

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1949

Our Newfoundland Trade

Prince Edward Island did a \$3,000,000 trade with Newfoundland last year and the prospects this year, with Newfoundland now a Province of Canada, would appear to be brighter than ever. Disquieting reports, however, have been circulated recently of numerous complaints from Newfoundland importers about our shipments of produce and livestock. It is strange that these complaints were not aired in our Legislature last session, as they evidently applied to last year's business and the Government must be presumed to have had some knowledge of the matter at that time.

In the meantime, everything possible should be done to straighten out the difficulties which are said to have arisen over last season's trade with Newfoundland. It is for the Government to take the lead, and it could start right away by calling a general meeting of our producers and shippers and laying all its cards frankly on the table.

Varying Party Fortunes

Already in the Federal election campaign Government supporters are arguing that "only the Liberals" can win a majority of seats in the next Parliament. They base this contention on the fact in the Parliament just dissolved the Conservatives had only 69 members out of a total 245 and that it is inconceivable that they would be able to double their strength in one election so as to have an overall majority in the next House.

Such reversals of party fortune, however, are not only conceivable but frequently happen. The Globe and Mail recalls that the Liberals increased their strength in the Commons from 88 in the 1930 election to 171 in that of 1935, a gain of roughly 100 per cent. Conservative strength jumped from 85 in 1908 to 133 in 1911; and from 91 in 1926 to 137 in 1930. Britain in recent times has shown a more spectacular swing. Labor won only 154 seats in the last election before the war but won 393 the next time, which was in 1945, the country went to the polls. This was a gain of 155 per cent from one election to another.

These changes happen because a relatively small turnover of votes can transform a Parliament. The Canadian Government of the past five years has held office on the strength of endorsement by only 51 per cent of the electors. Liberal candidates in 1945 polled 2,352,557 votes against 2,267,703 for other parties.

Besides there is now no such thing as a party standing at Ottawa because there is no House of Commons and there are no MPs. At dissolution last week the process of choosing a national Parliament began again from scratch. There are 262 seats to be filled, and in each one of them the people have a sovereign right to elect anybody they like. Who has represented them up till now need have no bearing whatever on their decision. They can elect 262 Liberals if so inclined, or 262 Progressive Conservatives or 262 CCF-ers. Election day is their day, their privilege and opportunity. Any politician who presumes to tell them in advance that only his party has a chance is calling them sheep.

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation

The basic accomplishments of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act passed by the Dominion government in 1935 are a pattern which might well be applied to soil conservation everywhere in Canada, states Professor F. K. Hare, assistant professor of geography at McGill University.

These accomplishments are (1) soil has been saved from erosion; (2) the wheat farmer in many areas is not now completely dependent on wheat as his only source of income since pastures have increased possibilities for raising cattle; (3) a large scale irrigation and water-use program has been developed.

Writing in the current issue of C-I-L Oval, Professor Hare claims that under the PFRA some 29,900 dams were constructed by 1946. By March 31 of that year, \$22,000,000 was spent for the entire project—a trivial sum compared to the gross value of agricultural production in the Prairie Provinces which, in a normal year, exceeds \$1,000,000,000.

In 1946, the professor writes, 1,361,440 acres of rehabilitated pasture comprising 50 units supported 55,060 cattle, 11,920 horses and 3,989 sheep. Pedigree bulls belonging to the PFRA were provided on most pastures to raise the general level of stock breeding.

The PFRA today is turning increasingly towards the field of irrigation. Projects now under construction in the Prairie Provinces at the St. Mary's and Milk Rivers will treble the land available for cropping. In Ontario, reforestation is being carried out in several localities after the provincial Department of Planning and Development uncovered a shocking story of erosion, land abandonment and uncontrolled flooding.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Musical Festival.

The S.S. Lusitania sunk this date 1915.

Tomorrow, third Sunday after Easter.

Organizers are born—rarely made. Take Mr. R. J. Rupert, for instance; every project he fathers goes over the top.

Asbestos is supposed to be non-inflammable, which may account for the absence of conflagration in the city of that name in Quebec now in the control of the strikers.

Seeing summer hotels, cabins, etc., are to be registered and licensed, it is only right that satisfactory provision be made for electric light and power, and for the Utility Commission to decide on an equitable charge.

On Monday the enumerators will be about their task of listing citizens eligible to vote. It is a duty of citizenship to assist them in making the official voters' list as accurate as possible.

It was probably an ancestor of Mr. Saville, M. L. A., George Saville, Marquis of Halifax who in his Maxims of State, published in 1690, declared "friends are not so easily made as kept." In these decadent days political friendships are more easily made than kept with promises.

Tomorrow's Memorial Day parade, on the fourth anniversary of V. E. Day, comes at a time when the threat of yet another war recedes with the announced lifting of the Berlin blockade. To be worthy of those who gave their lives for freedom we must ever work for peace yet never shrink from sacrifice.

The Montreal Star predicts that the Government will agree to the taxation of Federal Crown properties. Such a move would have an immediate effect on municipal financing particularly in the various capitals, seaports and air bases. This would be better than expected as the most asked for was that government properties pay their share of the cost of services.

The seven Canadian technical agriculturists who are to tour the United Kingdom intend to study agricultural policies and services. Undoubtedly we can learn much from Britain's technical advances in this field, but unless our farmers are to turn their backs on individual initiative their study of policies will serve little practical purpose.

The handicraft exhibition which ends today at the Art Centre shows that home craftsmanship is anything but a lost art here. The emphasis should be, and is, on encouraging local and traditional skills. It would be unfortunate to turn now to anything like uniform products which may be found wherever the tourist may wander.

Robert Browning, English poet, born this date 1812. The obscurity of his earlier poems, and the general ruggedness of diction of the greater part of his work have undoubtedly militated against his popularity, but it has long been recognized that he belongs to the hierarchy of English poets. His profound knowledge of the mind and heart of man, his fearless optimism, his manliness, his tenderness, and his humor account for the high appreciation in which he is now held.

"Books are men of higher stature, and the only men that speak aloud for future times to hear."

Under the terms of the 1913 Newfoundland Election Act still in effect, all public works projects and relief payments must be suspended for twenty-one days preceding the Island's provincial election on May 27. This does not affect old age pensions or widows' allowances, but it should have a salutary effect in preventing one kind of election bribery which is of too frequent occurrence in other Provinces.

Some public men do possess a genuine spirit of optimism and have faith in their fellows. "When the British Budget was revealed in the House of Commons, I was in mid-ocean. Everybody (writes Mr. George McCullagh, of the Globe and Mail) from the steward to Lord Beaverbrook and Winston Churchill, who were aboard the same ship, showed keen interest in what was going to happen. Late in the afternoon, the news of what Sir Stafford Cripps had to say to the House of Commons was announced. I think the most revealing, the most characteristic thing about the response was a remark which Winston Churchill made, his face serene, gentle and smiling: 'It's a big job; I did it five times. This, I believe, is the secret of it all. The leader of His Majesty's Opposition, recognizes how hard a job it is, even if the job is done by his political enemy. As long as political chiefs can put themselves in their opponent's places, they will never fight blindly and thoughtlessly. They will think and understand, which is the hardest thing to do in present-day politics. So, as one is about to leave London, after the first brief visit since the war, the impressions which were so fleeting and perhaps even nebulous are yet very telling. They give one hope and faith in man. For here in England man does seem to have faith in himself, without appearing to think that his is the only faith. He is proud of himself without the need for feeling contempt for everybody.'

WALTER A. O'BRIEN
Morell, P. E. Island.

The Age-Old Story

Hearken, my beloved brethren; hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him.

CLOCKS RETURN HOME
ADELAIDE, Australia — (CP) — Fourteen antique clocks — five of them American colonial style returning home after travelling round the world for 100 years — have been sent to the United States. They were sold by an Adelaide antique clock specialist to a Detroit collector.

SECOND BEST
"Gene With the Wind"—with more than 6,000,000 copies sold now ranks second only to the Bible as a best seller.

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.

PEACE AND PROSPERITY

Sir,—In my last letter a week ago I suggested that the people should return the Government in order to convince the world that Canada is heart and soul for the North Atlantic pact. The only way to do this is to support the man who has been instrumental in causing Canada to be a member of the pact—Hon. Mr. St. Laurent who has said "there is nothing I have more at heart than peace in the world." The North Atlantic Security Pact will bring together a force strong enough to deter the Russians from attempting to launch a third world war. Do we want peace? Are we praying for peace? Then support the North Atlantic Pact as an instrument of peace. It is a top ranking item in the present election campaign.

Next to the Pact in its world significance is the question of maintaining prosperity and harmony at home. If there is one thing that the present Government can take credit for it is the prosperous conditions existing in Canada today from coast to coast. We are just through with a long winter season when employment locally is at a low ebb, but there has been no want, no unrest, no hardship for want of fuel, food and clothing, our standard of living has been at a satisfactory level and the reason for those desirable results is the working of the Social Security measures fostered and put into effect by a Liberal Government such as old age pensions, unemployment insurance, family allowances, the generous treatment of war veterans, the various measures which come under the heading of health and welfare, and an ever extending and expanding program of social security measures.

I repeat, that just now at the close of a winter season we can look back and take stock of the benefits of social security as administered by a friendly Liberal Government. Here we see performance, not promises. Let each voter ask the question: Is it not better to hold fast to the things we have than to fly to others that we know not of?

I am, Sir, etc. J. P. W.

MOTHERS' DAY

Sir,—Once again this soul-sweet month of May and once again Mothers' Day. We salute and honour our mothers everywhere, young and old, no matter what their lot in life may be. Many of us will stand by graves long since faded by time, to picture our mothers as in yester years. Those who have their mothers with them, remember her on this, her day; think of what she has done and suffered and will do in the years to come.

I turn the pages in the Golden Book of memories and live with her again in childhood; hold her small white hand and listen to teachings of the days that are ahead. I will learn from her again the lesson so often taught me, to see God and God alone in the splashing of the waves as they lick the shore line; learn again to be meek and kind to others, to be honest and faithful to the end; remember again her warning of that day: "When I leave you, you will have to fight the battle alone." She is the one we can turn to when all others fail and turn from us. She is the one we can go to when we are broke, hungry and cold. She is the one who will take us bleeding and battered from any place, no matter how terrible, when we are overtaken by sin and shame, alone in a hungry world we can turn to her, to the heart we have pierced and broken, to the face we have shamed, and there again see the light of undying mother love in her eyes.

In a word, nothing we may do will ever kill that love God has placed in the bosom of Mother for us. Each year as I write these lines I am sorry for so many mothers who are neglected and abused by their very own. But now Mothers' Day is here again, one little day alone for mothers all over; no matter what we have done in the past, let us remember Mother now for in another year many more will be like me, standing by a green grave, asking for a mother to come back, back from eternity, back from a realm of glory, from an everlasting glory that must be in store for all mothers where every day is Mothers' Day.

I am, Sir, etc. WALTER A. O'BRIEN
Morell, P. E. Island.



Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

"FREE RUM" DAYS

Topping the list of imports to Prince Edward Island in the year 1928 (when the population could not have numbered more than twenty-three thousand) were 54,214 gallons of rum, 2,562 gallons of brandy, 3,004 gallons of "Geneva", and 2,058 gallons of wine. This in addition to the considerable amount of liquor brewed and distilled locally at a period when there were no prohibitive regulations. In the words of a writer of that period, as plentiful as water, and sold in numerous establishments throughout the Island almost as cheaply.

In Charlottetown alone in 1826, taverns licensed to retail spirituous liquor included the "Commercial Inn," kept by Thomas Jones; the "Prince Edward Hotel," Sims and Son; the "Carpenter's Arms," Thomas Ferguson; the "Swan," James Mooney; the "New Inn," Colin McLaughlin; the "Crown & Harp," Michael Breen; the "Traveler's Friend," Henry Collings; "Caledonian Inn," Thos. Alexander; "Traveller's Joy," Joshua Trotter; "Royal Oak," John Alexander; "Globe Tavern," John Quirk; "Highland Tavern," Hector Rankin; "Welling Hotel," John Howell; also unnamed inns kept by John Cardiff, Mary Riely, J. W. James, Donald Livingstone, Simon Dodd, John McArthur, William Crabb and Cornelius Little. In addition several store-keepers, including Robert Drew, Dennis Reddin, Charles Dempsey, Richard Yates, John Gainsford, William Condon, John Fulton, Samuel James and William Robbins held retail liquor licenses.

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Notes By The Way

An optimist is a person who is always going to pay the pessimist what he owes him. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

We believe most people will agree with demands being made that there be formal investigations made of old people and children's homes where complaints have been made about the treatment of the inmates. There have been several such complaints with regard to Ontario institutions recently. There is a general hope that elderly people will be treated kindly, without having their outgoing and incoming mail censored and being refused visits by relatives and friends. Such places should never be considered by those in charge as penal institutions. It is to be hoped that there will be proper investigations made in all cases where well-substantiated complaints have been made. — Niagara Falls Review.

Alberta farmers are rapidly acquiring an attitude of trusteeship towards the soil. The agricultural service board movement is a powerful aid in that direction. It is based on the idea of guidance and encouragement to farmers, with a minimum of compulsion. If it fails, municipal and provincial governments will have to step in with a big stick and compel strict observance of soil conservation practices. But such compulsion should be only a last resort. Farmers should be given every chance to tackle this gigantic problem themselves. It will require 100 per cent co-operation from every land-owner. The stakes are big; the permanent existence of agriculture as an industry. — Calgary Albertan.

Up until the last war it was generally accepted that the ocean oil tanker was the lowest cost form of oil transportation, but the construction of long and large pipeline in the United States, one of them from Portland, Me., to Montreal, has definitely established the pipeline as the cheapest method of oil transport. The oil industry in Canada has a vision that in the future it will be possible to deliver oil from the Edmonton area to the head of the lakes, thence to Sarnia and Chicago. In the immediate future the plan is to build a 16-inch pipe line from the Central Alberta field, 450 miles to Regina. The original plan is to transport 50 to 60 thousand barrels per day. — Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

So far as we know, the Russians have not yet claimed to be the inventors of the game of Snakes and Ladders, but they are certainly the first to apply it to political purposes. As many will remember, this once popular parlor game was played with dice and an elaborate board, ornamented with snakes and ladders. Each player cast the dice and advanced his piece a corresponding number of points along the board. If he happened to land on a ladder, he was entitled to advance a few points farther. But if his piece reached a snake, he had to move backwards, perhaps even to the beginning of the course. According to the London Times, the Russians have now "improved" this game by replacing the snakes with representations of people and things considered anathema by the Kremlin. If the Russian player happens to light on a picture of a BBC transmitter, an American film or Uncle Sam himself, he suffers a forfeit. But the worst hazard on the board is an unflattering portrait of Winston Churchill. If your piece comes down on this, you have to

move back 80 points, and practically concede the game. — Edmonton Journal.

Arrival of the broken steamer Milverton at Port Weller for rebuilding, is a noteworthy event in itself. How they ever got that wreck off the rocks and out of the swift current of the St. Lawrence river last year is something to write about. Again, how they managed to get the wreck up river and across Lake Ontario is something else again in marine history. Now the expert dry-dock men at Port Weller have their own problems, one of which is to get the ship safely berthed, without completely breaking it in two. After that the science of ship salvage will be grounded under current and ice in the St. Lawrence for over a year. She was badly damaged by fire and explosion in the first place. The job the Port Weller Docking Company has in hand is practically rebuilding a ship of considerable size. It will be a notable achievement. — St. Catharines Standard.

To the angler who rows his boat slowly and steadily over the lake, trolling, hopes of a trout are dexterly in technique are but part of the enjoyment he receives for his time and effort. Lake trolling is a peaceful pastime, a curative therapy that wipes out the cares and worries of the day. It is a simple pleasure that gives a man time to stare at the fresh world all round him. As he rocks gently to his measured stroke he may watch the miracle of a hawk wheeling high in the sky, questing for quarry on which to make a plunge. He can note the quick frown a sudden breeze paints on the smiling surface of the water. He can catch the shining image of bank growth reflected with new clarity upside down in the lake. He can follow the lazy drift of light clouds moving with little purpose, can marvel at the swift skim of a swallow dipping to drink on the wing. The trout's eye take in the scene and incident about him; his ears catch the notes of uncomplex natural sounds, and he breathes the clean air easily. His mind, cleared of the busy wriggles of thought, rests in temporary idleness and is refreshed. — Victoria Times.

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