

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, MAY 3, 1948

The Musical Festival

This week is dedicated to sweet harmony. The annual Competitive Musical Festival, sponsored by the Prince Edward Island Musical Festival Association, opens officially this evening with addresses by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, the Premier, the Mayor and other prominent citizens. The business part of the Festival, however, will open at 2 p.m. and will be well under way before the evening. From then on the programme continues strenuously until Saturday. An entry list of over 500 contestants, with tempting scholarship awards unprecedented in the Association's history, indicates that this will be a banner Festival year, and there is no doubt as to the keen public interest with which the events will be followed. The contests are being held in the Prince of Wales auditorium, and the main problem will doubtless be to find seating accommodation for the audience, which last year packed the hall to capacity.

Musical festivals are of long standing in Europe and the British Isles, but it was not until 1945 that the movement was inaugurated here. As usual it was at a Women's Institutes convention that the idea took shape. No immediate action was taken on a resolution passed at that meeting, but a few months later a local group of Institutes comprising Central, East and West Royalty, Harrington, South Milton, Maple Hills, Brackley Beach, Spring Park and Parkdale organized a Festival committee which went to work under the skilled direction of Mr. Walter McNutt, A.T.C.M. The syllabus drawn up at that time has formed the framework of later Festival programmes. This year's programme, both in variety and in the number of competitors, eclipses anything heretofore attempted.

The Association president, Mr. R. F. Muggford, A.R.C.O., has been a host in himself in organizing the Festival; but he modestly declares it is due chiefly to the able support of his executive, committee convenors and active members from all parts of the Province. This underlines an essential feature of the movement, which is a community enterprise and not something superimposed from without or from above.

The Association was fortunate in obtaining as adjudicator Mr. David Ouchterlony, who holds an important position with the Conservatory of Music at Toronto and is organist and choir director of the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in that city.

Farm Accidents

A word to the wise is implied in figures recently released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which show that there are more accidents in the month of May on Canadian farms than in any other month of the year. The safest month is January. December has 10 per cent more accidents than January, and in order of increasing danger, the months are: January, December, June, April and August, March and September, July, February, October and May. A sample survey of 11,000 Canadian farms made in June, 1947, by the Bureau, produced an estimate of 37,200 farm accidents for the year 1946-1947. These accidents were classified by geographical areas, by age, sex and type of accident. The results indicate that in experiencing a total of 20,800 accidents, prairie farmers accounted for 55.9 per cent of all farm accidents, with only 32.9 per cent of the total Canadian farm population. This high percentage is no doubt due to the great development of farm mechanization in the West. Quebec had fewer farm accidents than any other Province.

According to the figures, farm women have four chances of avoiding an accident to every one for a man, with only 7,200 accidents for the year of the survey, as compared with 30,000 for men. Women have more accidents resulting from burns than men, but only about one chance in 12 of having an accident from crushing. Of 37,200 accidents of all kinds by both men and women, 15,400 resulted from falls. Farm folks have about as many chances of being accidentally crushed as they have of being cut or pierced with some instrument. The latter caused 5,700 accidents, while 5,400 resulted from crushing.

Only 3,900 accidents occurred in farm houses, as against 6,300 reported in barns and outbuildings. It is apparently safer to leave the farm and go to town than to go to the barn, because only 5,500 accidents occurred off the farm. Strangely enough, the most dangerous place is in the middle of a field, 21,500 farm accidents in 1946-1947 occurred in fields and other outdoor parts of the farm. Almost one out of three of all farm accidents is due to a fracture, and nearly one in five is a sprain or strain.

The same surveys recorded damage from farm fires for the year ending June, 1947. There were approximately 8,000 farm fires in Canada. In proportion to number of farms, there were more fires in Ontario, where there were 2,400, as compared with 1,600 in Quebec.

The most important single cause of farm fires is from heating or cooking equipment, which was responsible for 1,900; poor chimneys and flues caused 800 fires; sparks on roofs that would burn 600; lightning 700; inflammable liquid 900; electric wiring 300, and other miscellaneous and unknown causes 2,800. All of these Canadian

farm fires caused a loss of \$10,254,000, and only 36.8 per cent of it could be recovered by insurance.

The moral is writ large in these statistics: Be careful; be more careful; be most careful.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The 1948 Musical Festival commencing today may be expected to provide a week of pleasure to music lovers.

It is still not clear whether the Government or Canada Packers are running the Charlottetown plant, but it is noteworthy that application for office jobs must be made to the Packers.

The Commons price committee last week traced the high cost of meat back to the price paid the farmer. If they had looked a little further they would probably have found that the farmer's cost of production is also up.

Perhaps Premier Jones was right in making his Ottawa trip unaccompanied by expert advisers. As Premier Stuart Garson of Manitoba put it: "It is a matter of getting them to change their minds. It is as simple and as difficult as that."

Revenue Minister McCann told the House of Commons that if a farmer is not taxable there is no legal obligation on him to file an income tax return. However, he added, it was "very desirable" that the farmer file a return, especially if he wants at some later date to report his tax on the three-year averaging basis allowed farmers.

A Massachusetts professor has announced a new method of making a very tough synthetic rubber which he predicts will replace both natural rubber and present synthetics for auto tires. The value of such an invention seems questionable when the raw material is something so much in demand as is petroleum.

On the agenda of the conference of the International Labour Organization when it meets at San Francisco June 17th will be a draft treaty stipulating that unions "shall not be liable to be dissolved or have their activities suspended by administrative authority" and shall have the right to join international federations. If the treaty is accepted and ratified Canada would seem to be in breach of it as long as the Island's present labour legislation is in effect.

It seems odd, tough turkeys are sold in Montreal and Toronto to grocerias and restaurants and not to the ordinary consumers. Mr. Jules Lambert, a Montreal commission agent, explained to the Prices Committee he sold turkeys to a Montreal firm of grocerias but never C-grade birds. "You can't sell old turkeys to retailers," Mr. Lambert said. "They're bought by restaurants and eating places." A startled member of the committee asked: "Does the parliamentary restaurant buy old turkeys?" "Well," said Mr. Lambert, "probably."

Tom Hood, English humorist and poet, died this date 1845; trained as an engraver, later became sub-editor of London Magazine; published Odes and Addresses to Great People (1825) Whims and Oddities, and in 1830 launched Hood's Comic Annual. His life was a long struggle with ill-health and debt; he was at heart a serious writer, and his The Song of the Shirt, which appeared in Punch in 1843, stimulated more than anything else of that day the movement for social reform: "Hys was the Blisse of Ignorance, but We, being born to be learned, and unhappye withal, have noight but the Ignorance of Blisse."

Mr. F. M. Nash and Mr. W. R. Shaw, who ought to know, assure us that our egg and dairy producers will not be affected by the increased freight and express rates, though it is different with our raw products, potatoes, etc., which reach their markets by the long haul. It comes back then to still follow the advice of the late Professor Robertson, father of our dairy industry, and concentrate largely on butter, cheese, eggs and poultry, together with hogs, which in rural economy is good both for the pocket-book and the soil.

A long indictment of the Truman Administration issued by the Republican National Committee uses the word "double-talk" in the sense that it seems now to have acquired to the exclusion of its original meaning. Double-talk originally called for skillful interweaving of absolute meaningless words into a conversation so that the hearer was almost convinced that what he had heard made sense. But what the Republican National Committee means by "double-talk" is that Mr. Truman told one story on Friday and another on Monday; or that what he said he would do on Friday was poles apart from what he did on Monday.

Confession is good for the soul even of a politician. Hon. Mr. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour was in a tight corner in the House the other day when being questioned by members on the Government's profit and loss account. On the subject of the Government running businesses at a loss, he waxed voluble. "Take this House of Commons as an example," he suggested. "We cannot even run a restaurant. You get a \$1.75 meal for 75 cents, but who pays for it? The people of this Dominion of Canada pay. We cannot even run a barber shop on a sound basis. You get a 60 cent hair cut for 35 cents." The House listened with eager interest. "Is that true?" demanded one M. P. "Of course, it's true, and my honorable friend knows it's true," Mr. Mitchell retorted with fine scorn. "That is a debatable point," C. E. Johnston (SC-Bow River) interjected energetically, but ambiguously. "Let my honorable friend go into any union shop in Toronto and try to get a hair cut for 35 cents," said the Minister.

Notes By The Way

When you get down in the mouth think about Jonah. He came out all right. - Galt Reporter.

High tobacco prices here (28 cigarettes cost 70 cents) have decided more than 1,000 farming smokers to grow their own. Several of our London neighbours were at the club's first meeting this week. They are organizing groups throughout Britain to form a "seed pool" and discuss cultivation. The idea was started by an Essex vicar who smokes five ounces of his garden-brand tobacco a week — and likes it. - NANA correspondent in London.

Those who complain that we have lost the art of conversation are sadly mistaken if they think people cannot talk intelligently. It is the art of listening that we have lost and it is undoubtedly because of the fact that in this day everybody takes newspapers and magazines, and each citizen is so well informed that he wishes to do a great deal of talking. Even when others in the company have the floor he is not listening, out is turning over in his mind the things he will say when it is his turn to talk. Good listeners are so rare today that when you meet one and notice that he is paying strict attention you are embarrassed. - Otham News.

Someone is forever telling us that one swallow does not make a summer. But what is the good of the first swallow, skimming on his side through the April afternoon, if it cannot raise a vaunted hope or encourage us to defy the gloomy and the unco crocksmen? If they are right, those folk who are for ever deriding the first man to try a thing, forever predicting disaster and living cautiously for a perfectly hypothetical old age, then let me, pray, be wrong. May I still, when I can count my hairs, be given grace and fortune in the chill Spring weather to say when first I see the wild swirl of the swallow that Winter is over and done. - Donald Culross Peattie in "An Almanac for Moderns."

Britain's House of Commons was almost completely destroyed in a German air attack May 10, 1941. It had been hoped that contractors would have a new House of Commons ready by the spring of 1946 but the Ministry of Works has recently announced that in present circumstances "it is doubtful if the date can be met. Architects of the new building, which is to cost \$5,000,000, have had to plan with Britain's respect for tradition in mind and, at the same time, introduce a few revolutionary features — such as sound amplifying, air conditioning and, most astounding of all, foot warmers! Each occupant of the chamber will have a heating panel under his feet and, as the architects rather drily declare, "a gentle current of air from varying directions around his head." The foot warmers and gentle air currents should enable members to debate grave issues with warmer feet and cooler heads. - Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

A Briton set out the other day to explain why telephone cords get twisted, as for some perverse reason they do. His theory — take it or leave it — is that most men and 90 percent of the women lift the receiver with their right hand, then transfer it to their left, which results in a little kink in the cord, and after a time the kinks add up to a full-grown twist. He could be right. But as the plucking up and putting down is done automatically, even unconsciously, phone users with twisted cords will have to decide whether they're victims of their ambidexterity. If not, then they'll know they have a little gremlin in their homes and nothing can be done about it. - Windsor Star.

Dr. J. Harry Geddes took occasion to warn London Kivans that in his opinion: "Exercise addicts have a streak of the Puritan in them that makes them think comfort is immoral." It was the good doctor's reply to the positive charges of another Kivania, Charles Martin, that the members brisk up a bit and flex their muscles. He suggested sprinting, long-distance running and hurdling. The other members, however, felt shame in admitting that ease and comfort were more in their line, and when Dr. Geddes took the stand on their behalf, they felt much relieved. So do we. Kivania Martin is an energetic hot gossiper for the vigorous life and we respect him for it, but we are glad his intolerable motion was defeated. Why run when you can walk? Why walk when you can sit? This is spring. - London Free Press.

An interesting case is now going on in Britain over golf balls. It seems that last year a gentleman named Herbert was found on a golf course with a pocketful of golf balls. Although he claimed to have found the balls as a result of diligent search, he was brought into court and fined a pound. Herbert has now appealed the case to a higher court. During the course of the appeal the presiding justice made a remark which shocked British golfers. The justice said: "If I picked up a golf ball while walking across a common and put it in my pocket, I should not think I had been guilty of larceny." The justice is a non-golfer presumably, takes it for granted that anyone who hits a ball in such a fashion that he cannot find it, really does not want it any more. - Winnipeg Tribune.

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.

EDUCATION IN A NEW ROLE

Sir,—In the emancipation of the human mind from the shackles of ignorance education at different times has been called upon to play strangely dissimilar parts. Today a new subject is being added to the curriculum: "Alcohol and its Place in a Well-ordered Universe" as education. Under the provisions of the British North America Act this is a provincial affair; each Province will approach the question in its own way. While differences in detail to satisfy local conditions will be noted, in broad outline the syllabus will be the same.

The fundamental principles upon which the new system will work can be stated as follows: "The manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages have become an absolute necessity. So great is the revenue to be derived from this source, and so easy is it to secure satisfaction therefrom, let this opportunity slip. Prohibition has been tried and found wanting, and the only remaining avenue of approach to the solution of the liquor problem is through education."

That educational leaders in this country could have prevailed upon to associate with the brewers and distillers in formulating this plan can only be understood when we realize the great changes that have taken place in morals and manners during the past twenty-five years.

Temperance education in the schools is nothing new. For the last thousand years education has been directing its heaviest artillery against the curse of the liquor traffic and the more the traffic is exposed the faster it grows. Neither for a man nor for a nation is education any protection against the ravages of alcohol. The most highly cultured and educated nations on this planet are the greatest consumers of alcoholic beverages and suffer the most, and the illiterate nations suffer the least.

For the liquidation of the liquor traffic education is not a solution at all. It is only a flimsy bit of camouflage behind which the liquor interests exploit their victims and governments hope to get a little extra money the easy way, part of which they would use to provide health services, social security, and other public conveniences.

The Department of Education that would ask our teachers to teach temperance in the schools, while the Government provides increased facilities for the consumption of alcoholic beverages in our hotels and in our homes, is placing our teachers in a more humiliating position than the Government placed the Medical Association when it sponsored that hybrid drinking device known as the Cullen Amendment. If our purpose were to discredit the teacher, no better method could be found than to suggest that he should give his blessing to this sordid and soulless merchandizing. To destroy the liquor traffic is the teacher's highest hope. Ask him to support Prohibition when the law of the land and the enforcement of the Act is taken out of politics, and he will willingly play his part.

If the people of Prince Edward Island are sincere in their desire for a dry Province, they should be on the alert and wide awake when they are selecting candidates to occupy seats in the Legislature. Flooding the House with wet sentiment and at the same time expecting to keep the Province dry is another of those strange aberrations of the human mind that makes us critical of the past and not too sanguine about the future. When we vote for Prohibition on June 28 it will be with the definite understanding that the entire control of enforcement forces will be taken out of politics and kept out. The way in which democratic governments are attempting to control every activity of man from the cradle to the grave is becoming a public nuisance. Right here is a splendid opportunity for conducting a non-political experiment in the interests of the whole Province. I am, Sir, etc.

YORK, P. E. I. VERNON CROCKETT.

IMPROVED TEMPERANCE

(Note: Owing to a typographical error in the publication of this letter in our Saturday's issue it is being reprinted today.)

Sir,—In Wednesday's Public Forum a letter entitled "From the Pulpit" appeared and, while such letters don't as a rule bother me any more than perhaps evoke a chuckle, I am moved to comment on this particular one.

First of all G.A.W. is afraid that the plebeians will be a force. I don't see why. The liquor question concerns most of us and most of us are going to be given a chance to express our preference with the majority vote becoming the law of the land. If there is anything farcical about that then we are indeed an immature people and the democratic way is not for us. Secondly, the writer of Wednesday's letter wonders why more preachers don't speak out from their pulpits in favor of the old Prohibition Act. Perhaps it is because the preachers are not so sure that it is the preferred way of handling the problem. Can you imagine, for instance, any clergyman brought up in a town in England and then coming to Char-

lottetown in the thirties, seeing the situation and still supporting the Prohibition Act? Possible, I suppose, but not very likely. Other clergymen, not necessarily brought up in England, have surely seen the light too.

G.A.W. goes on to say that the new Temperance Act has but one advantage. That statement seems to me to be merely one man's opinion. Some weeks ago I went to a dance in Charlottetown. It was one of the gayest, most delightful parties I have ever attended in the city. I didn't see one drunk. But, and this is the important point, there was a flask on almost every second table. It seemed almost as if we were overseas again enjoying ourselves at Brighton or Bournemouth. Of course it was all illegal but it was a move toward what we must eventually have and was definitely better than the old days when quick, stiff drinks of moonshine whiskey were sneaked in back toilets and parked cars.

I mention this because it seems to illustrate how, with the moral liberal view of the public and the experience gained by servicemen, our drinking habits are becoming more civilized. I am convinced that as long as we attempt to push the whole thing underground we will continue to have the drunkenness and unpleasantness that are the shame of our Province.

Then G.A.W. talks about people who like a drink now and then, as being stupid. At least I guess we can presume that this is what he is talking about. I happen to pal around with a group of young business and professional men. Almost all of them drink and they all serve liquor in their homes. I can't see how this practice has hurt any of them and our parties are much happier, easier occasions because of it. In my own home we often have cocktails before dinner and we would be most unhappy to have to forego this pleasure. Perhaps right here someone is saying that we should forego for the sake of those who can't handle liquor. Must I give up my car because someone else can't drive his at a reasonable rate?

Yes, Ontario has Government Control. It has had it for a long, long time. But why should one blame the Liquor Laws for the reported advance in crimes in Ontario? We just had a war, you know. A lot of things have changed in the past few years.

G.A.W. also says that there are



COUNTRY THINGS

The touch of country things is good; the feel of fireplace apple wood, the wobbly coat of a brand-new calf whose sprawled legs make you want to laugh, a fluffy yellow chick, the shoulder of a sorrel colt, a rough gray boulder when you climb the sweet-fern pasture hill. The touch of country things will fill your hands with joy; tough blossoming weed, roadside brambles, springtime seed, tool handles, smoothly worn the leather of harness, grass in rainy weather, the whetstone sharpening a soythe. The touch of country things is life: the fine warm feel of sun-warmed loam, and the latch that opens the door of home. - Frances Frost, in The Christian Science Monitor.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

"BEGIN WITH HERRING"

"Of the finny tribe, I begin with the herring. No sooner is the ice cleared out of the rivers and bays in the spring, than great shoals of herring rush in to many of them in various parts of the Island, principally on the north and eastern sides. The settlers catch them with nets and barrel them up for family use, all the year round. But herring and potatoes are poor feeding at the best, and their herring, caught in the spring, are poorer in themselves than those of Scotland.

"The next that make their appearance are a very small kind of fishes, about the size of one's finger, called smelts. These are driven in upon some of the shores with the tide in such amazing numbers that with a drag-net one might fill several barrels with them during one tide. The codfish follow these and next make their appearance, and the people continue fishing them the whole summer over, a little way from the shore, with hooks and lines. They make oil from their livers which they burn in lamps for light in the winter.

"Mackerel also occasionally visit the rivers and bays. There are a few salmon in some of the rivers although I never saw any caught, (except by the Indians), and a smaller kind of fish called a salmon-trout are caught in several places. I thought them the finest eating of all the fish that they had. There are also bass, had dock, sturgeon, perch, flounders, eels, tommy-cods, alewives, etc. Many of the natives prize the eels above all the other fish, but I never ate them with a good relish, though they are certainly the fattest and strongest fish in Prince Edward Island."

-Letters descriptive of Prince Edward Island, by Walter Johnson, 1820-21.

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still bootleggers in Charlottetown. That is true but he apparently hasn't taken the trouble to compare the trade now with the bootlegging business of, say, ten or fifteen years ago. He concludes his letter with a quotation from the Bible: "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." That hardly explains how so many Island soldiers brought up under Prohibition went hay-wire when they first visited the wet canteen. Temperance, yes, but not the old Prohibition Act. It hasn't a chance of succeeding in our society. Once I talked to a young college sophomore who was going to save the world by converting every soul to the religion of Jesus. Most of us go through that stage but soon see that a policy of perfection is unpractical outside a super-police state. It is like trying to compress a balloon with our hands; parts

Professional Cards

Professional Cards section containing various advertisements for accountants, stenographers, lawyers, and other professionals. Includes names like MORRELL and CO., J. E. BURNETT, LL. B., H. R. Doane & Co., William A. Reddin, J. S. TAYLOR, Dr. W. R. Carson, A. Waltham Gaudet, LL.B., Gaudet & Hazard, N. F. McPhee, B.A., K.C., Matheson and Peake, and M. Alban Farmer.