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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, JAN. 16, 1950

Too Young To Die

Youngsters are thoughtless and want to do what their gang is doing without the slightest regard for what older people may think. Generally their conduct may be merely a source of pain to the older generation, but one practice carries with it the threat of sudden death. At nearly every street corner a group of boys waits for cars to slow down or stop so that they may catch on to the bumper and enjoy the thrill of being towed along the slippery street. What might happen if they were to let go and slide in front of another car does not trouble them in the least, but it undoubtedly causes a premature greying of many a car driver's hair. If the practice is to be curbed before it results in death or injury to somebody's small son there must be a concerted drive by parents, teachers and motorists to stamp it out. It is the duty of any driver who finds boys hanging on to his car to take them directly to some responsible authority, preferably their parents, who in turn should impress upon the youngster the folly of his behaviour.

Footnote To History

Mr. Grant Dexter, editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, recently joined Premier Angus Macdonald in vindicating Colonel Ralston against what he calls a "grossly unjust" version of the latter's part in the conscription crisis of 1944 as given in Mr. Reginald Hardy's book "Mackenzie King of Canada." A summary of Mr. Dexter's comments was given recently in our columns. Quoting his statement that a careful reading of the Hardy biography indicates that the author "is either making guesses or has received information from persons he regards as reliable," the Ottawa Journal remarks:

"If Mr. Dexter be right (and we think he is right) then it seems to us that in the interest of truth in history, or perhaps in the interest of truth as opposed to possible use of "cabinet secrecy" to put out propaganda, there is grave responsibility upon Mr. Hardy to state publicly the source of the information upon which he based his narrative. Indeed, we would be inclined to go further and say that there is grave responsibility upon the publishers of Mr. Hardy's book to come out and say whether they attempted to check Mr. Hardy's story. And it being impossible to believe that Mr. Hardy was content to "guess" about matters so important, we suggest it his duty to defend his statements by revealing their source.

"Mr. Dexter himself (his review of Mr. Hardy's book as a whole is a fine piece of political understanding and knowledge) clearly is not guessing; somebody who knew precisely what went on in the Cabinet in 1944 was not far from his elbow when he set out to vindicate Col. Ralston. We suggest that the public has a right to know who were the informants of both Mr. Dexter and Mr. Hardy. It has a right to know for the simple reason that falsification of history, with injustice to the memory of a great public man in the process, is a pretty serious matter."

Newfoundlanders Still Wondering

Nine months after entering Confederation, Newfoundlanders are still wondering whether they are better or worse off for the change. For the immediate future the Province has been promised a deficit of two millions in its first year in the Canadian union which will necessitate dipping into the surplus accumulated under Commission government. The withdrawal of the island's biggest revenue-producers has been the reason for the government's inability to balance the budget. Federal grants, though on a more generous scale than those obtained by the older Maritime Provinces, have not been large enough to offset the expenditure. On top of this, Newfoundlanders are promised a sales tax which will likely come into effect on April 1.

Confederation, it is claimed, caused a business upheaval which forced several secondary industries to fold up, and others to lose money through the necessity of marking down goods to meet keener and instant competition from the mainland. Before the minor business houses could readjust themselves, the major industries—fisheries, paper mills and mines—were caught in almost world-wide reverses stemming from the devaluation of sterling and in the case of some of the mines of a drop in prices.

However, Confederation has brought benefits in the shape of widespread social services. The family allowance payments, for example, reached every community and had a tonic effect on business generally. Many homes were brightened by their first actual cash they had received in years. Where education was taken lightly in some of the more remote districts, now the parents realize that they must keep their children in regular attendance at school. The readjustment in the wages of railwaymen was a great filip for the Christmas trade and added to the extra money in circulation during the last months of 1949.

This is the last year in which the Newfoundland treasury will receive income tax (March 31) and for the past two or three years this source has contributed an average of eleven million dollars to the island's revenue. In the second year of union, Newfoundland will receive about seven millions from the tax rental agreement at Ottawa.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Our January thaw made its appearance Saturday all right.

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Israel and King Abdulla have both defied the U. N. order for internationalization. U. N. can do nothing about it, having no force of arms to uphold her decisions.

• • •

Harness racing is reportedly about to come into its own in Ontario. If the big Province does decide to back the trotters and pacers, the Island is well situated to supply a sudden demand for horseflesh.

• • •

The delegates to the Federal-Provincial Conference at Ottawa got through much important work, notwithstanding that photographers monopolized a considerable part of their time.

• • •

January is a good month to have the deadline for selecting the route of the Trans-Canada Highway. The hard facts of topography are less likely to be overlooked than if the final decision were being made in summer or autumn.

• • •

Canada's trade balance with the United States has vastly improved so that the dollar problem should be that much eased. That improved position should have the added advantage of enabling us to adopt an easier attitude towards non-dollar buyers.

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The arrest of the Swedish vessel Divina which collided with the Royal Navy submarine Truculent is one of the oddities of maritime law. The ship itself, apart from owners or operators, is defendant in an action, and subject to arrest as security for any damage she may have caused.

• • •

Mr. Winston Churchill, who was vacationing in Funchal, Madeira, was in no hurry to leave when he heard election date had been fixed for February 25. He painted in oils on the morning of the announcement, and in the afternoon worked on another volume of his war-time memories. When he did reach London, he told the reporters he had come to see if they wanted him back on his old job of Party Leader.

• • •

Edmund Spenser, English poet, died this date 1599. After distinguishing himself at Cambridge he became known to Sir Philip Sidney, and published his "Shepherd's Calendar" which at once gained him literary fame. His "Faerie Queen" was dedicated to Queen Elizabeth. For a time he settled in Ireland, and was Sheriff of Cork, but after his castle was burned, and one of his sons killed by rebels, he returned to England. For the influence he has exercised upon succeeding poets he has been named "The Poet's Poet."

• • •

Egg prices on January 6 this year and previous years. The prices quoted below are for Grade A Large. At Montreal and Toronto the prices are those at which graded shipments are selling to wholesalers. At other points quotations are prices to shippers for ungraded eggs.

	1950	1949	1948
Montreal	33-33½	49	46-47½
Toronto	32	47-48	45½
Winnipeg	25	45	41
Vancouver	31	43½	40
Edmonton	28	44	41
Regina	28	45	41-42
Charlottetown	28	46-47	41

• • •

Another million dollar ferry for between Wood Islands and Caribou is welcome news, but of course another year must elapse before it could begin operation. Meantime the question is, who is going to run the service if the subsidy is to be withdrawn from the Northumberland Ferries? For sufficient reasons, the Provincial Government is not prepared to agree to the substitution of the C. N. R. because it would mean monopolizing the carrying service to and from the mainland. So far, the competition of the Northumberland Ferries has proved the life of trade.

Out Of The Twister's Path

— PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND —
WHERE FOLKS ARE STILL IN THEIR PRIME AT THREE SCORE AND TEN.

The Poet's Corner

LIFE

Life! I know not what thou art,
But know that thou and I must part;
And when, or how, or where we met
I own to me's a secret yet.

Life! we've been long together
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather;
'Tis hard to part when friends are dear—
Perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear;

—Then steal away, give little warning
Choose thine own time!
Say not Good Night,—but in some brighter clime
Bid me Good Morning.

—Anna L. Barbauld (1743-1825).

Food In Britain

(Manchester Guardian)

The increasing tendency to switch from imported food supplies from Canadian dollar sources to European suppliers and the growing volume of home supplies, particularly milk, eggs, and bacon, have been outstanding features of 1949. The general ration of most basic foods is at a slightly higher level than at the end of 1948, the single exception being sugar. The present weekly basic rations, compared with December, 1945, and December, 1948, are:

	1945	1948	1949
Bacon and ham	3 oz	2 oz	4 oz
Cheese	3 oz	1½oz	2 oz
Butter	3 oz	3 oz	4 oz
Margarine	3 oz	4 oz	4 oz
Cooking fat	2 oz	2 oz	2 ozA
Meat	1s2d B	1s	1s6dC
Sugar	8 oz	10 oz	8 oz
Tea	2½oz	2 oz	2½oz
Liq. milk (pts.)	2	2½	3

A 3 oz for month of December only.

B Including 2d worth of corned meat.

C At revised prices.

The increased meat and bacon rations are stated to be for a temporary but indefinite period. Of these two, the bacon ration has a fair chance of continuing at the higher level. Meat is far less easily predictable.

The consumption of basic foods in this country increased during 1949 for most items. The exceptions are flour, meat, and fish. The average weekly consumption, compared with before the war and 1948, is shown in the following table, the consumption in 1949 being based on ten months' returns for all items except flour, which is nine months:

Thousand tons (average)

	1934-8	1948	1949
Flour	82.6	100.8	98.8
Sugar	40.6	34.8	38.8
Fresh and frozen meat	40.5	29.8	28.5
Bacon and ham	10.4	3.9	4.5
Fish	16.9	21.0	19.0
Butter	9.7	5.3	5.7
Margarine	3.6	7.7	7.9
Cooking fat	3.9	3.5	4.7
Cheese	3.6	3.6	4.2
Tea	4.4	3.5	3.5
Potatoes	62.3	102.2	108.9
Shell eggs	12.6	10.1	12.0
Milk	108.3	134.8	145.6

(Note: Shell eggs in million dozens, milk in million gallons.)

The home production of bacon and ham doubled in the ten months ended October 31. The average weekly production being 2,800 tons in 1949 and 1,400 tons in 1948. The figures for meat and sugar are not yet available, as the two heaviest months of production are missing from the returns, but at the end of October meat was showing an average weekly production of 11,700 tons, compared with 13,600 for the whole of 1948. The addition of the November and December figures will undoubtedly increase the average.

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.

PARKING METERS NEEDED

Sir,—In reply to "Citizen" in The Guardian of Jan. 14, I feel that I must take issue with this gentleman regarding his arguments against the necessity of installing parking meters and traffic lights in this fair city of ours.

If "Citizen" would take the time to check the reports and records of the results obtained by other Maritime centres after they have installed the above improvements, I am sure that he will find that the parking meters are not on the negative side of civic finances but are rather an asset, as once they are paid for they keep on producing much needed revenue. This revenue could then in turn be used to help defray the costs of the traffic lights.

"Citizen" must indeed be a very infrequent pedestrian, at least in the shopping district. Any car owner will gladly tell any one who will listen about his or her experiences at the Grafton-Queen intersection at noon or at five o'clock. With all due respect to the Police Force I would like to point out that Sgt. McInnis and his traffic detail have been doing a good job but this problem will never be solved by human hands waving in the breeze, as there are limitations on every human.

If traffic lights were installed at the following corners: Grafton-Queen, Grafton-Gt. George, Kent-Queen, Kent-Gt. George, Richmond-Queen, and Gt. George-Euston I feel sure that the traffic problems in our city would be well on the road to being solved.

Outlines for the installation of the parking meters have been dwelt upon at great length in this column in the past and therefore it is not my intention of discussing them further.

I am, Sir, etc.,
CAR OWNER.

The Age-Old Story

To open the blind eyes; to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

PRINCETOWN ROYALTY

Journal of the Legislative Assembly, Tuesday, March 22, 1825:

"Mr. Stewart moved that an address be presented to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, stating that this House, having had under their consideration a petition from the inhabitants of Princetown Royalty, complaining of great confusion and uncertainty of property in that Royalty, for want of a complete survey, and also of conflicting claims to various lots of land therein, and that the lines and boundaries of the said Royalty appear to be in a state of great confusion and uncertainty, to the manifest injury of the persons interested therein, forming a serious impediment to its improvement, and earnestly to recommend that no time should be lost in making a complete survey of the said Royalty, and that until such survey is completed, and a base line permanently established by opening a Road thereon, or erecting three pillars of stone at the commencement thereof, pointing out the direction of such base line; and also, until a public notice of such intention, no grant should be permitted to pass the seal, to the end that all persons claiming any improved or cultivated lands within the said Royalty, or who may have unproved such land, may have an opportunity of setting forth such claim.

"The question being put, the House divided, for the motion, 6, against 9."

PROFESSORIAL WIT

MONTREAL — (CP) —It was an imposing occasion—the public inaugural lecture by Dr. D. O. Hobb, distinguished psychologist of McGill University. His topic: "The Psychology of Hocus Pocus."

— Notes By The Way —

A truckload of documents dating back to 1600 has been found during the year in a pigpen near Doncaster, Yorkshire. The papers are said to throw new light on local history and customs. One of the customs, evidently, is not to clean out pigpens any more often than once in 360 years.—Brantford Expositor.

A few days ago the German Federal Ministry for Refugees estimated that (a year after the agreed date of release) at least 200,000 Germans are still held in Russia. The Prisoners of War Registry in Berlin puts the figure at over 350,000. On the other side of the world the Russians claim that repatriation is practically complete. But in the Allied Council in Tokyo the American representative has pointed out that 376,000 Japanese prisoners are still unaccounted for. Either they are still captives, or they have died in captivity. —London Herald.

Six descendants of a king who sent his 100 wives home when he became a Christian and "started to go to church in a top hat" have arrived in Britain from the Seychelles. Old King Prempeh I of Ashanti could tell tales of the Seychelles. He was exiled there in 1896 by the British who were determined to put a stop to his cruelties and misgovernment in the Gold Coast. He was there for 28 years. And a very pleasant exile it was too. He had an official allowance and a nice line on the side with his rickshaws, which he hired out to the local gentry. They made him a magistrate. His justice might not have been all that could be desired, but it worked. Wrongdoers were fined in bottles of rum, which ex-King P's court afterwards drank. In 1924 Britain, ever ready to forgive, approved his return to Ashanti — as a private person.—London Daily Mail.

Movie-makers are discovering education in a big way. Last year producers from coast to coast — including a few of the big movie companies—made more than four times as many teaching films for the schools as entertainment features for the movie houses. The instructional movies are shorter than the super-colossal epics, of course; usually they are only one or two reels. Even so, the running time of such films turned out in 1949 was almost half that of Hollywood's feature picture output. Nearly 1,500 new shorts providing guidance on almost everything from atoms to zoology were completed last year, according to estimates of Film World, a trade paper. That's double the number shot in 1948. One of the fans, the Los Angeles city school system, previewed 940 movies for possible purchase in the 12 months through November, 268 per cent more than we similarly pondered in 1946.—Wall Street Journal.

The one radical fault of our Canadian universities is that they lack money. They need large gifts and great endowments. So long as they have to keep up their present undignified begging from governments and wealthy people they will work at a disadvantage. The great universites of Europe and the U. S. A. are wealthy, and they can afford to disregard foolish criticism. At present our universities are teaching institutions solely; they cannot afford to keep learned men on their staff for research and scholarship alone. Princeton supports Professor Einstein in order that he may have leisure to think, and his thinking enriches the world immeasureably. Oxford supports one college, All Souls, which is composed entirely of learned men, untroubled by undergraduates, who have for centuries produced works of learning of one sort and another. Our Canadian universities need money; when they have that, all other virtues will be added unto them. — Peterborough Examiner.

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