

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1857)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office
Department, Ottawa.
The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett.
Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, DEC. 24, 1949

The Christmas Message

The keynote of Christmas is joy, and under its spell the goodness and kindness latent in every human heart finds fullest expression. There is no substitute for its message, if we are to have brotherhood and peace and an ordered world. Men and nations have tried to live as if Christ had never been born; today we see the fruits of that repudiation on every hand. Somewhere along the road we seem to have missed the right turning; but it is never too late to go back. Progress depends, not on the speed we are making but on the direction in which we are moving. The true course has been charted long ago, and the Star of Bethlehem is there to guide us if we have eyes to see.

The promise of "Peace on earth" in the Christmas tidings is not just the absence of war between nations, however important that may be. It is a state of the spirit. It can dwell (as we know) in the soul of the fighting soldier, sailor and airman. It can be found in the face of the humblest passer-by, and in homes destitute of all but the barest material necessities. It turns upside down our man-made notions of grandeur and power. Always it is concerned with the substance of things unseen. It tells us that in the Divine is something human and in all human things dwells something of the Divine. Even the folk lore of Christmas proclaims God's joy in dwelling with men.

The music of Christmas falls like an enchantment upon a weary-hearted earth. It breathes the hope of a coming time when swords will be turned into implements of human helpfulness. It glows with a faith in the things of the spirit and a reassurance that nothing in this world is so mighty as goodwill, that life is safe only as it forgets itself in sacrifice and service to others.

Because of our fortunate circumstances in this Province and throughout Canada, we shall enjoy our Christmas cheer in a measure far beyond even the imaginings of many homeless and destitute people. Let us do so in humble gratitude for many undeserved blessings. For many, there will be family reunions around the festive board, and there will be songs and music, and calls upon friends, and high good humour. The bond and password of the day will be the age-old greeting: A Merry Christmas. May it be so indeed, to all our readers on this hallowed occasion!

The Late Senator Sinclair

The late Hon. John E. Sinclair, P.C., was the dean of parliamentarians in this Province and one of the stalwarts of the Liberal Party in Canada. He came naturally by his talent for politics, his father, the late Mr. Peter Sinclair, being one of the Island's first representatives in the House of Commons after Confederation. His younger brother, Mr. Peter Sinclair, also represented Queen's at Ottawa at the time of his death in 1938.

From the time of his entering the Commons in 1917, Mr. Sinclair devoted himself to mastering every detail of his duties. He was familiar with every issue affecting his Province and the Maritimes generally, and was never at a loss, either on the platform or from his seat in the House, in quoting facts and figures. He never assumed the role of orator, however; his speeches were always short and to the point, and he preferred, rather than speech-making of any kind, to work quietly behind the scenes. His cool judgment, courteous manner and unostentatious habits were characteristic of him at all times and in all places. In many respects he resembled his former leader, Mr. King, and there were few men outside the leading members of the Cabinet whose views carried greater weight.

Despite failing health in recent years, Senator Sinclair was indefatigable in attending to his responsibilities. The recent session proved a strenuous one for him. Just before prorogation he suffered minor injuries from a fall, and this was followed by the shock of the sudden death of his old friend and room-mate at Ottawa, Senator Copp, of Newcastle, with whom he had been closely associated for many years.

Weekend Christmas

Because Christmas day chances to fall on Sunday many will be able to enjoy a holiday from their usual employment lasting until Wednesday morning. The consequence will undoubtedly be to take something of the tenseness from the festivities marking Christmas day itself. There is plenty of time for the usual seasonal activities and a quiet and contemplative restfulness and unhurried participation in services of wor-

ship will probably characterize the day. Generally Christmas preparation and even Christmas day itself have a note of feverishness which detracts from the joy proper to the event. This year we have the additional blessing of an extended Christmas-tide.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Christmas and Sunday will clash so far as Santa Claus is concerned.

Now for a long week-end after a strenuous week endeavouring to make others happy.

It was Mrs. R. E. Mutch who first here agitated for the observance of Boxing Day in the interest of store clerks.

Bank annual reports indicate a hearty state of business, and prospects good for the coming year.

Christmas is a family festival and to those in isolated places, far from home and kindred, it can never be otherwise.

This has undoubtedly been a mild winter, but even so, it is surprising to read of the tire of a taxiing aircraft taking fire on an Icelandic airport.

Charlottetown's postal staff have had to cope with a greatly expanded Christmas rush in quarters that are inadequate even for present day normal mails. They probably have the greatest interest of anyone in having the use of the proposed new building before the season comes around again.

The County Court appointments announced yesterday embody an important principle too long ignored, that of promotion on the judicial bench. The logical place to look for candidates for judgeships is amongst those who have given good service in their earlier appointments.

In Ontario it seems that the busy bee is not yet considered busy enough, and the Ontario Agricultural College has devoted four years of study and experiment to increase honey production and improve pollination of farm crops.

Abolition of the rank of Warrant Officer in the R. C. N. raises the question of the proper method of addressing the holders in their new rank of Commissioned Officer. The title Mister was peculiar to Warrant Officers, all others being addressed by their rank or rate, as Lieut. Smith or Petty Officer Hawkins.

William Makepeace Thackeray, British novelist, died this date 1863. As a novelist he combines humour and pathos with a streak of cynicism, due probably to his sensitive temperament; in all his writings his style is cultured and his craftsmanship masterly. His best known works "Vanity Fair", "Pendennis", "Henry Esmond", "The Newcomes", "The Virginians".

Ten years ago, on Christmas Day 1939, more than 7,500 members of Canada's Armed Forces were welcomed into almost as many English homes for the first of many Christmases they were to spend overseas. They had arrived in Britain only a week before. That year, too, Christmas was celebrated by thousands of troops at sea in troop transports. . . . Christmas 1940 was an important one for Canadian troops overseas. On that day the first Canadian Corps came into being under command of General McNaughton. That Christmas Day also marked the arrival overseas of the last infantry battalions of the 2nd Division. . . . Christmas Day 1941 was one of the darkest of World War II for the people of Canada. Two Canadian battalions fighting in Hong Kong surrendered after a gallant fight against hopeless odds. . . . By Christmas 1942, Canada was really beginning to feel the effects of war. Thousands of young men were overseas and hundreds who had been at Dieppe were still in British hospitals or languishing in German prisoner-of-war camps. Little that was comforting was known of the men who had fallen or been taken at Hong Kong. By Christmas 1943, Allied troops could look back with pride upon some of their achievements. The conquest of North Africa had been completed; Sicily was behind them, and they were slugging their way up through Italy. For Canadians who fought in Italy that winter, Christmas and Ortona are synonymous. . . . Christmas 1944 saw Canadian troops fighting in both Italy and Northwest Europe, and they realized a long-standing ambition when at Christmas they finally came to grips with the enemy on German soil. Many then firmly believed that they would not spend another Christmas overseas. They were right. By Christmas 1945, the war was over and Canada's repatriation scheme was functioning smoothly. However, not all troops got home for Christmas that year and some did not get home for Christmas 1946.



Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

GOVERNOR YOUNG'S TOUR

"His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Young, accompanied by Mrs. Young, the Hon. Lieut. Colonel Lane and J. P. Collins, Esq., left town on Thursday the 18th for the westward. On his departure, His Excellency was saluted by H. S. Columbine, which was returned by the guns of the garrison. On Friday, the cortege arrived in New London, when a petition, numerously signed by the inhabitants, praying for a mitigation of the punishment of the prisoners convicted at the last Court of a riot and assault at New London on the 15th ult., and who are now suffering imprisonment in terms of their sentence, was presented to His Excellency by the wives of the four unfortunate men, which he was pleased to say should receive every consideration. "After returning to Princetown, where he had spent the preceding night, His Excellency proceeded on Saturday to St. Eleanor's, and was at church there on Sunday. On Monday he proceeded to Port Hill, and arrived at Casumpec on Tuesday. On Wednesday His Excellency and suite embarked on board the Columbine, then lying in Casumpec harbour, which immediately got under weigh, and the same day at 3 p.m. were landed at Princetown, under a salute from the ship - rather an unusual occurrence in that quarter. The same evening the party proceeded again to St. Eleanor's, and the whole of Thursday was spent in visiting the different parts of that flourishing settlement, the progress of the new Court House, and the other objects now occupying the site of what is no doubt destined to become, at no distant period, a thriving town. "On Friday they visited Bedouque, Cape Traverse and Tryon, spending the evening at the latter place. At Bedouque, His Excellency was particularly struck with the high state of cultivation which the country presented, and the state of the roads throughout the settlement was such as to call forth repeated expressions of his approbation. "Leaving Tryon on Saturday morning, they arrived in town about 4 p.m. by way of Crapaud and DeSable. We have been informed by one of the gentlemen of the party that the road between Tryon and Charlotte-Town was, beyond comparison, the worst they encountered on their journey. "The Militia having received previous notice, had assembled at the different places where His Excellency halted, where they were severally inspected. The punctual attendance of the men, who turned out with the greatest alacrity, is highly spoken of. As the weather was remarkably fine, and as His Excellency has expressed himself highly gratified with the politeness and hospitality with which he was everywhere received, we have no doubt but an annual excursion to that interesting portion of his government will from henceforth be considered by him a settled thing." - Royal Gazette, July 30, 1833.

CANNY COLLIE

LAKE VIEW, Australia - (CP) - A Border collie, working three sheep in trails here, stopped several times and looked towards his owner and then back at one of the sheep. The owner knew that if he protested to the judge without cause he would be disqualified, but he also trusted his dog. An examination showed that one of the sheep was blind in one eye.

The Poet's Corner

HOW FAR TO BETHLEHEM?

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far. Shall we find the stable-room 'Tilt by a star? Can we see the little Child, Is He within? If we lift the wooden latch 'May we go in? May we stroke the creatures there, 'Ox, ass, or sheep? May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep? If we touch His tiny hand 'Will He awake? Will He know we've come so far 'Just for His sake? Great Kings have precious gifts, 'And we have naught; Little smiles and little tears 'Are all we brought. For all weary children 'Mary must weep, Here, on His bed of straw, 'Sleep, children, sleep. God in His Mother's arms 'Babes in the byre, Sleep, as they sleep who find 'Their heart's desire. -Frances Chesterton.

To all our Friends we extend Christmas Greetings and BEST WISHES for a very Happy New Year. HYNDMAN & CO. LIMITED Insurance Since 1872

May your home be blessed with cheer and good will through the holidays and entire New Year. Greetings TANTON'S TIRE SERVICE

Notes By The Way - Edmonton is in the middle of one of the greatest oil developments in history and yet Edmonton, as a city, is getting minimum advantages out of it. The Edmonton oil fields have entered the realm of colossal business. For the six months ending September 30, 1949, the provincial government derived from petroleum and natural gas, \$2,218,652.34 in fees and rentals, \$961,601.90 in royalties and \$9,509,648.47 in the purchase price for leases. At the same time, the expenditure by oil companies has increased proportionately. Three oil companies are building refineries in this area at a total cost of \$30,000,000 and these three refineries will shortly be handling more than 40,000 barrels a day. - Edmonton Bulletin. Port Arthur and Winnipeg are currently engaged in a mild controversy over the right to a similar nom de plume. Winnipeg calls itself "The Gateway to the Golden West." Port Arthur uses on its city crest the words "Gateway to the West." Looking benignly at the dispute, Fort William might end the matter by displaying a sign, carrying the words "Main Entrance." - Fort William Times

The Age-Old Story A good man shall be satisfied from himself. GREETINGS To you and to all your house . . . happiness, peace, joy and a Very Merry Christmas! DeBLOIS BROS. LTD.

Hark THE HERALD ANGELS SING Joy to you and to the world on this anniversary of the birth of Him who gave his life that we might keep the blessing of love and good will in our hearts forever! P. W. TURNER -Frances Chesterton.

GREETINGS May CHRISTMAS DAY, and the whole New Year turn out exactly right for you! Henderson & Cudmore