

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink." CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1950

A Dominion Obligation

At the time of writing, the threatened railway strike situation remains uncertain, hope being entertained that last-minute efforts will prove effective, at least in postponing action which would be little short of a calamity for the whole country.

What has caused most adverse comment in this Province in connection with the strike proposals, is the intimation that the Borden-Tormentine car ferries—provided for us specially by vote of Parliament and owned by the Dominion Government—would be tied up at Borden and picketed by railway strikers.

When the "Abegweit" arrived here in August, 1947, there was a ceremony at the Marine wharf in Charlottetown which most of our readers will remember. The Dominion Department of Transport was represented by the Deputy Minister, Commander C. P. Edwards, who formally handed over the vessel, for operational purposes only, to Mr. J. P. Johnston, vice president and general manager of the Atlantic Region, C. N. R.

Commander Edwards, during the ceremony, delivered a personal message from the Minister of Transport, which read in part: "Please convey to the people of Prince Edward Island the assurance that I thoroughly appreciate the necessity and desirability for a rapid and efficient service to and from the mainland and that my Department will not cease in its efforts to see that such a service is hereafter provided."

Government responsibility for providing this service dates back to Confederation, and it is one which cannot be sidestepped in this emergency. In the telegrams forwarded to Ottawa by the Charlottetown Board of Trade, published in today's Guardian, this point is made clearly and convincingly. The Transport Minister's reply misses the point entirely. We understand the Provincial Government also has been pressing this matter, though with apparently no better success.

This is an issue which, regardless of the outcome of the strike, should be clarified, and our Federal and Provincial representatives should get solidly behind the Board of Trade in insisting that it be done at once.

Constitution Making

In a way it is unfortunate that the constitutional committee meeting today in Ottawa is composed wholly of lawyers. Their duty is to determine, at least provisionally, where the power should lie to amend various parts of the constitution of this country. They will have to resist the temptation to consider at too great length where that power is presently vested.

The fact that certain aspects can now be altered by the Provincial Legislatures, others by Ottawa and some as yet only by Parliament at Westminster should only serve as a general guide to the classification of amending powers for the future. What must be determined is whether a particular subject matter concerns one Province only, the Federal Government only, the Federal Government and one or more Provinces or the Federal Government and all the Provinces.

The Oracles Are Silent

Two years ago Finance Minister Abbott told the people of Canada that the cost-of-living index would level off somewhere in the neighborhood of 132. "Under the Liberal Government," Mr. Abbott announced with satisfaction, "our cost of living in Canada is being kept under control."

The cost of living has now risen to an all-time high. Mr. Abbott does not offer any explanation for the blasted hopes of his assurances of two years ago. The experts and planners are silent. The breadwinners and housewives do the worrying.

There is one lesson to be learned from

all this. The experts and planners are not infallible. The official oracles of Ottawa can be wrong. And the people, most of whom have never taken the cost-of-living index too seriously anyhow, can be right.

Pity of it is that the Government so often chooses to listen to the economic mumbo-jumbo of Ottawa's bureaucratic top brass rather than to the commonsense talk of Canadian businessmen. For public opinion, as events have proven, is oftentimes a lot more, reliable than the opinion of so-called experts.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Day of Railway Decision.

Zero Hour is 6 o'clock tomorrow morning.

This week the ponies take second place to the donkeys "up West."

"Colonel Dan's" brand of Exhibition weather was with us this year as usual.

It is a sad reflection on our economic management that it is only in troublous times that bumper crops can be regarded with unmixed satisfaction.

Washington, through the Food and Drug Administration, is proposing a United States standard bread, not to be confused with the standard bred horseflesh we have been following this past week.

Charlottetown welcomes the Chartered Accountants from the ten Provinces, here for their five-day convention. May their visit be worth while whether considered on basis of cost, value to themselves or what the stay-at-homes would have given to be here.

The North Nova Scotia's Fourth Reunion here was an unbounded success from every point of view, but especially the hearty welcome given them on all sides. Old soldiers never die—they live in the hearts of their comrades and the remembrance of those left behind.

It probably will never be known exactly how many perished in the fire on the tourist cruiser Quebec, as no complete record exists of those who went aboard. The fatalities were first listed as two, then three, next five, and at last estimate seven. The remains of uninquired for people may still be found among the debris.

At this critical juncture in our national history it may be well to recall Tennyson's admonition:

"More things are wrought by prayer Than this world dreams of." Likewise, "The King (government) who fights his people fights himself."

Canada's decision to supply arms rather than funds to our North Atlantic allies has the manifold advantages of easing the shipping situation, finished armaments taking less space than raw materials; having the source of supply relatively protected from attack and also, from our own point of view greatly increasing this country's war potential by developing munitions industries.

Dr. W. G. Ellis, religious writer and producer of "The International Sunday School Lesson," has died at Lyndhurst, Ont., after a lifetime spent in the United States. During the first administration of President Wilson, Dr. Ellis was appointed United States Minister to China. His appointment was rescinded when the Japanese Government objected to him because of his earlier efforts to obtain the release of imprisoned Korean Christians.

Warren Hastings, British administrator, died this date 1818. The consolidation of the Indian Empire was largely due to his administrative genius. He returned to England in 1785, and was impeached by Burke in a famous speech in 1786 for oppression, maladministration, and corruption. The trial lasted seven years, after which he was acquitted (in 1795), but the costs swallowed up his entire fortune, and he was granted a pension from the East India Co., the fortunes of which he had largely contributed by his service in India.

Still on the down grade. The Bureau of Statistics reports that at Aug. 11, creamery butter stocks in nine cities totalled 45,477,000 pounds, four per cent below last year's corresponding total of 46,428,000 pounds. Stocks by cities follow, with totals for the same date last year in brackets: Quebec 3,328,000 (3,416,000); Montreal 14,438,000 (17,128,000); Toronto 6,101,000 (9,582,000); Winnipeg 12,578,000 (9,862,000); Regina 944,000 (966,000); Saskatoon 593,000 (383,000); Edmonton 4,535,000 (2,887,000); Calgary 1,890,000 (1,184,000); Vancouver 1,170,000 (1,020,000). The Maritimes it will be noted are ignored.



DOMINION ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS. CREW MEMBERS OF VISITING NAVY SHIPS.....

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.

POTATO MARKETING BOARD

Sir, — The formation of a Potato Marketing Board in this Province, as officially announced by the Minister of Agriculture recently, is creating widespread interest among growers throughout the Province, and obviously eliciting a variety of reactions from dealers whose business and trading practices may be affected one way or another.

The objectives, outlined by the Federation of Agriculture, promoters of the organization, certainly should not give cause for sponsor-dealer controversy; but the methods by which it may be sought to bring about the fruition of these objectives, may cause differences of opinion to come out in the open, and this is where diplomacy should lend a guiding hand.

The Federation, together with co-operative supporters, should not be unduly concerned with dealer-dealer supporters, with a long record of mutually satisfactory business relationship, may prove a formidable handicap to the successful operation of the new plan, and every effort should be made towards establishing harmony and goodwill, rather than relying too strongly upon sufficiency of legislative authority, they may — or may not, possess.

It may be recalled that a few years ago another marketing plan was evolved by producers, that time to apply to the marketing of livestock. Similar procedure was followed, but the scheme did not get quite so far on that occasion. It was held up on the plea of doubt as to its legality, by the Executive Council, and on that score referred to Supreme Court Judges for decision. It was found to be in conflict with regulations governing inter-provincial trade, and there its progress and proposed activities abruptly ended.

Since that time there does not appear to have been enacted any Federal legislation that would extend direct authority to any Provincial Board or agency, to regulate the marketing of any agricultural product or products in inter-provincial and export trade.

This aspect of the situation came out very plainly last March during a discussion of the Federal Natural Products Marketing Act, in the House of Commons. The Minister of Agriculture stated very definitely there were not any provisions in that Act that would permit the activities of any Provincial Agency, or the exercise of its provincial powers to extend beyond its Provincial borders. The Federal Governor-in-council may, by special order, bestow that power upon a commodity board in any Province. But until that is done, such power does not exist. If that concession has not been secured from the Federal Cabinet, it should not be difficult to determine the status of the new Provincial Potato Board.

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

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) RIOTOUS VISITORS

"On the first of September a fleet of 89 American and 79 British mackerel fishing vessels anchored in Souris Roads, and on the 15th we were visited by a fleet of 219 fishermen. They report that there are at present 400 sail (British and American) fishing mackerel on the coasts of this Island, the Magdalen, mouth of Baie de Chaleur and Cape Breton, north shore. I regret to add, that some of the disorderly of both nations made a considerable riot here, maltreated some of the inhabitants, and destroyed some property. It is a pity one of Her Majesty's ships could not be spared to cruise specially on the above coasts during the months of August and September, as it effectually prevents any riots by the fishermen." — From a letter dated Souris, 17th September, 1881, appearing in Hazard's Gazette.

Forced Labour In Russia

(United Kingdom Information Service)

The existence of forced labour in the Soviet Union and Soviet satellite countries has been further confirmed.

Important new evidence has come into the hands of the United Kingdom Government, and has been made available to the Canadian and other delegates to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, presently sitting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Britain has for some time been studying from official Soviet sources the existence of inhuman labour practices in Soviet Russia. In a debate in the House of Commons on 21st July, 1949, the then Minister of State, Mr. Hector McNeill, announced the United Kingdom Government's intention to offer "irrefutable evidence" on the subject. This, he said, would show "something we have previously maintained, and which is quite shocking to everyone who remotely thinks as we do, namely, that by arbitrary decree people are removed from their homes and jobs and committed to forced labour or forced labour in exile in Soviet Russia."

This preliminary evidence was produced, and the Soviet Government has since entirely failed to refute it. Announcing at Geneva Britain's further researches into the subject, the United Kingdom delegate said that his Government "would have been most willing to disbelieve the earlier evidence which had been submitted at the Council but unfortunately merely produced further serious documentation from Soviet sources."

The main source of evidence of Soviet slavery is given in the current edition of the unabridged Soviet Encyclopedia, Volume 29 (published by the State publishing house of the Soviet Union), in which it is stated that "...with the entry of the U.S.S.R. into the period of socialism, the possibilities of using coercive measures of corrective labour have immeasurably increased". Forced labor is shown as one of the basic disciplinary measures of Soviet administration.

The United Kingdom delegate also revealed that other Soviet legislation deals with the rights of

The Age-Old Story

If a man be just and do that which is lawful and right, and hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge; hath spoiled none by violence; hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment; he that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase; that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man, hath walked in My statutes, and hath kept My judgments, to deal truly, he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord.

The Soviet Secret Police to enforce "administrative deportation", i.e., without trial in a court of law. Some of the "crimes" mentioned in articles 58 and 59 of the Soviet Criminal Code, such as being the innocent and unwitting members of the family of a service deserter, would hardly be considered as criminal and punishable in any civilized country.

Additional evidence now produced also contains samples of Soviet legislation against what are regarded in the Soviet Union as dangerous religious criminals, who may be subjected to the armed supervision of common criminals.

The last item of additional evidence on the Communist forced labour system, now in the possession of the United Kingdom Government, consists of recent legislation and regulations of the Czechoslovak Government. Even though the Czechoslovak forced labour system is perhaps the least inhumane of those at present practised in the Soviet satellites, examination of the "legal" basis of the working of the system shows a total lack of regard for human rights and liberties. The labour force in Czechoslovak industry has been increased by the use of the forced labour system, regularised by Law 247 of the 25th October, 1948.

"All this evidence," the United Kingdom delegate said, "confirms the existence in the U.S.S.R. and the Soviet satellite states of what amounts to a whole province of law and administration concerning the establishment of the system of 'forced' or 'corrective' labor (both expressions are used in Soviet terminology)."

IMPORTANT NOTICE TELEGRAPHS

In view possible work stoppage due to labour dispute the Telegraph Departments of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways announce the acceptance of all classes of telegrams will be subject to the following conditions:—

- 1 On full rate and day letter Telegrams for delivery on Monday, August 21, to business addresses should be filed as early as possible to enable delivery to be effected before the close of the business day.
2 Night letter telegrams will not be accepted on Monday, August 21, as it will be impossible to make deliveries on Tuesday morning, August 22.
3 Cables filed in Canada destined to Overseas countries will be accepted until 4.00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, August 22.
4 Telegrams received during the evening hours of Monday, August 21, and early morning hours on Tuesday, August 22, in cases where deliveries cannot be effected before 6.00 a.m. local time, will be mailed to addresses "Special Delivery."
5 After 6.00 a.m. local time, Tuesday, August 22, all public Telegraph services will be suspended.

CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

Notes By The Way

Atheism can no more be made a state religion than the state can destroy religion and that is one lesson the Soviet leaders must learn unless they are soon to lose the powers they now possess. Religion may sometimes be forgotten but it is eradicable from the human mind. — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

The death of Mr. Norman Cook, M.L.A., for Olds constituency, will occasion a by-election, the first in the province since July of 1945. It is unusual that a legislative body the size of Alberta's should have such a low mortality. The reason may be that Social Credit, which has had things all its own way for 15 years, has never been afraid to run young people for public office. The pioneers of 1935 were mostly youthful candidates. — Calgary Albertan.

The fiscal arrangements in France sound more humane than ours. A French artist was recently assessed for tax purposes on an income for last year of 600,000 frs., or about £600. His own impression was that he had, in fact, earned rather more than this, but as a matter of principle he went round to the authorities to protest against victimization. His interview lasted an hour. He emerged from it with the assessment cancelled and a certificate placing him in the category "economiquement faible". This not only solves him from paying income tax, but gets him (I think) cheap rates on the railways and reduced prices at the public baths. — London Spectator.

A former smuggler's cave and gambling den at Pittenweem is being used by visitors as a place of worship. The cave is the one to which St. Fillan, the monk, brought his religion in 640 A.D., and contains a stone altar. It is fitted with electric light and can accommodate a dozen or so people at a time. Only recently the rector of St. John's Church, the Rev. D. B. McGregor, completed the work of restoring the cave from which monks were driven during the Reformation. It became a haunt of smugglers, and it was reputed that the Porteous riots originated there. When smuggling was stamped out, the cave became a gambling retreat for the men of the district. It was also used latterly as a store for fishermen's gear. — Edinburgh Scotsman.

London and Windsor are the first Ontario cities to enter into specific agreements with Queen's Park and Federal authorities for extensive new housing projects to be undertaken by the Dominion and Provincial Governments. By these agreements the Dominion and Ontario will put up the money for the purchase of land suitable for the houses and the two governments will likewise finance the cost of all services and roadway within the areas but the cost of bringing water and sewer service to the edge of the projects will be borne by the local municipalities. Other municipalities, Guelph, Kingston and Ottawa are now negotiating for similar housing projects. — Toronto Telegram.

The Poet's Corner

FROM 'LOLLINGDON DOWNS' Go, spend your penny, Beauty, when you will, In the grave's darkness, let the stamp be lost. The water still will bubble from the hill. And April quick the meadows with her ghost; Over the grass the daffodils will shiver, The primroses with their pale beauty abound, The blackbird be a lover and make quiver With his glad singing the great soul of the ground; So that if the body rot, it will not matter; Up in the earth the great game will go on. The coming of spring and the running of the water, And the young things glad of the womb's darkness gone, And the joy we felt will be a part of the glory In the lover's kiss that makes the old couple's story. — John Masfield

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for J. A. McGuigan (Notary, etc.), Frederic A. Large, K.C. (Barrister, Solicitor), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), J. S. Taylor (Optometrist), A. Walthen Gaudet, LL.B. (Barrister, Solicitor), Gaudet & Haszard (Barristers and Solicitors), Byron J. Grant O.D. (Optometrist), Palmer & Haslam (Barrister, etc.), J. A. Carruthers R.O. (Optometrist), M. Alban Farmer (Money to Loan), Dr. W. R. Carson (Chiropractor), Matheson & Peake (Barristers, etc.), MacPhee & Trainor (Barristers, etc.), H. E. Doane & Co. (Chartered Accountants), McDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).