

THE GUARDIAN

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Too Much Legislature?

The Legislature meets on the 22nd of this month, and while there is reportedly not much matter of a controversial nature in the offing, it is likely that the session will last for three or four weeks as usual.

It is generally conceded that our members heretofore have been poorly paid and certainly none of them, on this occasion, voiced the reluctance expressed by the late Mr. Peter Brodie to an earlier indemnity boost under the Bell Government.

The latter proposal has been raised by the Vancouver News-Herald (Liberal) in connection with the British Columbia legislative sessions.

How is it (it asks) that Washington State, with a population of more than 2,000,000, can get along with a session every two years, while every Province in Canada (including Prince Edward Island with less than 100,000 population) must have a session every year?

"With a session here each year," says the News-Herald, "there is a tendency on the part of the Government to shelve its responsibilities to the House. In the three or four months before the House is to open, the Government has a habit, every time it is faced with an awkward situation, of saying, 'Let the Legislature figure a way out of that one.'"

There is, of course, danger in too much government by order-in-council. In colonial days we had bitter experience of that under such dictatorial regimes as Governor Smith's.

Without going to a totalitarian extreme, or even inviting such a possibility, one improvement which could be affected would be to streamline our present legislative procedure, particularly with regard to the time-wasting formalities involved in the Draft Address and Budget debates.

All thisrodomontade goes on at every session, not infrequently before a House barely able to make up a quorum. Obviously it is not directed to the speaker's colleagues at all, but to his constituents at home, in the hope and expectation that it will be channeled through the kind offices of the Press, whose patient representatives are sometimes the only wakeful auditors in the chamber.

Practices of this kind belong to the more leisurely past, when party politics was of burning interest, and partisan rhetoric ranked among the popular arts. Today, to the intelligent voter, such debates have no more meaning than the drone of an ill-tuned bagpipe.

The London Sunday Times has a suggestion for bringing the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council into line with the realities of today's situation within the British Commonwealth.

Who has not suffered at Burns celebrations from the long windedness of the proposers of 'The Immortal Memory'?

The recent by-election in Quebec indicates the difficulties the St. Laurent Government will face in this traditionally Liberal Province in the coming general election.

Issue On The Prairies
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fixed at \$1.55 per bushel for the first two years, 1946-47 and 1947-48, although the world price was over \$2 for the whole of this period. But the agreement contained what everyone thought was a "saving clause," to protect Canadian grain-growers against any ultimate loss on the whole 4-year trade.

The Searle Index estimates the losses to Canada's grain-growers under this agreement at \$352,000,000. The price for the third year, 1948-49, which is still current was set at \$2, but in the first quarter of this year losses aggregating \$33,000,000 ensued and the Western farmers quite naturally expected a big boost in the price for next year, 1949-50, to make up these enormous losses.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A \$50,000,000 in subsidies for one year is not to be sneezed at by N.F.L.D.

"The Road to Rustico" will soon sound as pleasantly in the public ear as does "The Road to the Isles."

Charlottetonians are inclined to look upon Halifax as a gloomy city of rain and fog, but the official figures for January tell a different story. Halifax had 105.5 hours of sunshine as compared with only 48.6 hours for this city.

One drop in city revenue which will not bring complaints is the drop in the Police Court receipts which Councillor N. W. Lowther reports have fallen from \$15,000 in 1946 to only \$7000 in 1948.

Thomas Alva Edison, American inventor, born this date 1847. Through Edison and Bell, practically all modern electrical contrivances have been introduced into modern life, from the electric pen to the electric torpedo.

The proposal of the Milk Producers and Vendors Association that milk be paid for on Government test has certain attractions. One disadvantage would be that dissatisfied producers would no longer be able to compare their test with another recognized standard.

That was a commendable action on the part of Dr. Harold Shaw to invite Dr. the Hon. W.J.P. MacMillan to sit with him at the Federal Health Conference at Ottawa the other day. The former Provincial Minister of Health happened to be in Ottawa at the time attending an executive meeting of the Red Cross Society.

The powers-that-be should let no unnecessary time elapse before getting a memorial pile to Father Belmont erected at his native place, Rustico. The Rev. Father had two historic distinctions; he built and ran in 1866 the first horseless car in North America, and he baptized Louis Riel the leader of the Indian rising of 1885.

Undrawn bank balances going obsequing. According to a return made to the House at Ottawa there are 17 R. A. F. men who left as much as \$30 apiece in the Royal Bank at Charlottetown and never came back for it and there are the \$35 left in a Sussex, N. B., bank by the men's content of the 8th. anti-aircraft unit.

The arrival at Summerside Wednesday of the first two aircraft to make a trans-continent flight to this Province is an historic event of importance. Soon such flights and longer ones will become routine. In the age of steamships we failed to make the most of our fine harbours. We must not make the same mistake in the age of flight.

Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources, Dr. H. L. Keenleyside, predicts that "Canada is at last on the verge of a period of vast development." Psychologically, economically, industrially, politically and socially we have been tried and tested. What we still need is increased population to match our opportunities.

The London Sunday Times has a suggestion for bringing the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council into line with the realities of today's situation within the British Commonwealth. The proposal is either to create a new Commonwealth judicial committee or simply appoint more Dominion judges to the Privy Council and select boards from them.

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PUBLIC FORUM

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

LONGEVITY CANDIDATES

Sir.—The following additional names have been received for the Longevity Review of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Mr. William Teed, 10 Pleasant Cove 98
Mrs. Arthur Wright, Augustine Cove 93
Mr. William Teed, 10 Pleasant Cove 98
Mrs. Emily Ford, Winsloe 90
I am, Sir, etc. UNCLE JOE.

The Level Of Prices

(Monthly Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia)
"The great generating forces behind the rise in prices have been losing strength." says the current Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia.

Siberian Meteorite

(Manchester Guardian)
The arrival on earth of a giant meteorite is a rare occurrence. It happens when it is at the other end of the world rather than in our own neighbourhood.

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THE LOST ONES

Somewhere is music from the Linnet's bill.
And through the sunny flowers the bee wings drone.
And white bells of convolvulus on hills
Of quiet may make silent ringing, blown
Hither and thither by the wind of showers.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)
PRINCETOWN PIONEERS
The new era of British possession was ushered in by Holland's survey of St. John's Island to which he gave its first English place-name, and which he divided into three counties with a shire-town in each, named respectively after George III, Queen Charlotte, and the Crown Prince.

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The Poet's Corner

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Notes By The Way

There is something of a paradox in the fact that Communists know the value of the vote and use it persistently to forward their own cause which, if successful, would terminate the privilege.

It is most desirable, too, that the choice of newcomers be made from among those most familiar with conditions prevailing in Canada. Experience has shown that the best new citizens are those who come from comparable climates and like conditions.

There will be general approval of a last message from Austin Craft to be read in a local church. Craft was hanged for the crime of a penitentiary guard, and wished to write a message to be given from the pulpit on the eve of his execution.

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Charlottetown