

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
Authorized Second Class Mail Post Office
Department, Ottawa.
The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
Editor and Managing Director, J. E. Burnett.
Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, DEC. 12, 1949

Another Socialist Defeat

Socialism received another serious setback in Saturday's defeat of the Labour Government in Australia. Coming on top of the Labour defeat in New Zealand's general election ten days earlier, this leaves only one surviving Labour regime—that of the Attlee Government in Great Britain—throughout the British Commonwealth. Britain's general election takes place next year, and Conservative hopes are high of achieving a similar victory under the veteran leadership of Mr. Churchill.

The joining of the two Opposition forces in Australia—those of the Liberals under Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies and the Country Party under Hon. A. W. Fadden—was a contributing factor in ousting the 14-year old Socialist administration on Saturday. But there was evidently a great deal of dissatisfaction with exorbitant taxes and other restrictions on free enterprise, and it is this phase of the situation which will have its repercussion in other democracies.

Campaign For The Blind

A Province-wide campaign for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is being launched today, in conjunction with similar campaigns in other Provinces. The contribution sought in this Province is relatively small, and there should be no difficulty in reaching the objective.

This is one work which scarcely needs any recommendation other than the name for which the institution stands. Blindness is one of the most dreaded of human afflictions, but the facilities and services now available for aiding the blind to help themselves can be used to great advantage. More help by the public is urgently required at the present time, and the members of the committee organized to raise the necessary funds have every right to expect the fullest co-operation. We have no hesitancy in predicting that our citizens will support this campaign wholeheartedly.

Parliament Supreme Over Clocks

We live in an age of machinery and some would have it that it is a machine age. It is necessary occasionally for man to demonstrate his authority over the mechanical servants he has created, and where can that demonstration be better made than in the House of Commons? In that body of men is represented the adult population of the land and the powers, rights and privileges of the House are embodied in the Speaker. It is fitting, therefore, that although the lower chamber is equipped with clocks and most of the honourable members certainly have watches, that it is not the clocks or watches that tell the members what time it is. At the close of an afternoon sitting these mechanical assistants may indicate 5:30 or 6:30 but Mr. Speaker, with all the authority of his high office, declares, "It being 6 o'clock, I leave the chair."

British Market Prospects

Of prime interest to Maritime producers at the Dominion-Provincial farm conference which opens at Ottawa today will be the declaration of the British marketing policy for the coming year. According to the Financial Post, the one firm item is cheese. The United Kingdom has reportedly allocated a definite sum for 1950 cheese buying on this continent, sufficient to absorb all the Canadian surplus. If Canada cannot supply all the U. K. needs, the balance will be purchased by the U. S.

The egg and bacon situation, however, is uncertain. These items await the first contentious decision: how many dollars will Britain allot for Canadian foods (other than wheat) in 1950? The amount under discussion is thirty to fifty million dollars. For 1949, the U. K. will spend about \$62 millions on bacon, cheese and eggs; \$17.5 millions for eggs; \$15 millions for cheese and \$29 millions for bacon. Total British purchases would have been \$95 millions if Canada had been able to fill all her commitment.

Eggs are going to be in surplus next year. Even with token shipments to U. K. prices will be lower. But the most critical item is bacon. It now seems certain there won't be enough U. K. dollars to absorb the 1950 surplus, no matter what happens. The Post draws the following conclusions: If we are to again make a contract with U. K. (for a smaller quantity and at a lower price than the 1949 rate of \$36 per cwt.) then it is essential for Canada to keep U. K. medical journals.

U. S. bacon price is presently and temporarily below the 1949 Canada-U. K. contract price of \$36, but there is no possibility of the U. K. offering the \$36 price again in 1950.

The present U. S. floor price is pretty close to the \$30 figure. It is also due to rise each month until at least April 1, by reason of statutory requirements under the parity price system. The equivalent U. S. parity price in March would be about \$33 after figuring difference in exchange, etc. If the 90% parity is continued by Congress after April 1, the price would move even higher during the summer.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Pictou County's welcome to a party of 85 Estonian D. P.'s is in the best tradition of Highland hospitality, and Canadian friendliness.

Who would refuse to give blood to restore a friend to health? By being a donor now, we can be sure that when the need arises, blood will be immediately available.

Nowadays our Provincial Ministers and officials spend a considerable part of the year in Ottawa. Why not do as Quebec does, lease a suite of rooms by the year at the Chateau?

The annual Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference opens in Ottawa today. The findings of the conference should give farmers a reasonably good idea of what is in store for them for the next twelve months.

St. Dunstan's University debaters scored again on Friday night, out-arguing a New Brunswick University Law School team. Let us hope there is not a bad omen in the fact that the defeated side based their case partly on the P. E. I. Government's brief before the Transportation Commission.

Top U. S. customs officials have been instructed to expedite customs decisions and strive for uniformity of application at the various ports of entry, a step towards removing the "invisible tariffs" which has long made the policy of protection so effective in blocking imports.

Stuffing the ballot box is not a modern habit it seems. Themistocles, who persuaded the ancient Athenians to trust to their "wooden walls" against the might of Persia, was later ostracized for his pains. Now an American scientist has discovered that more than 50 of the ostraka inscribed with his name have identical handwriting scratched on them.

It is understood the I.O.O.F. intend disposing of their building on Richmond St. The Patriot, whose lease expires in the near future, occupies the ground floor. In view of the prices obtained in connection with the sale of property for the new Federal Building, the Oddfellows expect at least \$60,000, the building having entrances from both Richmond and Sydney Sts.

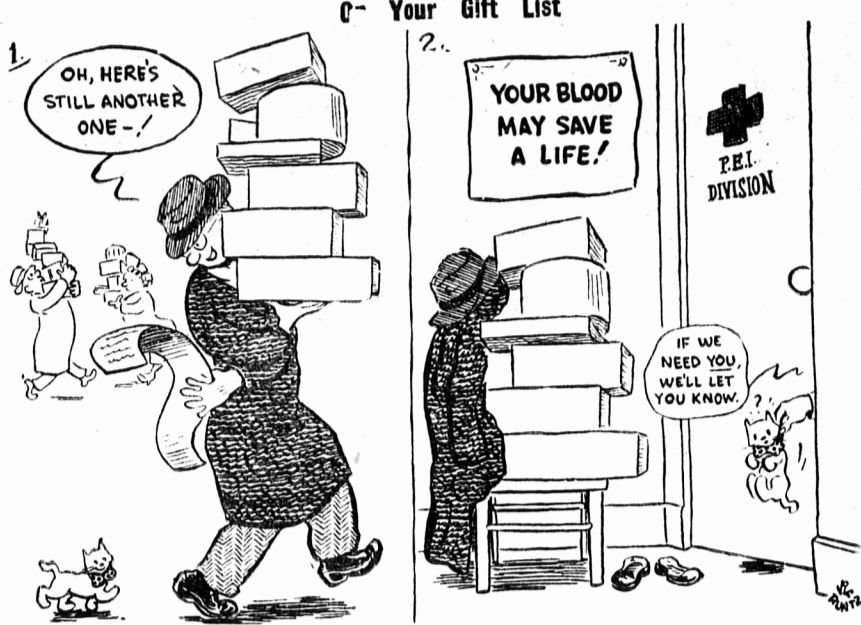
Disasters such as that of the S. S. Noronic inevitably lead to increased precautions against their particular cause, and the commission investigating that holocaust has made the expected recommendations. One of them, however, the proposed installation of automatic sprinkler systems, would seem to substitute the danger of accidental flooding for that of fire.

At Suffolk England, children are filling their spare-time gathering acorns for the British forestry commission. The boys get threepence (four cents) a pound for the acorns, from which the commission is growing thousands of seedling oaks for Britain's future forests. The plan is for hardwood belts surrounding evergreen forests as protection against foreign fires.

Austerity with a vengeance. A United Kingdom Bus Company, commendably dollar-conscious, initiated the use of buses equipped with plumbing, buffet service, and steward, hoping these services on the highway might please American tourists. Bus company must now pay the heavy license fee levied on trucks for carrying "goods or burden." The "goods" carried are cups and saucers in the buffet.

Importing doctors. A spokesman for the R. C. A. F. reports that the service had recruited 13 doctors in the United Kingdom as a "stop-gap measure" to fill a temporary shortage here. In addition the R. C. A. F. has recruited about 25 other officers to fill specialist positions, and "under 90 airmen."

Both officers and airmen were recruited from the U. K. during 1948 and this year. "It can be by no means described as a recruit campaign," the Air Force spokesman said. Majority of the officers and men were taken on Air Force strength as a result of enquiries made in England. In the case of a number of doctors, they had been contacted through small advertisements placed in two U. K. medical journals.



The Poet's Corner

THE HERMIT

What moves that lonely man is not the boon
Of waves that break against the cliff
So strong;
Nor roar of thunder, when that
travelling voice,
Is caught by rocks that carry far
along.

'Tis not the groan of oak tree in
its prime,
When lightning strikes its solid
heart to dust,
Nor frozen pond when, melted by
the sun,
It suddenly doth break its sparkling
crust.

What moves that man is when the
blind bat taps
His window where he sits alone at
night;
Or when the small bird sounds like
some great beast
Among the dead, dry leaves so frail
and light;

Or when the moths on his night-
pillow beat
Such heavy blows he fears they'll
break his bones;
Or when a mouse inside the papered
walls
Come like a tiger crunching
through the stones.

—W. H. Davies

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

LARAMORE'S SCHOOL

"WILLIAM LARAMORE has opened a School for the instruction of Youth in Reading, Writing, &c., in the House lately occupied by Mr. Rankin, in Pownall Street, adjoining Mr. John Doyle's, and hopes by assiduity and attention to merit and obtain a large share of public patronage. "It also purposes opening an Evening School, intended chiefly for the instruction of Females in writing; which may suit the convenience of such, whose avocations prevent their attending a Day School. Hours from half past 4 till 6 p.m. Terms 5s per month. "N.B. Needlework taught by Mrs. Laramore."
—Prince Edward Island Register, June 24, 1825.

Lament For Scotland

(Montreal Star)
Scotland has compromised with her conscience; she has abandoned the faith of her fathers; she has trafficked with Apollon and betrayed a weakened standstill at Bannockburn and the Covenanters. In other words, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews has actually approved a new code of rules with the "hope" ("hope" mark you!) that the amended code will be the precursor of a set of rules agreeable to both St. Andrews and the United States Golf Association. There are rules in the venerable code that impose an awful strain upon the conscience, to say nothing of the vocabulary, and it may be a softer age must be spared such temptations. But, like the course itself, there were the rules and you played it, with them, as they were. You shouldn't get into the rough and lay yourself unplayable lies without getting what was coming to you on the score card. And if, playing with steelshafted clubs, you were struck by lightning, the survivors should, surely be satisfied to put it down as a "rub of the green, take an extra one on the nineteenth and not expect some party-waist rule to permit them to walk off in the middle of the match for fear of a little thing like sudden death. "It's no meant to be," the historic reply of a grizzled Scots caddy to the remark of a harassed novice

The Split Infinitive Too Many & Too Few

(Montreal Star)
The habit of collecting is as old as mankind and grows in variety and — as we sometimes think — in utility as man devises more and more collectable things. There was a story the other day in the newspapers about a man who had the biggest collection ("in the world" of course) of paper match books, than which
It has, however, remained for a correspondent of the English periodical John O'Londun to come up with what must surely be something unique in this line of endeavor. He has been gathering up split infinitives, and quotes some selected ones in his letter.

To the literary purist of another day the splitting of an infinitive was regarded as a solecism no less gross than eating peas from a knife would be considered in the best social circles. It just wasn't done. But the awful part of it is that it was done, and done by some of the very top-flight literary giants of their day, as witness: Kipling's score in the collection is three, "to graciously feign," "to neatly and exactly replace," and "to effectively block."

"Too much might not perhaps be expected of Kipling, but when we learn that Hardy wrote "to merely walk," "to sensibly diminish," "to deliberately deposit," the sky darkens. And when you find Macaulay with a "to fully appreciate" to his discredit the "well of English undefiled" is muddled from one of its purest sources. Perhaps Lewis Carroll shouldn't count. Even syntax may go jabberwocky. But "to even so much as mention" cannot be overlooked.

Poets also may be a law unto themselves. But our collector nabs Browning, no less, in something that is poetic licence in the worst sense of the word, and the cream of his catch.

"To presently next morn at break of day,
Cut my own throat."

That is no ordinary split. That is literary atomic fission. But if Browning and all the rest of them could get away with it and still survive to be admired and looked up to, we should worry.

That golf was a "funny game" would always, we had thought, apply in principle to the hoar and often horrible rules that governed it. It was "no meant" to be easy, either.

The Age-Old Story

But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father, we are the clay, and Thou our Potter; and we are all the work of Thine hand.

(Globe and Mail)
The crowded Netherlands have an over-population problem. According to a correspondent of the London Observer and this newspaper, that tiny country's leaders are seriously concerned about it. The Dutch birth rate, highest in Europe next to Italy's, is 50.2 per thousand; the death rate of 7.4 is the lowest in the world; and the life expectancy of a Dutch infant is 67 years. These facts testify to the robust health and high standards of the Netherlands people; but one of their leading citizens says that pauperism threatens them if they do not find an outlet. The change in their relations with Indonesia has barred the way to the favourite destination of Dutch immigrants.

Holland's problem is obviously Canada's opportunity. This country, it is true, is foreign while Indonesia was still home or an extension of home, like India to Englishmen and Scots. In Indonesia the Dutch language he born with, whereas in Canada, if he wants to make his life here, he has to change both. But this has been no obstacle to a substantial movement of Dutch people to Canada in the past; and none have proved better citizens of the adopted land. More of them will be here soon if Ottawa's immigration authorities, now raised to the status of a Department on their own, are alive to opportunities.

On Utopias

(From a Study of History, by Arnold J. Toynbee)
The social insects rose to their present social heights, and came to a permanent standstill at those altitudes, many millions of years before Homo Sapiens began to emerge above the mean level of the rank and file of the Vertebrate Order. And as for the Utopias, they are static not only as a matter of fact but ex hypothesi.

For these fictitious descriptions of imaginary human societies that have never existed are really programmes of action masquerading in the disguise of descriptive sociology; and the action which they are intended to evoke is the "pegging," at a certain social level, of an actual society which has broken down and has entered upon a decline that must end in a fall unless the downward movement can be artificially arrested.

To arrest a downward movement is the utmost to which a Utopia can aspire, since Utopias seldom begin to be written in any society until after its members have lost the expectation and ambition of making further progress and have been cowed by adversity into being content if they can succeed in holding the ground which has been won for them by their fathers. Hence, in almost all Utopias — with the noteworthy exception of

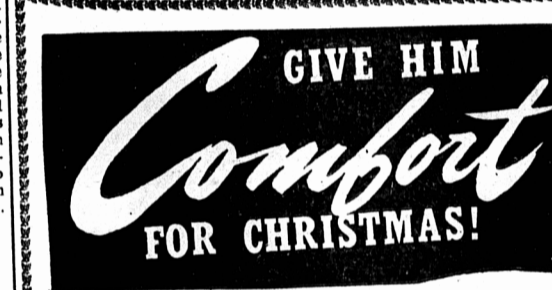
Notes By The Way

The news that the Alberta Progressive Conservatives intend to re-enter the provincial political field will be warmly welcomed by all, regardless of party, who are concerned about ordered and stable government. Politically, Alberta has suffered for too long from the fact that there is no opposition in the Legislature which is able to make its weight felt. There are two opposition parties in the Legislature — if you discount the independent Social Crediters. One is the C.P.P., which, in other provinces as well as this, has been decisively rejected by the electorate as an acceptable alternative; the other is the Liberal party, which shows no signs of gaining enough strength at the polls to form a truly effective opposition. What is needed is another force, which will begin now on the arduous job of convincing Alberta voters that Social Credit is not the only political party in existence. That job has fallen, by default, to the Progressive Conservatives. — Calgary Herald.

The Union of South Africa has the inevitable distinction of being one of the few governments outside the Soviet bloc unambiguously to flout recommendations of the General Assembly of the U.N. Three times in the past three years, the Union of South Africa has ignored the recommendation of the General Assembly that it submit a trusteeship plan for South-West Africa, the former German colony which the Union has governed as a League of Nations mandate since 1920. Every other mandate which has not achieved actual independence has been placed under the trusteeship system. But the Union of South Africa has not only consistently refused to co-operate in establishing a trusteeship, but this year has gone so far as to refuse even to submit reports on the administration of the territory. In fact, the Pretoria Government has informed the U.N. that it considers South-West Africa an integral part of the Union. Whatever the validity of the Union's position, it is clear that it will accept no further suggestions regarding the government of the territory from the U.N. Therefore, a resolution has been offered in the Trusteeship Committee, where this whole matter is now being discussed, to ask the World Court to determine the status of South-West Africa and the international obligations of the Union in respect to it. Once the basic legal question is settled, the General Assembly's recommendation may carry greater weight. In any case there is very little else on this question that the U.N. can now do. — New York Times.

The Premier of Nova Scotia has said a pointed and timely thing about civil servants. In former times, as Mr. Macdonald phrased it, "civil servants clearly understood their functions — to carry out the policies of governments, and not attempt to formulate them." But, "unfortunately", as the premier added, "this is being forgotten today." It is the duty of government to formulate public policy; it is the duty of civil servants to carry it out. Mr. Macdonald was well within the truth when he absolved Nova Scotia's civil servants from this tendency, which, if allowed to continue, could be disastrous to our democratic system of government. Any examples we have

of that work of English genius which has given this whole genre of literature its modern Western name — an invincibly stable equilibrium in the truth when he absolved Nova Scotia's civil servants from this tendency, which, if allowed to continue, could be disastrous to our democratic system of government. Any examples we have



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