

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1947

Constitutional Freedom

At a recent convention in Toronto of the Adult Education Association a good deal of time and thought was devoted to the subject of constitutional rights and freedom, and the danger of these rights being invaded through bureaucratic channels.

"There is a good deal of food for thought in that suggestion," comments the Fortnightly Law Journal, "but on mature consideration we see that along that path lies the dangerous attitude that the public is all too ready to adopt, that they can barter security for freedom and end up without losing both."

The Law Journal goes on to point out a very important fact, namely that under democracy the encroachments on civil liberty do not come in large measures that can be seen and felt by the man in the street.

Tracking Down Polio

It is cheering to learn, on the authority of the American Journal of Hygiene, that three Johns Hopkins scientists have reported that they have successfully vaccinated monkeys against infantile paralysis.

The doctors estimated these brain injections were thousands of times more deadly than any infection a human might pick up naturally.

Russia's New Aristocracy

It used to be the boast of the Communists that their's was a dictatorship of the proletariat. Today, apparently, it is the bureaucrats who are in the saddle in Soviet Russia.

A graphic example is given by Stephen Coaker in Saturday Night. Writing from Moscow he compares Olga Lipishinskaya, the \$200-a-week ballerina, with Anna Nikitina, who supports two children on \$6.50 a week.

The new aristocracy is composed, of course, of Party men, skilled political propagandists or "intellectuals," scientists, writers, artists, marshals and generals.

On his part, the Russian worker, with an average pay of \$6.20 a week, can just about buy his food ration at the fixed prices, pay his rent, transport, state loan, trade union dues and get himself some minute 'extras' occasionally.

There are masses in Russia now who are existing well below even this line in poverty which, until you actually witness it, is barely conceivable to a Western mind.

It was not long ago that Ross Munro, of the Canadian Press, describing what he saw in Moscow between the ages of 10 and 18.

cow, pointed out this glaring difference in the way prosperous officials toured around in huge limousines while the mass of people looked on them with a pathetic awe.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canada's gift of \$20,000,000 for relief in Europe blesseth the giver as well as those receiving aid. Eight millions of it will be spent on Canadian fish products.

The Prime Minister believes that "the better the day, the better the deed." Parliament will honour Dominion Day by going right ahead with the business of governing the Dominion.

It gives one a sort of comfortable feeling to be able to live in a Prohibition province where approximately only \$14 per head of every man, woman and child is spent annually on liquor—plus, of course, the doctor's fee of \$1 or \$2, and the vendor's charge of \$2 for script books.

It remains to be seen whether Britain's coal miners on a five day week will be able to increase production enough to build up a sufficient reserve for the winter.

Assistant Deputy Works Minister W. P. Harvell gave a rather curious explanation of the inadequate sum voted for the new public building in Charlottetown.

The Summerside Town Council seems to have got its wires crossed in the matter of control of the town parks.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, scarcity of labor and maintenance of a high level of farm income pushed May wages for farm workers to their highest level—\$3.59 per day and \$77.01 per month—since comparable statistics became available in 1940.

The conference between Newfoundland and Canada at Ottawa so far seems to partake of "Apres Vous, Alphonse"; both sides being apparently anxious to let it be known that they are not fussy whether the union project materializes or not.

The Massacre of Cawnpore this date 1857. The Marquess of Dalhousie, Governor-General, annexed more Indian territory, between 1848 and 1856, than any predecessor.

With the help of the Army and the Lions Club, the boys of St. Christopher's School, Vancouver, soon will have a long-awaited swimming pool.

Plans are now well advanced for a school-boy expedition which is leaving Britain in July for holiday explorations in the wilds of Newfoundland.

Notes By the Way

We are not candidates for doom or even for lasting enfeeblement. However closely we may cut our coat according to our cloth it will still be a respectable, well-tailored and very presentable garment.

If only seven of the 54 powers of the world are without universal military training at this time, if Great Britain, despite her financial burdens, goes in for peacetime military training, and if the United States, our next-door neighbor, decides to have compulsory military training for 950,000 of her youths each year, spending billions in the process, can we here in Canada continue in our old, easy-going military ways, leaving the job of world safety to others, trusting for our own security to some tribute from fate? — Ottawa Journal.

Motion pictures are now classified and various restrictions are imposed upon the attendance of young people at certain performances. But crude and dangerous bilge like the "comic" books and all the pulp magazines of the "love stories" and "confessions" type that clog the news-stands remain open to anyone who has the money to buy them.

Britain is making good progress in fitting disabled persons for jobs and is finding jobs for them. If a firm employs twenty or more persons, three per cent of the total payroll must now be disabled persons.

And air travel will grow and grow and become safer and safer as the years go by. It is a very young section of the transport industry and still has much to learn.

For three years members of the Progressive Conservative Business Women's Club of Ottawa have been paying weekly visits to the Veterans' Pavilion of Civic Hospital, providing entertainment and treats for the patients.

The idea that all or most business men are racketeers, greedy and selfish, is false as it is repugnant, an ugly outgrowth of the class hatreds which make a horror of Europe.

A large stage was divided into three sections. Students were engaged in working with textiles and metals while one student was reading out loud the story of handicrafts through the ages, and another illustrating it on the board.

A skillful surgeon attached to the Birmingham Accident Hospital in Britain's Midlands, carried out a very clever operation and made life very living again for an unfortunate workman.

In a representative, democratic form of government there's room for divergence of opinion. We have developed many kinds of pies—and many are excellent eaters.

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PUBLIC FORUM

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

VERSE APPRECIATED

Sir.—Reading in your columns some time ago, I was pleased to see that someone ventured to express their appreciation of our Island poets for I am sure too little attention is given them.

I noticed mention of Lucy Gertrude Clarkin, Constance Herbert and "John of the Lilies". I feel sure it was because we have not recently had the pleasure of reading any of Cora MacNeill's poems that her name was omitted.

When her poems were being published, I would turn leaf by leaf of our Island papers in search for her little fanciful verses.

HAPPY DREAMING

Sir.—The garden was lovely. The air was scented with lilac and honey suckle and spruce and seaweed. Drowsily I opened The Guardian of June 21 to the front page for world news, then to the editorial page—for everything My eyes rested on the title of your editorial, English in High School—and I read no more, though subconsciously I caught the words, "classical studies, intellectual, abstract problem, humanities, pure science, applied aspects, Harvard, remedial classes in English, eliminated" since they drifted through my dreams, but so easily, so pleasantly.

I dreamed I walked into a building marked, "Charlottetown High School." It looked out on cultivated fields through its many windows and glass doors. Students were at work in these fields.

I heard voices chanting in different languages. I could distinguish English, Spanish, German, Italian, Latin, and yes, Greek (an instinct told me so). Some voices sounded conciliatory and matter-of-fact, some mouthed the syllables lovingly, some seemed intent on meanings, but all blended harmoniously.

A half-open door revealed teachers and students engaged in solving abstract problems—or so it seemed to me who could never solve an abstract problem. The sound of hammer and engine and saw led me to another room where students were joyfully working out the practical application of these problems.

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The fattening qualities of a big juicy apple, a large orange and a medium-sized baked potato are the same.

Nations United

The Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa stands out among both the builders of the British Commonwealth in its modern form and the architects of the United Nations, of which no more than the foundations have yet been laid.

General Smuts perceives that in the work of organizing international peace the United Nations cannot dispense with the example as well as the support of that great society of diverse peoples distributed over all the continents, in which the peaceful settlement of all questions arising between its members can now be taken for granted.

The British Commonwealth is maintained by consent not by domination. The British nations freely recognize, as the United Nations must recognize if it is to succeed, that strategically and economically they stand or fall together.

In the British Commonwealth this recognition is founded upon a double impulse, upon the mutual loyalty which binds together the interdependence of its members, and upon the self-interest which perceives that history and circumstance have made them interdependent whether they like it or not.

Mr. R. G. Casey, speaking at Melbourne last week, urged his countrymen in their own interest to still further efforts in relief of the United Kingdom's war debts.

From the nature of the soil which they trudge through the natives of Prince Edward Island are known locally as "redfeet" just as Nova Scotians are known as "buckskins" and New Brunswickers as "buckwhets".

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INSCRIPTION FOR A BED

The wind's on the wold And the night is a-cold, And Thames runs chill 'Twixt mead and hill, But kind and dear 'Is the old house here And my heart is warm 'Midst winter's harm. Rest then and rest, And think of the best 'Twixt summer and spring When all birds sing, In the town of the tree, And ye lie in me, And scarce dare move, Lest the earth and its love Should fade away, Ere the full of the day, I am old and have seen Many things that have been Both grief and peace, And one and increase, No tale I tell, Of ill or well, But this I say: Night treadeth on day, And for worst or best, Right good is rest.

—William Morris

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

BOSTON COMMENTARY

From an article in the Boston Herald, December, 1900: "It is only in late years that Prince Edward Island has come to be generally understood and appreciated by the outside world."

"It certainly does not derive the description applied to it by William Cobbet in the early part of the (nineteenth) century of a 'rascally heap of sand, rock and swamp called Prince Edward Island'."

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"Faintly St. Paul's light to Edward Isle— A juleand craft it smote again And some against it strove the while, And more to make a port were fain, The mackerel gulls flew screaming past, And the stick that bent to the noontide blast Was split by the sundown hurricane."

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