

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink."
CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, FEB. 14, 1949

St. Valentine

If history is correct, St. Valentine was not a
very romantic or glamorous figure, as such qualities
are regarded these days, but rather a sincere and
determined man. He died a martyr's
death more than 1,600 years ago. His association
with love was accidental, but there had to be a
St. Valentine somehow — the world would
not be quite the same without one.

St. Valentine's Day was originally associated
with Lupercalia, an ancient Roman festival
devoted originally to pastoral and agricultural
ceremonials, hopefully intended to ensure good
harvests and large flocks. Over the centuries,
however, it became a date for choosing a wife
or husband, to which more thought used to be
given by Roman parents than by some of the
later generations. Sometime in the dim past
St. Valentine was substituted for Lupercus and
a pleasant custom was given virtual immortality.

As time passed valentines were taken rather
seriously. The date was made the occasion of
proposals and for beginning courtships. Then
there intervened a lamentable era when insulting
and abusive valentines were sent anonymously
by persons as a means of "evening an old score"
— real or imaginary — and to less fortunate
persons as if their physical appearance were
a personal fault. Fortunately, this era
seems to be passing. Valentines are more sentimental
these days, and that is as they should be.
A card, a little present, to some one loved
can never be amiss.

A Staggering Total

When it comes to analyzing pledges in the
next general election campaign, Island voters
would do well to realize what the C.C.F. proposal
to pay \$50 monthly to all persons over 65
would involve.

If the means test were dropped, we would
have in this Province 6,200 pensionable persons
over seventy years of age. Between sixty-five and
seventy there would be another 2,800 eligible
pensioners, making a total of 9,000. This would
mean an expenditure for Prince Edward Island of
\$5,400,000.

At present the joint Dominion-Provincial
expenditure is about \$800,000. Next year, allowing
for normal population increase and adding
pensions to the blind, the figure will be in
the vicinity of \$975,000. There is a sizeable
difference between this figure and the \$5,400,000
required under the C.C.F. platform. How many
millions the plan would involve for all Canada
has not been estimated, but the total would be
staggering.

Almost Unanimous

On the day of polling in Nicolet-Yamaska,
the Montreal Star, an independent Liberal newspaper,
printed a dispatch saying the outcome
"was expected to have a telling effect on a
future general election." In assessing the chances
of the rival parties, the Star supplied the following
comment and figures:

"The last two elections in Nicolet-Yamaska
have shown the riding to be almost unanimously
Liberal. The results in 1940 and in 1945 follows:

Table with 2 columns: Candidate Name and Votes.
F. M. Mansseau, Liberal: 6,865
J. H. Belcourt, Nat. Gov't: 410
L. Dubois, Ind. Liberal: 7,445
Leo Cote, Ind. Conservative: 232

1945
L. Dubois, Liberal: 7,973
Trahan, Ind. Liberal: 6,658
Mondou, Ind. Conservative: 944
Judged by past performances, there are
probably at least 60 of Quebec's 73 constituencies
which offer better chances to the Progressive
Conservatives than Nicolet-Yamaska did before
last week's by-election. A comparable turnover
in these other ridings would make Quebec
almost unanimously Progressive Conservative.

Lengthening Our Summer

If Canada would back the campaign of many
U. S. communities and postpone its annual Labor
Day holiday a couple of weeks, millions would be
added to our tourist revenue. That is the opinion
of Mr. D. Leo Dolan, head of Canada's Travel
Bureau, who has been actively campaigning for
such a change. He says it would be worth "conservatively"
an extra \$25 to \$30 millions in
tourist dollars for us. At present Labor Day
falls on the first Monday in September and
it has come to be regarded by the public at
large as marking the end of the holiday season.
If postponed until mid-September, Mr. Dolan
argues that the lush season for tourists would
be extended a fortnight with benefit to all of us.

Whether or not a simple change like this
would prove as practical and profitable as Mr.
Dolan predicts, comments the Financial Post,
certainly tourists are neglecting one of the most
beautiful months in Canada. And June, at the
other end, is another good month for travel
and outdoor holidays, but it too is neglected.

The great majority of Americans and Canadians
slavishly consider only July and August
for their annual outings. These are good months,
but if the weather is fair, not a bit better than
June and September. If we could add those to
our summer tourist season we would have happier
and more satisfied tourists and we would
add a whopping increase to an industry which
is already worth \$275 millions a year.

Spread over four months instead of being

largely concentrated into two, there would be
less crowding of our tourist capacity in goods,
hotels, resorts, cottages, etc., and yet a far bigger
total volume. There would also be far more
incentive for capital to enlarge present capacity
and gain still more volume.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. Valentine's Day.
Confederation Bonspiel.

Potatoes were not included in the list of
vegetables for which export permits are no
longer required.

Cheques cashed in Canada in 1948 were
\$80.7 billion — 8.3 per cent over 1947. In
1938 the figure was \$30.9 billion.

Mr. Churchill gets credited with many statements
which he may or may not have made. The
latest London story is that, speaking of the recent
bribery case in Britain, he said, "What a
pity! If poor Clem Attlee had been alive, this
would never have happened."

The co-operative movement continues to
grow but the problem of educating members in
its principles is going to be more serious than
ever. "Open membership" for the purpose of
avoiding taxation means that a great many
members will know nothing about the movement
and care less.

Efforts of all parties here to gain the feminine
vote appear very mild indeed compared with
the bid Britain's Labour Government is
making. Proposals to ease the housewife's burden
through municipal and other labour saving
services range from laundries to improved
food distribution.

The report from Ottawa that import restrictions
on fats and oils are to be lifted does
not mean that large supplies will be immediately
available. There is still a world scarcity
of those products and Canada can only increase
her share by outbidding other consuming countries.
But it opens the door for margarine.

An Ottawa Journal report indicates that the
capital's aldermen are having difficulty finding
out what the Board of Control is doing.
Members of the City Council complain that the
Board is slow in providing information on vital
issues and holds altogether too many meetings
behind closed doors.

A U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization
official is reported as saying that, "The ocean
is man's next frontier — it may be his last."
He said that man must turn more to the ocean
to survive. Careful conservation and the
extending of operations to relatively deep waters
are now necessary.

The Prime Minister is being wrongly blamed
for shutting out M. P.'s from succession to
the Senate at the present juncture. Mr. St. Laurent
is too much concerned over world affairs
to give attention to patronage and details
of party policy. It would be the board of strategy
that shut out M. P.'s becoming senators to avoid
further loss of government seats.

The New York Times reports that a revision
of the 50-year-old Gregg shorthand System is
to be published this year. The bulk of the memory
forms and arbitrary symbols are eliminated. The
result is a script that looks longer than the old
style but can be written or read back more quickly
because of the fewer mental impediments.

The slight error of a clerk in Bristol, England,
which resulted in the local naval reservists
receiving "general mobilization" call up forms
instead of the routine drill notice, has "nothing
to it," according to Mr. Charles Mills Drury,
Deputy Minister of National Defence as reported
by the Ottawa Journal. "It could happen anywhere,"
Canada, he said, has a full-scale plan
with a carefully worked-out mobilization procedure.

Benvenuto Cellini, Italian artist, metal worker,
sculptor and flautist, died this date 1571.
Nothing but his famous and inimitable Autobiography
can do justice to his many-sidedness:
apprenticed to a goldsmith; then took up flute-
playing, and became one of the Pope's court
musicians; he enjoyed considerable patronage as
a metal worker under Clement VII, but his penchant
for brawling led to his constant change of
domicile, and he lived at Paris, Siena, Pisa, Rome
and Florence, changing his profession as often
as his place of residence. His greatest work as
sculptor is the bronze group, Perseus holding
the Head of Medusa.

Last Monday Prime Minister St. Laurent was
in exceptionally good spirits while reading to
the House of Commons letters from the premiers
declining, with thanks, his offer to restore rent
control, says the Gazette's Ottawa correspondent.
At the outset of the same address, Mr. St. Laurent
had, inadvertently perhaps, made this timid
provincial reaction somewhat understandable
when, soaring to new metaphorical heights, he
declared: "The premiers of the provinces realize
what the situation is. They realize that we have
caught hold of a lion's tail and we do not want
to let go until somebody else grabs it. They say
that they are not going to grab it." Which seems
to be fair enough all around, though few people
can have suspected up to that moment that
Ottawa had found this particular piece of
purlined autonomy such a painful embarrassment.
Unfortunately, the letters from the premiers were
couched in terms of rent controls rather than
the "lion's tail" to which Mr. St. Laurent had
referred with such eloquence. Rewritten in terms
of the Prime Minister's own metaphor, the letters
give a new and refreshing picture of life
in the legislative jungles.



as from his own. The highway ran
between our places. The cemetery
was across the road nearly
opposite to my home.

John gave his chair another
lurch which brought him very
close to me. At last the mystery
broke — John asked me if I
believed in ghosts. My answer was
"John, have you gone crazy?"

"Well, I do not think so, John,"
I said. "But David, there is some
thing I have been trying to tell
you for the past year, but was
afraid lest you might think I
really was getting psychiatric. —
But, I have three times seen a
ghost in yonder field near the
road. I hesitated to tell you since
I knew you would not believe;
but as you know, David, I am no
coward or 'ghost' man. Still seeing
is believing."

Well after I had made full enquiries
and got the story as to
how many times John had seen
his ghost, where and when — in
short was introduced to John's
ghost in all its aspects, — I
bargained with him to come and
tap on my window at its very
next appearance.

This night in question, when
John came, was cold, cloudy and
with a heavy drift at intervals.
Though there was a moon, there
was poor vision. Exactly at 12
a.m. John tapped loudly on my
window. "Come," he said, "the
ghost is walking."

I never dressed so fast in my
life and even then he hurried
me twice. "It may be gone," he
said, "by the time we get there."
We hurried across the field in
the direction in which his dog was
barking. Sure enough, there was
the figure, covered completely
with what appeared to be a large
white robe.

The dog was 4 or 5 feet away
barking, his head off. On this
occasion it was the dog that had
first seen the apparition. We
slowly closed in, to I should say,
about fifty yards from the ghost.
Between the gusts of wind, which
the drift would subside, we could
get a fairly good view. The ghost
stood erect and perfectly still. —
The dog keeping up his furious
barking.

"Well, John," I said, "we are
here and the night is cold. We
must investigate further." I pro-
posed that we go right up and
ask him whatever it might be. "Come
on, John!"

"No," he replied, "I will not."
"Then I will go, but if I am at-
tacked in any manner, will you
come to my help?"
"No," said John, "if you go you
will fight your own battle, I will
not face that thing even for
your life."

I put out my hand and grasped
the white sheet and pulled it off
the object. There stood before me
an old woman whose mind was
stranded and who lived a mile
further down the road. She had
slipped away from the young
girl who had slept with her as a
guardian. Her toes were frozen as
she was bare-footed.

We took her in and gave her
hot coffee and toast. In the electric
light she did not look at all
ghostly.

There have been three types of
hauntings in existence that could
not be picked by any of the world's
experts, even Houdini.

The opposite feigns death as
convincingly, when frightened or
captured, it is virtually impossible
to tell whether he is dead or
alive.

Notes By The Way

A new device enables a plane to
drop 14,000 feet in 23 seconds. An-
other new device will be wanted to
enable passengers to keep their
stomachs in the proper place while
it does so. — Peterborough Ex-
aminer.

An American publication claims
that even in the capital city of
Washington no fewer than 100,000
people still get their drinking wa-
ter from outdoor hydrants and use
outside toilet facilities. Ottawa, we
feel certain, does rather better in
looking after the convenience and
health of its citizens. — Brockville
Recorder and Times.

Fort Elgin, the "Town of the
Maples", and Bruce county village
on the shores of Lake Huron, has
outgrown its status and is the lat-
est Ontario community to be in-
corporated as a town. Effective
December 31, this status was granted
the picturesque resort by the
Ontario Municipal Board. Fort El-
gin became a village in 1873 and
has steadily grown to its present
population of 2,486. — Owen Sound
Sun-Times.

When a man drives steadily for
20 years without an accident it is
safe to assume he has always been
thinking in terms of safety — while
behind the wheel. A. T. Prime of
Alabama must have been such a
man. For 20 years he drove child-
ren to and from school in his bus.
During the Christmas holidays he
suffered a slight heart attack. As
a precautionary measure after that,
he asked his wife to ride with him
on daily trips. Last week, he fell
the heart pain while driving along
the road. He brought the bus to a
stop, turned off the ignition, col-
lapsed in his wife's arms and died.
— Fort William Times-Journal.

Discussion of restoration plans
should not divert attention from
the shocking discoveries made by
the architects and engineers who
have been inspecting the White
House. Except for good luck, the
building might have collapsed,
bringing death or injury to the
President and his family and
possibly to visitors. Responsibility
for such a tragedy would have rest-
ed on the architects and the try-
ing who carried out repairs and rest-
oration work with a criminal
disregard for the weakening ef-
fects of new materials and the
aging structure. — Washington
Post.

In court Chief Justice J. C. Mc-
Ruer ordered that a chair be
brought for a young girl witness
so that she should not have to
stand up during her examination.
Good! But it is time that chairs
were provided for all witnesses.
That the gavel-wielder should
be made as unattractive and try-
ing as possible by forcing the witness
to stand is one of the less com-
mendable features of our court pro-
cedure. To the extent that the
act of testifying is an ordeal under
any circumstances. Surely a com-
fortable witness is more likely to
give intelligent testimony than one
weary by standing. — Toronto
Star.

Scientists are taming and putting
to productive tasks the most vic-
tiously destructive material known to
man, the gas fluorine. Appropri-
ately nicknamed "devil's breath",
the gas is a material which chemists
call violently reactive. It is sus-
ceptible with good reason of hav-
ing been a component of the dread-
ed and paralyzing "nerve gas"
which the Germans invented but
never used during the last war.
Even with dignity under the robes
of a first-rate nuisance in a stream-
lined sedan; the wearer must eth-
er carry his high hat on his lap or
ride on the back of his neck. Hence
the gradual regulation of the silk
topper to inaugurations and things
of that kind, where it serves much
of the same purpose as the robes of
peers and prelates at a royal cor-
onation — a conscious bow to tradi-
tion. But now that the head of a
department which has always cher-

ished merely growing and none has
progressed by prejudice. What
makes a good citizen? A good citizen
is made by public
spirit, energy and neighbor-
liness. It grows by co-operation and
in response to good leadership.
Physical assets do not make a town
or city, nor does an huddled and
dense population. They could be a
cause but not a result. Too many
seem to imagine a good town de-
pends on paved streets, fine stores,
handsome public buildings, nice
homes and "improvements." Those
are aids to a good citizen, but a
good citizen when it has good neigh-
bors, strong leadership and a civic
loyalty. — Brandon Sun.

Two young loggers smashed \$2,000
worth of plate glass in store
windows along Hastings street.
Both had been earning good wages.
One of them came to town with
\$300 about a week ago, and he
spent it all on a binge. Presum-
ably, the position of the other was
not dissimilar. After wasting their
substance in riotous living, they
committed crime as a means of
getting out of jail. Their wish has
been granted. Magistrate McInnes
has committed them to three years
in the penitentiary. During their
imprisonment, they will perform no
socially useful work and they will
be pampered guests of the taxpayers.
Hain't the time come to deal
with such cases more sensibly?
Under strictest compulsion, the
two men should be set to earn the
money to pay for the damage to
property they had perpetrated. —
Vancouver News-Herald.

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