

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, OCT. 20, 1949

Caucus vs. Open Meetings

As indicated in our Monday's issue, the
City Council's choice of Chief of Police in
succession to Chief Birtwistle has fallen
upon Mr. Charles W. MacArthur, recently
retired from the R. C. M. P. A veteran of
the First World War, in which he was
awarded the Military Medal and earned his
commission in the field, Mr. MacArthur ap-
pears to be well qualified for his new duties.
It is to be hoped that he will receive the
fullest co-operation and support from the
Council, the police organization and our citi-
zens generally.

The appointment of a new Police Chief
was practically forced upon the Council by
Chief Birtwistle's application for retirement
after long and meritorious service. This
news was published in The Guardian at the
time, and was doubtless fully debated at
caucus meetings of the Council. Unfortun-
ately, the Council appears to take the atti-
tude that the less the public knows about
civic affairs the better. The subject was
sidestepped at open Council meetings, and
when it finally came up it was dealt with
in caucus followed by a midday open meet-
ing of a few minutes' duration, when the
vote was put through without discussion.

The same procedure has been followed
in other recent instances, such as the Coun-
cil's action—if action it can be called—in
connection with the installation of parking
meters. What contract, if any, has been
awarded in this matter and what are the
terms and conditions? The public has been
given the barest minimum of information,
and it was necessary for The Guardian to
obtain and publish details of the operation
of parking meters in Summerside in order
to throw any light whatever on the subject.
Similarly with the passage of the civic pen-
sions bill, which went through unanimously
without discussion after it had been shown
by two insurance authorities—one of them
a Council member—that it was actuarially
unsound.

This shrinking-violet attitude towards
public opinion, as pointed out before in these
columns, is setting a dangerous precedent
and paving the way for all kinds of irregu-
larities in the administration of civic affairs.
We are preparing to celebrate shortly one
of our most solemn anniversaries in remem-
brance of those who died for freedom
and democracy; yet here we have our City
Council playing totalitarian politics on a
midnet scale. This is practically what the
present procedure amounts to when the real
business meetings of the Council are closed
to the public.

Fishery Inspection Program

Doubtless among the matters to be dis-
cussed at the convention of the P. E. I.
Fisheries Federation which meets in Char-
lottetown today, will be the new regula-
tions for inspection of fish and fish contain-
ers which are now before Parliament. In
moving the bill into committee in the House
of Commons last week, Fisheries Minister
Mayhew explained its provisions in some de-
tail. During the past two years, he said,
the Government has been considering revision
of the present fish inspection legislation,
which is embodied in two separate acts.
Canned fish inspection is under the Meat
and Canned Food Acts; other types of fish
are inspected under the Fish Inspection Act.
The latter act was passed in 1914 to take
care of the problem of pickled barreled fish.
Since then it has been amended on several
occasions, but the necessary statutory author-
ity is lacking to meet present-day quality
control problems.

There was also the question of the valid-
ity of the act itself from the constitutional
point of view. The present revision has
been made for the three-fold purpose of pro-
viding for inspection of fish which moves in
inter-provincial and export trade, of amend-
ing the regulatory powers and of amplifying
and simplifying some of the enforce-
ment procedure.

The provisions of the existing Fish In-
spection Act are not confined to export and
interprovincial trade but deal with inspection
generally. The Act covers inspection
of fish whether such fish is sold within the
Province or elsewhere, and it is here the
difficulty has arisen. Inspection, if it deals
only with fish that is sold within a Province,
is a matter for provincial jurisdiction. Some
years ago it was thought that this problem
could be overcome by getting the Provinces
to pass enabling legislation. Several of the
Provinces, where the Act has been applied,
passed acts which in effect said: "We adopt
this act as our own, insofar as it might
deal with matters which are outside Dominion
jurisdiction." Since 1942 however, there
have been judicial decisions which cast a

doubt on the legality of such an arrange-
ment.

In connection with the revision of the
existing legislation several conferences with
provincial authorities were held. The offi-
cials of the Provincial Governments agreed
to co-operate and to recommend any provin-
cial legislation which was required.

With regard to extending the regulatory
control, Mr. Mayhew said it was necessary
first to provide statutory authority to meet
the present day quality control needs of the
industry. This did not mean that new regula-
tions were being proposed at this stage,
but merely that the Department was seeking
power to institute "any inspection procedure
whenever that becomes necessary."

This is a pretty broad order, but it is
expected that the industry will be fully pro-
tected by submitting the inspection regula-
tions themselves, as they are proposed from
time to time, to the fullest scrutiny before
being adopted.

It is essential to the industry that qual-
ity production be maintained and improved,
and it is hoped that today's annual confer-
ence of the Fisheries Federation, as well as
the new Dominion legislation which is being
put through after consultation with the
Provinces, will result in some concrete pro-
gress in this direction.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Budget tonight.

Tomorrow Trafalgar Day.

Indian Summer could not last for ever.
Winter's blasts came this week to Ontario
and the West. Soon it will be our turn.

Ottawa claims to have "seen the light"
but experts claim that it was only a large
meteor or fire-ball.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
announced it is launching a song-writing
competition, with total prizes of \$2,500, "in
an attempt to overcome the scarcity of dis-
tinctive Canadian songs." Open to compos-
ers domiciled in Canada, prizes will be \$250
each for the 10 best songs entered.

The Provincial Premiers who will as-
semble to devise a system for amending
this country's constitution have a great re-
sponsibility, as great as that of the Fathers
of Confederation. May it also be said of
them that "they builded greater than they
knew."

Addressing the Mothers' Union of Great
Britain, an organization with 2,000 branches,
Princess Elizabeth improved the shining
hour by denouncing divorces and appealing
for the preservation and conservation of
home life in the family. In so doing Her
Royal Highness was only doing her duty as
a mother in the Royal Family in a Christian
country, and a defender of the Faith.

Grace Horsley Darling, English heroine,
died this date 1842. Daughter of the Keeper
of Longstone Lighthouse, Farnes Islands;
famous for her share in the rescue in 1838
of the crew of "Forfarshire". She launched
the lighthouse boat in a strong sea, and
brought the sailors safe to shore. She died
of T.B., and was buried beneath the altar-
tomb in the churchyard of Bamfborough
Castle.

In the drive for the Canadian Citizen-
ship Counsel there has not been nor will
there be a personal solicitation for the
funds. The quota for the Province is the
small sum of \$500 and it is confidently ex-
pected that this amount will be over-
subscribed. The cause is a worthy one and
should meet with a ready response.

The most delightful cornerstone-laying
story of the year comes from Montreal. The
East End Boys Club has the usual news-
papers and coins under its cornerstone, but
it also has, most appropriately, the pocket
contents of a 13-year-old boy. Asked by the
chairman of the function if any one had a
1949 new dime, he came forward with one,
and also solemnly contributed from his pocket
which held the coin a piece of string,
rubber band and cap pistol, which the chair-
man thought appropriate to place with other
mementos under the corner stone.

The Bureau of Statistics report that
72,222,000 pounds of creamery butter was
held in storage at Oct. 1. Most is being held
by the Government as a price-support mea-
sure to be sold during the winter when little
butter is produced in Canada. Stocks in
storage Oct. 1, 1948, were 53,713,000
pounds).

In Kentville, N. S., Wing Cmdr. G. A.
Hiltz, commanding officer of the R. C. A. F.
base at nearby Greenwood, declared that
the Arctic has replaced the Mediterranean
as the world's military focal point. He told
a service club that the Arctic probably
would be the strategic centre in the event
of a third world war, which would bring it
pretty close to this province.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

FIRST LOCAL POSTMASTER

Sir.—Who was the first Post-
master in Charlottetown? What is
the source of the statement that
John Ross was appointed Post-
master in 1802? It would be con-
siderable interest if the author of
the article "Postal Development in
Charlottetown", as copied from
"The Post Mark" in the Guardian
of August 20th, could give us fur-
ther particulars.

In the Provincial Secretary's
keeping there is a record of the
commissions issued by the Govern-
ment, from the "Private Secretary's
Office" showing that in December
of 1787, James Robertson, Esq.,
was appointed "Deputy Postmas-
ter." This is presumably the same
"James Robertson, Esq." who on
August 20, 1787, was appointed
printer to the Government and
published the first issue of the very
first island newspaper, "The Royal
Commercial Gazette and Intelli-
gencer." This rarest and earliest
of Charlottetown papers was quar-
terly, three columns per page with
the columns about ten inches
long.

Does the appointment of a Deputy
Postmaster imply a Postmaster,
and who held this office? The
minutes of the Executive Council
for 1787 might supply the answer.

On May 5, 1802, Benjamin Chap-
pell was commissioned Postmaster
according to the record, and paid
a fee of ten shillings. He kept the
Post Office, until his death in 1825,
in a little log house on the corner
of Prince and Water Street, almost
directly across from the present
day Lennox Hotel. This building,
of which there is a quaint cut in
Brenner's "An Island Scrap Book"
(1832) is alleged to have been built
in 1780, and to have been still
standing when Mr. Brenner com-
piled his book. It was torn down
around 1870, as mentioned in
Owen's communication as quoted
by T. E. McNutt in his Guardian
letter of August 21st would seem
to suggest that this rarest of
Charlottetown papers was quar-
terly, three columns per page with
the columns about ten inches
long.

Colonel Weatherbie, an outstand-
ing Ottawa, is believed
to have made a most com-
prehensive study of our Postal history.
His work, when published will
doubtless clear up many obscure
points.

I am, Sir, etc.

G. A. LEBARD.

("The History of the Post Office
in British North America, 1639-
1870," by William Smith, quoted in
Warburton's History, states: "The
first mail was established in 1763,
and in 1764 we find a postal
service in operation in
Prince Edward Island is 1801,
(Quebec Almanac, 1802, page 11.)
The Ross is mentioned as Post-
master in that year. He was suc-
ceeded by Benjamin Chappell in
whose hands and those of his family
the postmastership remained
for over forty years.—Ed. G.)

RADIO BROADCASTING

Sir.—As the writer has been en-
gaged in the operation of a Char-
lottetown for more than twenty-
five years, it was with interest I
read the letter signed by Paul
McLaughlin, in your issue of the
18th instant.

As Mr. McLaughlin's informa-
tion on the Canadian Broadcast-
ing set-up seems to be very lim-
ited, I would appreciate pointing
out to your readers, who have
digested Mr. McLaughlin's letter,
the following private broadcasting
stations of Canada united in the
Canadian Association of Broad-
casters, have been operating since
over a long period of years the
operation of a national system of
broadcasting. They have supported
it with their money and with a
creation of many hours daily
of their time on the air to the
National System, on a free basis.
The National System, which is
operated by the CBC, pays no
taxes as it claims to be an eman-
ation of the Crown. The private
stations, numbering some 111, pay
millions of dollars of taxes each year
to Dominion, Provincial and
municipal authorities.

The National System of the CBC
has complete authority over all the
operations of the private stations,
while with these stations for ad-
vertising business, both on the
national and local advertising
level. With the CBC deficit result-
ing alarming proportions about
three years ago, the license to
broadcast issued annually to Can-
ada's private stations, was in-
creased approximately 500% in
the case of some stations, in order
that their Government competitor
might have its deficit wiped out.
This discriminatory taxation is pre-
sumably to be continued against
the private stations even though
the CBC may attain its present
objective that the receiver license
fee be increased from \$250 to
\$500.

The private stations of Canada,
at least the ones which I rep-
resent, have consistently main-
tained that radio receivers in Canada
should be completely free of any
tax or fee payments as in the United
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It should be amazing for in-
stance to Mr. McLaughlin to learn
that the local private station con-
tributes over 30% of its actual

The Bad Influence (Or, As Others See Us)



The Poet's Corner

A ROAD OF IRELAND

From Killybegs to Ardara is seven
Irish miles.
'Tis there the blackbirds whistle
and the malingers call.
Beyond the fields the green sea
glints, above the heaven
smiles.
On a fine white boreens that
thread the glens of Donegal.

Along the roads what feet have
passed, could they but tell
the story.
Of ancient king and saint and
bard, the roads have known
them all;
Lough Derg, Doan Well, Glen Col-
umille, the names are yet a
glory.

'Tis great ghosts in the gloaming
remember Donegal.

The harbor slips of Killybegs glist-
ened with Spanish sail
The days Spain ventured round the
world and held the half in
thrall.
And Ardara has writ her name in
the proud books of the Gael.
But this I like to think of them
now in dream-land Donegal.

Well, time will have its fling with
what, it is the changeless law.
But this I like to think of what-
ever may befall;
When she came up from Killybegs
and he from Ardara
My father met my mother on the
road, in Donegal.

—Charles L. O'Donnell.

operating time on the air to the
National System, known as the
CBC, while receiving six prop-
erly of the commercial program
revenue, less than 10% of its
gross revenue in an average year.
In other words, it is obvious that
the Canadian Broadcasting Corpora-
tion must make a profit on all
the private stations which are
affiliated with it, irrespective
entirely of the very heavy taxes
paid by these stations, which
goes entirely to the CBC.

In conclusion, might I point out
to Mr. McLaughlin that far from
propagandizing against the CBC,
the Canadian Association of Broad-
casters, representing over 90% of
all the private broadcasting sta-
tions, joined together for the
joint presentation of a single pro-
gram.

Certain figures quoted by Mr.
McLaughlin refer entirely to the
United States broadcasting picture
and have absolutely no basis of
comparison with the Canadian sit-
uation.

In Canada, both networks, Do-
minion and Trans-Canada, are
owned and operated by the CBC
and they have been handling all
the advertising programs on these
networks which they feel they can
accept.

That network broadcasting in
Canada can hardly be considered
a profitable business, is best illus-
trated by the continued annual
deficits the CBC, necessarily have
a huge increase in the license fee
of the private broadcasters two
years ago, and now the proposal
on the part of the CBC to ask for
an increase of 100% in the radio
receiver license fee. The private
broadcasting stations of Canada
individually and collectively have
for more than five years been re-
commending the adoption in Can-
ada of the Australian system,
whereby National Broadcasting is
supported entirely by grants from
the Federal treasury and where
the Government system does not
encourage the operations of the
private stations that being done
by an independent commission.

I am, Sir, etc.
K. S. ROGERS.

Old Charlottetown

GOVERNOR READY'S TOUR

His Excellency Lieutenant Govern-
or Ready returned from his
tour to the southward on Friday
evening. He visited the thriving
settlements of Orwell, Pinette,
Flat River, and Wood Islands, and
returned to town by the road
through Orwell to Vernon River,
and from this last place went
to the farthest party of the road
makers on the George-Town road
and examined the progress of the
work.

His Excellency on his journey
from town was met at the Orwell
ferry by several gentlemen of
that neighbourhood who were
joined soon afterwards by the
Rev. Mr. McLennan of Pinette
with a body of about forty horse-
men, consisting of the most respect-
able of the adjoining farmers, who
escorted his Excellency to Pinette
Mill where he partook of an ex-
cellent cold collation at the house
of Mr. Morrison, and from thence
proceeded to Flat River to dinner
at the hospitable mansion of Mr.
McLennan.

It was a matter of great pride
and gratification to the settlers
to receive such a visit and to wit-
ness their worthy Governor per-
sonally examining the actual con-
dition of the Colony and becoming
acquainted with the people
and their wants—a circumstance
so very unusual in this Island, as
to add to it all the charms of
novelty. It is hardly necessary to
say that in a Highland settlement
his Excellency was received with
all the loyalty and hospitality that
has distinguished his visits to the
other parts of the Colony.

—Prince Edward Island Register,
Sept. 6, 1825.

The Age-Old Story

Blessed is the people that know
the joyful sound! They shall walk,
O Lord, in the light of Thy counte-
nance. In Thy name shall they
rejoice all the day, and in Thy
righteousness shall they be exalted.

LOST AND FOUND

VANCOUVER.—(CP)—Pilot
Neil Carey of the Queen Charlotte
airlines believes in miracles. Flying
over Georgia Strait, his coast
was whipped away and fluttered
into the sea. Three days later a
fisherman returned the water-
soaked coat to Carey—with \$700
in cheques still in the pocket.

THE DUCKS RETURN

LETHBRIDGE, Alta.—(CP)—
For the first time since the days
of the great bison herds, wild ducks
are expected to return soon to the
windward corner of southwest
Alberta. The completion in 1951 of
the St. Mary-Milk River irrigation
project will create a 102-square-
mile lake and a web of irrigation
ditches.

GROWTH OF A VILLAGE

STETTLE, Alta.—(CP)—Oil
fields in the district are helping
this village, founded in 1906, to
grow. Though its population is
still only 2,000, about one-quarter
of those arrived in the last three
years.

BEFORE METAL AGE

In primitive times, shell, wood,
flint and horn materials were used
to fashion spoons.

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Notes By The Way

Benjamin Riley, office boy at a
Leeds wholesale warehouse, asked
his boss if he could have Saturday
morning off, explaining with that
smile and a twirl of his waxed
moustache: "It's my golden wed-
ding party." He got it. Ben, who
lives in Oxley street, Leeds,
claims at 72 to be the city's oldest
office boy. After 50 years on the
railway as a porter, guard, tele-
graphist, shunter, signaller, and
ticket inspector, he retired two
years ago. "But I soon got brown-
ed off. Imagine my jubilation
when one of my four sons said a
warehouse in Pontefract lane was
finding it difficult to get a boy.
I went along and got the job and
I really enjoyed it." "Best office
boy I ever had," says his boss, Mr.
S. W. Wilson. — London Mail.

The Hoover Commission reports
have attracted considerable atten-
tion, even if less than deserved.
Canada's lack of a Coast Guard
legislation that out of 49 agencies
commented upon in the reports
as a little extravagant and with
opportunities for more efficiency
and less waste only six have
admitted any possibility of savings
whatsoever. Our main objection
to parasites and idlers on the rolls
with equal rank and rights to-
ward retirement with producers
too much of their time (on the
Government payroll) working on
their Congressmen to increase
bureaucracy with increasing num-
bers of tax-payers' expense. We taxpayers
don't like it.—Washington Post.

The current session of Parliam-
ent is still young, but already
Canada's lack of a Coast Guard
has been brought to the attention
of the House of Commons. Two
British Columbia members have
presented urgent demands for the
establishment of a Canadian Coast
Guard service and, in so doing,
have brought to the House a de-
mand which has been emphasized
repeatedly by informed groups on
both coasts. Thousands of inter-
ested Canadians will hope that

these two members have started
something which will win the
sympathetic approval of other
members of the House and that
this session, at last, will see some
effective action towards the estab-
lishment of a Coast Guard service.
—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Out on Vancouver Island an ap-
peal court has declared that Peep-
ing Toms are criminals, instead of
mere trespassers, and it's believed
to be the first time in Canadian
legal history that any such judg-
ment has been pronounced. There
will be no quarrel with this find-
ing, but some complications may
arise if ever federal authorities
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ment has been pronounced. There
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Dr. H. L. Keenleyside, deputy
minister of Mines and Resources,
won a mince-pie baking contest
in Ottawa. Which proves some-
thing more than mere versatility.
He never has lost sight of fun-
derament to have Toms struck
blind, but it might allow the
defended parties to blacken the
eyes.—Windsor Star.

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