading. I felt like quoting them, for the interest they may hold for other readers:

(a)—Said "F.D.R." in the course of his Presidential message on "The State of the Union", January 5, 1945: "The T.V.A. (Tennessee Valley Authority) which was constructed at a cost of \$750,000,000—the cost of waging this war for less than 4 days—was a bargain!"

(b)—"Men are ennobled by morals and by intellect; but those two elements know each other and always beckon to each other, until at last they meet in the man, if he is to be truly great. The man who sells you a lamp shows you that the flame of oil, which contented you before, casts a strong shade in the path of the petroleum which he lights behind it; and this again casts a shadow in the path of the electric light. So does intellect when brought into the presence of character; character puts out that light." (Emerson on "Greatness", 1854);

(c)—Writes the poet Stephen Vincent Benet: "We remember, T. D.R.! It's written in our lives, in our children's faces, growing up with a chance. It's written in the eyes of the old folks, who don't have to go to the poorhouse. It's written in the water and the earth of the Tennessee Valley; the contour plowing that saves the dust-stricken land; and in the light coming on for the first time, on lonely farms!"
 I am, Sir, etc.
 BLUE JAY
 Toronto, Aug. 3, 1950.

The Age-Old Story

The meek shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

PORTSMOUTH, England—(CP)—Portsmouth's guldhal clock went on strike—for an hour. It chimed continuously during that time.

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The Neighbors By George Clark



"If you can't look like a little lady we don't want you with us!"

To Charlottetown

By Ruth Sillitoe
 It's how many miles to Charlottetown
 To Charlottetown, to Charlottetown,
 To visit a home in Charlottetown
 In P. E. I. in the morning?

It's forty miles to Liverpool,
 To the custom shed in Liverpool,
 To the White Star ship Franconia,
 With her stairways, decks, and alleyways,
 Her lounges, bars, gymnasias,
 Her cheap cigarettes and chocolates,
 Her great luxurious dining-room,
 Her staterooms, bathrooms, nurseries,
 Her varied crowd of passengers—
 Danes, Norwegians, Englishmen,
 Irish, Scots, Canadians,
 Hebrews and Americans,
 All on the way to Canada,
 To Canada in the morning.

What do we see on Franconia
 We, on the way to Canada?
 Hundreds of miles of ocean,
 Tossing Atlantic Ocean,
 Blue with its white-maned horses,
 Grey, when the clouds fore-gather,
 Lashed by a driving rainstorm
 Rolling past under moonbeams,
 Greying again round great icebergs,
 Whales cleaving paths in the ocean
 Seals playing games round the icebergs,
 All these we see from Franconia,
 As we sail on the great Franconia
 To Charlottetown in the morning.

How many more miles to Charlottetown,
 To Charlottetown, to Charlottetown,
 And how do we get to Charlottetown,
 In P. E. I. in the morning?

We enter Quebec's great waterway
 To sail for the Rock on the waterway,
 Where Quebec is crowned by the Frontenac,
 And history lives in the Citadelle,
 Levis, Moncton, and Tormentine,
 Abegweit, Borden and Charlottetown,
 Here at last is Charlottetown,
 In P. E. I. in the morning.

What do we find in Charlottetown,
 In Charlottetown, in Charlottetown?
 A happy home and companionship,
 Laughter, love, and comradeship,
 Kindness and hospitality,
 In the seagirt garden of Abegweit
 Where at last we've come to Charlottetown,
 To P. E. I. in the morning.

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Notes By The Way —

Concessionaires who sell food and soft drinks in public parks should remember their responsibility and see there is reasonable tidiness and cleanliness. The debris of wrappings scattered about some such establishments shows small appreciation of the concession given them.—Ottawa Journal.

The Government can't resist much longer the growing public demand that Parliament be recalled to consider sending ground troops to help our American allies in the Korean war. Public feeling has tended this way all along. Now that Britain, Australia and New Zealand have decided to send army units the feeling is intensified. Why should Canada hold out?—Vancouver Sun.

Something new in music circles is being created in Brandon, Man., with the formation of an 80-piece all girl's Canadian-American School Band. Nearly every state of the union and five provinces of the Dominion are represented. The itinerary for the holiday season of 1950 includes mostly Western Canada cities, this selection being made so that rest proceeds of concerts may be devoted to the rehabilitation of Manitoba flood victims. A few American cities will be visited late in August. Then the unit is planned to fulfil the prime dedication of the organization, which is: "To promote world peace through international understanding and friendship by means of good music." Medicine Hat News.

Gerry McManus, known hereabouts for his activities in restoring political and economic liberty. There was an elderly lady near Ottawa who went to jail rather than pay a fine for not being properly respectful to rent control. And the papers also reported the case of a Brampton lady who has defied the council of that town on a tax question that she considers unjustly affected her. Was it John Hampden who defied all the king's men or was he merely acting for his wife?—The Printed Word.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)
TEMPERANCE HALL CONCERT
 "A vocal and instrumental concert was given at the new Temperance Hall, recently erected in Charlottetown, on Wednesday evening last. The performance was conducted by Mr. Watson Duchemin, ably assisted by the three Miss Duchemins, and the Sons of Temperance Band. The doors were opened at half-past seven, and in less than half an hour there were between four and five hundred persons assembled within the walls of the building, consisting of nearly all the beauty and fashion of Charlottetown. Amongst the audience, we observed His Excellency Sir Alexander and Lady Bannerman. The performance on the organ—by the way a very fine-toned instrument, built by Mr. Duchemin—and piano, and the singing of the Miss Duchemins, were very good, and spoke loudly of the musical talents of these three young ladies.
 "This concert, we understand, was got up almost entirely by Mr. Duchemin and his family, for the praiseworthy object of assisting the Sons of Temperance in furnishing their new and handsome hall—and a very handsome sum they have been the means of contributing towards it. We understand the proceeds of the bazaar amounted to \$170, and we should estimate the sum realized by the concert at some \$40 more, which, together, will amount to \$210, a very considerable sum for so small a place as Charlottetown."
 —The Islander, January 9, 1852.

The Poet's Corner
THE WILL TO WIN
 A wee lad toddles gaily in the park,
 Ears cocked to hear the squirrel's chattering bark.
 He spies the pigeons preening in the sun,
 And now his fat legs buckle as they run.
 To catch the iridescent feathered balls
 That waddle just a step ahead. He falls
 With arms outstretched and tumbles on his face,
 Cradling his head against the soft grass lace.
 He wriggles for a moment in delight,
 Eager to challenge the bird's un-hurried flight.
 Then scrambles to his small feet to commence
 His chase once more—his shining eyes immerse.
 Learning to rise from failure with a grin
 And to go forward with a will to win.
 —Florence Marie Taylor in Saturday Night.

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