

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887). Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 1947

Marine Railway Slip

Much is being heard these days of a marine railway slip for Charlottetown. It is worth recalling the history of this movement, which has been consistently sponsored by the Conservatives over a long period of years, and just as consistently ignored by Liberal administrations except on the eve of an election.

In 1911, when the late Sir Robert Borden was campaigning as Conservative leader, he definitely pledged himself and his party, when elected, to give Prince Edward Island an improved transportation service. He stated that a railway ferry system would be inaugurated between Borden and Tormentine, and, at the same time, in looking over the Charlottetown harbour situation, promised that our harbour facilities would be made up-to-date. He also stated that a survey would be made for the building of a Marine dock, now called Marine Railway Slip.

After the election Sir Robert was as good as his word. His pledge with regard to the Borden-Tormentine ferry service was implemented to the full. In 1912 or 1913 a survey was made with reference to a dry-dock, and at that time a place was selected at Southport directly opposite the city. Early in 1914 a contract was let for the machinery in connection with the dry-dock to a firm in London, England, but when the War broke out in 1914 this contract could not be fulfilled and the matter during the war was not further taken up. However, had Sir Robert continued as Premier there is no doubt but that the dry-dock would have been built.

Years later, when the Duncan Commission was here, they recommended that proper harbour facilities be given to the port of Charlottetown. Nothing was done to implement this report, however, until 1933 and 1934, when the Bennett Government promised a proper survey of the harbour and its requirements.

Unfortunately there was a change of government at Ottawa, and no action was taken with reference to this survey by the incoming Liberal administration. Now the Conservatives are advocating, and have definite assurance from their Party, that a marine railway slip will be built at the port of Charlottetown which will take care of all our ferry boats, tugs, dredges, Government patrol boats, etc., such as the Brant and Sorel, and any others that are in the service with Prince Edward Island. Business will also be solicited from all boats coming into our port that need special repairs. The question of costs regarding the slip would be a matter to be charged up to our transportation facilities.

This marine slip when built would give permanent employment to at least two hundred men annually. It is a matter which has been brought to the attention of the Federal House of Commons, and now the Progressive Conservative Party have promised to do all in their power to have this important work accomplished in Prince Edward Island.

Mr. MacCaull's Complaint

A serious complaint with regard to the manner in which road work is being done in some sections of the Island is voiced in address of Mr. P. M. MacCaull, one of the Conservative candidates for Second Prince, which appeared in yesterday's Guardian.

"A great deal," Mr. MacCaull declares, "is being said about all the work on our roads. I wonder if people realize the cost per mile, or the cost per load of gravel placed on the roads. I know a lot of time is being put in and a lot of gravel hauled, but what portion goes on the roads? On one project within five miles of my home I know where gravel has been placed on private lanes and around private homes, in some cases as many as twenty-nine loads to one person. This is not hearsay for I have seen the gravel and have seen the checker's figures for every load. I would like to have the Minister of Public Works show us where his Department has been paid for this gravel. Private lanes have been macchined and gravelled, as well as turnips pulled, manure composts built, boats hauled up, and even poultry dressed by men working on the Government's time. So if they spend \$5,000 on a project about one third of the cost goes for private benefit. Who, I ask, wants public funds expended in this manner? I want to emphasize that I am not finding fault with the amount of money spent by the Department of Public Works, I say they do not spend enough. But I do say that it should be expended on the roads and bridges, not on private property."

Mr. MacCaull's statements are in accord with the criticism voiced in the Legislature last session by Hon. Dr. MacMillan, Leader of the Opposition, with regard to work allegedly done during the by-election campaign in Second Prince. The facts as given at that time were denied by Premier Jones and Hon. Mr. Barbour. The Opposition Leader then asked for a committee to investigate the whole matter, offering to produce the evidence of witness. This offer was not accepted, though it was made quite early in the session, when there was ample time to have made arrangements for such an inquiry.

Mrs. Clarkin's Poems

Guardian readers will not need to be reminded of the high quality of the late Mrs. Lucy Gertrude Clarkin's poems, many of which have appeared in these columns. Her poems have now been collected and published in attractive

form by "Red and White", St. Dunstan's University magazine, in which many of them originally appeared. These have been conveniently arranged in chronological order, with the dates of their original publication. Another section is devoted to the poems which appeared in other publications. This very fine collection is of enduring value, both as poetry and for its religious inspiration. It should make a wide popular appeal at this Christmas season.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Less than a week for the election.

Parliament resumes tomorrow at Ottawa.

The Prime Minister, home from distraught Europe takes a very serious view of the situation, and his address to Parliament will be weighted with grave anxiety.

With forecasts of price increases for fertilizers of 20 per cent or more in the Maritimes it looks as if farmers here will have to go back to digging mussel mud.

The Island is fortunate in having a strong delegation to the Agricultural Conference about their numbers are few. Messrs. Walter R. Shaw, J. J. MacDonald and R. C. Parent can be depended upon to hold up the Island's end.

The bankers' views seems to be that good citizenship today means frugality in consumption and self-restraint in demanding increased wages and profits.

From the conflicting views expressed by various Liberal candidates on labour, Daylight Saving, the Prohibition Act, etc., it would seem that even if a majority of Liberals were to be returned they would have difficulty in carrying on a government.

The Jones Government purports to favour regional Composite High Schools, but between elections they have shown very little enthusiasm for introducing them.

It seems now up to the U. S. A. and the U. S. S. R. to stop the threatened "Holy War" in the Holy Land, Britain intending to withdraw her forces before August next. The two dominant nations in the world must reach an agreement or else—?

Publicity works quickly at election times. The condition of the roads in St. Peter's district has resulted in the immediate despatch of two road machines to the district, one working east of Souris bridge and the other at St. Peter's.

Will subsidies for livestock be re-introduced or will the consumer have to foot the bill in increased cost of living? That is the question anxiously awaiting an answer from Hon. Mr. Gardiner at Ottawa. Of course, whichever way the problem is solved, the consumer ultimately pays either directly or indirectly though the latter is the less painful operation.

The protagonists of margarine in this country make a habit of referring to what they call a "butter monopoly". It is a very strange kind of monopoly, indeed, which is open to farmers and dairymen of every province who, on the surface at least, show no signs of being members of a colossal cartel.

Youths' Guidance is a step to bring us in line with the rest of Canada though it brings us also a step farther away from individualism and more in tune with socialism. It means the State taking the place of the family and Church in directing youth the way he should go to make the best use of his abilities and opportunities. In future it may be our teachers will all have to become psychologists before obtaining a licence to teach.

British ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer has already got a new job, but one without government remuneration. Mr. Harold Laski vacated the chairmanship of the British Labor Party's international sub-committee, and Mr. Hugh Dalton has been named to replace him. The group's principal task is to study Labor Policy in relation to international affairs. Mr. Laski gave the press of other work as his reason for resigning.

Thomas Carlyle, Scottish historian, essayist and philosopher, born this date 1795. He exercised a more powerful influence upon the literary and the religious, ethical and political views of his time than any contemporary English writer. His work is remarkable for its qualities of humour, sarcasm, and profound insight, and his bold and picturesque style is distinctly characteristic of the man. That it is faultless no rational being would contend; that it is powerful few would deny. "The beginning of all is to have done with Falsity; to eschew Falsity as Death Eternal; in other words, to avoid mere 'Shop Window Dressing' as a substitute of Reality."

Six years ago on December 7, 1941, Canada declared war on Japan a few hours after that country's brutal sneak attack on Pearl Harbour. Canada acted in advance of most countries. The United States and most Commonwealth Dominions did not declare war against Japan until December 8th. Japan's action forced the United States into the war in Europe, also. On December 11, both Germany and Italy declared war on the U. S. and the States accepted the challenge. Canadian troops then stationed at Hong Kong were immediately thrown into the thick of the fighting. Against overwhelming odds they held out for two weeks but were forced to surrender on Christmas Day when the situation became hopeless. In all, 555 Canadians including their Commander, Brig. J. L. Lawson, were killed in defence of the island or died later as a result of malnutrition in Japanese prisoner of war camps.

Notes By The Way

An optimist is a man who is always going to pay the pessimist what he owes him. —New Glasgow News.

Some day, perhaps, a bus driver will invent a bus that can rear up on its hind wheels and give emphasis to his request that passengers move to the rear. —Kitchen Record.

Professional sport, which is big business, has developed its own special techniques, and one of these is the system of buying and selling players like livestock. This is the system of buying and selling players like livestock. This is the system of buying and selling players like livestock.

It is 17 years since Brantford had its last case of diphtheria. No one from November 18, 1930, to date, has this malady, which once commonly took many lives in every community, made a reappearance here. Brantford, therefore, holds a no-diphtheria record unequalled anywhere in the world by cities of 30,000 or larger. —Brantford Expositor.

In the past there have been women elected to councils who did not "go well" in the predominantly male atmosphere of the council chamber. Sponsor of nominees should avoid being led astray by a woman's appearance, or a persuasive tongue. Off-hand there are three or four business women in town who could well run for council. Why not? —Co. Jurg (Ont.) World.

A people's car, with less than half the parts of a British car, and framed by unit free from rust, will be produced in South Australia soon, says The Australian News Letter. A prototype is now going through a gruelling 5,000 mile road test. Of 7 h.p. and able to run 45 miles on a gallon of gasoline the car will probably be the cheapest on the Australian market. Except for an air conditioner and some ball bearings, the car will be wholly Australian made.

A sign of the changing times—though not a pleasant one—is the announcement that a Port Saskatchewan man has been heavily fined for dangerous flying, flying a biplane over the city. The aircraft not legally registered and without proper identification marks. It was the first prosecution of its kind and restrictions on flying are being tightened. The man, a resident of the city, was fined \$100. —Edmonton Journal.

Without turning a hair the Canadian people are compelled to admit that, last year, fire destroyed property in Canada amounting to nearly \$300,000,000 or about 55 per cent more than the losses five months ago. And in the short space of 18 months, in 1946, 408 Canadians lost their lives through fire. Yet year by year we continue to import more and more machinery of destruction. —Campbellton (N.B.) Gleaner.

In the countries boasting the most "hot" are people who have tasted roast chicken and cream for ages. When a man has a full stomach he generally doesn't get a hoot about any of those things. He is content to be being jammed down the throats of weary hungry people. —Elmwood (Man.) Herald.

Just as the omniscients who are trustees of the Tate Art Gallery in London have decided against the showing of old-fashioned story pictures in favour of modern stuff, the United States is taking one of the popular canvas subjects, long admired in the Tate as a model for general appreciation. "The Doctor," famous painting by Luke Fildes, has been carried away by the United States three-cent stamp. The well-known picture depicts in fine conception and good art the doctor sitting beside a girl a-bed in a white cottage. In the good old days of the worthy old family doctor. To get the setting just right, Fildes searched the countryside till he found the cottage he wanted in a white cottage. He had it taken down and re-erected it in his studio in London. —Brandon Sun.

In many homes today, the sound of breaking glass and the sad sight of soiled slip-covers and broken furniture are cheerfully ignored by deluded parents who have been carried away by child psychology. Junior is not going to be inhibited. It appears that enlightened parents don't say "don't" but let Junior's unbridled tendency to destroy be dissipated in childhood, so that he will be charmingly well adjusted on maturity. Junior will never be mature. He will always be just what he is. You get burly playing with fire, and knifing your neighbor is followed swiftly by hanging, so it seems only fitting and proper that general delivment around the house, and neighborhood, should involve getting smacked, quickly, inevitably, and hard. A flurry of queer thinking—along with a good deal of indifference and neglect—has appeared in place of discipline. Good guidance to the birch rod, but parents have hands, and even the most difficult, complex little hoodlums has a place for a good spank. —From The Printed Word.

HEADS DIAMOND INDUSTRY The Belgian Congo is the world's principal producer of industrial diamonds.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL

Sir,—On reading of the proposed Youth Guidance Council in Charlottetown I thought of the immense advantages of the project. During the War years similar committees were appointed in the British Isles to assist young people in adjusting themselves to suitable work. Labor was directed as a wartime measure, and little option was given, but with the variety of war work available it was possible to assist and guide them in their daily work. The committee was attached to the Ministry of Labor and comprised of members from the position prevailing in handling and engaging staff, one member being a representative of the Ministry of Labor. From experience I can say with much emphasis that the help given to the young people who consulted the committee, such an organization can be an enormous help in making them feel that there is an independent body from whom advice and help can be requested.

The wartime position in England was, naturally, quite different from the position prevailing here, and many varied conditions had to be taken into consideration; but young people are so in need of advice on careers and in fact many personal matters, in all places of the world, that the advantages are obvious. The committee met on certain stated times and any known difficulties from the position of the Ministry of Labor were referred to the committee for consideration and discussion with the individual. The committees were well known and young people encouraged to apply for advice.

I shall be interested to see the stabilizing of a Youth Guidance Council in Charlottetown for the young people of today, make, and keep the faith of the Canada of tomorrow.

I am, Sir, etc. BARBARA L. JENKINS Charlottetown.

"CONSIDER THE LILY"

Sir,—The present election campaign is developing into one of fear as to the future. Apparently the past splendid record of the Jones Government is to count for naught. We are told that the farmers may lose thousands of dollars on their potatoes. "If it is true that ceilings will be imposed." Readers will notice the "if" in this quotation from a conservative advertisement. It reminds me of the terrible things that might happen this Province in the past several winters "if" the projector should not be repaired. The "if" is more active than ever. The new script system enables him more easily to get his supplies—so violations to the Prohibition Act increased from 781 in 1946 to 1509 in 1946. To offset all this, there is only one plan, viz—revenue. That is illusory. First because the evil effects of drinking always cost more than any revenue derived from it. Second, because in order to secure \$600,000 revenue, the Government sold \$1,700,000 of liquor. After making generous allowance for sales to tourists, it remains that for every dollar of revenue two dollars were extracted from the people of P.E.I. For this money they received a dangerous narcotic, the drug that is malingering our jails, maiming life and safety on the highway and tempting our youth. I am sure you will tell your people that money secured through human degradation and suffering is too costly.

On December 11th, the electors are given the opportunity of expressing their views. I know how difficult it is for a Minister to take any part in an election. Fortunately this is not a party issue as members on both sides of the House voted for and against this measure. It is a great moral issue and the people have the right to expect some leadership from their ministers.

I suggest that a wise and safe line is to point out the facts. Then urge our people to rise above party consideration and vote for candidates who will (1) vote to repeal the Cullen Amendment and (2) support effective enforcement of the Prohibition Act. Ministers

I am, Sir, etc. J.F.W.

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CHARGES INTOLERANCE

Sir,—I have just finished reading a letter in today's issue of your paper by C.A. Hicks, secretary of the Island Temperance Federation. To my mind it illustrates how far fanatics will go at times to promote their hobbies.

I am writing as a teetotaler and a strong temperance advocate and an anti-prohibitionist. Prohibition has been proven a failure in every Province and State in which it was ever tried.

Further, I do not like Prohibitionists—they are too intolerant and dictatorial to suit my taste. They can use a veto officer and with much less reason than Molotov at a U.N.O. meeting. What a fine country we would have if Prohibitionists were running it! Even less freedom than the Germans under Hitler or the Russians under Stalin. Complete intolerance is their philosophy—do as I say—or else.

In the above respect I note that Mr. Hicks calls upon brother Prohibitionists to vote against every member who voted for the Cullen Amendment, regardless of how much they may have done in the House or in the Cabinet to promote better educational services, health, trade, and in fact all things for the betterment of the welfare of the Island people. To the prohibitionist none of these things count, only the automatic viewpoint which he possesses. Thank goodness the intelligence of the majority of the Island and Canadian people has not reached such a low level and never will. My advice to the electors: "Vote as you like but vote." There is no room for prejudice and intolerance in a British country.

I am, Sir, etc. FRED M. BROWN Summerside, P.E.I.

THE CULLEN AMENDMENT

Sir,—I trust that you can find space to publish the enclosed. It contains facts that the people of Prince Edward Island should know, and especially at this time. A copy has already been sent to all the ministers of the J.C. Presbytery.

I am, Sir, etc. (Rev.) W.I. Green Stanley Bridge, P.E.I.

"To The Ministers of Prince Edward Island"

"Dear Brethren: I am taking the liberty of addressing you on the liquor situation in your Province, knowing how greatly evil conditions that threaten the welfare of your people distress you. A careful study of the official records shows that the so-called Cullen Amendment to the Prohibition Act has been productive of much evil. Arrests in Charlottetown have reached the highest in its history, 1280 in 1946, an increase of 433 over 1945. Convictions for drunk driving almost doubled in one year. In that year the number of registered motor vehicles in the Province increased 7% but motor accidents increased 130%, from 162 to 374. The boot-legal is apparently more active than ever. The new script system enables him more easily to get his supplies—so violations to the Prohibition Act increased from 781 in 1946 to 1509 in 1946. To offset all this, there is only one plan, viz—revenue. That is illusory. First because the evil effects of drinking always cost more than any revenue derived from it. Second, because in order to secure \$600,000 revenue, the Government sold \$1,700,000 of liquor. After making generous allowance for sales to tourists, it remains that for every dollar of revenue two dollars were extracted from the people of P.E.I. For this money they received a dangerous narcotic, the drug that is malingering our jails, maiming life and safety on the highway and tempting our youth. I am sure you will tell your people that money secured through human degradation and suffering is too costly.

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might well interview candidates of all parties and urge them to take such a stand. One point must be guarded, The Cullen Amendment has weakened and mutilated the Prohibition Act with deplorable results. But it has not destroyed I.A.P.E.I.'s per capita consumption of liquor is still less than half that of the whole Dominion. Thank God you have no liquor stores, beer parlors, cocktail bars etc. in your towns and villages. May your increasing vigilance keep them out forever. Sincerely yours, JOHN COBURN, General Secretary, The Canadian Temperance Federation, Toronto, Ont.

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Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) EARLY TRANSPORTATION The following extract from the diary of Benj. Chappell, who was leaving New London to settle at Charlottetown, P.E.I., on the 10th of North West, lay to until 5 a. m. ran before wind to Gut of Cansu, reached 10.30 p. m. Slept there three nights. Left Cansu Friday, 9th, 10 a. m. Reached Pictou Island Saturday night, anchored off Point Prim 10 p. m. Sunday light made the Port and got ashore in the King's boat. Thus it took him nine days to reach Charlottetown from Malpeque.

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The Poets Corner

SONG BEFORE WINTER Autumn has done Winter's will; Strip bare the trees Before I come. Last night she tore them down And scattered everywhere the gold, The brown, the green, On pavement.

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