THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER, 26, 1945

Distinguished Island Sons

One is reminded once more, in the appointment of Archbishop McGuigan to be the first Cardinal for English-speaking Canada, of the great contribution which this Island Province has made to the intellectual, cultural and spiritual life of the country. To name a few, there have been such men as the late Sir Robert Falconer president of Toronto University; Sir Andrew MacPhail; Sir Louis Davies, Chief Justice of Canada; Sir Joseph Pope, Secretary of State for Canada and biographer of Sir John A. Macdonald; Jacob Gould Schurman, president of Cornell University and later American Ambassador to China and Germany; the Hon. David Laird, first Governor of the North West Territories; Sir William Macdonald, noted philanthropist. In Art we have produced such men as the late Robert Harris, president of the Royal Canadian Academy who is known to all Canadians as the painter of the Confederation Fathers.

The list of Prince Edward Islanders who have achieved distinction as churchmen is even more impressive. It includes many Bishops and Archbishops of the Roman Catholic Church, and many outstanding theologians and preachers of other denominations. This is testimony to the sound moral training which is afforded in the homes of Prince Edward Island, where plain living and high thinking are traditional.

Archbishop McGuigan himself bears testimony to this fact, in his reference to the value of the guidance he received in early life. Modestly he says of his appointment to the exalted office of Cardinal that it is a recogrition of Canada's enhanced place in the world, and especially an acknowledgment of the strength and devotion of the country's English-speaking Catholics. This is true, of course; but it does not detract from the fact that it is a signal recognition of the qualifications of this brilliant native son of Prince Edward Island, already the youngest Archbishop in the world and now to be one of the Princes of the Church to which he is giving such devoted service.

Science And Philosophy

Words of wisdom were spoken by Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, Canadian High Commissioner in London, on the occasion of his accepting the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at Birmingham University recently. Mr. Massey was discussing the new status and responsibility of the university in the world today, and he used these words:

"It is a strange fact that natural science has not only performed miracles to meet man's material needs and has even lengthened his life, but has also led him to the threshold of his own annihilation. Of course, we have always known that knowledge is dangerous, but nevertheless must be pursued. We cannot set limits to our horizons. This is our belief, despite all perils. Our universities are the ultimate expression of that hazard, and this great dilemma of the age is a challenge to the universities.

"Our problem can only be increased by the divorce of science from philosophy, by putting them in water-tight compartments. That has been a growing tendency for too long. Think of atom bombs in the hands of technocrats who ignore the principles which underly human relations. Such men would be as dangerous as statesmen who are ignorant of the existence of atomic energy. What we need are scientific philosophers and philosophic scientists.

"But here is where the university comes in. In this scientific age the public is apt to think of the university chiefly in terms of its laboratories and, what is more serious, it seems to me the university too often falls into the same error. But if one of its jobs is to advance human knowledge, the other task and the more ancient one, is to teach. If we need to learn how to handle our tools, as we do, the university has also in her gift the wisdom and tolerance and the quickened sensibility which life demands. That is why one must be concerned to ensure that the study of the humanities and philosophy holds its old pride of place in the modern university, along with the younger sister, natural science. A unity between them, is, of course, in the true tradition of the British university. Never has there been greater need for such a tradition."

Empire Preferences

So much talk has been heard about Washington's loan to Britain involving surrender of Empire preferences, it is good to have Lord Keynes, the chief British figure in negotiating the loan, saying to the House of Lords:

"Acceptance of this loan agreement involves no one-sided reduction of the British Imperial preference system. . . . There is not the smallest room for doubt in the American Government's mind about that matter. It has been declared to them emphatically on many occasions."

Too many commentators have assumed that abolition of Empire preferences was something that could be done by Britain alone; they have not understood that there were more than one party to Empire preferences, that countries like Canada, Australia and South Africa, directly concerned with them, had to be consulted regarding anything proposed or done about them. Equally these commentators have not appeared to realize that the question of trade preferences and tariffs is not all one-sided—that before the United States can reasonably ask Britain or any other country to do something about tariffs she must be prepared to do something about her own. United States tariffs are among the highest in the world.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

This week will consist largely of "cleaning up" and recuperating preparatory to the New Year.

* * * *

Christmas was never better observed in the Churches and in the homes than it was this year, so many being thankful to have families reunited after six years of ruinous war and intense anxiety.

* * * *

St. Stephen's Day; he was the first martyr; the year in which he was stoned to death, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, is supposed to have been 33 A.D. St. Stephen's Day is also observed in England as Boxing Day, from its being the occasion on which those annual guerdons known as Christmas-boxes are solicited and collected.

* * * *

Women who notice the fabrics that go into their clothes soon will be pleasantly surprised by the arrival of an array of new, longer-wearing, better-looking materials, reports an article in a current magazine. And they'll be even more surprised when they learn that the fabrics were made from such unusual ingredients as chicken feathers, skim milk, peanuts, and seaweed. Called You'll Be Wearing Chicken Feathers Soon, the article predicts many innovations in milady's wardrobe.

* * * *

United Kingdom scientists are hoping to produce what will be the most wonderful calculator in the world — a machine that can "think". Experiments are now being carried out by the newly formed Mathematics Division of the United Kingdom Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. If the experiments are successful—and Mr. Wormesley the Superintendent is confident that they will be—the machine will not only be able to add, subtract, multiply and divide, but from instructions previously put into it the machine will be able to decide what it should do in different circumstances without any outside help.

* * * *

The late Mr. William P. Callaghan, Summerside, was in more senses than one, a self-made man. Beginning with no undue advantages, he pushed to the forefront in farming and fishing then entered the business world as a merchant, again making his mark. When the fox business emerged, he was one of the first to see its possibilities and again came out on top. When its palmy days passed, he entered the wholesale produce and coal business, and soon was on a level with the oldest established and most prosperous of them. He was aggressive and most persevering; even in his politics he was independent and hard-hitting when he felt something was being "put over" the electorate. He will be greatly missed, for he had hosts of friends and admirers.

* * * *

Stephen Girard, Philadelphia's most famous millionaire and philanthropist, died this date 1831; he was the son of a common Bordeaux sailor, and began life as a cabin boy at the age of ten, rising to be captain and shipowner; during the war with England, he started in business as merchant, amassing a huge fortune; when the United States Government wanted a loan of a million pounds sterling and could raise only four thousand pounds, Girard undertook the entire loan; when he died he left one million eight hundred thousand pounds, nearly the whole of which he bequeathed to charitable institutions, four hundred thousand being devoted to a college for orphan boys; he was a plain rude man without education, frugal and friendless; yet kind to the sick, generous to the poor, and a benefactor to the orphan.

* * * *

"The Arabs number, now, about a million, and the Jews half a million, (says Mr. Leonard Miall, discussing Palestine over BBC). President Truman has confirmed that he has asked for another hundred thousand Jews to be allowed in immediately. If the White Paper is enforced and immigration is stopped, there will probably be bloodshed, for the Jewish extremists are known to have a trained armed force in readiness. Meanwhile the Arabs are saying forcibly that you do not solve the problem of the Jewish minority in Europe by creating an Arab minority in Palestine. They, too, have a certain number of arms, and moreover, they have the backing of the independent states who form the Arab League. The Arab extremists are liable to use violence if the White Paper is seriously changed. So the problem of the Holy Land is indeed one which calls for the real qualities of statesmanship."

* * * *

The Federal Government is working on the elimination of subsidies paid in wartime as part of the government's price stabilization policy. Finance Minister Ilsley said in the Commons. Replying to J. M. MacDonnell (P.C, Muskoka-Ontario), Mr. Ilsley said the amount paid in subsidies this year would be much less than in 1944. Total subsidies paid between December 1, 1941, and September 30, 1945, amounted to $296,288,670. There was a good reason why the subsidies were going down. Many of them were paid on imported goods which were subject to high war risk insurance and transportation rates. These rates now were dropping. Mr. MacDonnell said the different departments required looking after—perhaps the Finance Minister could tell the various government departments how much money they would be allowed for their estimates. Otherwise, the Finance Minister would be "fighting a losing battle." Mr. Macdonnell pleaded for reduced expenditure after Finance Minister Ilsley had outlined the procedure in drawing up departmental estimates and said that if the government was increasing expenditures it was because of public and parliamentary demand. Mr. Ilsley said nine-tenths of the speeches made in the House were for "bigger and better" expenditures. "We just do the best we can and that's all," he added.

Notes By The Way

A little patience and understanding should enable returned men to get along with civilians who have been reading books on how to understand returned men. —Edmonton Journal.

A new safety razor lubricates as it shaves. A comb, just patented, sprays tonic when drawn through the hair. A fork that oozes catsup into the beans would be something. —Sudbury Star.

Something more than empty honor will henceforth be paid men who have distinguished themselves by their valor in wartime. The announcement of $100 cash grants to winners of the Military Medal and the Distinguished Service Medal is at least a gesture on the part of the government to give more meaning to these decorations. —Windsor Star.

Without a new approach to our postwar peace discussions it will be hopeless to anticipate for world future anything better than experienced in the past. Wise negotiators in these discussions will realize that the postwar world will be too small an economic unit to harbor for long within its bounds any isolationist group. Also that if as an economic unit it is to operate successfully the nations within it must recognize a pattern of interdependence which makes the full welfare of each member a must in the master policy plan.—Calgary Herald.

The State Department is asking for "a permanent American spy system." We are told it will only be used in foreign lands, but it still looks bad to us. There is nothing new about these international spy systems. History is full of them. They have never produced anything good and never will. On the contrary, they have invariably involved in trouble the nations which supported them. If our State Department cannot get along without a spy system, President Truman should look around for new men to boss the State Department. We have just crushed our enemies, and if we can't get along without friends without hiring a lot of spies, there must be something wrong with our methods.—From Labor.

Whales are the largest animals known. Even dinosaurs could not compete with whales in size, says The National Geographic Bulletin. The blue whale, largest of all, reaches a length of 108 feet and a weight of 115 tons. It points out that a man could stand in its mouth, but that is as far as he could go, for the throat is only nine inches in diameter. Because of this small opening, blue whales are limited to a diet of small crustaceans like shrimp. As much as six barrelfuls are eaten at one meal. Whale meat has been popular for years with Japan's poor. A can of it could be bought for 12 cents. One whale can provide as much meat as a herd of 125 cattle. Those who have eaten whale meat cooked says it tastes something like beef, but is not as tender. —Edmonton Journal.

The 1946 annual convention of the Canadian Jewelers' Association, originally scheduled for Vancouver in April, has had to be transferred to Quebec for lack of hotel accommodation here. The jewelers' meeting, which attracts about 500 delegates from all parts of Canada, needs a guarantee of at least 300 hotel rooms. The highest number of rooms which could be reserved in this city was 175. April was chosen on the suggestion of the hotels, as the slackest season of the year. Possibility of any organization or group reserving 300 hotel rooms in this city, now or for a long time in the future, is seen as remote. This means, of course, that for major conventions Vancouver is right out of the picture. Not an assuring prospect for a city which has, as one of its major industries, the tourist business. The city's largest hotel has now so many permanent guests that it can only rent 470 of its 542 rooms to transients. As for the old Hotel Vancouver, now standing empty, the convention manager of the C.P.R. has stated that the railway is not considering reopening it because of the problems of staff and furnishings. —Vancouver News Herald.

When fall has made a few tentative swings with a frost-honed scythe, a fore-handed and thrifty farmer begins to think about kindling for winter. To comfort-accustomed urbanites kindling is not a major concern. But on the farm, where the fire in the big shining kitchen stove had to be started each morning, it is a vital matter, says The New York Times. From December to April, though a man doesn't have to get up until 6 a.m., the kitchen is a cold spot when the red mark in the thermometer hangs around the low figures. A basketful of just the right kind of fire-starting material gives the countryman a feeling that he has an adequate tool for an essential task. There are, of course, varying opinions on this serious problem. That's the way it should be in a democracy, where a citizen is permitted pet idiosyncrasies and modes of action, provided they do not react with undue harm or inconvenience on the body politic. Some declare dogmatically that well-dried gray or white birch split with the hand axe into very small pieces is the best of all kindling. There are those of equally intransigent minds who maintain that a few handfuls of dried pieces of bark from the floor of the woodshed are not only efficient, but eliminate the work of preparing special material. Many countrymen, however, have come to the conclusion that nothing is equal to the small dried branches of white pine. So on a clear, cool afternoon of the fall such a man hitches his horse to the farm wagon and drives across the upland mowing field through the boulder-studden pasture and into the woods where the pines are thick. There's peace and quiet among the trees. A man enjoys the nostril-tickling aroma of the pines as he loads the wagon with the brittle branches that have fallen to the ground. Chickadees call their greetings; woodpeckers clamber upside down on the tree trunks. A partridge may take off with a sudden whir. There's constant conversation in the branches overhead as the pines murmur about approaching winter. When a man has a good wagonload of the kindling material he starts homeward as the sun drops toward the horizon. Though he feels a nip in the air of the oncoming frosty night, he is content. There'll be plenty of quick-starting kindling for the kitchen fire on dark winter mornings.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

P. E. I. LIGHT HORSE

Sir,—During the past five years of war the boys of "Prince Edward Island Light Horse" have made their second home with us.

As there are too many of them to wish individually a "Happy Christmas", I would like through your paper, to take this opportunity of wishing them all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

To the parents of these boys, I say—they are a fine lot of boys and something to be proud of.

At present we have a Sgt. Fred Howard on leave and although he cannot be home for Christmas he wishes all of the boys and his old friends in Kensington, P.E.I., a Happy Christmas.

To his mother he says, "Dear Mom—see you very soon"—

Once again we would like to wish all the boys the very best of everything for Christmas and the coming years.

FROM MOM & POP BURLEY AND FAMILY,
116 London Road, Nottingham, England.

VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT

Sir,—Only a few years ago Canadian men and women to the number of a million and a half, many of them veterans of the First Great War, found themselves without any employment. They sought in vain for the work they could not find, and the misery and distress of that tragic period, is something never to be forgotten. Notwithstanding this experience, and in striking contrast to it, we have those among us today, those who not only refuse employment, but deeply resent the offer of it.

This is according to "Photo-Basher", who writes to The Guardian, that he "resents very much indeed", the offer of work in the woods that has been made to ex-service men. Work of any kind is not compulsory in this country, but may be accepted or rejected at will according to the inclination or necessity of the individual, but work is absolutely necessary to human existence; and resentment at the offer of good useful employment, betrays a state of mind not to be envied and little calculated to promote the brave new world, which we were told was in the making.

We are further informed that overseas men were served a ration of bully beef, mutton, etc, and for that reason deserve a better job than chopping wood. What earthly connection the ration served can have with an attitude of resentment at being offered such work as cutting wood only the discerning genius of Photo-Basher can discover. Without seeking to belittle his importance in any way we can tell him that his betters chopped wood and were proud of it. Perhaps he has heard of W. E. Gladstone, Abraham Lincoln and John Redpath Dougall (journalist), who were all skilled woodsmen, and as able and active with the axe as they were powerful in debate or brilliant in the world of letters, and a host of others too great to be numbered. Our attitude to useful work of any kind should be influenced by another consideration. In this Canada of ours today we are under a tremendous financial obligation. As the result of two world wars we have contracted a huge public debt. The interest on this must be met. There are pensions for the veterans of both wars, old age pensions, and pensions of many other kinds, also family allowances, and grants for social and economic purposes. If these demands are to be successfully met goods must be produced and services rendered, that will require the united effort of all our people. And the more thoroughly we eradicate the false and foolish the more successful our effort will be.

I am, Sir, etc.
WOODSMAN

The Virture Of Opposition

(Globe and Mail)

It is a long time since a session of Canada's Parliament attracted the widespread and sustained attention which, because of the war's aftermath and the clamor of events within the nation, was focused on the one just ended. It is impossible to know to what extent it has fulfilled the expectations of the people, and it is much too early properly to assess the worth of much that was done. But of one accomplishment the public can have little doubt. It was Parliament's restoration of its own supremacy through the reassertion of those prerogatives which it surrendered to the emergency of war. Rule by Order-in-Council under which Canada has existed for six years, did not come finally to an end. The emergency of reconversion, and the popular acceptance of continued controls on its account, prevented this. But the arbitrary fashion in which the Government has exercised that power was brought to an end in the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act.

The value of that achievement cannot be exaggerated. It is fundamental to the representative system by which we live, the only guarantee of free citizenship. But, apart from this, it re-established the virtue of a strong Opposition. These columns already have paid tribute to the splendid and truly masterful battle which Mr. John Diefenbaker, as the spokesman for the Progressive Conservatives, waged to force radical amendment of the powers bill. The facts of how the Government sought to retain blanket powers, even after it had rewritten the measure on the protests of the Provinces, do not have to be repeated here. But the one important fact to be remembered is that the Government did not voluntarily relinquish the power of dictation.

Had the Official Opposition achieved nothing else in the seventy-six days of the session, its standing with the people would be high indeed. But throughout the session it demonstrated a qualitative strength, as distinct from quantitative, which most observers will readily acknowledge gave fresh meaning to our system and high promise for the future. Few who followed the progress of the session closely could have failed to realize how by its quality the Progressive Conservative group completely overshadowed even the most outstanding of the more experienced C. C. F. group, which during the war years had shown a marked superiority both in initiating criticism and in the thrust and parry of debate.

There were many occasions during the session when the Opposition showed both the strength of purpose and the tenacity of conviction to the end that "great improvement," by the admission of some Ministers, was made in legislation. It is not necessary that these be cited, or that individual praise be apportioned to "the critics." What they achieved was not a party victory, a triumph for the group, but a regeneration of our system of parliamentary government. It cannot be too often repeated that the prime function of Parliament is to scrutinize, criticize and supervise. The burden of this obligation falls most heavily on the Opposition. Only as it honors that obligation can it claim title to the name.

EXPAND POLICE FORCE

CAPE TOWN — (C P)—The South African police has launched a big drive to obtain 1,100 recruits most of whom will be from the army. In order to make the recruits ready for service as soon as possible the training course is to be cut by two months.

QUICKIES

By Ken Reynolds

"—and now I suppose you'll say it's just his IMAGINATION when he said he got them with a Guardian Want Ad!"

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As good as RED ROSE TEA

The Poet's Corner

OVER THE LINE

Trees remember if a man forgets
When the blond father of the corn goes south
Over the Line, the gales come out of hiding
With the year's leaves and white caps in their mouth.

The little mice remember and are shaken
In their sage galleries of etched earth and straw,
Birds solitary throng into high nations,
Turn their beaks south before inexorable law.

The farmer in his bed, deep in his dreaming,
Feels the sun slip to the under hemisphere,
Cries his deep cry, though he knows not he cries it,
Hail and farewell to the green half of the year.

Hail and farewell! Bold death comes red and golden,
On the north sides of all things lies the frost,
And fumbling fingers at the stove and hearth-stones
Kindle thin suns in place of the lovely lost.

—Robert P. Tristram Coffin, in the American Mercury.

15 STREAMLINED CARS ORDERED BY RAILWAY

MONTREAL, Que., Dec. 24 — Fifteen new streamlined cars, ten baggage and the others mail and express, have been ordered by the Canadian National Railways for fast passenger train service, D. McK. Ford, vice-president of purchases and stores, announces. This is the first order placed of a heavy 1946 new equipment programme.

The fifteen cars are, inside, 72 feet long and nine feet six inches wide, and from rail to roof 13 feet six inches high. The side sheathing is welded instead of being riveted. The doors and windows are all streamlined. Built to recommended contour, they meet all of the clearance requirements of the United States railroads.

CUPAR, Scotland —(C P)—Lord and Lady Cochrane of Cults celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary here. Lord Cochrane is a famous breeder of Ayrshire cattle and is credited with introducing rubber-tired farm vehicles into Britain.

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