

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7, 1948

Symbols of Renewal

It will be recalled that at the last session of the Provincial Legislature an Act was passed providing that the "lady's slipper," botanically known as the *Cypripedium hirsutum*, be adopted as the floral emblem of Prince Edward Island.

"The Nova Scotia Legislature," he writes, "in 1901 chose for that honor the Mayflower, most fragrant of all Canadian wild flowers from coast to coast. In 1930 the school children of Alberta made choice of the wild rose, but the legislature of Edmonton gave no attention to the matter. In 1906 the legislature of Manitoba made the prairie crocus, known to botanists as the anemone patens, the flower emblem of this province, in accordance with the choice made by the school children. The prairie lily came second when all the votes were in, but the crocus was elected by a landslide majority.

"That lovely wild flower, the trillium, which loves to bloom under the shade of trees in Ontario, was proposed many years ago as the province's flower emblem and is pretty generally so recognized by Ontario people, as is Quebec the native water iris, which is of the fleur-de-lis family, is most appropriately held by the people of Quebec as theirs. British Columbia has the violet. New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan are without generally recognized flower emblems, so far as this deponent can find out. Mrs. Black, of the Yukon, has written with a flower lover's enthusiasm of the yellow anemone, a cousin of our prairie crocus, as worthy of being the Yukon's emblem flower."

Canada, of course, has as its emblem the maple leaf, the leaf of the hardwood maple—not a flower, but out rivaling all the flowers in beauty and splendor when the Maytime green of the trees has become the crimson and gold of September.

Commonwealth & Empire

As noted in these columns recently, an authoritative official ruling on the right use of the terms "Commonwealth," "Empire," and "Colonial" has at last been given. But, remarks The Spectator, it was characteristic of British methods that the question only came up incidentally in the discussion of a measure of trifling importance dealing with the admission to the British Medical Register of doctors not possessing British qualifications. As the medical bill was slipping quietly through the House of Lords, Lord Altrincham, whose interest is in Empire, not medicine, pointed out pertinently that the use of the word "Colonial" in the measure, to cover Dominions as well as strictly Colonial territories, was a grave misnomer. Lord Henderson at once promised to look into the matter, and in the committee stage he moved to substitute "Commonwealth" for "Colonial" throughout, adding that this was the term which the Department of Commonwealth Relations and the Colonial Office in joint consultation decided would best meet the case.

"A differentiation between the self-governing and the non-self-governing members of the Commonwealth is necessary," adds The Spectator. "Hitherto the distinction has been between the British Commonwealth of Nations and the Colonial Empire. In view of the new ruling the familiar term British Empire disappears, and in view of the associations unjustly attached to the word imperialism perhaps it is as well. The decision now is that Commonwealth covers everything once comprised under the term Empire, and that within the Commonwealth there exist the Dominions and the colonies, and not strictly within it, the territories held under mandate or trusteeship. Whether this is the best nomenclature or not its general adoption will avoid a good deal of the confusion which has hitherto existed."

Butter vs. Margarine

Butter prices are, according to current trial balloons from Ottawa, to be brought under control, from now until Spring, says The Letter Review. The idea is that present butter price increases go to dealers, not to farmers, but farmers are alarmed just the same. They realize quite clearly that the establishment of lower prices at present might influence the market in the Spring and Summer, and might, in actuality, become permanent price control.

"Margarine, a critic says, is one subject which these Letters seem afraid to tackle. Not quite. A wholesome food, margarine was banned, quite naturally, as a piece of protection for dairy farmers, when they were more influential politically than now. Urban consumers were indifferent at the time, since butter was cheap and plentiful.

"Today the removal of the ban would probably not break the price of butter enough to justify the fears of the farmers, nor provide a substitute cheap enough to please the consumers as much as they believe. The economic effect would not be important.

"Politically the removal of the ban is practically impossible. No party dare risk the certain loss of all the farm vote. Not even Mr. Coldwell could hope to find a formula in this case like his price-control-no-wage-control story which would cover the case. Farmers may be

sufficiently illiterate economically to accept his subsidy plan, or to believe that it is better to sell wheat to Britain at less than the Chicago price in the hope of thus getting market stability later on, but even farmers, even Mr. Hannam, can see the positive disadvantage of selling butter in competition with a cheaper substitute.

"The case is very much like that of the Baby Bonus. There are all sorts of good arguments for terminating both the Bonus and the ban, but a final one against—that too many people would vote against the Government which acted, while with no Opposition party promising action, no one will vote against a Government for not acting."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Week of Prayer continues.

Now is the time for bargains—except in pork products.

It is perhaps significant that none of the New Year's honours bestowed on Newfoundlanders carry a title.

Welcome to the keen young farmers whose short course begins today. The Island needs leaders in this field and is in a fair way to get them.

We will know some time about the end of this month whether there will be a Federal election this year. An election budget will certainly include substantial tax reductions even though Government policy is to take excess funds out of circulation.

There is small consolation to farmers in the fact that the 20 per cent increase in freight rates over American lines came in two steps of 10 per cent. The rate is up the full 20 per cent over last year, and part of the increase has been in effect for the last two months.

Britain managed to keep Moslems and Hindus more or less at peace for some hundreds of years. Now the only authority outside of India and Pakistan themselves is the United Nations Security Council which is considerably slower to take preventive action than the British Raj.

Charitable contributions are exempt from income tax, but, says The Letter Review, by an ingenious device, the Department of National Revenue collects succession duties on charitable contributions made during three years before death. This, probably not at all the intention of the N.W., is becoming quite generally known. It is going to be the subject of much discussion in the very near future.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will visit Ceylon in February. They will be present at the ceremonies which have been planned to mark the assumption by the island of fully responsible government within the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Duke of Gloucester will open, on behalf of the King, the first Session of Parliament to be held since the Ceylon Independence Act came into force. Their Royal Highnesses will subsequently attend the celebrations which are being held to inaugurate the island's new status. The Duke and Duchess will stay in Ceylon about ten days. They will travel from Britain by air, probably in one of the planes attached to the King's Flight.

Sir Henry Arthur Jones, English dramatic author, died this date 1929; made his first definite success with *The Silver King* in which Wilson Barrett starred in the title role. This was followed by *Saints and Sinners*, *The Crusaders*, *The Lie*, all of which proved great box office draws. He also produced a long series of comedies, including *The Case of Rebellious Susan*, *Whitewashing Julia*, and *The Ogre*. He was also an historic authority on the drama, publishing *Renaissance of the English Drama in 1895*. "The one cruel fact about heroes is that they are made of flesh and blood." "We mustn't forget that property has duties even if other people forget it has rights." "If there is one beast in all the loathsome fauna of civilization I hate and despise, it is a man of the world." "O God! Put back Thy universe and give me yesterday."

It is announced that only three having Canadian connections (including the Prime Minister) shared in the New Year's honours. A knighthood went to Prof. J. D. Cockcroft, director of the Supply Ministry's atomic research establishment and who at one time carried on work with Canadian scientists at the Canadian atomic establishment at Chalk River, Ont. The Order of Merit, the honor conferred upon Prime Minister Mackenzie King when he was in London to attend the wedding of Princess Elizabeth, was also given to Mr. T. S. Eliot, American-born poet and author. Sir Valentine George Crittall, whose first wife was the late Olive Lillian MacDermott of Comber, Ont., was created a baron. The other two new barons are Sir Harold Mackintosh, chairman of the National Savings Committee, and Col. Sir John Colville, former Governor of Bombay.

It is possible to be too perfect in street and roadway cleaning, as Ottawa is experiencing. With a complete new outfit of snow removing apparatus, it started to sweep clean the snow from streets and by-ways. Now its water department is scored blue that Ottawa will be faced with a water famine due to frozen mains. Already frost has penetrated 44 inches underground to within 12 to 18 inches of water mains in places where snow has been cleared. Where snow had not been cleared frost had penetrated only seven inches. The danger of a freeze-up of the whole water system is now so great, it is said with temperatures hovering around six below zero, that authorities are hoping for a low zero, that authorities are hoping for a low zero to give protection, and in future it has been decided some inches of snow will have to be left for frost insulation.

Notes By The Way

The new Minister to Canada from Finland says Ottawa weather is "delightful, just like that in Helsinki." It's good to have someone who appreciates us. —Ottawa Journal.

Balanced living begins not with nations and world movements, but in the individual. Never in all history was it more important that individual men and women should not lose their heads merely because they have failed hitherto to use them. —Vancouver Sun.

Herbert Hoover has the right idea when he says that time will prove Communism to be an unworkable theory. The problem, however, is to decide what to do while waiting for time to win the argument. —Detroit Free Press.

Canada will miss the gallant Count Jean de Helldorf, France's ambassador to Canada since 1945, who leaves to accept a similar post in Belgium. Count de Helldorf, recently in Windsor, liked Canada very much and will be sorry to leave. All who knew him respected this aristocratic Frenchman with a distinguished record in his country's diplomatic service, and in the French underground during the war. —Windsor Star.

The airgraphs which are now obtainable through the Dominion Post Offices appear to be declining in size and quality of paper. Before stamps were printed on the airgraph forms the paper was of tolerable quality, and the form was big enough to hold a letter of ordinary size and weight. Now the forms are smaller, and the paper is of a poorer quality, and the type is set in a smaller and more closely spaced font. The forms most recently issued, which have stamps printed upon them, are considerably reduced in size, and the paper is decidedly poorer. Is there any good reason for this decline? —Peterborough Examiner.

In view of the importance of the news item in the shipping of public opinion, Canada is fortunate in having a newspaper press with high traditions of service, which takes its responsibilities seriously. It is to be regretted that the success of political parties and much more concerned about the public weal. That is as it should be. In our day the daily newspaper plays an indispensable part in informing the public about national and international issues. Its own comments on public affairs should be not less helpful in enabling the public to reach sound conclusions. —Toronto Star.

Where is there least religious freedom in Europe today? Behind the iron curtain? The bishop in charge of Methodists work in 12 European nations declares: From three years of experience, I feel that the real threat to religious freedom is from reactionary political regimes, such as the Franco regime in Spain, where Protestantism is not granted religious freedom. On the other hand Methodists work in countries behind the iron curtain, where the threat is not interference. There is, of course, no guarantee that this always will be so. But it serves as a reminder that intolerance flies a black flag as well as a red one. —Christian Science Monitor.

Now a doctor says that, in addition to driving onlookers crazy, bubble gum causes ear infections. Dr. Edward A. Pizozek of Chicago, Cook County health director, also puts the bee on clarinet, saxophones, ocarinas, toy flutes and other tin whistle types all can cause ear infections. It would be a pretty thought to believe that the danger of ear trouble would deter the bubble-gummers, and an even prettier one, many would say, to believe that bubble gum would stop stomach aches, but doesn't stop stomach aches from eating 'em? —Windsor Star.

We like the idea put forth by Rt. Rev. R. H. Benson, bishop of Moosebone, before the Anglican Synod at Brandon that "all young men in Ontario should spend two or three years in the fresh air of the Northland before working elsewhere." Bishop Renison is an advocate of our great Northland, a clarion voice proclaiming its splendid virtues, rebuking those ignorant people who see only as a barren land of mines, rock and jack pine. "The worst insult that one can offer a true Northerner," he said, "is to say that he is a good-hearted fellow but the real people with brains and knowledge remain safe down south. That only brawn is needed in the North." More brain is needed, he insists, to develop the North than to sit down here in lush Southern Ontario. —London Free Press.

We are just a little puzzled by the report that Roger Babson, the financial forecaster, has deposited \$5,000 in each of twenty banks in an area of the Middle West he calls the "magic circle." He claims that this will be the safest part of the United States in an atomic war. We can understand that the region in question, which is largely agricultural with few large cities, might attract fewer bombs and rockets than some more strategic sections. Mr. Babson's greenbacks would doubtless have a better chance of coming through the carnage unburned and unradio active than they would in Washington or New York. We can't help wondering, though, what he thinks about carefully hoarded money would

PUBLIC FORUM

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

DRINK, MILK LOAVES

Sir,—When I reflect upon the food conditions under which the majority of the human family operate at the present hour, I confess that I get slight pleasure from that item in the new-column which indicated that "Canada's drink bill of \$370,945,005 for the fiscal year of 1946, represents gross sales of spirits, beer and wines by provincial liquor control boards or their agents. It was a jump of \$88,414,541 over the expenditures for the previous twelve months." words, at the far side of the wordy turmoil about the pressure of milk, bread, meat and butter upon the domestic pocket-book, the realist finds himself congratulating those gargantuan figures, representing the North American 'booze' bill for the year in question, i. e., at the retail level: United States \$7,425,000,000 Canada \$413,000,000 Total \$7,838,000,000

The above cost of taking care of the alcoholic beverage thirst of the North American people is, as you know, the equivalent of just 2 years' operation of the Marshall Plan, by which it is hoped to get sixteen countries in Europe back on their feet, as self-reliant and productive nations. The cost and burden of this Marshall Plan is continually being frontaged, but, apparently, we take the liquor expenditures in our stride, as a matter of slight moment, as a matter of fact, all parties concerned, i. e., on both sides of the Atlantic and both sides of our own border—should hardly raise a eyebrow at the aforesaid avalanche of dollars available for beverage alcohol, while sitting up nights at the conference table devising ways and means of selling (and buying) 'Our Daily Bread'! A writer in our own column last summer indicates that "Canada is using up annually 15 million bushels of grain in the manufacture of beer and hard liquor—an amount sufficient to provide annually 10 million U. S. shirts utilizes (? 10 million U. S. every day of the year?" I am Sir, etc., W. F. D.

be worth after everything outside the door has been blown away to smithereens. —Edmonton Journal.

Yet Grandma pulled a straw from the broom and stuck it in the cake to see whether it was done, and nobody got a germ that hurt him, observes The Calgary Albertan.

People of Northern Ontario have been inclined to think of the pulp and paper industry almost entirely in terms of the newprint and pulp produced largely for export to the United States. But they represent merely a beginning in the wide field of uses already found and likely still to be found for the fine fibre provided by the spruce, balsam and other trees of Northern Ontario. All provide opportunities for manufacture and may bring new industries into this and other parts of the country. —Sault Ste. Marie Star.

The United Nations commission to set up Jewish and Arab states in Palestine will have as its chief of secretariat Dr. Ralph J. Bunce, a former professor at Harvard University, and the grandson of an American Negro slave. Dr. Bunce has had a distinguished career in anthropology and as professor of colonial history at the Negro university, points out The Saskatchewan Star-Phoenix. He served with the United Nations secretariat as head of its trusteeship division and with the U. N. committee that studied the Palestine situation. His experience and character should be of great service to the commission in its delicate task.

FATHER OF 24 CHILDREN

THESEAS, N.Y., Jan. 6 (AP)—George Davis, 65-year-old farmer, who has 24 children, was honored as the father with the largest family in the United States, died yesterday. Davis was the father of 24 children, 20 still living. He also is survived by his second wife.

COUNT THE RINGS

Age of trees may be computed by counting a section of the stem and counting the number of concentric rings.

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MUSTEROLE

Notes From 'Another Island'

By "Anson"

Here in England, every Saturday evening the BBC put on a half-hour programme called "In Town Tonight." The announcer's words at the beginning of each session explain everything: "... to bring to the microphone some of the interesting people who are in 'In Town Tonight.'"

The other Saturday they brought to the microphone a gentleman from South Africa. In the course of his interview he mentioned a warning he had received before he left home, that he would find the English sad-tempered and brusque. He was, not surprisingly, somewhat apprehensive. Well! Is that what folks overseas think we are like? Do they imagine we go about snarling at each other and behaving towards visitors like hostile natives? We don't, you know. We are really quite civilized, and we aren't really hard to get along with. Most of you know that—in Prince Edward Island met plenty of us during the war, when a thousand or so of us were your long-staying guests at your airport.

Some of us misbehaved, I suppose, but I think you'll agree that most of us wanted only to be friends. And I think most of us were. Some were more than that—there was more than one wedding in Charlottetown between a local girl and a 'Limey'! Many of you, too, will remember those concerts in the cinema building at the airport when, by permission of the Commanding Officer, 'airmen may invite civilian guests. ..."

Perhaps we brought a bit of England to a bit of Canada that—let's admit it, we probably hardly knew existed—and in doing that perhaps we helped in a small way to bring us all a bit closer to each other.

But have we changed since then? Have we become bad-tempered and brusque in the last two or three years? Has our national character taken on a different aspect? I don't think so. We still laugh. We still laugh, moreover, at the same kind of jokes, chiefly against ourselves or our administration. I might say we still laugh at the same jokes, judging by the efforts of some of our radio comedians!

Occasionally I meet old friends of the R. A. P. days on P.E.I.; we talk of those days, and remember the million acre farm and its people. I wonder if many of you think about us? Well, we are only representative of the entire population of this other island, and now—as when you knew us—we are still ordinary folk. I'll try to bring you a few paragraphs of ordinary chit-chat about ordinary folk seen and heard with ordinary eyes and ears with ordinary reactions to the big news of the day. Perhaps that way I can help to dispel the illusion that the South African gentleman had, in case any of you share it, and to show that we are still the same 'limeys' who used to gather at the Legion, at the Old Spain, at the 'Y', who strolled in Queen Street and by the harbour, who used to play St. Dunstan's at rugby football, and who, in our own words: "Got our feet under your tables."

The Poet's Corner

ONCE IN DECEMBER Once in a decade of Decembers There is one sunset that is flaming gold. When the sun, this great circumference of light, Restrained for days behind gaunt clouds, Malevolently cold, Leaps at the rim of night From those grim letters, To a new perfection of transcendence— Gold heaped on gold, Gold flecked with copper sheen; The hanging rays between This sphere of gold and the hovering clouds Are splint festoons of burnished fire; The damask sun of May, The carnation of July, Are pale beside this light; Once in a decade of Decembers There is one sunset that is flaming gold. —Miriam Whitney White.

FIRST FRICTION MATCH

John Walker, an Englishman, made the first really useful friction match in 1827.

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