

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1947

Farmers' Week

The annual meetings of our Provincial farm organizations open tomorrow night at the Legion hall, and will continue until Thursday evening. Needless to say, the delegates will be cordially welcomed. It is always nice to greet visitors, especially when they come to hold conventions; but our annual Farmers' Parliament is something quite apart from other events of the year.

One of the most important meetings will likely be that of the Dairywomen's Association, as there are many grave problems facing the industry, including the question of regional centralization as a means toward more efficient production.

Last year the question of conserving our natural resources was in the forefront at farm meetings. It was agreed that there is a distinct demand for a program of supervision and education in forestry improvement; for protection of our water ways; for developing our cranberry and blueberry barrens, exploiting peat bogs and Irish moss production, obtaining machinery for low-cost drainage of farm areas, etc.

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Of concern to all farmers and farm organizations has been the lack of progress made in rural electrification. The case still stands as it did last year, when the Federation of Agriculture presented its brief to the Legislature, urging the Government to get a move on, and reminding it that "light, water and power services at cost within the economic range of the farmer, are three main factors that influence the future of agriculture in this Province."

Army Abbreviates Name

Harassed editors who have been wrestling for years with the problem of correct military designations will note with satisfaction that the names and abbreviations in most frequent use are now officially established for the Canadian Army. Prior to the war, the permanent force was known as Permanent Active Militia, or P. A. M., and reserve forces were Non Permanent Active Militia, or N. P. A. M.

The Issue Of Cartier

According to an exchange, there is much speculation in political circles over the probable line-up of candidates in the Cartier by-election, which is to be held on March 31, to fill the vacancy created by Fred Rose's expulsion from the House of Commons.

Ontario and Quebec are drawing closer and closer together, Federal political necessity making them strange bedfellows. Premier Drew of Ontario has announced that agreement has been reached with Premier Duplessis of Quebec for joint development by the two provinces of new power sites on the Ottawa River at Chenau and Cave Rapids, which will result in development of about 200,000 horsepower of electrical energy.

Progressives, and Social Creditors. There are about 40,000 voters on the Cartier lists, and a poll of approximately 30,000 is indicated. Forty per cent of the electors are Jews, 40 per cent French-Canadians, and most of the remaining 20 per cent "new Canadians" of various racial strains.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Boy Scout and Girl Guide Week.

The Provincial Legislature should be meeting soon. After Farmers' Week, when the rural backbone have had their say, probably the summons will go out.

The freight rates inquiry at Ottawa has developed into a legal affray, and goodness knows when or where it will end. Meantime we had better get rid of our potatoes so long as the going is good.

Prices paid by the United Kingdom for Canadian eggs were given in the House of Commons by Agriculture Minister Gardiner, who said prices received at the Canadian seaboard were: A-large, 41 cents; A-medium, 39, and A-pallets, 35.

Does government ownership of public utilities pay? Saskatchewan Power Commission, a C. C. F. Government Crown Corporation—with a profit of \$14,282 for the year ending last December 31—nearly tripled its 1945 profit. The commission ended the year with a surplus of \$339,700—the first year it had shown an accumulated profit since 1929.

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Mr. Norman Robertson, Canadian High Commissioner in Britain, receives a salary of \$12,000 plus living and other allowances of \$28,000 annually, External Affairs Minister St. Laurent reported in a return tabled in the Commons.

Revolution in England this date, 1688, which ended the reign of Charles II whom historians describe as "profligate, untrustworthy, thorough, insincere, but knew when to bend to public opinion, a pliability, coupled with gentility and an air of frankness secured his popularity, and this despite the fact that his reign was probably the worst in English history, a reign, except in Colonial policy, in which there was little but cause for shame."

British Food Minister Strachey announces he will make a three-week visit to Canada and the United States later this month to discuss food problems of interest to the three countries "with the appropriate authorities." Mr. Strachey intended to sail from Britain yesterday. His statement said that since his last North American visit in June, 1946, there have been "various important changes, actual or prospective, in total food supplies and requirements and also in conditions affecting their purchase and movement."

It is pleasant at times having "a friend at court." During some of the war years, the Lieutenant-Governors of Nova Scotia and Quebec received \$4,000 a year extra "to cover the cost of extraordinary expenses incurred due to war conditions." State Secretary Gibson told the House of Commons. The Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia was so reimbursed from 1941-42 to 1945-46 and the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec from 1943-44 to 1945-46. The payments were recommended by the State Secretary at the request of the Department of Finance of which Mr. Ilsley was Minister.

When in New York, Viscount Alexander told the Canadian Society there how he first heard of his selection to be Governor-General. Fresh from victorious conclusion of his Italian campaign the field marshal was called to Berlin for the Potsdam conference. "On my arrival I reported to my chief, Mr. Winston Churchill, and the first words he said after greeting me were: 'Come along for a little walk in the garden—I have something very important to tell you. Canada has asked for you to be their next Governor-General. What do you think of that?' Gentlemen, it is not necessary for me to tell you the answer I gave Mr. Churchill."

Certain people who claim to be terrified by the mysteries of "Headless Valley" in British Columbia, are individuals who are so accustomed to losing their heads, it means nothing to them. —Windsor Star.

Notes By The Way

A life insurance survey brought out the surprising fact that whooping cough kills more children every year than polio, typhoid and scarlet fever combined. That should be food for thought for parents who have more or less accepted whooping cough as a necessary evil for which little can be done, says The Kitchener Record. It is pointed out that many unnecessary deaths occur annually because parents do not take elementary precautions to prevent exposure of children to this dangerous affliction.

President Truman says hasty disarmament would be dangerous. Of course it would, unless all nations went into it with the same haste and that performance has still to take place. —Branford Expositor.

Woman has won more than the vote nowadays. Almost the entire efforts of modern existence are revolving around her. A new theatre is being built in the city, a new club, a new school, a new fair sex. The color scheme and the lighting arrangements must be such that they will help woman to look her best. Restaurant proprietors who know their business follow out the same idea. Even in the more stern fields of engineering the feminine influence holds sway. Fabric motor car bodies are utilitarian, but they are not chic. Woman wanting to be smart, therefore, coach-bull and smart they must be. Wonderful woman. What next part of our lives will she dominate next? —Chatham News.

The unethical professional gambler who never gives a sucker a chance should move over and make room for a new type of sportsman who doesn't give a sucker a chance. When the referee came in at a herd of caribou was travelling through northern Saskatchewan, so big that it took two days and nights for it to pass a given point, these men went into the woods and fired their rifles with telescopic sights and flew to the scene of their sport. Sighting their prey, they had the pilot swoop down. Once near the Canadian Car and Foundry they would find the hunting there just as easy. —Port Williams Times-Journal.

Chemists and soil scientists have collaborated at the University of Saskatchewan to investigate the wheat plant's utilization of phosphorus. What is interesting about the experiment is the novel use of radioactive phosphorus, which is a by-product of the development of atomic sciences. While phosphorus and other substances may be activated in a cyclotron, they may also be given their radioactive quality easily and economically in the process connected with the use of atomic energy. A whole new field of exploration is opened up by the use of radio-active trace elements in plant and animal biology. Just as the scientists at the university under the direction of Dr. Spinks have gone a long way toward the discovery of how a plant makes use of phosphorus from the soil, so it may be possible to begin work on scientists to discover many new facts about processes of life both in plants and animals. This is one of the fields of research in which the atomic scientists are particularly anxious to begin work. But until atomic energy is brought under effective international control, scientists will be handicapped in full development of the new materials.

Incidental to the move of Alberta-B.C. military headquarters to Edmonton, Governor-General Alexander in a speech to mining men at Ottawa the other day suggested that the "new" mining men might join with mining men in opening up vast areas of the country as yet unexplored. He referred, of course, to the Northwest Territories. We can think of no better way to train our army and air force than to combine mapping and building roads into mineral-rich areas of the northward with their other duties. It would appeal to the adventure in our young men and would open up the last great north whose riches we can only guess. Coming from so great a military leader as Viscount Alexander, the suggestion has a great deal to commend it. —Lethbridge Herald.

Oldest of the soap operas is well-diplomacy, with Peace putting her feet in a long succession of well-dressed coats, so history says. —Winnipeg Tribune.

I am Sir, etc. A FORMER SCHOOL-BOY Charlottetown.

The hill. Yet man is the creature of Nature, and can in no wise circumvent her reasonable laws. Anything that is worth the doing is worth doing well. All that is worth having is worth working for in the sequence of man's days. Knowledge is the accumulation of a lifetime, and wisdom is its yield. —Victoria Colonist.

This is by every test an impatient age. Man seems nowhere disposed to emulate the slow but surer processes of Nature, wherein a century goes into the making of a forest, a season to a rose. There is everywhere the same search for short cuts, for the means whereby something can be obtained before it is truly earned. The unrest is infectious, spurring many to reach for the sun before having climbed

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.

NEW EDUCATION AND A NEW ISLAND

Sir,—In your issue of the 11th inst. there appeared a letter written by Mr. John MacNeill, former Island and as seen by the writer, Mrs. Mary MacIsaac of Saskatchewan, on a recent visit to the Island. The letter gives an exceedingly gloomy and depressing picture of education on the Island as seen by this visitor. Her view of it, however, was a very brief and superficial one, and taken during school holidays at that; and while I do not doubt Mrs. MacIsaac's friendly attitude towards the Island to whose people she is so connected and fondly attached through marriage, I nevertheless doubt the value of her criticism, coming as it does from far away Saskatchewan. Having considerable acquaintance with the spirit of the West I can fancy with what grace the people of Saskatchewan would receive a letter from Prince Edward Island written by an Islander who has paid a brief visit to that Province and exhorting them to reform their system of education which he or she deemed deplorable.

I can fancy the brief reply, in effect as follows: "If you really like us and wish to reform our system of education, come out West and help us," and I can assure Mrs. MacIsaac that if like Ruth of old she should decide to make her home in this country, she shall receive a hearty welcome to their midst, and a speedy admission to the P. E. I. Women's Institute or some other society in which she could direct her influence towards the improvement of our educational system. Or better still, if Mrs. MacIsaac is what I fancy she is, an old teacher, she would readily secure a position as teacher in a public school here notwithstanding the awful drain of Island brawn and brain to the Great West she would still find. I trust, that the pupils in our public schools compare favourably with those of Saskatchewan or any western Province.

The gloomy picture of our Island educational system as drawn by Mrs. MacIsaac was, however, I am glad to say, destined to be of short duration in the eyes of the public; for on the very next day after the appearance of her letter there appeared a truly silver lining to her picture, in a letter written by a group of writers under the signature of "Community Arts and Crafts Centre Committee." Briefly, according to this letter, there is to be a new school on the Island in which the many and not the few shall be the chief object of interest. The school is to be a thing of beauty and a joy forever. It will in no wise be a typical Shakespeare's school in which the boy is seen creeping like a snail unwillingly to school; nor yet an old Missouriian school, where reading, writing and arithmetic were "taught to the tune of a hickory stick," but it will be a school in which boys and girls will be seen rushing eagerly; and as for the delightful work that awaits them, there I cannot describe it better than by quoting the closing words of the letter to which I refer: "It has been observed in educational research that there is no normal child who cannot be proficient in some congenial line. The art centre embracing all arts and crafts of all kinds contributes to the cultural life of the children as well as to the creative instinct. While they are being permitted to express themselves as 'exposed' to the best art that can be obtained and are unconsciously led to discriminating and to observe the possibilities of grace and beauty in every thing."

Surely now, a more alluring time than this was never piped to youth by the Pied Piper of Hamelin, and I predict for the C. A. C. C. a wholesome salute and hearty approval from the youth of Prince Edward Island.

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The Subject of Speech

(Ottawa Journal)

We trust that as many as possible of our readers will notice the place from the Edinburgh Scotsman telling of recommendations by the Advisory Council on Education in Scotland regarding primary education. We trust especially that they noted the Council's recommendation—placed in the forefront—on the matter of speech. It has application to Canada.

The Advisory Council on Scotland's education noted the degeneration of speech into a "worthless jumble of slipshod, ungrammatical and vulgar forms, still further debased by the intrusion of the less desirable Americanisms of Hollywood," and added:

"Against such unlovely forms of speech we recommend that schools should have a planned and unrelenting campaign."

A planned and unrelenting campaign against the same evils by our schools in Canada—and by our homes where possible—is what we should strive for in Canada. For slipshod, vulgar debasements of speech are all too prevalent among Canadians are all too prone to discount the value of speech; we like to talk about the "strong, silent man," yet speech, as Morley once pointed out, is the one thing which distinguishes man from the animals; the one thing, with the human soul, which sets him apart from the brute. It is the one thing which distinguishes man from the animals; the one thing, with the human soul, which sets him apart from the brute. It is the one thing which distinguishes man from the animals; the one thing, with the human soul, which sets him apart from the brute.

Often in these columns we have quoted the famous lines of King Lear: the lines in which he tells of a "masterless man" who rose, up and discovered words "which were more precious and down to the hearts of all his hearers." "It is the naked phrase," said Kipling, "the naked phrase, which makes or unmake the kingdoms and the glories."

If we were an educationist, concerned with a school or university, we should want to see the full text of this report on education by the Scottish Advisory Council.

The Trouble in Poland

(Winnipeg Free Press)

That the recent Polish elections were not free, that the promise of an honest poll as made to the Allies was not kept, is obvious to all. But the situation in this tragic land cannot be explained merely by saying that a communist government has replaced the old tyranny of the Right. Poland's problem is more complex than that.

It has to be understood, as the Manchester Guardian points out, that Russia now occupies the majority, Russia was as much an enemy during the war as Germany. The German invasion was not a friendly Polish government, but a German occupation by the Russian. The Germans were expelled but the Russians remained. Russia now occupies the majority, Russia was as much an enemy during the war as Germany.

"In every town and village," says the Guardian, "there are Poles who were ruined by the war, it comes from the poor people, from the proletariat whom the communist system is supposed to benefit. Poland is by the victim of Russia's mistakes as of its own. Russia has sought to force communism on the Poles against their will. Its attempt to control them by force has failed. Friendship inflicted by force is seldom a success. The net result is that Russia finds on its border a friendly Polish government, but a hostile Polish people."

To maintain in power a government which the people do not want to support, Russia's policy is to create a friendly Poland by allowing the Polish people to elect a government of their own choice. So long as the government is regarded as the agency of a conqueror there will be no real stability in Poland and no end of trouble for the Russians.

The United States appealed to Russia before the Polish elections for a fair vote in accordance with the sanctity of international agreements. The practical application of this is to be served by the present practice of democracy in Poland.

Oldest of the soap operas is well-diplomacy, with Peace putting her feet in a long succession of well-dressed coats, so history says. —Winnipeg Tribune.



FROM "THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL"

Jesus was sitting in Moses' chair. They brought the trembling woman there. Moses commands she be stoned to death. What was the sound of Jesus' breath? He laid His hand on Moses' law: The ancient Heavens, in silent awe, Writ with cures from pole to pole, All away began to roll.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

FIRST SCHOOL INSPECTOR

In 1837 the first official inspector of schools for Prince Edward Island was appointed in the person of Mr. John MacNeill, formerly Chief Clerk in the House of Assembly. He held the situation for ten years, during which time he effected much improvement. His first report was published in October, 1837, and gave a graphic description of the educational condition of the country at the time. He noted, among other things, that "at East Point, King's County, is a school taught by a competent teacher, John Slattery, in which I met with the only Latin scholars taught in any school on the Island."

Many of the teachers seen to have been people who had proved unsuccessful in several other occupations; often they were of poor character, and still poorer scholarship. They received all kinds of marketable and, perhaps, unmarketable, articles as remuneration for their services. They were in the habit of transferring of knowledge to the child by the imposition of hands, as well as by application of the birch. The teacher received his board by going from house to house, and spent the night at his leisure in chopping firewood, rocking cradles and nursing babies.

At this period the schools were supported by voluntary contributions, aided by partial assessments and Legislative grants. In 1837 there were 51 schools and 1,848 scholars. In 1841 the schools numbered 121 and the scholars 4,356. By the report of 1851 the number of schools had increased to 135 with a total enrolment of 5,366. At this time there were three school inspectors, one for each county: John MacNeill for Queen's, John Arbuckle for Prince and John Ross for King's. In October 1853, John M. Slarkie was appointed inspector of schools for the whole Island. He was a graduate of Stow's Normal School, Glasgow, Scotland. In 1856 there were in operation 368 schools attended by 11,000 scholars. 50 of these were both schools and school number almost doubled during the six years, 1850-1856.

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