

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887). Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12.

P. E. I. Speaks

After a comparatively short election campaign, the Jones Liberal Government was returned to power yesterday with an increased majority, all the portfolio holders being elected.

Several other questions were raised in the various platforms, but towering over all was this claim and insistence by Premier Jones and his supporters that the paramount issue was whether or not agricultural interests should be sacrificed to policies brought in from outside.

The Progressive Conservatives have no reason to be discouraged over the result. It is customary when a Government has been in power for any length of time for malcontents among its supporters to switch to the Opposition at an ensuing election, thus giving reasonable prospects for the defeat of the administration.

At the outset of the campaign we intimated that this election was likely to be a test of the prospects for an early Federal election.

Emphasis Reiterated

The election is over, but Dr. MacMillan's major contention in the campaign still stands, namely, that this Province still awaits "the settlement of our just claims against Ottawa for its breaches of the Confederation agreement."

Comments the Halifax Chronicle (Liberal): "Here again, and from a new source, comes the reiteration of the plea of Nova Scotia—that the financial agreements between the Dominion and seven of the provinces have not closed the constitutional questions which perplex us all."

N. S. And N. B. Protest

Says Saint John Telegraph-Journal in reference to Mr. John Dickey's maiden speech in the House of Commons: "Mr. Dickey felt constrained to say: 'Very recent events have given real cause for concern that protection of the interests of our Atlantic ports is not being sufficient'ly kept in mind."

Very recent events have given real cause for concern that protection of the interests of our Atlantic ports is not being sufficient'ly kept in mind. I cannot urge too strongly on the government the importance of maintaining the principle that our Atlantic ports be utilized at all times and in all seasons to the very fullest extent."

"From the standpoint of straight party politics of the more petty and narrow-minded variety, that statement was almost akin to sedition. It boiled down to a blunt criticism of the administration. Yet what else could Mr. Dickey have said? At the very moment he was on his feet, only 100 of the 2,500 longshoremen in Halifax were working. In Saint John the situation was nearly as bad—around 400 out of 3,000 were working. In other words, in the two national ports, 500 longshoremen had jobs and 5,000 were idle. For each longshoreman lucky enough to be earning some money for Christmas, ten were earning nothing!"

EDITORIAL NOTES

"It was a glorious victory"—or was it?

Since the wedding of Princess Elizabeth the Church of England has included the Duke of Edinburgh in its prayer for the royal family.

The war is not over for some of those lads in the Veteran's wing of the P. E. I. Hospital. A visit or small gift will let them know that their sacrifice has not been forgotten.

It is absurd that the Federal Government should be responsible for the lack of reefer cars to carry our potatoes to the mainland. According to Mr. Hatfield, M.P., this is so.

At the moment, the prospect of the Ancient Colony coming into the Confederation is none too bright. The appeal to Newfoundlanders not to sacrifice their independence and Labrador potentialities is having its effect.

It seems a pity that the contents of Mr. J. R. Dickey's maiden speech seconding the address in reply should have leaked to Finance Minister Abbott. It would have been refreshing to hear the government roundly attacked by its junior supporter in the House.

For the first time for many years the Legislature will contain a father and son in its membership. Mr. Keir Clark having been elected Councillor in the Third District of King's while his esteemed father, Russel Clerk, has been returned once more as Assemblyman in Third Queens.

A customs union of all European countries is probably not yet in the realm of practical politics but it is expected that the Netherlands, Belgium and the Luxembourg will have such a union commencing Jan. 1 under the name Benzlux. The prosperity of these three countries is at present retarded because of conditions in Germany.

New Brunswick fishermen are getting high prices for sardines these days chiefly because for some reason the little fish have almost disappeared from the Pacific Coast. California ordinarily supplies the bulk of the American market but this year the San Francisco fleet hauled in only 135 tons, hardly enough to fill one boat.

The increase in the price of butter is not going into the pockets of the farmer. From the beginning of next month the American duty is to be reduced for three months from 14c to 7c per lb. As in Canada at December 1 there were 40,000,000 lbs. of butter compared with 34,000,000 a year ago, Canadian commission agents believe there is a hold-up in order to boost the export trade in the new year. If this be so, a temporary embargo on butter exports till March 31 should be adopted.

On Sunday, Venezuela for the first time in history will elect a President and Congress by ballot. Universal suffrage and direct, secret balloting were among the first promises made by the de facto government of Romulo Betancourt after it took power in the 1945 revolution. These promises were fulfilled a year later when Venezuela chose a national Constituent Assembly and are among the democratic accomplishments in which President Betancourt takes great pride.

Robert Browning, English poet, died this date 1889, a banker's son, who published his first poem, Pauline, anonymously at the age of twenty-one. His subsequent poems met with an appreciative, though not popular reception, due to their obscurity and ruggedness of diction. His profound knowledge of the mind and heart of man, his fearless optimism, his manliness, his tenderness, and his humour account for the ultimate high appreciation in which he is now held: "A man can have but one life and one death, One heaven, one hell."

This about elections is from The Guardian of Manchester and both timely and appropriate: "Nay!" she said, "ah ne'er voted. Not me! Wouldn't waste th' time. There's no difference between any of 'em. All gob, gab, and nowt to show for it." "Eh!" said her neighbor, with emphasis, "tha should vote. Then if tha lot gets in, tha can grumble at 'em when owt goes wrong. If they don't get in, tha has the satisfaction of grumbling at 'others for not letting tha side win. You're reet so which road it goes. Tak' my advice and always vote ar' I get your own back. That's what they call der 'racy."

Britain's Liberal Party is not yet prepared to give up the ghost and inite with the Conservatives. In a "Declaration of Independence" manifesto, leaders said that the Liberals planned to contest the next general election—due in 1950—as an independent party. They added that "in all parts of the country the Conservative central office is pursuing a deliberate campaign to undermine Liberal organizations." Rumors that the Liberals, who elected only a dozen members of Parliament in the 1945 general election, would fuse with the Conservatives mounted recently when they sided with the Opposition on the issue of curbing powers of the House of Lords. Among the signers of the statement were Mr. Isaac Foot, president of the Liberal Party, Mr. Clement Davies, Viscount Samuel, and other members.

Notes By The Way

Members of Parliament who don't want to be sitting next July and August have the situation now in their own hands. They can work—and talk—with June prorogation as the objective. — Ottawa Journal.

A coroner has once more ruled that no inquest would be held following the death of an Ontario hunter who was shot and killed in mistake for a deer. Inquests should be held in such cases; furthermore, it would be salutary if a few charges of manslaughter were laid. Surely a careless hunter who kills another hunter is just as liable to a charge of manslaughter as a careless motorist who kills another. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

An eminent clergyman visiting Port Huron was golfing on a local course, and for his caddy had a lad full of spice and ginger. At the first tee, the reverend gentleman asked the caddy how far it was to the first hole, and the caddy replied: "Three hundred and fifty yards parson." "Oh," remarked the clergyman, "just a drive and a putt." He teed up his ball, took his stance, and then, wagging his club a bit, he finally drove the ball fairly towards the hole. The caddy hunched up his trousers and peered out over the fairway. "Reverend," he finally remarked, "that's gonna be one helluva putt." — Wall Street Journal.

A few years ago the suggestion was advanced in certain quarters that girls in the higher grades of Victoria's public schools adopt tunics as a uniform type of clothing for classes. The objection, if memory serves was that such a course would tend to curb individuality and establish a psychosis of regimentation. The modern miss, from her tender years onward, is showing an increasing emphasis of interest on dress, and satisfaction of the normal parental desire to see that their offspring look as well as their friends in denoting the family pocketbook. And yet, this clothes-consciousness reflects repudiation of the primary objection to the tunic. The girl today wants her costume to be like the other girls in the school, a plaid skirt and sweater, or a flannel shirt and rolled-up dungarees. — Victoria Times.

Many parents do not realize how dangerous it is to push their poor children. This may result in serious nerve disorders. Comparisons with other children should be avoided. For example, they should not be asked why they do not lead their classes or at least stand well up in them as the Jones children do. Nor should parents assume that their children are not standing higher in their classes because they are shy. Encourage them instead of getting down to their studies. For all the parents know, the poor children are doing as well as their mental equipment will allow. — Vancouver News-Herald.

Motorists are advised by the Ontario Motor Vehicle Licenses Branch to check their equipment to make sure they have the front license bracket to carry the new 1948 plates which are to be issued for front and rear of the vehicle. During war years, and including this year only the rear plates have been issued. The Ontario Motor Vehicle Licenses Branch explained that many vehicles, even new vehicles, are not equipped with the front bracket. Older cars in some instances have been equipped with discarded front brackets. — Ontario Bulletin.

A people's car, with less than half the weight of conventional cars, and framebody unit free from rivets, will be produced in South Australia soon. A prototype is now going through a gruelling 5,000-mile road test. Of seven horsepower, and able to run forty-five miles on a gallon of gasoline, the car will probably be the cheapest on the Australian market. Except for British electrical equipment and some mechanical details, the car will be wholly Australian made. — Australian News.

We hope the people who are working the ways of meeting Canada's dollar problem know about the two monkeys down in the United States. These two monkeys were put by a researcher in separate cages side by side. In each cage was a coin-operated vending machine. One coin dropped in the correct slot produced food; another type of coin in its proper slot produced water. Before long, the monkeys got the selling figured out. They used the right coin for water, the right one for food. Then the researcher tried something else. One monkey got coins good only for water; the other monkey coins good only for food. There was fierce chattering from the monkey cages, much angry stamping from the thirsty monkey and from the hungry monkey. But it didn't last long. The monkeys were smart. They were soon exchanging coins through the bars. Both were soon contentedly fed—with food and water. Here we Canadians are with our economy functioning at the highest level in history. So is the monkey. But we stand on the verge of a new era of restrictionism with all its inevitable miseries, because, unless the monkeys, we haven't found a way to get enough of the right kind of coins to supply our needs. — Financial Post.

Now a doctor says that, in addition to driving onlookers crazy, bubble gum causes ear infections. One Dr. Edward A. Piszczek of Chicago, Cook County health director, also puts the bee on clar-

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.

REPLY TO "ANGUS FOX"

Sir.—The Guardian of Dec 3 contained an article re civic affairs in the town of Souris, the writer apparently lacking the courage to come out of his foxhole over his own signature. Sometimes a man's vocabulary betrays him, however. In this case it worked the "hat-trick" to perfection. He depicts Souris as a town down and out financially and otherwise with grass growing on the sidewalks, laboring men and fishermen suffering from his heavy taxes, and visualizing with alarm what the coming winter has in store for them. Yet in the face of this pessimistic picture of misery and hardship, the social life goes merrily along. Bingo, movies and dance halls are always well patronized. If the people who patronize these entertainment centres take the same attitude or even have a small portion of Mr. Fox's vivid imagination, they would endeavor to conserve their finances in preparation for what the future has in store for them. Why did not Mr. Fox offer to nominate for Mayor or Councillor? He appears to know the town's history since it was incorporated. A man with such a background would surely be a tower of strength to the Council. (He might try and dictate to the Doctors.)

Mr. Fox would prefer business and professional men to grace the Council chamber, Major Gallant is a business man, being a member of the Eastern Packing Company, a firm that located in Souris a few years ago and built and equipped a modern fish cannery plant that employs over fifty men and women during the summer and fall months. In winter they can chicken and meat with a little reduced staff. The company recently installed a refrigeration plant where citizens of the town. If they so desire, can store any perishable food-stuffs. Is not a man of that calibre worthy of being termed a business man?

Comparing Souris with other incorporated Island towns, I think we are up-to-date. We can boast of two fish canneries, three large potato warehouses, a moving picture house, two modern filling stations, two good hotels, a skating rink, and last but not least, two undertaking parlors. Did we have all these things in the gay Nineties?

In conclusion I invite Mr. Fox to one of our monthly "speak-easy" Council meetings. It is his privilege, also that of any other taxpayer. If he wishes he can address the Council and any instruction or criticism will be carefully considered. We might also discuss the advisability of securing the same street and sidewalk workman for the same kind of work next summer. I don't know if this will meet with Mr. Fox's hearty approval.

I am Sir, etc. A. A. MACINNIS.

Souris, Dec. 8

The Poet's Corner

TO A SNOW-FLAKE

What heart could have thought Past our devised (O filligree poet!) Fashioned so purely. Fragtly, surely, From what Existential Imaginative metal. Too costly for cost? Who hammered you, wrought you, From argentine vapor? Whose hammer, shaper, Passing surmised? He hammered. He wrought me. From curled silver vapor. To lust of his mind:— With His hammer of wind, So purely, so palely. Mightily, frailly. Inscribed and embossed, With His hammer of wind, And His graver of frost." —Francis Thompson.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

EARLY OPERATION

From the Royal Gazette, Charlottetown, June 10, 1884: "On Thursday, the 28th of May, Mr. Robert Mackay of St. Peter's Bay, having been suddenly attacked with Strangulated Hernia, underwent the important operation for that perilous accident, which was net, saxophones, ocarinas, toy flutes and other tin whistle types—all can cause ear infections. It would be a pretty thought to believe that the danger of ear trouble would deter the bubble-gummers and an even prettier one, many would say, to believe that it would in any way inhibit saxophone, clarinet and ocarina players—but it's too big a hope. What's a little ear infection! After all, everybody knows that eating green apples will cause stomach aches, but does it stop anybody from eating 'em?—Windsor Star.



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performed by Mr. Mackleson—it consists in bringing into view, by means of an incision, the incarcerated portion of the intestines, removing the constriction with the knife, and afterwards returning them to their proper situation in the abdomen. This is the third instance in which the above operation has been performed in this Island, and by the same operation. Mr. MacKay is rapidly recovering."

More Christmas Books

Vicki's Mysterious Friend—By Emmet Atter Jacobs, Illustrated by Jean MacLaughlin (The John C. Winston Co.)

There are times in any girl's life when she has to stop short and think things over. That time had come, Vicki thought, on the day when her younger sister, Margie, walked into the room and asked her to fix the hem in a dress. At first it seemed as if a whole bucketful of troubles had been overturned on her and her family, but what looked like trouble then was actually the start of the romance, mystery and adventure Vicki thought she would never find. You'll like this story about a girl who wanted most of all to be an interior decorator, but found herself running a family instead, taking over a bakery business, in love with the man whom her sister Margie wanted for herself, and finally plunged into a thrilling mystery with the FBI in the picture. Sounds like a real story, doesn't it? Well, it is! Start in right now. You won't be able to put the book down till you've finished it.

Games For Two—By Albert H. Motehead and Geoffrey Mott-Smith (The John C. Winston Co.)

How to play the most popular "honeymoon games" with the latest rules and pointers on winning play. Includes Rummy, Gin Rummy, Besique, Pinochle, Backgammon, Cribbage, Casino, and many other games. This beautiful new book, with two-color illustrations, is ideal as a gift to married couples, travelers, and especially for the teen-age and college-age group, because the unique manner in which the games are explained makes this the easiest as well as the most pleasant way to learn new games. Geoffrey Mott-Smith is internationally known as the author of books and articles on Contract Bridge, Chess, Checkers and other games. Albert H. Motehead is editor of card games for The New York Times, consultant on games to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, and an virtually every committee that controls the laws on tournaments of intellectual games.

The Precious Secret—By Fulton Oursler. (The John C. Winston Co.)

"One of America's unalienable rights," says Mr. Oursler, in introducing this book, "has fallen into disrepute!" The pursuit of happiness seems to be an unmentionable word these days, although every human soul yearns for it and spends his life trying to achieve it! There are some, however, who do achieve happiness, and in telling their stories Mr. Oursler has found the pattern for all men and women who want to lead a happy life. The reader will find this pattern fresh, inspiring and extremely believable because the stories Mr. Oursler tells are true stories about living men and women. More often than not you will recognize in them some characteristic of the people you yourself have found to be happy people—people you know who take life in their stride and find it good because they have "the precious secret." Here is an antidote to selfishness, intolerance and hate; a prescription for happiness by accepting the positive values of a book that will be thrilling reading for those who possess or have had a glimpse of "the precious secret."

Happy Little Family—By Rebecca Caudill, Illustrated by Decie Mervin—(The John C. Winston Co.)

Bonnie was four and very proud of it. She was also a very happy four, because she was the youngest of one of the very happiest families anywhere. As you read about Bonnie and the fun she

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