

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"
CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, NOV. 15, 1949

Questionable Tactics

Parliamentary rules are meant to facilitate
debate and divisions, but they can also
be used to choke off discussion or prevent
a vote. It was for the latter questionable
purpose, according to the Globe and Mail,

that Trade Minister C. D. Howe went into
action in the Commons one night last week,
for the purpose of preventing the House
from registering any opinion on the Govern-
ment's malfeasance in the matter of the
McGregor report alleging a flour milling
combine.

This is how the stunt was worked. On a
motion to go into committee of supply,
where the business is voting money for the
public services, private members are entitled
to voice grievances and one amendment may
be offered. This rule dates from the ancient
tradition that the King had to listen to
complaints before he got a penny to run
the Government. On a supply motion a few
days earlier Mr. Stanley Knowles, a CCF
member, exercised this privilege by moving
an amendment calling for the exemption of
trade union dues from income tax. After
he and many others had argued this propo-
sition and received an answer to it from
Finance Minister Abbott, the amendment was
voted down in the usual manner.

Then, when the supply motion was still
the business before the House, Mr. Howe
rose and gave a lengthy defense of the Gov-
ernment's withholding of the McGregor re-
port, in defiance of the law, for ten months.
Mr. Howe should have been refused a hear-
ing. If he was not technically out of order,
he was certainly breaking all precedent. To
introduce this subject at the juncture he
chose was thoroughly irregular and the
Speaker should have been asked at once
to rule on the question whether he ought
to be allowed to go on. This was not done.
Mr. Howe completed his statement.

By this dodge he flummoxed and, as the
Ottawa report puts it, "outmanoeuvred" the
Opposition parties. They could rise and
criticize what he had said, which they did,
but they could not propose a vote of cen-
sure. They could not bring forward any
motion at all because the Knowles amend-
ment had exhausted the rights of the House.
They were hamstrung by their own rules
as manipulated by an expert manipulator.
When the supply motion was eventually
passed, as it had to be if business was to
proceed, Mr. Howe could claim that the
matter of the McGregor report was disposed
of; for, under another rule, the same ques-
tion cannot be debated twice.

Campaign Medals

Anxiety to avoid further delay in dis-
tribution is given by the Government as its
reason for not engraving names and regim-
ental numbers on campaign medals of the
last war. Commenting on the omission, the
Minister of Veterans' Affairs said that to
have rectified it would have required an-
other two years.

Most men who served, argues the Port
Erie Times-Review, will agree that the extra
two years would be well worth it; and would
mean the difference between mass-produced
trinkets and personal souvenirs of war ser-
vice. Two more years of waiting, after the
four that have already passed, would be of
no consequence.

With the exception of a very small min-
ority, ex-servicemen do not parade their ser-
vice or their medals in public. Yet even
though the medals will likely be admired
once, then stowed away in a bureau drawer,
their owner would like to feel that they
would be in alien territory in anyone else's
bureau drawer.

Pullman Acrobats

Mr. Donald Gordon, soon to become
C. N. R. president, has expressed sympathy
for people who have to twist themselves into
odd shapes to get into railway berths. Six
foot-four Mr. Gordon said he doesn't like
"curling up" his frame either. He said he
might be able "to do something about it"
when he became head of the line.

Commenting on Mr. Gordon's statement,
the Vancouver News-Herald remarks: "Our
Canadian railway berths, of course, are
long outmoded. We have become a nation
of acrobats. Getting to bed in a railway
berth is an uncomfortable gymnastic per-
formance. In the United States there is
a move to throw out the old berths entire-
ly and substitute bedrooms. It seems ex-
traordinary that we should still be going to
bed on trains in the manner of the 90's.
Very little progress in Canada has been
made in this regard.

"It is going to cost a great deal of money,
but sooner or later our railway companies

must face the fact people are not going to
turn themselves into double jointed circus
freaks in order to get to bed when they tra-
vel. Many people feel a snooze in a tilted
bus chair preferable to a night in a train
berth. Until modern equipment is added to
our railways, they are going to lose more
and more to other forms of transportation."

Defence Policy

Defence Minister Claxton's view that
the only potential aggressor is Russia cer-
tainly appears correct as things now stand.
It should not be forgotten, however, that
the axis once occupied that position, and
that in the face of aggression, differences
even between Communist and Capitalist
seemed relatively minor. If the Russian
threat is somehow removed there are plenty
of points of difference between other na-
tions and groups of nations which could
lead to war if effective means are not found
for preventing it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Soviet claims that atomic energy is being
used to blast a new channel for two Siberian
rivers seems to be more generally credited
to the ingenuity of her journalists than her
engineers.

Charlottetown's high position in average
income of its taxpayers is satisfactory up to
a point. In so far as it represents a scarcity
of steadily employed industrial wage earners
the picture is not so bright.

The Government of Israel, through its
Consulate General in Montreal, has issued
an announcement that the State of Israel
will do everything in its power to facilitate
the visit of pilgrims to holy places in Jeru-
salem during the Holy Year, 1950.

With the approach of winter many driv-
ing hazards make their appearance, most of
them obvious enough to induce drivers to
take the necessary precautions. The habit
of keeping windows closed, however, adds
the danger of death by carbon monoxide to
the usual traffic risks.

The combines report scandal reveals a
certain hard headedness as well as callous-
ness on the part of Mr. Howe. Its presenta-
tion to Parliament after the only permis-
sible amendment to the motion to go into
committee of supply, effectively prevented
any motion of want of confidence.

Prime Minister St. Laurent's motive in
creating the new portfolio of Citizenship
and Immigration may be merely to enable
him to reshuffle cabinet posts, but in just-
ifying its existence the new department
should prove stimulating to the development
of this country.

Dalhousie University, which is now hold-
ing its first Alumni Homecoming, has many
distinguished graduates exercising an in-
fluence far and wide greatly disproportionate
to its size. The "college by the sea" has
a tradition which may well be the envy of
larger and wealthier universities.

The mayor of Toronto is taking steps
to see that cab drivers in that city are pro-
perly dressed for their duties. Taximen are
not subject to such organized discipline as
are employees of railways or bus companies,
but for that very reason it is important that
their dress should indicate that they are
qualified and licensed as public carriers.

Lord Herschell, 1st Baron, born this
date 1837; English Lord Chancellor
from 1886 to 1899; was raised to the
peerage in 1886, and appointed Lord
High Chancellor the same year. He went
to Washington on the Anglo-Venezuelan Arbi-
tration Commission in 1898 and met with an
accident which caused his death the follow-
ing year. The Venezuelan incident almost
caused war between Britain and Venezuela,
due to Germany sending a man-o-war to
assist the latter in asserting what she con-
sidered her rights on the question of the
boundary line between British Guinea and
Venezuela.

The harvesting of Irish Moss, which will
be subject to regulation under the new Fish
and Marine Plants Bill, is of recent origin
here but has proved an important factor in
maintaining the standard of living in fishing
communities along the North Shore. Little
equipment is needed for the purpose and,
in fact, much of the earlier supply was gather-
ed by boys until fishermen began to realize
that the youngsters were doing better finan-
cially than their parents. Today the former
sources of supply in Northern Europe
are again available and the maintenance of
markets depends very largely on the de-
pendability of quality and cleanliness of the
Island product. If the regulations under the
new act enable that uniformity to be main-
tained the moss should prove a steady
source of income.

The Poet's Corner

THE SYMPHONY

The cellos, setting forth apart,
Grumbled and sang, and so the day,
From the low benches of my heart,
Turned in tranquility away.

And over weariness and doubt
Rose up the horns like belled sails,
Like caravans of the soul flung out
To rising and orchestral gates;

Passed on and left irresolute
The ebony, the silver throat . . .
Low over clarinet and flute
Hung heaven upon a single note.

—Robert Nathan.

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

LIGHT HOUSES

Reply of the Commissioners of
Light Houses for the Province of
Nova Scotia, 30th June, 1831, to a
communication from the Lieuten-
ant Governor of Prince Edward
Island to ascertain what sum the
adjoining Colonies would be dis-
posed to contribute towards the
erection and support of Light
Houses at the North Cape and East
Point, P.E.I.

"We beg to state that this Govern-
ment (of Nova Scotia) has al-
ready erected several Light
Houses, from which the trade of
Prince Edward Island receives al-
most equal benefit with this Pro-
vince; but the Island has not con-
tributed either towards the build-
ing or support of such Lights.
The Light Houses to which we re-
fer are as follows: one on Cran-
berry Island, at the southern en-
trance of the Gut of Canso; one
at the northern entrance of En-
trevue Harbour; one at Louisbourg;
one at Beaver Island; and one now
building at Sand Point, at the
southern entrance of the Gut of
Canso.

"It may not be out of place
here to state that the Govern-
ment of Prince Edward Island
agreed, thirty years ago, to pay
to this Province an annual sum
of about £70 or £80 towards the
support of Cranberry Island Light,
at the entrance of Canso, which
was about that time erected by
this Province, under this agree-
ment, but we believe that no part
of this sum has been paid. Light
money was, however, actually
levied with this intention on all
vessels arriving in the Island, and
a large sum collected. These col-
lections were made during a pe-
riod of more than twenty years be-
fore there was a single Light
House erected on the Island.

"The Light Houses proposed to
be erected will be of great bene-
fit to the trade of Prince Edward
Island, this Province, and the
other adjacent Colonies; but under
the circumstances above detailed,
we do not think we should be
justified in recommending any
contribution, on the part of Nova
Scotia, towards them. This Pro-
vince has now twenty-three Light
Houses in operation, and four in
the course of construction; and it
is likely that others will be erect-
ed before long, in which Prince
Edward Island will benefit."

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CITY HIGH SCHOOL NEEDED

Sir, — May I, through your
columns, express a wish that the
citizens of Charlottetown will
build a City High School? I sup-
pose the proposed school will in-
clude technical and possibly com-
mercial training, but since my ex-
perience has been with schools
that are a couple of ways in which
the academic courses in such a
high school would benefit the
boys and girls who leave Char-
lottetown to find work outside.

Both of these benefits grow out
of the fact that, compared with
other Canadian cities, far too few
Charlottetown boys and girls are
able to get a High School certi-
ficate. Surely, some one in Char-
lottetown must have gathered fig-
ures on this—but would I be far
out in estimating that in propor-
tion to population, from three to
five times as many boys and girls
of Halifax and Saint John are
able to pass Junior Matriculation
(second year P.W.C.)? This is un-
fortunate even if the boys and girls
stay at home, but often it is such
a serious handicap to those
who leave "The Island".

Educational standards for boys
who want to enter skilled trades,
better office positions, and the
Civil or Armed Services, have
been stepped up greatly in the
past ten years. This is also true,
though perhaps not to the same
degree, for girls who want to
train in a nurse or get in better
office jobs. Today it is very dif-
ficult to get a start in any job
except unskilled labor or routine
machine tending, without a high
school certificate. The Army, for
example, set their standard for
privates at the equivalent of sec-
ond year P.W.C. P. E. Island
boys and girls are as bright as
can be found anywhere, and it is
surprising to have them so handi-
capped in getting into the better
paid occupations, simply because
P.W.C. has not space and staff to
give enough of them the courses
they need.

The same situation holds for
university entrance, though per-

Telling Us It Can Be Done



The Age-Old Story

Great peace have they which
love Thy law, and nothing shall
offend them.

haps not in so serious a form be-
cause of the smaller numbers in-
volved, P.W.C. standards have al-
ways been high, and its students
have an enviable record in Cana-
dian universities. Naturally, you
only want to send those to Col-
lege who will benefit by university
training, and there is some sense
in setting high standards for uni-
versity entrance. But I am far
from convinced that you can pick
the best by failing larger and
larger numbers at the Grade 9-10
level.

For since the amount covered
by the courses is fixed by agree-
ment with Nova Scotia and New
Brunswick, what must happen is
that you "raise" standards by
stressing memory of details. So
many brilliant pupils are discour-
aged by the type of instruction
and the kind of work necessary to
pass such examinations. Later,
when they discover that they are
really suited to university work
(which stresses intelligent orga-
nization of large amounts of sub-
ject matter), they are blocked by
the need of getting up from one
to three years of high school.

I am, Sir, etc.
T. W. COOK
Saskatoon, Sask.

(The writer of the above letter,
Dr. Cook, is a son of the late T.
L. Cook and Mrs. Cook of Murray
River, P.E.I., and received his
preparatory education at Prince
of Wales College, going from
there to Acadia University, where
he graduated with honors as a
gold medalist. He continued his
post graduate study at Yale, re-
ceiving his Ph.D. from that in-
stitution. Dr. Cook was a mem-
ber of the faculty of Acadia Uni-
versity for 12 years and will be
remembered as an outstanding in-
structor by many former pupils.
For four years, during the war,
he was on the staff of the Uni-
versity of Toronto and served on
the Advisory Board of the Na-
tional Selective Service and as Re-
search Psychologist with the Cana-
dian Army. He has recently re-
signed as head of the Department
of Psychology at the University
of Saskatchewan and accepted a
position as Director of Research
with the Department of National
Defence.

The Western Tradition

(Sir Oliver Franks, British Am-
bassador at Washington, in the
Virginia Quarterly Review)

Men can have hope for the fu-
ture and confidence in their activi-
ties in the world only if they also
believe that the universe is not
indifferent to man and his ef-
forts. It must have a character
such that what he does can make
a difference and is not a mean-
ingless scribble on the sands of time.
It must be possible for his activi-
ties to have significance in the
sum of things. But if this is the
case, the world in which he lives
and acts is so constituted that it
does not frustrate the use of his
faculties.

What is involved in such a be-
lief about man's relation to his en-
vironment? When he tries to ac-
quire knowledge of it, he is not
stopped short by its sheer unintel-
ligibility. When he tries to
create beauty, he is not frustrated
by the irredeemable chaos and dis-
order of what he encounters.
When he pursues happiness and
goodness, he is not prevented from
the realization of his ideals by the
intractable indifference of his sur-
roundings.

We have hope because we be-
lieve that in this world it is pos-
sible through human effort to
gain knowledge, create beauty,
and realize the good. It is a con-
dition of the hope and confidence
which characterize Western civili-
zation that the constitution of the
universe includes those values by
which men think, create, and act.
Belief in progress ultimately de-
pends on the religious view of the
Christian tradition.

It is therefore completely ex-
cluded by that other philosophy
so dramatically expressed by Ber-
trand Russell, of man alone in an
alien and inhuman world, alone
among hostile forces: "That man
is the product of causes which
had no prevision of the end they
were achieving; that his origin, his
growth, his hopes and fears, his
loves and beliefs, are but the out-
come of accidental collocations of
atoms; that no fire, no heroism,
no intensity of thought or feeling,
can preserve an individual beyond
the grave; that all the labors of
the ages, all the devotion, all the
inspiration, all the moon-day
brightnes of human genius, are
destined to extinction in the vast
death of the solar system, and that
the whole temple of man's achieve-
ment must inevitably be buried
beneath the debris of a univer-
se in ruins—all these things, if
not quite beyond dispute, are yet

Notes By The Way

We are prevented from exporting
oil to the U.S. by the restrictions
proposed by the American opera-
tors, then, in view of our national
shortage of U.S. dollars, we may
be forced into restricting U. S.
oil imports in Ontario. Either way,
the U. S. industry is going to lose
part of its market, and it makes
very little difference whether the
loss occurs in Canada or the U.S.
itself. Restrictions will simply
make things worse. — Calgary
Herald.

Australia has long disputed with
California and British Columbia
the honor of having the world's
tallest trees. When the matter was
raised recently in the Australian
geographical magazine, Walkabout,
A. G. Campbell quoted a letter
written on January 18, 1889, by
David Boyle of Forest Hill, 25
miles from Melbourne, Victoria.
Mr. Boyle states that he and Mr.
N. J. Claire had just measured a
eucalypt tree in the ranges nearby
and had found it to be 475 feet
high. It was 114 feet in circum-
ference at the base and 81 feet at
four feet from the ground. — Aus-
tralia News.

There's nothing utilitarian about
pockets this year. Not pockets
like the world's top designers are
giving us. They are used to give
hip emphasis in a sculptured line
as in the black satin gown, or full-
ness in a peplum-like affair. The
line of the silhouette, which is
gradually becoming the most im-
portant, is the slim one. This is
often softened by some sort of
drape, or as they say "emphasis,"
at the hipline to give a rounded
look there. Slashed, draped and
folded pockets work in very
smartly here to give the desired

so nearly certain, that no philo-
sophy which rejects them can
hope to stand. That is the ratio-
nism of hopelessness, a religion
to which Western civilization with
its hope for the future and its
belief in the possibility of progress
can never give its allegiance.
It is now our turn to carry for-
ward the tradition and build fur-
ther on what we have inherited.
If we are to do this effectively
we must understand the tradition
and appreciate the inheritance.
Western civilization was created
and has progressed through intel-
ligent effort. This in turn is now
required of us.

In Dior's now famous "scis-
sors" silhouette the line is knife-
like from below the hips down to
the hemline. The hipline which
gives this silhouette its name
swings out in pointed flanges or
each side, usually with a pocket
on each.

All too often when tax reduc-
tions have been announced, con-
sumers have been fooled because
little or any of the benefits were
passed along to them. Except for
taking some of it to help pay
higher freight rates, oil companies
have cut fuel oil prices in line with
the tax cut. Unless they can give
insurance tax reductions will be
passed along, manufacturers will
others seeking tax decreases hav-
little argument in favor of their
requests being granted. — Windsor
Star.

Economy-minded individuals
never ceased to marvel at the un-
paralleled sums Cecil B. DeMille
expends on his film epics. But Mr.
DeMille, who long has been one
of our most canny and effective
motion picture producers, knows
what he wants—and it always
costs a lot of money. Once Mr.
DeMille ordered fifteen yards of
royal brocade at \$200 a yard to
enhance the beauty of his femi-
nine star during one brief scene.
An efficient expert discreetly in-
quired why a \$2 substitute would
not serve as well. "The movie
audience will never know the dif-
ference," he pointed out. "No," re-
plied DeMille, "they won't. But
my star will. And can you imagine
a woman wearing \$3,000 worth of
brocade and not giving her best
performance?" — Wall Street
Journal.

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