

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5, 1949

The P. M.'s Suite

The ministerial suites at Ottawa are allotted
by seniority but there is a time-honored rule that
the Prime Minister may take any suite in the
main building he wishes.

When Mr. Mackenzie King was opposition
leader before 1921 he occupied a corner suite on
the fourth floor. Prime Minister Meighen had
one directly below on the third floor which had
been the Prime Minister's suite for many years.

This, says the Ottawa Citizen, brings out a
remarkable difference in the relations with the
public of the two Prime Ministers. Wherever Mr.
King went when he was the head of the govern-
ment people felt free to stop him and talk to
him about almost everything.

More U. S. Visitors

A survey by The Canadian Press of tourist
business this year shows that spending by Ameri-
can visitors in Canada will exceed last year's all-
time record, estimated at \$270,000,000.

The Dominion Travel Bureau each year re-
ceives thousands of letters from people in the
United States who are planning to visit Canada
and want information.

Mechanical Spy

When President Truman made his announce-
ment about the atomic explosion in Russia, he
purposely omitted giving any details as to how
it had been detected.

This suggests that the information was ob-
tained through an espionage network, but from
what is known about the characteristics of fis-
sionable material it would seem that the best spy
available was not a human being but a scientific
instrument.

According to the authoritative scientific
writer, Mr. William L. Laurence of the New York
Times, these instruments will show evidence of
an atomic explosion anywhere in the world.

Radio-activity from the Bikini bomb explo-
sions reached Geiger counters on the United
States Pacific coast, 4,000 miles away, within 10
days.

This far-flying characteristic of radio-acti-
vity from an atomic explosion was the cause of a
minor scientific mystery even before the news of
the first United States test explosion was made
public in 1945.

The mystery was cleared up in a few days

when Mr. Truman announced that the first test
explosion in New Mexico had taken place on July
16. It was at once recognized that the radio-acti-
ve cloud from New Mexico had soon travelled
over Illinois and it was this cloud which had af-
fected the straw.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The potato harvest does not lend itself so
readily to gaiety as does the more glamorous
grape but the Island is showing that festivity is
after all a state of mind.

World's largest chemical plant at Wilton
North England was officially opened recently by
Lord McGowan, chairman of the Imperial Chemi-
cal Industries. When completed it will cover more
than three square miles.

Moscow's publication of Stalin's 1928 views
would seem to indicate that, being 10 years be-
hind in atomic development, Russia wants the
Western world to be twenty years behind on So-
viet policy.

That was a commendable and characteris-
tic act on the part of the men of Harrington,
who, to the number of 54 invaded the farm of a
neighbour in hospital and reaped a crop of seven
acres of potatoes and stored them away safely in
the cellar to wait the return of the sick farmer.

National housing has suffered from the de-
pression, the war, post war shortages and now
appears likely to be further set back by the steel
strike. There is one bright aspect to the prob-
lem. The continued shortage reflects the steady
growth of this country.

Industry requires a supply of skilled labour
and skilled labour requires the existence of in-
dustry. The problem of the chicken or the egg is
being served by the Provincial Government's voca-
tional wing at P. W. C. The next step is to in-
duce industries to make use of the newly ac-
quired skills.

It may not logically follow, but the boost in
salary of the judges of the Supreme Court of
Canada is generally expected to be followed by
a general increase in judicial salaries which are
relatively low today compared with a few gen-
erations ago.

Canadians tend to be modest about their
own accomplishments so that it is particularly
gratifying to have Lord Webb-Johnson, President
of the Royal Society of Surgeons, tell us that
Canadian contribution to "medicine is without
parallel in the world today.

Angle parking has obvious advantages pro-
viding space for cars, but according to a recent
survey it also provides more traffic snarls and
accidents. It was found that almost three times
the accidents occurred when angle parking was
permitted.

A rumour was current recently that our old
S.S. Northumberland was to be added to the Ferry
Fleet, but there are no plans for replacement
of the steamer Northumberland, burnt at Port
Dalhousie, Ont., some time ago, Transport Min-
ister Chevrier informed T. L. Church (PC—Tor-
onto Broadview).

In Manitoba, the Progressive Conservatives
at the annual meeting of the Provincial Party de-
cided by a large majority to continue to support
the coalition with the Liberals, and will contest
the forthcoming elections as coalitionists. There
will be 57 members to be elected, two more than
in the present Legislature, Winnipeg having been
awarded two additional members—four instead
of two.

The good ladies who initiated and organized
for a secondary school in the city now have rea-
sonable ground for believing their project will be
realized. The School Board is willing; it is for
the City Council to foot the bill. With long time
loan practicable, Charlottetown can finance the
scheme just as well as Summerside has done, and
there the project was started without a cent in
exchequer, but reliable men in the Council on
whom the Bank could depend.

A reallocation of agricultural specialists in
Canada's Trade Commissioner service to bolster
the country's selling efforts abroad has been an-
nounced by the Trade Department. Mr. G. R.
Paterson, Canadian agricultural counsellor in
Washington, will be transferred to Ottawa to
supervise and direct the work of four new farm
produce specialists already appointed to the
service. Dr. W. C. Hopper, Canada's commercial
secretary in New Zealand, will succeed Mr. Paterson
in Washington. To be trained in Ottawa for
service abroad, the four new appointees will study
promotional activities under Mr. Paterson. The
new officials include W. F. Hillhouse of Saska-
toon; D. B. Loughton, of Nelson, B. C.; C. J.
Small, of Toronto, and W. J. Van Vliet, of Quint-
ton, Sask.

The coming national convention of Young
Liberals is the first one to be held in Quebec and,
according to national president C. A. Duranseau,
of Montreal, "requests for hotel reservations al-
ready point to the largest attendance ever re-
corded in the history of the Federation." New-
foundland delegates will be the first to reach
Montreal. Representatives of Canada's newest
province will arrive at Dorval by TCA plane next
Sunday. The participation of Newfoundland in
the convention is of special interest, this being
the first national convention held by the Young
Liberal Federation since Newfoundland joined
Confederation. Secretary of State F. Gordon
Bradley, himself a Newfoundlander, will be the
guest speaker at the "Newfoundland Luncheon,"
on the last day of the convention. At the main
banquet, Thursday evening, the guest speaker
will be Prime Minister Louis S. St. Laurent, who
will be thanked by Mr. Daniel Riley, M. P. for
Saint John-Albert and president of the Young
Liberal Association of New Brunswick.

First And Last



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

OBNOXIOUS MILITIA LAW

Text of an address to His Excellency Colonel John Reedy, Lieuten-
ant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's
Island of Prince Edward, and the
Territories thereto adjacent, &c.,
March 16, 1925:
"The House of Assembly having
taken into consideration the statu-
tes of the Militia Law, beg leave to
submit to your Excellency's con-
sideration the following observa-
tions thereon:
That this Law was passed at
an early period after the com-
mencement of our Colonial Govern-
ment in 1780, during the exist-
ence of a general war, and the
revolt of the North American
Provinces, now the United States,
and had long fallen into disuse and
become obsolete, other laws of a
temporary nature being from time
to time enacted on the same
subject, which owing to the fre-
quent interruption and long sus-
tention of our colonial Legisla-
ture, have been suffered to ex-
pire; subsequent to which this
Law was again resorted to by the
Colonial assembly and under its
authority the Island has suffered
great inconvenience and loss,
without its being of the least
value in promoting the object
for which it has been brought
forward, as our Militia now is,
and long has been in the most
ineffective state, and in many
instances without arms or any idea
of military discipline and is truly
a paper Militia, not for the want
of loyalty, spirit or zeal, but be-
cause its management and the in-
stitution altogether has long been
in the hands of persons entirely
unfamiliar with the subject, and
have undertaken, while the in-
dividuals enrolled therein have often
been subject to injuries and op-
pressions of the most vexatious
nature, and much more frequently
called upon to sacrifice valuable
and productive time to the object
of attending Militia meetings than
is common among our fellow sub-
jects in the neighboring Colonies;
to which may be added, that they
were for a considerable time called
upon to attend Militia meetings
without arms or any idea of mili-
tary discipline and watching and
warding at their own expense, in
a time of profound peace with-
out the existence of any distur-
bance or the appearance of any-
thing of the kind in the Colony.

"That this inefficient Militia
which has for many years not
made the smallest progress in
acquiring any knowledge of the
use of arms has nevertheless been
very expensive to the public in
the pay and allowances of the Ad-
jutant General, Adjutants and
Clerks of Battalions, with the cost
of provisions supplied for a
Militia Guard in the Town for a
considerable time; the total
amount of expenditure on the
Militia in the last Session appears
by the Public Accounts on our
table to be about £1,000, a sum
which we are confident might have
been much better given to the in-
dividuals who received it, as a
gratuity, than to permit them to
interfere with and impede every
year the productive labour of the
country, by meetings and muster-
ings which really answered no
other object than giving a colour
to this useless expenditure.

"Under all these circumstances,
without any idea of interfering
in the smallest degree with your
Excellency's authority on the sub-
ject, we think it our duty on be-
half of the Colony, to recommend
that the usual meetings of the
Militia be discontinued for
the present year, unless in cases
where your Excellency may wish
to inspect the different corps in
Polowling where the battle led.
when we trust that your Excel-
lency will see abundant proofs
of the loyalty and good feeling
which prevails in the Colony; and
we pledge ourselves that at the
next meeting of the Legislature,
we will enter cordially with your
Excellency into the consideration
of the subject, and endeavor, with
your valuable and extensive ex-
perience, to adopt and enact such
laws and regulations as may be
required to give the Colony an
efficient and serviceable Militia.

The Poet's Corner

HISTORY

Because a woman's lips were red,
Because a woman's breast was
white,
One man went forth into the night
Following where the battle led.
And, girded with resistless might,
He won a kingdom for his right.

Morbid Curiosity

(Fort Erie Times Review)
According to newspaper reports,
more than 50,000 otherwise intelli-
gent citizens poured into the To-
ronto harbor area following the
Noronc disaster. Many of the
more ghoulish hung around the
temporary morgue set up in the
nearby Exhibition grounds.
These people did not come to
help, or to seek relatives and
friends; they simply came to
gawk. It mattered not a bit to
them that the traffic jam and the
confusion they created hindered
the efforts of those who had work
to do. To them the whole ghastly
spectacle for which no admission
fee was required. Outwardly they
were shocked, muttering in sub-
dued tones how terrible it was;
inwardly they enjoyed it. All the
thrills of arson and none of its
responsibilities. A 20th century
auto-de-fe.

The Age-Old Story

Happy is the man whom God
correcteth; therefore despise not
thou the chastening of the Al-
mighty; for He maketh sore, and
hindereth up; He woundeth, and
His hands make wholeth.

TROPICAL PRESERVE

In the West Indies the tops of
tender bamboo shoots are pickled
and eaten.

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Notes By The Way

Obviously the eradication of
overhead wiring, at least in in-
dustrialized or downtown areas,
will be a tremendous task, but it
is one that will have to be faced
ultimately in every Canadian city.
The fire chief in a convention at
Ottawa mentioned Montreal and
London, Ont., as two cities which
were making good progress in the
work, but elsewhere they decla-
red Canadian cities were backward
in this regard. In fact, one West-
ern fire chief said Canada was
still living "in the era of the gay
nineties" when it came to modern
wiring methods. — Owen Sound
Sun-Times.

No public demand has ever been
known in Canada for the system
of shotgun public distribution of
taxes which is known as social
security. The number of Cana-
dians who ever thought of asking
for the welfare state is too
small to be of any interest at all.
Social security and the welfare
state have been wished on the
Canadian people by a combination
of unwise economists and enthu-
siastic politicians. Nor was there
any demand in Canada—outside of
Quebec, at any rate—for the baby
bonus. There was always need
for greater assistance to those poor
parents who are not able to pro-
vide properly for their families,

such as that of the Noronic. They
are fascinated by the sight of a
fellow human in pain; crowd
around him with slackened jaws
and moistened lips; offering futile,
even dangerous advice. Only when
he has finally been driven away in
an ambulance do they return to their
circle break up, and even then some
will remain to gaze at the spot where
he lay. Especially if it is marked
by a pool of blood.
Yet apart from their unhealthy
curiosity, these people are usually
very likeable. They do all the
things a good citizen should do,
and wouldn't so much as dream
of doing otherwise. They are kind-
ly, fond of their children, and
good to their aged parents. It
would be difficult to convince
them that their morbid curiosity
indicates a streak of the same sort
of cruelty that degraded the Ro-
mans, who flocked in thousands to
watch the early Christians torn
apart by lions.

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