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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JAN. 26, 1936

Massey Commission Hearings

Welcome visitors to Prince Edward Island today are the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey and his distinguished colleagues comprising the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences. The hearings in Charlottetown, which begin at 10 a.m. in the City Council chambers today, are open to the public but unfortunately the limited accommodation in the chamber makes this invitation somewhat provisional.

According to a news report, the formal briefs submitted for consideration are not read at the Commission hearings. These have already been perused, and it will be on questions dealing with the points raised in the briefs that the witnesses will be interrogated. This method saves time, and makes the proceedings much more interesting.

In appointing the Commission reference was made to certain Federal agencies and activities which are supposed to contribute to national culture and into whose functioning it is deemed particularly desirable to examine. These agencies have consequently received a good deal of publicity at the Commission hearings. But it is to be remembered that the true culture of a nation or a community is something quite different. It must be germinated from within, not imposed from without. All over the country we have an increasing number of bureaucrats engaged in popularizing cultural subjects through government sponsored channels at the taxpayers' expense. The independent channels — such as the local newspapers, for example — which for the past hundred years have been reflecting public opinion and championing public causes and seeking, as best they can, to raise public standards and cultivate public taste — are to some bureaucratic minds of value mainly for the free publicity they are expected to give to their own subsidized activities. All the briefs in the world prompted by this attitude will be of little help to the Massey Commission in coming to any worthwhile conclusions.

To find means of developing a national culture the Commissioners will have to get to the taproots of the culture we have. They will not go down very far before striking the soil of our pioneer forefathers, who came here to escape from government paternalism at home and whose whole lives exemplified what Emerson — himself no poor embodiment of the ideal of culture — meant when he exclaimed: "Welcome evermore to gods and men is the self-helping man!"

The U. K. Cheese Contract

The United Kingdom has agreed to take up 85,000,000 pounds of Canadian cheddar cheese this year. On the whole it looks as if Canada's negotiators struck as good a bargain as could be expected. The price is lower than last year in terms of Canadian money but about the same as far as Britain is concerned, having in mind its depreciated currency. The minimum amount Canada has agreed to make available is some twenty million pounds greater than was sent over in 1949 and the maximum amount Britain has agreed to accept represents about all the cheese we can hope to have for export.

The rub, as far as farmers are concerned, says the Ottawa Journal, is that even with the proposed three cents a pound subsidy producers here stand to receive considerably less than last year—27 cents a pound for cheese at the factory, in contrast to 30 cents last year. At recent meetings they have contended they should receive the same as last year, irrespective of what the UK finally agreed to pay.

The effects of this new cheese price extend far beyond the cheese section of the dairy industry, although cheese only accounts for about five per cent of all milk produced in Canada. The pattern has been for the cheese export price to set the price structure for the entire industry. Should this continue to be true some 350,000 dairy farmers across Canada will face loss of revenue to a more or less degree. On the basis of the new cheese price it would mean a drop of about 30 cents a hundred pounds of milk produced, a very considerable loss on some 16 billion pounds. It is hardly to be expected that dairy farmers will accept this with any joy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Don't let us forget the Fiftieth Anniversary of Paardeberg, February 27th. Only seven of "The Old Brigade" are now left to tell the tale of those brave old days

when the youth of the Island left to the defence of the Motherland.

A few shovelfuls of ashes at this time may save broken bones on icy sidewalks.

People who went to British Columbia to escape eastern cold weather must, by this time, wish they had never left home.

The first organized Battery for Overseas Duty—The 2nd Medium Battery R.C.A.—left this date 1940.

Recognized dangerous furnaces and stoves like loaded guns never do any harm. It is unloaded guns and trusted heating systems that do the damage.

The Fall of Khartoum and death of "Chinese" General Gordon, this date 1885, which led to the Sudanese War and the ultimate defeat of the Mad Mahdi, the instigator and leader of the rebellion.

Now, after long austerity, Britain is boasting of overwhelming supplies of food-stuffs, in cold storage and with rationing still in vogue. Perhaps after the election there will be a let-up.

Nomination Day is Jan. 31st in Summerside and Feb. 1st in Charlottetown. Movers and seconders of candidates for these responsible posts should remember that they are the instruments through which this our prayer will be answered.— "God give us men. A time like this demands strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands!"

Men whom the lust of office does not kill. Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy. Men who possess opinions and a will. Men who love honor, men who cannot lie."

Last evening's functions included the Burns Concert at the Prince of Wales College hall, the Gotshalks Ballet at the Prince Edward Theatre, the Welfare Bureau annual meeting at the K. of C. Hall, and the Board of Trade's "Agricultural Night" at The Charlottetown. All of outstanding interest, and good illustrations of the need of registering local events in advance so as to avoid unnecessary conflict in dates!

Britain is returning to the old ways of "use and wont" in her manner of conducting affairs of State. The traditional pageantry and colour of British public life which is being restored after the necessary wartime austerity will receive a further contribution to its full revival from the decision that foreign Ambassadors going to Buckingham Palace to present their credentials to His Majesty the King will in future travel in a State carriage, sent for them from the Royal mews and driven by Royal coachmen wearing scarlet coats and gold-laced top hats, and they will be attended by footmen in Royal livery.

While many an adventurous Canadian merchant ship is now in mothballs at Halifax and other ports, P. E. I.'s one ship fleet continues to sniff the salty spray and ply the ancient trade routes, oblivious to mundane matters which have quenched the fires of less fortunate sisters. One cargo—a scupper boiling load of Maine one cent potatoes to the hungry ports of Newfoundland and Labrador—and her demurrage, since her charter and for long days ahead, would be as nothing. Away scandalous thought, unworthy of the men she serves; if the consignees want potatoes, they must come from P. E. I.

Five years ago, on January 26, 1945, the 10th Infantry Brigade of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division launched at Kapel-sche veer, in Holland, an attack which was to produce some of the bitterest fighting encountered by the Division in World War II. Object of the attack was to dislodge a stubborn force of German troops strongly entrenched on an island in the Maas River. Previous attacks by Polish troops and Commandos had failed to clear the position. The 4th Division's attack, known as Operation Elephant, was carried out by the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, The Algonquin Regiment, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, The Lake Superior Regiment and supporting artillery and other formations. Conditions were anything but ideal and for days men engaged in the operation fought, lived and died in mud, snow and icy water as the battle raged over the dykes. To add to their discomfort, cold winter rain fell on the 29th and 30th, turning slit trenches into mudholes. The entire dyke was reported clear on January 31, and the battle which had lasted five days came to an end. Both sides suffered heavy casualties. Some 135 enemy dead were counted on the battlefield while others lay buried in the mud and in the water-filled foxholes in which they had died. Only 35 of the enemy were captured and later reports revealed that approximately 65 enemy wounded were evacuated.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

OLD TIME MUSIC

Sir,—I think most of you will agree with me that the real old-time music is rapidly dying out. "Well," you may say, "go through the country today and you will still see and hear many of our countrymen playing the fiddle." Yes, that is partly right, but only partly. Do you see many youngsters today picking up their daddy's fiddle and learning to play? The answer is mainly, "No." Do you see as many youngsters learning to step dance? Can you visit any country dance hall on P.E.I. and see a good dance? No, too many people today have to be prompted by "the bottle" to even attend a dance, and when they do get there, they indulge in pushing shouting and walking on other people's toes, etc. This is what they consider a "good time." Numerous times you notice the fiddler stopping to light a cigarette and then start up again quite unknown to the participants of the dance.

Next, you hear someone shouting, "the next is a step-dance." The crowd pushes and rushes over to form a circle around the "dancers" and if one is lucky enough to get a peak in at all you see a few shilly-shally dancers, some with rubber boots on right from the barn, shuffling around the floor. The crowd all the while is getting a great "kick" out of it and proceeds to coax them back for another dance. Then the music starts and the fiddlers swing in on a former old time tune—with a version all his own.

The older residents of the country are seldom seen at a dance, mainly because they are dissatisfied with the present day style of dancing. You seldom here a great old time fiddler over the radio—a few like Lem Jay really open your ears, we'll admit. Out through the country there are still many good, in fact outstanding, old time fiddlers but they, too, are disgusted and remain quiet.

How wonderful it was years ago when men would go on a stumping frolic in the morning with their implements of work in one hand and their good clothes and slippers in the other. That night they would change clothes, having joined their wives, would finish the evening with a real old-time "racket". There the fiddlers were "right on" and the music was really ringing the rafters while across the floor the dancers were engaged in a "breakdown" that would almost lift the dead from their graves!

Then they would bid the time of day and depart to their homes. The next morning the men would be out on their job again bright and early—very unlike today when it takes the best part of the afternoon to revive those who were at a dance the night before. (I am not including the city in this criticism but it is generally understood that they are completely "gone to the dogs" with their so-called "modern music"—They can have it!)

I am, Sir, etc. A LOVER OF OLD-TIME MUSIC.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SUMMARY DISPOSAL

Legislative Assembly, Monday, Feb. 7, 1935.

Mr. Campbell moved for leave to bring in a petition signed by one Given Kerr, on behalf of the inhabitants of Lot or Township Number Twenty-eight, which was read.

Mr. Campbell moved that the said petition do lie on the table. The Attorney General moved as an amendment, that the said Petition be thrown under the table. The question being put, the amendment was carried.

The Poet's Corner

FROM THE 'MINSTREL'

But who the melodies of morn can tell. The wild brook bubbling down the mountain side; The lowing herd, the sheepfold's simple bell; The pipe of early shepherd dim described In the lone valley; echoing far and wide. The clamorous horn along the cliffs above; The hollow murmur of the ocean-tide; The hum of bees, the linnets' lay of love, And the full choir that wakes the universal grove? The cottage curs at early pilgrim bark; Crowned with her pail the tripping milkmaid sings; The whistling plover stalks afield; and hark! Down the rough slope the ponderous wagon rings; Thro' rustling corn the hare astounded springs; Slow tolls the village clock the drowsy hour; The partridge bursts away on whirling wings; Deep mourns the turtle in dequetered bow; And shrill lark carols from her aerial tower.

—James Beattie (1795-1805.)

Stirring Up The Fire



Spy-Mania In The 'People Democracies'

(By W.N. Ewer)

The new nationalization decrees in Hungary, the arrests and deportations of British, American, French and Swedish citizens from Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia are all part of a single process. The purpose is the complete isolation of these European nations from the rest of Europe in order that they may be brought more completely under Russian control and influence.

The purpose of the nationalization decrees is not economic. It is officially described as a means of preventing the offices and works of foreign firms from being used as "nests of sabotage and espionage."

It is all sabotage. Foreign business is to be liquidated in order to prevent sabotage. Foreign residents — even consular officials — are arrested on charges of espionage.

The effect is a double one. Life is to be made intolerable and work impossible for any Westerner living in these countries. They are to be expelled or induced to leave.

As the "West" is driven out, so Russia comes in to fill the vacuum. "Russia" rather than the Soviet Union; for the motive is not Communist; it is Russian. These peoples are to be Russified. They are to look to Russia for literature, art and science for everything. And in order that they may be Russified they must first be de-Europeanized.

It is a new form of conquest — or perhaps rather a reversion to a far older form. The Communist jargon for it is "internationalism" or "the solution of the nationality problem." Its objective is not merely domination, not merely exploitation, but absorption. That is the reality behind this seemingly absurd and almost pathological outburst of "spy-mania."

18 Canadian Army Units Still Wear Kilt

Eighteen Canadian Army Reserve Force Units still are authorized to wear the kilt, trews or tartan slacks, in addition to battledress normally issued to all regiments.

Three of them, the Highland Light Infantry of Canada, from Galt, Ont.; The Prince of Wales Regiment, from Galt, Ont.; and the Cameron Highlanders of Canada, from Vancouver, all wear the MacKenzie tartan.

Pipers of Montreal's famous Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, wear the Royal Stewart tartan, but other members of the regiment wear a tartan of the same pattern as that worn by the parent unit, the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of the British Army. A different form of the Black Watch tartan is worn by three other Canadian units. They are the Cape Breton Highlanders, Sydney, N.S.; the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's), Hamilton, Ont.; and the Calgary Highlanders, from Calgary, Alta. The latter two units wear a "Black Watch tartan" of the same pattern as that worn by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) of the British Army. Other Canadian Highland units and their tartans are the Stormont, Dundas and Glenegarty Highlanders, Cornwall, Ont.; the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, Amherst, N.S.; the Murray of Atholl tartan; the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, the Cameron of Erracht tartan; the Essex Scottish, Windsor, Ont.; the MacGregor tartan; the 48th

The Age-Old Story

I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessing upon thy offspring. And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water-courses.

Isters make speeches in praise of the Christian saints — St. Cyril and St. Methodius, for Cyril and Methodius were champions of Eastern Orthodoxy and heroes of "Eastern" culture.

Art — the Czechoslovak Cultural Trade Union declares — is to be made an effective instrument in the ideological struggle against the world of lies, exploitation and capitalist warmongering.

Literature — including the printed word on every subject and every theme — is to be purged with a ruthlessness the Nazis never achieved. No books published before 1945 are to be sold in Czechoslovakia without special merit.

The most famous of modern Czech writers — Karel Capek — is condemned as "cosmopolitan."

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Notes By The Way

Rev. Bob Munro, an evangelist with a silver trumpet, has been staging a revival meeting at the Ontario Reformatory, and the response has been remarkable. Chapel accommodation has been crowded, although there is no official incentive to prisoners to attend. — London Free Press.

Even those who advocate legalized gambling almost invariably declare their objective is to control it. As with some other social evils, our observation is that the only force that effectively controls gambling is vigorous, sustained, and unrelenting opposition to it.—Christian Science Monitor.

The war has long since been ended but there are still atrocities as noted in this remark by The Ottawa Journal: "Treatment with boiling oil seems indicated in the case of the perpetrator of a word like 'finalization', for assault and battery committed on Mr. Churchill shudder over that one"—St. Catharines Standard.

The youngsters' age-old game of "Who can spot most" on the way to school has acquired a new topicality with some Manchester schoolboys. On the bus into town these mornings orthodox "spotting" objects are forgotten in the rush to identify the march of progress. Punctuating the journey are cries—in the idiom of the game—"I bags that television aerial!" — The Manchester Guardian.

Search for radioactive ore in the Sudbury district is probably the untold story in mining activity in the district last year when a total of 3,121 claims were recorded by the Sudbury mining recorder. The number of prospectors' licences was almost doubled in comparison with 1933 and in the past 12 months 45,221 days of work were performed on 700 claims. How much undiscovered wealth still lies within the limits of the Sudbury district is an answer to be provided sometime.

Highlanders of Canada, Toronto, the Davidson tartan; the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, Winnipeg, Man.; the Cameron of Erracht tartan; the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), Victoria, B.C.; the Hunting Stuart; the Toronto Scottish Regiment, the Elcho (London Scottish) tartan; the Irish Regiment of Canada, Toronto, Saffron; the Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regt.), Brampton, Ont.; the Campbell of Argyll tartan, and the Perth Regiment, Stratford, Ont.; the Douglas tartan.

For an overall speed these modern trains no doubt go the all-time road speed record, in North America at any rate, is said to have been established on June 12, 1905 at 127 miles an hour over a three-mile stretch of track. According to the Pennsylvania Railroad Mutual Magazine nothing about the record had been planned. The train was late and its engineer was simply trying to recover lost time. The locomotive was Pennsylvania's No. 7002 which was hauling the Broadway Limited between New York and Chicago. As old 7002 raced through Bucyrus and Upper Sandusky, the train came to a three-mile stretch of track between a certain signal tower and Eida, Ohio. As it thundered along the rails, signal men at each point notified the chief dispatcher of the exact time the last car of the train passed their lookouts. By this reckoning it was proved the train had covered the three miles in exactly 55 seconds, an average of a mile every 23.3 seconds, or at the rate of 127 miles an hour. — Hamilton Spectator.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Grid of professional cards including: J. S. TAYLOR (Optometrist), A. Walthen Gaudet (Barrister, Solicitor), Frederic A. Large, K.C. (Barrister, Solicitor), J. A. McGuigan (Notary, Etc.), Bell & Matheson (Barristers, Solicitors), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), John P. Nicholson, LL.B. (Barrister, Solicitor), Palmer & Haslam (Barrister, Etc.), Dr. W. R. Carson (Chiropractor), Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister, Solicitor), Gaudet & Hazard (Barristers, Solicitors), S. R. DOANE and COMPANY (Chartered Accountants), NEIL W. HIGGINS (Chartered Accountant).

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