

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2, 1949

A Fateful Day

The tentative date of January 10th, set
for the Federal Provincial Conference on
constitutional amendments, allows little time
for Provincial Premiers to determine their
attitude, and far too little time for them to
prepare effective defences against the forces
of centralization.

In view of this it is hoped that the conference
will be a round-table discussion of
all matters pertaining to the evolution of
the Canadian Constitution, and that the
Premiers will return home before committing
themselves to any action.

Prime Minister St. Laurent has intimated
in his exchange of letters with Premier
Duplessis, that on matters of purely Federal
concern the Dominion Government will
take the necessary action without reference
to the Provincial Governments. This of
course carries with it the suggestion that
the Federal Government will decide when a
matter is "purely Federal."

With the Supreme Court of Canada as
the last appeal in matters of dispute between
the parties to Confederation, we may
be certain that any voluntary surrender of
our birthright will be noted and recognized
at future appeals. While there is no question
as to the absolute fairness, integrity, and
ability of this court, it did not originally
undertake to guarantee provincial rights,
and its decisions will be largely based upon
precedents as in any other court of law.
This might conceivably result in a decision
against the Province of Quebec, because of
a parallel uncontested acceptance by the
Province of Prince Edward Island.

We may not always have a moderate
government and should the power fall into
the hands of radicals, would we regret the
loss of safeguards in provincial and civic
authority?

The Federal Government holding the
purse strings may find itself with full monetary
control, so that other governments
which were once equal in sovereignty, had
to come cap in hand for funds; then any
provincial government approaching with un-
doffed cap, might fail to secure its fiscal
needs and its electors forced to choose a
more servile body.

January 10th may be a momentous day;
let us hope that future generations may
be able to say of its fathers: that they too
"built better than they knew."

York Again To The Fore

Community cooperation and enterprise
are again strongly in evidence as may be
noted from the fact that the York Variety
Concert, presented by the community, is to
be staged for five nights commencing to-
night. In the spring of 1946, the York Community
first came into prominence for
their concerts when they presented variety
type entertainment which was scheduled
for two nights' run, something unusual for
a country concert. The entertainment was
such a success, and there were so many people
turned away that the management
found it necessary to stage the performance
for two additional nights. This success was
followed in the Fall of the same year with
a five night run concert of the same type.
It was then that York caught on as the
producers of fine type variety concerts ac-
centuating smart vaudeville acts with short
plays. Last Fall the York players scheduled
their concert to run five nights but were
forced to carry it on to the eighth night,
and eventually were requested to stage their
performance in the Empire Theatre in Char-
lottetown for one night, which resulted in
more than 200 people being turned away at
curtain call.

The proceeds from these concerts have
been used so far in improving the Church
Hall, repairs to the church, cemetery fund
and this year improvements will be made to
the York Parsonage. The York Community
and in particular business manager Mr.
Leith Brown and the program directors,
Messrs. Arthur and Harry Vesey are to
be congratulated on the progress and suc-
cess of their endeavours.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is announced from Ottawa that the
Government is favourable to making the
whole of Canada dual language, but not just
yet.

Benevenuto Cellini, Italian artist, metal
worker, sculptor and flautist, born this date
1500. His greatest work as a sculptor is
the bronze group, "Perseus Holding the
Head of Medusa."

The season's first blizzard, sweeping
across southern Alberta and Saskatchewan,

blanketed Lethbridge, Alta. with 20 inches
of snow, forced rural schools to close, caught
Alberta farmers with 100,000 tons of sugar
beets unharvested, says Time.

The 3-man commission's report on "mu-
tinuous incidents" in ships of the R. C. N.
bares many messdeck gripes but is on the
whole reassuring. There is no subversive
activity in the Navy. There are inadequacies
in leadership which the Navy can be
trusted to remedy as far as the exigencies
of a programme of large scale part-time
training permit.

Ottawa theatre director Malcolm Morley
complains about the small number of Cana-
dian plays available for production. That
in turn is partly due to the few opportuni-
ties playwrights here have of seeing their
work produced. The Little Theatre pro-
vides such opportunities and may well prove
the stimulus which will result in the growth
of Canadian drama.

The suggestion of a British Labour M.P.
that Canada should transfer from the dollar
area to the sterling area highlights at once
the inadequacy of these terms. We are not
in the sterling area because we sell more
than we buy from Britain. At the same
time we are not strictly in the dollar area
because we buy more from the United
States than we sell.

According to Health Minister Martin
new regulations regarding the standardiza-
tion of bread will probably be announced
before Christmas. Health department of-
ficials, he said in an interview, have been
consulting officials of the national council
of the baking industry with a view to re-
defining standards. Bread standardization
problems include standards of vitamins, per-
centage of milk powder, vitamin fortification
and other problems.

There is much that the Senate could do
to make the Parliamentary machine func-
tion more efficiently but assuming responsi-
bility for money bills is not one of them.
The suggestion of Government Leader Wish-
art Robertson that estimates and budget
resolutions be studied in a Senate commit-
tee while they are still before the Commons
will not do much to raise the Upper House
in public esteem.

Results of a full scale investigation into
the town of Dresden, Ontario—the only
Canadian community where open discrim-
ination against Negroes is as openly con-
doned—were published today by Maclean's
Magazine. The investigation, undertaken by
social worker Sidney Katz revealed one
startling fact: Although Dresden's adults
keep Negroes out of restaurants, beauty
parlors and barbershops, all young people
under the age of 17 treat them as equals.

Egg prices on October 28 this year and
previous years. The prices quoted below
are for Grade A Large. At Montreal and
Toronto the prices are those at which grad-
ed shipments are selling to wholesalers. At
other points quotations are prices to ship-
pers for ungraded eggs.

Table with 4 columns: City, 1949, 1948, 1947. Rows: Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Charlottetown.

Contestations of the election last June
27 of Mayor Camillien Houde as member
of Parliament for Papineau division, of Dr.
Gaspard Fautoux in St. Mary division, and
of Azellus Denis in St. Denis division were
summarily dismissed in each case in Super-
ior Court. The cases were called in turn
before Mr. Justice Louis Loranger and Mr.
Justice Hector Perrier for the purpose of
fixing a date for hearing the contestations
on merits, but as nobody appeared to sup-
port either of the petitions, and proof hav-
ing been given that notices of the proceed-
ings had been served on the respective peti-
tioners, the petitions were dismissed and re-
spondents were declared validly elected in
their respective constituencies.

Premier McNair is eager and willing to
cooperate towards curbing the sale and dis-
tribution of crime books in New Brunswick.
Declaring that the New Brunswick govern-
ment was deeply concerned about the wide-
spread distribution of objectionable publica-
tions Mr. McNair noted that during the last
session of the provincial Legislature con-
sideration was given to the introduction of
legislation to curb the circulation of such
publications in the province. A study of the
problems by his department, however, had
resulted in the opinion that it would be dif-
ficult, if not impossible, to deal effectively
with it by provincial legislation. Mr. Mc-
Nair added that the province was eager to
co-operate with federal authorities in work-
ing out a satisfactory solution.



Old Charlottetown

THE SCHOOLMASTER

"We called him master because
he was master, not teacher, be-
cause teaching was the last thing
he thought of doing. He had no
appliance to make study amusing
or interesting. His only piece of
apparatus was a short stick, of
good grain and sound head, or a
dichotomous piece of leather pro-
perly tempered by smoke and fire.
To temper this instrument was
considered as necessary an accom-
plishment as the mending of a pen.
A master who could not manufac-
ture his tools was as ill considered
as a blacksmith who should forge
an axe which would not hold its
edge.

"The principle upon which this old
master proceeded was that all
boys could be improved by being
confined in a school-house. All
could learn obedience just as the
most ferocious animal could be re-
duced to submission, if only the
penalty for obstinacy, sullenness,
or disorder were made heavy
enough. But by anything which
could be learned from books only
it must be taken by violence. It
was necessary for the precious
Education was free, that is, free
to all who had the resolution to
seize upon it and make it their
own. Like the Kingdom of Heaven
it must be taken by violence. It
was free in the same way that
the elements are free in the soil,
the fish in the sea, and precious
metals in the earth—free only to
those who are willing to endure
the toil of making them their own.
To cajole, or even to force an
unwilling or incapable boy to
learn from books, was considered
a waste of time and a waste of the
master's time. The master's business
was to maintain order, enforce dis-
cipline, and exact obedience, to
create an atmosphere favorable to
the development of the mind in
those who had minds to develop.
The only escape from this rigid
discipline was into the realms of
fancy, and those who were unable
to rise to those heights were forced
out into the world and quickly
found their place as craftsmen, and
toilers upon the land or upon the
sea.

"After the hateful tasks of the
school, the severest bodily labour
on farm or in the workshop was
regarded as the highest luxury to
all but the few who in some way,
perhaps on account of laziness, had
become infected with the desire for
learning. Upon these few this old
master would lavish his affection
and learning. No pearls were too
precious and no solicitude too la-
borious. After having been duly
punished for such gross vices as
lying and fighting, these chosen
few were rewarded for the precious
privilege of being whipped for
pronouncing a Latin word with a
false quantity. That was a distinc-
tion to which none but the few
could aspire.

"And yet I have seen upon those
rude benches, boys of thirteen who
had mastered the six books of
Euclid, and were not insensible to
all but the few who in some way,
perhaps on account of laziness, had
become infected with the desire for
learning. Upon these few this old
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and learning. No pearls were too
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The Potato Situation

(Ottawa Citizen)
Reports from Washington specu-
late on the possibility the admin-
istration will again ask the Cana-
dian government to put a ban
on the export of potatoes into
the United States as was done last
year. The Americans had a
strong argument a year ago in
asking for the ban. They were
faced with a big surplus of pota-
toes because of a bumper crop of
448,000,000 bushels. Huge quanti-
ties were left to rot since there is
no economical use for potatoes ex-
cept for human consumption.
Washington had come to the res-
cue of the growers at that time
by buying potatoes at \$2.85 a hun-
dredweight for seed. Well, per-
haps that \$250,000,000 and any pota-
toes going in from Canada added to the
burden.

Old Pastures

No more now does the night dew
fall upon
The dewy flanks, the clover-frag-
rant beach
Of cattle moving slowly toward the
brink
Of the windy pool and bending their
heads to drink
The drowned and shivering stars.
The cool, deep notes
Of shaken bells have dwindled and
have gone
To farther pastures, and this land
remains
Companioned alone by weeds and
shaggy manes,
And a broken fence that staggers
into dawn.

Public Forum

This column is open to the
discussion by correspondents
of questions of interest. The
Guardian does not neces-
sarily endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

October Strawberries

Sir,—Am enclosing with this note
a strawberry found in my garden
today.
The weather conditions are nearly
that of August as far as straw-
berries are concerned, and there
are quite a few green ones in my
garden.
I am, Sir, etc.
EDWIN MACASSEY,
Borden, P. E. I.
P.S.: Can anyone match this?—
E.M.

The Age-Old Story

Whose flineth Wisdom flineth
He, and shall obtain favour of the
Lord. — He is in the way of
life that keepeth instruction, but
he that refuseth reproof erreth.

Something Lacking

BREHMAN, Norfolk, England —
(CP) — A warden and a newspa-
per man were the audience at a
lecture here on the history of
Norfolk.

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Notes By The Way

Dr. John Luke Boorman of
Cessnock, New South Wales, re-
cently made an Australian record
for a "flight" shot. He sent an
arrow 800 yards 2 feet using a
bow of 64 lbs. Australia now has
2,000 archers in regular practice.
—Australian News.

Our contemporary (The Ottawa
Journal) makes one omission in
referring to the earlier days. That
about the bicycle. Looking back,
that was an era entirely its own.
It sort of bridged the gap between
the horse and buggy days and the
motor car of today. The bicycle
remains a great invention for the
young and old. At one time it led
fashion.—St. Catharines Standard.

It was something of a coinci-
dence that the day it was announced
that the majority of British Colum-
bians would have to pay more for
their gasoline it was also dis-
closed that one of Calgary's largest
independent companies had
finished staking out the location
of an oil well on Graham Island
in the Queen Charlottes. For
many of us, none too pleased over
the effect of devaluation on gas
prices, the Queen Charlotte pros-
pect seems prophetic. If they
strike oil on the islands or any-
where west of the Rockies, we
can expect cheaper gasoline and
oil.—Vancouver Province.

Nothing prevents the halt, the
lame and the blind—or at least
the partially blind—drunkards,
lawbreakers, and people completly
innocent of any knowledge of
automobiles, from taking high-
powered cars out on Alberta high-
ways. The results appear all too
clearly in our accident statistics.
The provincial government has
made no effort in recent years to
justify this system—or lack of it.
It has on several occasions prom-
ised to introduce real tests for
drivers, but so far has done
nothing. Perhaps the cabinet has
been afraid of moving too fast
for public opinion. The polls in-
dicate, however, that public opin-
ion is thoroughly behind this
reform, and the Government should
lose no further time in putting it
into effect.—Edmonton Journal.

A locomotive builder is said to
be working hard on devising a
diesel locomotive which will
sound like the familiar mournful
wail of the steam locomotive. The
idea is supposed to be to give bet-
ter warning to motorists who do
not seem to pay enough attention
to the present diesel horns as they
approach rail crossings. Well, per-
haps that tells the story. But we
suspect that this particular re-
search just reflects America's re-
luctance to yield its romantic rail-
road past.

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