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"The weakest link."
"The strongest memory is weaker than
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Under Liberal Fire

It is interesting to note that criticism of the Gordon Commission report is cutting straight across political party lines. In the House of Commons Mr. A. J. MacEachern, Liberal member for Inverness-Richmond and an economic professor at St. Francis Xavier University, took issue with its conclusion about the economy of the Atlantic Provinces. It had made no proposals for a general program of Maritime development and it was "out of step with the current feeling of reasoned optimism" in the area. Mr. J. R. Kirk, Liberal member for Antigonish-Guysborough, said that instead of inviting Maritimers to "buy a one-way ticket to Upper Canada" the report should have dealt constructively with means of enabling Maritime fishermen to improve their marketing facilities and fish marketing services. These members, of course, had the report before them and were not depending on newspaper summaries which the Commission alleges were misleading.

Strong criticism also comes from the Winnipeg Free Press, Canada's leading Liberal newspaper, which says the report is "deeply disappointing." "If it was not written in a hurry, with only superficial thought, one must conclude that it was written with a lot of argument—with the inevitable result that, at various points, someone put his foot down or threw up his hands in despair, and let it go at that." The Commission, it says, had a good research staff, and is going to publish a long series of studies. Some of these may illuminate particular Canadian problems for years to come; "but the Commission itself has chosen to have itself judged by the interim report which it regards as so important that it had to be rushed out in good time for discussion and digestion before the federal election."

This comment is given point by the rumor at Ottawa that Mr. Walter Gordon, Toronto accountant who headed the Commission, will likely be offered a cabinet post as a reward for his efforts, succeeding Trade Minister Howe. Be this as it may, the Winnipeg paper certainly cannot be accused of partisan bias when it concludes that the report is anything but a masterpiece. "It is going to be called something worse than superficial," it warns. "Half-baked is more exact."

Perhaps the "browning-off" treatment it is now getting across the country will remedy this defect!

The Second Term.

President Eisenhower formally begins his second term of office backed by an overwhelming mandate from his fellow citizens and supported by the good wishes of all the peoples of the free world. It is to be hoped that his health will permit him to carry the manifold and arduous responsibilities attached to his office for the full constitutional period.

To be sure, Mr. Eisenhower starts out under an apparent handicap in that both Houses of Congress are under Democratic control, a fact which, conceivably, could make it difficult for him to carry out his programs. That handicap, however, is more apparent than real, since in the past Democrats have supported his main policies more consistently and with a greater measure of agreement than the ultra-conservative wing of the Republican Party. There is reason to believe that this state of affairs will be continued during the life of the new Congress; and even the most outspoken critics in his own party are said to be less intractable than formerly, owing no doubt to the great personal victory Mr. Eisenhower won in November.

The second inaugural comes at a time when the United States is preparing, belatedly, to assume definite leadership in international problems of the utmost seriousness. If the

proposed "Eisenhower Doctrine" had been in effect a year ago, there is reason to believe that the Middle East problems would not have developed into such a dangerous international crisis and the British-American alliance would not have suffered the unfortunate impairment which has been evident for some months past. All that, however, is water under the bridge—or, shall we say, through the Suez. The need now is not for assessment of blame for the straining of relations but rather for a genuine rapprochement based on mutual understanding and goodwill. There is growing evidence that Mr. Eisenhower is prepared to use the powers and prestige of his office to that end; and it can be taken for granted that the British Government will meet him more than half way.

Meanwhile, whatever reservations anyone may have with respect to American policies, there is no one in the free world who will not pay tribute to Mr. Eisenhower's good intentions and wish him well as he begins the second and final stage of his service as President of the United States.

Western Drought

Maritime farming is not without its problems. There must be times when a good many farmers are on the verge of discouragement. Prices of products are low, operation costs are high, and excessive freight rates make imported feeds so expensive that it is difficult enough to make ends meet, let alone make a profit. But, against all this, the land for the most part is productive; and good crops rather than poor ones are the norm. Hardly a year passes that the earth doesn't yield her increase, and total failure is unknown.

How very different are conditions in the 10 "Plains" States!—Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana and North and South Dakota. For five years or more these farming areas have been under a more or less consistent drought. Because of water shortage and consequent lack of feed, hundreds of thousands head of cattle have had to be slaughtered before they were marketable. In the entire area, it is estimated that 21 million acres of once productive land have been blown away in the form of dust, which itself has caused hundreds of millions dollars worth of direct damage. In some areas dust storms have been so heavy that residents have been forced to leave their homes which had become uninhabitable. On the whole, it is the worst calamity that has ever hit any farming area on the North American Continent.

Recently, President Eisenhower, accompanied by 150 Federal and State agricultural officials, toured the region in order that he might have some first-hand knowledge of conditions when he presents Congress with his new farm legislation.

EDITORIAL NOTES

What in the world has happened to the January thaw?

A new criticism: A Democratic Senator has called for the resignation of State Secretary Dulles "because of his unique talent for confusing things."

The First Lord of the Admiralty in the new Macmillan Government in Great Britain is the Earl of Selkirk, a descendant of the Lord Selkirk who settled the Belfast District in this Province, after whom our new Wood Islands ferry boat has been christened.

Prime Minister Nehru has denied reports that his representative, V. K. Krishna Menon, is "persona non grata" in the United Kingdom and the United States. Well, if he isn't, he ought to be—in the U.K. anyway. It's a long time since the British Government had a more unreasonable critic outside their national boundaries or the Soviet Union a more willing whitewasher.

Sir Anthony and Lady Eden are going to New Zealand for an extended rest at the invitation of Prime Minister Sidney Holland. The retired and weary leader will be far enough away from political turmoil and, what is more important, he will be among sincere and faithful friends. As far as Commonwealth governments are concerned, outside of Britain, only Australia would give him as good a welcome



OUT OUR WAY

OTTAWA REPORT

To Study Farm Problems

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: The government plans to study what steps could be taken to assist farmers all across Canada. This indication was given in the Governor General's Speech from the Throne, at the opening of this session of Parliament.

A committee of Senators will be appointed "to consider what should be done to make better use of land for agriculture and thus to contribute to the improvement of agricultural production and the incomes of those engaged in it."

This proposal has aroused more widespread approval than any other item in the Throne Speech.

I discussed this speech, the official preview of the government's legislative program, with M.P.s. from all parties and different parts of Canada.

"This is a step in the right direction," believes Guelph's Henry Hosking. "Our farmers must be helped. I think that the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Assistance should be made equally available in all provinces."

"There are growing numbers of farms in P.E.I. not in production," said Conservative Angus MacLean. "This is attribute in part to the government's potato policy. We are suffering from land becoming economically marginal, land which shouldn't be marginal, yet is."

VOICE OF THE WEST
Social Creditor George Hahn from Vancouver district takes a far-sighted view of affairs, and this is reflected in his view of the growing farmers' crisis. Last session, he urged the government to cooperation among the NATO alfalfa economic coordination and lies. Following this same line of thought, George Hahn now welcomes the proposed formation of the free trade area and common market in western Europe, and feels that under appropriate conditions we might even join in it. With appropriate safeguards, he says, it could help us dispose of

our agricultural surpluses; it could also assist our other exports by fostering a more free interchange of currency between the dollar and sterling areas.

C.C.F. member Erhart Regier, also from B.C., regards aid to agriculture as important, but less significant that the government's new step to share the wealth with lower levels of government. He referred to the proposal that federal government buildings, hitherto enjoying freedom from municipal taxation, should henceforth pay their way in each community through a federal grant of about the size of the taxes which would be payable.

This development has been widely welcomed by members of all parties who agree that municipalities have recently been severely handicapped by their lack of revenue. All M.P.s. are quick to see how this will help their own communities.

"These payments will be welcomed, but they are definitely overdone!" Conservative Angus Lean told me. "They will affect especially Charlottetown and Summerside in my province." "This is a pattern included some of the lights and shadows of U. S. Canadian currency problems, the imbalance reminded this reader of the decidedly optimistic scene portrayed by the Gordon Royal Commission, reporting what the learned commissioners see—or think that they see—across this favored land of ours, a quarter century hence.

The conclusions are still going over the hurdles of newspaper opinion and the people's representatives on Parliament Hill, so this man-in-the-street can sit back and relax, while overhead blow the controversial winds of approval, or otherwise. In any event the passing years may be relied upon to spell out the social and economic facts.

It is at the monetary level that the preliminary report seems directly linked to, at least, the title: "The Monetary Irritant"; because while there are, reportedly, to be an extra 10 million Canadians in 1962; with the labor force of the nation moving forward from the 5.3 million in 1955 to 9 million in 1962; and Canada's GNP (gross national product) to be in the order of \$74,000 million as against \$29,000 million these days; somehow the Gordon commissioners find the farmer still "out of step" with tomorrow's prosperity—as he certainly is today—for the report finds merely a small rise in farm production; much larger increases in other industries. The proportion of national production coming from the farms to drop to about 6 per cent from the current 13%.

Assuredly there will be no cheers from our rural brethren when appraised of the above prospects. Admittedly there would not be a continuation of today's flight of rural youth from the farms, as one columnist puts it "to greener fields along the pavements"; for if that movement were to continue (at today's tempo of 35,000 a year) farmers would be few and far between a quarter-century hence.

Then, too, there is the query of one of the financial editors (The Times, Montreal), wondering if the commissioners "see" a 35-cent dollar in 1962, rather than today's 43-cent dollar.

I am, Sir, etc.,
FARM READER (ONT.)

during the war for the Russian government and purchased recently by the Provincial Government are now in Charlottetown and will be used for bridges across one or two narrow streams in the province. Each flat car, 40 feet long, nine feet wide, is capable of carrying thirty tons.

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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.

HUMANE SLAUGHTER

Sir,—In view of the widespread desire for humane slaughter in Canadian abattoirs this society wishes to draw to the attention of all those interested the fact that a resolution will be presented in the Federal House this session for the passage of a Bill effecting compulsory humane slaughter of our food animals.

We trust everyone interested will contact his member urging his strong support.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JUDITH ZACH,
President
Canadian Council for Animals' Welfare.
Victoria, B. C.

THE MONETARY IRRITANT

Sir,—Your feature writer of "Ottawa Report" draws an interesting picture (Jan. 3 Guardian) titled "The Monetary Irritant". Curiously enough while Mr. Nicholson's pattern included some of the lights and shadows of U. S. Canadian currency problems, the imbalance reminded this reader of the decidedly optimistic scene portrayed by the Gordon Royal Commission, reporting what the learned commissioners see—or think that they see—across this favored land of ours, a quarter century hence.

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FARM READER (ONT.)

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

BALANCE YOUR DAILY DIET

Do you have good stomach habits?

You do if you also have good eating habits. Your stomach, you see, becomes adjusted to the way you eat. It gets to expect a certain amount of food at each meal.

Those of you who skip breakfast entirely, or have only a cup of coffee and a doughnut, may soon develop bad stomach habits.

The same is true for all of you who eat a light lunch.

LITTLE OR NOTHING

Unfortunately, there are many persons who eat little or nothing for breakfast or for lunch. They seem to subsist chiefly on coffee and maybe a ham sandwich and piece of pie until dinnertime.

Keep this up long enough and your stomach actually will rebel at eating things substantial in the morning or at noon.

Under such circumstances it means that you must get all of your basic seven foods (we've discussed these from time to time) at the evening meal—a virtual impossibility.

YOU NEED BREAKFAST

Even if you could eat all these vitally needed foods at one meal, it would not be a good way of supplying nourishment. The plain truth is that you need a substantial breakfast. There's no doubt about it.

Even though you sleep most of the hours between dinner and breakfast, you are burning up calories at a fairly rapid rate. In fact, you use between 1,200 and 1,500 calories during this period.

Consequently, your fuel supply is pretty low in the morning. You can replenish it by eating fruit or fruit juice, buttered bread and an egg or enriched cereal. Sometimes an egg or cereal is a good idea. Drink some milk too.

DRINKING COFFEE

Now I have nothing against coffee; I drink it myself. But it should not take the place of milk or any other important food. Drink it in addition to, rather than instead of others.

If you eat a full breakfast (cereal and an egg, plus the other foods), you probably can do with a light lunch and then a full dinner. With a medium breakfast, eat a medium lunch and a full dinner.

If a light breakfast is necessary for some reason, then I advise eating the biggest meal at noon and a fairly light supper.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A doctor says love can cause high blood pressure or a stomach ache. No wonder some young couples look sick.—London Free Press

An expert, among other things, is a fellow talking somewhere not within earshot of his wife.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record

Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia says he needs no more military aid from the United States. The ingrate, he can't do this to us. Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The golden years, says one who knows, are that brief period between staying home with your own kids and babysitting with the grandchildren.—Hamilton Spectator.

Police reports are said to suggest that men who smoke pipes are rarely of the criminal type. There are, of course, pipes which are crimes in themselves.—Peterborough Examiner.

One reason why the 10 Comm manhoods are so short and to the point is that they were given directly, and didn't come out of committee.—Augusta, Kansas, Gazette

Kitchener-Waterloo Record: The cost of war in a nutshell: The U. S. Library of Congress has estimated the cost of World War II to be \$4,000,000,000, or about \$1,700 for every living person on earth and 40,000,000 casualties.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Toronto's city treasury is being known by \$69,000 accumulated over forty years through the sale of stolen property recovered and unclaimed. The thieves, unwittingly, were working for the taxpayers.—Ottawa Journal

In Canada the Queen's New Year's honors list was noticeable by its non-appearance, a custom slyly introduced by the Ottawa administration over a period of years. A stranger to our ways might think, indeed, that Her Majesty was not Queen of Canada at all.—Brantford Examiner.

The other day in Dayton, Ohio, a woman called the police in alarm because she couldn't get any further response from the friend she had been talking to for some time on the telephone. The police investigated and found that the woman on the other end of the line, far from being dead, had simply fallen asleep during her friend's long-winded monologue.—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

The Age Old Story

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them; for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

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