

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1857)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office
Department, Ottawa.

The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink."
CHARLOTTETOWN, WED. APRIL 13, 1949

The Educational Problem

During the recent session our Legislative
members were circled by the Teachers Fed-
eration, calling attention to the following mat-
ters of concern to every ratepayer:

That 80 new permit teachers have been
placed in Island schools this year; that Normal
School students number only 61, whereas 100
are required to take care of yearly vacancies;
that teachers' supplements have been increased
in 400 districts by a combined total of \$11,500,
or approximately \$29; that the median salary of
Prince Edward Island school teachers is the low-
est in all of Canada, excepting Quebec; that
last June 136 teachers left the profession; that
approximately 2,000 children in Prince Edward
Island must depend upon permit teachers and
correspondence courses for their education; that
ours is the lowest per capita expenditure for edu-
cation in Canada; that 19 or more schools are
closed today; that some 55 changes have oc-
curred in the teaching personnel since Sept. 1;

and that some 130 of our teachers are married
women, temporarily in the profession to help
out in a difficult situation.
These facts constitute a grave indictment
of our educational system, and indicate the need
of a thorough overhaul in the near future. Our
provincial authorities are no doubt doing what
they can to meet the problem; but it is one
chiefly of finances and the Government takes
the stand that it has gone as far as it can go
with the limited revenue at its disposal.

In the current monthly newsletter of the
Federation appears a report of the salary brief
delegation which waited upon the Executive
Council, attempting to show "that a serious con-
dition threatens our educational activities." The
delegation left the meeting "in a deep feeling
of despair." The Premier "stated pretty specifi-
cally that it was no use sending any further dele-
gations seeking increased remuneration until the
termination of the present Dominion-Provincial
financial agreement."

The present financial agreement does not
expire until 1952, which means a delay of at
least three more years until this phase of the
problem can be dealt with.

In the meantime, it is worth recalling one
of the suggestions made by the Advisory Recon-
struction Committee which reported to the Pro-
vincial Government a few years ago. The com-
mittee noted that the Sirs Commission had re-
commended a national adjustment grant from
the Federal Government, which would enable this
Province to at least approach the standard set
in educational services by the wealthier Provin-
ces. To underline its argument for the need of
Federal assistance, the Advisory Committee
pointed out that while our per capita provincial
expenditure on education (\$6.90 at that time) is
far below that of any other Province, the per-
centage of our total Provincial expenditure used
for education (15.1) is the second highest in
Canada, and the percentage of education expen-
diture provided by the Provincial Government
(62.1) is far above that of any Province — in
fact double that of all save Nova Scotia. "The
point that we would stress," says the committee
report, "is that the amount contributed by the
people towards this expenditure through educa-
tional tax has been extraordinarily low. If we
hope to receive the full sympathy of the Feder-
al Government in our claim for assistance, we
shall have to increase the amount contributed
by our people to this end."

It is the Government's responsibility to for-
mulate policies for financing education, but
Governments are proverbially slow to take action
which might have adverse effects politically.
Might not this be the crux of the present situa-
tion? Perhaps Premier Jones, who is noted for
 outspoken statements, will have something to
say on this subject when he addresses the Fed-
eration at its annual convention here on April
19.

Experts Confounded

Pigs have not heretofore been distinguished
for either mental or physical stamina, yet within
the past few weeks the humble porker has twice
been thrust into the limelight because of the
strength of its will to live. In both cases it hung
grimly on to life through experiences which
would and did break the minds and bodies of
other animals and human beings.

The first is the famous Poland China sow
that confounded all the experts by living through
the Bikini bomb blast of June 30, 1946.
She was one of a number of animals which for
research purposes were placed aboard a con-
demned Japanese cruiser to be sunk by the ex-
plosion.

She was tagged with her number, No. 311,
and placed in a washroom on the main deck. The
ship was near the centre of the explosion and
when it was over the natural assumption was
that no living thing could have survived. But
to their amazement, the rescue crews found her
blithely swimming around in the dangerous ra-
dio-active waters several hours after the ship
had sunk.

Even though she was still alive, it was felt
that she would die from radiation. But she fool-
ed them again. She was brought to the Ameri-
can navy's medical research institute near
Bethesda, Md., in September and within a month
all noticeable effects of her radiation had disap-
peared.

Now after keeping her under observation for
more than two years the navy has no further
scientific interest in her except for an autopsy
at the time of her death. Accordingly, it has sent
No. 311 to live out the rest of her days in well-
deserved retirement at the Washington Zoo.

The other hog to break into the news in
the last few weeks will never be as famous as No.
311 but in her own way she performed a feat

of endurance just as noteworthy. She was buried
in a snowbank on a farm in South Dakota, Jan.
2, during the series of wild blizzards that killed
thousands of head of cattle in that area. But
where the cattle died in short order, this old sow
rose to the challenge.

She was little more than skin and bones
when the farmer dug her out early this month,
but she had strength enough to walk to a feed
trough three-quarters of a mile away.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Progressive-Conservative Leader George
Drew's appointment to the standing committee
on public accounts should serve as a warning to
the Government that its spending will have to
stand up to close scrutiny, both as to excess
and omissions.

Reconstruction Minister Winters' estimate
of some \$300,000,000 for the Trans-Canada
Highway, one-half of which is to be borne by
the Dominion, takes finance to the "Never-Ne-
ver Land" so far as the average man is con-
cerned.

Will this year be productive of as many
outstanding figures in world history as that of
1849—a hundred years ago? Abraham Lincoln,
Edgar Allan Poe, Kit Carson, Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Lord Tennyson, and William Gladstone,
all were born in 1849.

The City Council is a deliberative body and
does not come to decisions hastily. Hence its
resolve not to insist upon water and sewage
connections for all city premises just at pres-
ent; or to rush into an auto meter proposition
without knowing what profit it is going to pro-
vide.

Joseph Bramah, English inventor, born this
day, 1748, his bicentenary being celebrated in
England this year. He was a clever mechanic
and devoted long study to the improvement of
mechanical means of production, etc. As the
result, he invented the hydraulic press, locks for
safes, etc., and a machine for the printing of
bank notes, bonds, etc., to prevent forgery, etc.

A three-hour broadcast of the St. Matthew
Passion—great oratorio composed by Bach—will
feature the tonight's presentation by the Cana-
dian Broadcasting Corporation. The St. Matthew
Passion will be performed by the Mendelssohn
Choir of Toronto and the Toronto Symphony Or-
chestra under the direction of Sir Ernest Mac-
Millan. The broadcast will come from convoca-
tion hall at the University of Toronto commencing
at 9.00 o'clock.

"Civic reform" is at a discount in Halifax
at present, because, forsooth, "an intelligent,
well-informed group of citizens hold the opinion
that present aldermen are doing a satisfactory,
credible job!" And further because the re-
formers are "unable to secure the type of can-
didate they felt would carefully administer city
affairs." All of which summed up implies that
the "Civic Reformers" have taken cold feet, or
realized that they had not built an organization
"better than they knew."

Table with 4 columns: City, 1947, 1948, 1949. Rows include Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Ch'town.

Close to 7,000,000 Canadian fur-bearing
animals met slow death in marshes, fields, and
forests to provide pelts worth nearly \$26,000,000
to the fur industry, in the latest year for which
statistics are available. Pleading for the humane
treatment of the wild creatures of forest and
stream, the outflowing of steel traps is urged by
Eric Adams, Toronto feature writer, in an arti-
cle in the April issue of Forest and Outdoors
magazine, a publication of the Canadian For-
estry Association. Mr. Adams says there are
several humane traps that could be adopted
right away if "public apathy, fur trade pressure,
ignorance and political indifference didn't stand
in the way." These include rubber-jaw and
chain-loop leg-hold traps used by conservation
authorities, wire cage and net devices, and sev-
eral types of instant killers. Chief objection to
these traps is that they are cumbersome and
less dependable than steel traps which have
powerful spring jaws, sometimes toothed or
grooved. "Put more bluntly they would get fewer
pelts," states Mr. Adams.

Saskatchewan is boasting of its alleged ef-
ficient highway policy. Cost of the Saskatche-
wan portion of the proposed Trans-Canada high-
way is estimated at \$18,000,000, Highways Min-
ister J. T. Douglas revealed during the budget
debate. Outlay for the entire project would be
about \$266,000,000. Federal Mines and Resour-
ces Minister MacKinnon had suggested that the
cost be paid by the federal and provincial gov-
ernments on a 50-50 basis, Mr. Douglas said.
But Saskatchewan could build a hard-surfaced
road along No. 1 route on such a shared-cost
basis for \$8,000,000 . . . or \$1,000,000 less than
the federal plan estimate. When the present
government assumed office in 1944, it inher-
ited the "biggest and worst" highway system in
Canada, the minister said. In calling for federal
road building aid, Mr. Douglas said it would
cost \$50,000,000 to complete the rebuilding and
regravelling program now under way. From 1944
to the present time, the government had creat-
ed one of the best equipped and staffed depart-
ments in Canada. Saskatchewan crews were
moving earth at a cost lower than anywhere
else in the Dominion and, in 1948, completed
the longest stretch of hard-surfaced highway of
any province. "And we have done all this on the
second lowest highways budget in Canada," he
said.

The Poet's Corner

THE NURSERY RHYME
May sudden justice overtake
And snap the forehead pen,
That old and paled poets shake
Against the minds of men.

Blasphemers trusting to hold
caught
In far-flung webs of ink
The utmost ends of human thought
Till nothing's left to think.

But may the gift of heavenly peace
And glory for all time
Keep the boy Tom who, tending
geese,
First made the nursery rhyme.

—Robert Graves.

Old Charlottetown

YORK CENTENARY

"The centenary celebration at
York on Thursday of this week had
reference not to the original open-
ing up of the place, but to the
sailing from Hull, England, of the
"Valiant," under Captain Izard,
with the Vesseys, Wests and
Hardys, who located there after the
ship's arrival in Charlottetown.
She started on her voyage of 73
days, March 22, 1817.

"The anniversary was observed by
a rippling of flags in the crisp
breeze at several points along the
road and a short programme in the
school room at 3 p.m. Mr. George
Vessey, a son of the pioneers, pre-
sided and vividly sketched early
conditions as he remembered them
—the little first school house with
its flag pole, and so on. Rev. J.
I. Dawson told of Richard Hudson,
a local preacher, who married one
of the Baker girls while J. P.
Hood's grandfather married An-
nos; of Christopher North, Jos.
Trowsdale, Geo. Wigginton, and
the Bests, Carrs, Mittens, Hodg-
sons, etc., whom he had either
known from childhood, or run
across at various points. Mr. C.
W. West indicated the spots upon
which the settlers erected their
houses and established their homes.
An aunt of his had carried water
from Crosby's brook nearly two
miles. There was a spring back on
the farm, of which they
knew nothing at first, and bears
and wildcats kept them from ven-
turning far into the wilderness
about them."

On Making Ourselves Understood

(Royal Bank Letter)

It is a long way from the crude
hieroglyphs of primitive man, the
smoke signals and marked trees
of the Indians, and the drums of
the African jungle to our modern
daily newspaper and our business
correspondence. But through it all
there are these main themes —
the passing on of knowledge, in-
formation and instruction, and the
urge and the need of man to com-
municate with his fellows.

All of us who lead can be in
touch with centuries of human
thought and with today's happen-
ings in all parts of the world. Be-
cause we have language, we are
not limited for knowledge to our
own experience; we can profit by
the experience of all who have
gone before us. It is language that
has made progress possible.

The spoken and written word is
so familiar to us that we often for-
get what a power for good or for
evil, for uplift or for insult, for
charity or for confusion it is.

Words can crush or console, inspire
or destroy; they can lead to wars,
and they can be used to promote
peace; they can increase sales or
drive away customers.

We live in a world of words, and
very often these words are all too
"wild and whirling." We listen to
so many words, we read so many
words, that we feel engulfed in
verbiage; we speak words, and most
of what we write may be routine
letters and reports, and we need
not aspire to Shakespearean or
Voltairean heights. But the least
that we can do with words is to
put them together so that our
readers understand.

There are few ivory towers left
today, and only a hermit can dis-
regard the advantages of using
language well. Learning to ex-
press oneself is a fundamental of
education, the mark of an educa-
ted man, and a necessity of busi-
ness.



making study of writing a com-
pulsory part of every course.
In August, 1947, the Bureau of
Technical Personnel, Department of
Labour, issued a survey of pro-
fessional openings in Canada. Out
of 1,394 employers interviewed,
the majority — 880 — believed
that there was a trend towards
more free usage of unversity-
trained young men and women.
But one of the 15 firms employ-
ing the largest number of univer-
sity graduates declared itself criti-
cal of most graduates "because
many can't properly express them-
selves, either orally or in writing."
If this is true of some university
graduates, how much more must
it apply to those with less educa-
tion?

"Because language is as vigorous
as healthy oak tree, expanding
with the years, each age adds its
own quota of new words and
phrases peculiar to its time. Every
new invention, like television to-
day, brings with it a whole new
vocabulary.

In 1886 the English dictionary
contained only 47,000 words; to-
day it includes 450,000 words, an
increase of 12 new words a day.
Milton knew 10,000 words; Shake-
speare knew 15,000; the Bible con-
tains only 5,000 different words.
Today there are 30,000 kinds of
bulletines, each with a different
name.

At first a word imported from
another language lives a lonely
life; its acceptance or rejection
depends on the force of public
opinion, for, after all, language is
a democratic institution. If a word
is accepted as part of our speech,
it becomes changed and coloured
to suit our own peculiar needs.

Dean Swift attacked many words
seeking admission into daily speech.
He condemned "banter," "bully,"
and "sham," and the one which
was called forth his greatest rage was
"bulging," a contraction of "mobile
vulgar." Public opinion prevailed,
however, and these words were ab-
sorbed into the English language.

Lord Wavell, in our time, has pro-
posed setting up an authority to
decide what is worth preserving
and what should be pilloried in the
way of words, but it would be a
difficult and delicate task to
determine the fate of each one.

Sir Alan Herbert, M.P., one of
the most valiant fighters in the
battle to preserve the best in
English, says the language is
"bulging with words like bolsters,
and phrases like feather beds,
fat Latin words like 'recondition-
ing,' phrases like the 'co-ordinat-
ing of our economic resources.'"
He goes on to say: "We are entitled
to suspect the character and com-
petence of any department, any
party, any politician who stuffs
the public mind with words,
knobbly, half-baked, flabby and
slushy words."

What Sir Alan is referring to
is known by various names: of-
ficials, jargon, gobbledygook and
Federal Prose are some of them.
Whatever you may call it, it means
a written output obscurely con-
structed, full of tiresome phrases,
and encumbered with many ill-
chosen combinations of words. H.
W. Fowler, one of the editors of the
Oxford Dictionary, defines
jargon as "ugly-sounding, hard to
understand, made up of technical
terms, long words, and circumlocu-
tions." Whatever its name, it is
flourishing in many of the com-
munications we receive daily, and
perhaps we ourselves are some-
times guilty of writing it.

We are more hesitant in conver-
sation; words of whose pronun-
ciation we are not sure are replac-
ed by shorter, more usual ones. We
do not drone out endless sentences,
full of top-heavy clauses, and ob-
scure phrases. But we do seem to
give in to temptation when we
have a blank sheet of paper in
front of us. The result is often a
muddle of many-syllabled words
which display neither thought,
vocabulary nor erudition, and only
serve to puzzle the reader.

Sir Ernest Gowers, a distinguish-
ed civil servant, was recently
asked by the British Government to
write a short book on the sub-
ject of simple English for British
officials. He called it Plain Words,
and in it warns against the woolly
thinking, the circuitous phrases
and the abstractions that make
up jargon. He deplores the in-
creasing use of such things as "it
will be observed from a perusal"
instead of "you will see by read-
ing"; "participate" for "join";

Notes By The Way,
The Royal Canadian Navy now
stands tenth among the world's
fighting fleets. That is a far cry
from the days when its strength
used to be derisively spoken of in
Parliament as consisting of "two
sandsuckers and a few scows
steaming along the Trent canal."—
Hamilton Spectator.

Use of the new 200-inch giant eye
telescope in Pasadena, California,
has provided evidence to satisfy
philosophers that the universe is at
least a billion years old. But now
when people can say a billion dol-
lars as fast as one can say Jack
Robinson, the information is not
nearly so impressive as it would
have been a century ago. — Fort
William Times-Journal.

They now have tractor seats con-
nected by a hose to the engine's
cooling system. Warm water from
the engine gives the driver a warm
seat. This seems to be overdoing it
just a bit. We admit that the
old metal perforated seats on a
cold day were a little like sitting
on a cake of ice in a refrigerator in
an open field but this seat warmer is
carrying things too far. All you

need is "assistance" for "help," and so on.
He disapproves of the invention of
new words for perfectly good old
ones, like "global" for "world-
wide," "recondition" for "mend,"
and "terminate" for "end." Another
version of this last is the horrible
"to finalize."

The habit of using abstract
nouns as verbs is increasing. "To
contact" which excites Sir Alan
Herbert to rage is allowed by H.
L. Mencken, author of The Ameri-
can Language. However, Mr.
Mencken tells a good story against
his own decision. An official of
the Western Union, he says, for-
bade the use of "to contact" by
employees of the company. This
official said: "So long as we can
meet, get in touch with, make the
acquaintance of, be introduced to,
call on, interview or talk to people,
there can be no apology for 'con-
tact.'"

In the January issue of Harper's
Magazine, Jacques Barzun, in com-
menting on the state of the langu-
age, quotes as an example of
jargon a warning to the British
cotton industry: "Unless all those
working in the separate units are
prepared, when necessary, to take
into account the interests not only
of the industry as a whole but also
the broad interests of the nation,
unless there is readiness both to
agree and implement common
policies when necessary for fur-
thering such interests — there is
little chance of a satisfactory out-
come from any proposals." Mr.
Barzun goes on to quote by way
of contrast an earlier, and more
courageous piece of prose: "Gentle-
men, we must all hang together,
or assuredly we shall all hang
separately," which is the gist of
the more complicated statement.
The first leaves our feelings in-
tact, and spares our imaginations,
a characteristic of jargon.

It has been remarked that, as
the world has become more cruel,
language has become more mealy-
mouthed. War has become "hostil-

Lenten Meditations.
The Times, London
FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRIST'S RELIGION
Why did Christianity win its vic-
tory in the ancient world? There
are three cumulative reasons which
may give at least a partial answer:
in the first place it conquered be-
cause of the story which it told —
an account of God in action, a re-
cord of how He had visited and
redeemed His people.

The popular mystery religions of
the time might indeed recount
dramas of dying and rising gods,
but they could not point to one
who was crucified, and yet return-
ed to His dejected followers to send
them forth with news for all man-
kind.

Christianity conquered, also, be-
cause of the power which its con-
verts displayed. Few socially im-
portant or highly educated persons
were to be found in their ranks —
their critics made much of this —
yet they showed to the world a
higher standard of living than
the moralists of their day had con-
ceived to be possible. In a des-
pairing world they were not afraid
of death, so that persecution hard-
ly diminished their numbers.

Again, within the little societies
of Christians there was a commu-
nity life unlike any the world had
seen. For this reason men felt
impelled to attend to the Christian
message. They were being invited
not merely to profess a new belief
but to experience a new power and
to join a new society. Few could
enter the Church in any half-
hearted way, for conversion, a new
way of life, was involved.

The first Christians knew that
they were strangers and pilgrims
on earth, and for that reason must
demonstrate in this short life their
heavenly citizenship.

Because they can get cars from
America without purchase tax,
most of the Embassies in London
run big American cars. (The ex-
ception is the Soviet Embassy,
which has a very big Russian car.)
The other day the wife of the min-
ister of one of the Eastern European
countries, who is herself a very stal-
wart Communist, was getting into
her car when she was stopped by
a man selling violets. "Please buy
a bunch, lady." "No, she was sorry,
she did not want one." "But, lady,
they only cost . . ." "No." At
last, after further fruitless per-
suation the flower-seller resorted to
abuse. "I'll tell you what, lady,"
he said, "when Joe Stalin comes to
London, none of you capitalists will
be able to swank in your big cars
any more." — London New States-
man.

They shall bring down the noise
of strangers, as the heat in a dry
shadow; even the heat with the
plaque of a cloud, the branch of
the terrible ones shall be brought
low.

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