

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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President, Ian A. Burnett; Vice-President, Wm. R. Burnett; Secy.-Treas., G. M. Burnett; Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett; Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

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

Legislative Authority

If our Legislatures exercise sweeping powers today, let us remember that this was not always the case and that the supremacy of parliament is the product of a long and bitter struggle for self-government.

Under the British North America Act the powers of our parliaments, Federal and Provincial, are set forth in detail. To the latter is allotted exclusive authority over many matters, including property and civil rights, municipal institutions, and "generally all matters of a merely local or private nature in the Province."

The speechmaking that goes on in the Legislature is incidental to the main duty of our elected representatives, which is to enact Statutes and vote money for the carrying on of government. The very word Statute means a law made by the "sovereign power" of the state.

Legislatures make gross blunders in their enactments at times, and so do the courts in interpreting the legislative intention. There is a story that some Western State of America passed a law, in the interests of temperance, that no drinking-saloon should exist within a mile of any school house.

It is we ourselves who sit in our Legislature, by proxy. Our members are our agents, whose acts we cannot repudiate, but whom we can discharge by failing to re-elect them at the next opportunity.

"God's Time"

It is interesting to note Standard Time was adopted through the efforts of the American Railway Association which had found that endless confusion resulted from using local time. At the Prime Meridian Conference at Washington, D.C. in 1882 the Canadian and American railways agreed to its adoption and at Sunday noon 18 November, 1883 the railways of North America went on Standard Time.

The Legislature of Prince Edward Island in 1889 adopted Intercolonial Standard Time, the time of 60 degrees West longitude, being 12 minutes and 29 seconds fast of the meridian which passes through the Provincial Clock of the Law Courts in Charlottetown.

Daylight Saving Time was in use first in Europe and adopted in 1918 by the United States for one year. P. E. I. also passed a Time Saving Act in 1918 which, however, was only to be effective while the Summer Time Act (Canada) was in force. In 1919 the Legislature passed an Act empowering cities or towns to put Summer Time into effect. This Act was repealed by the Uniformity of Time Act, 1947 which requires "one standard official time in use throughout Prince Edward Island" and authorizes the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to institute Daylight Saving Time.

Ten Monarchs Remain

Before the First World War, notes an exchange, there were 19 kings or queens. Today there are 10, and some of these are on very shaky foundations. There is also some talk of a king being restored in Spain.

The "safe" thrones are those of King George VI, Great Britain; King Frederik IX, Denmark; King Gustav V, Sweden; King Haakon VII, Norway, and Queen Wilhelmina, the Netherlands. Less secure are King Mahai of Romania, Leopold III of Belgium, who is in exile in Switzerland awaiting the Belgian people to make up their minds what to do with him; King Paul of Greece, who has just taken up his job and may be strengthened in that position soon, and the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, who although not called Queen, nevertheless is one. Then there is Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, who appears to be fairly sure of his job

as long as he lives.

There are many more republics than there used to be. Democratic parties arose and overthrew the monarchies because the party leaders made the people believe that monarchies were obsolete and that the people themselves should really rule. But in almost every instance, especially in Russia where the anti-monarchical movement began, the people have found that the so-called "rulers" did not rule at all, and that the democrats, Socialists, Communists, or whatever they called themselves, actually do rule with rods of iron, and these people who engineered the abolition of kings and queens, by fair means or foul, are overwhelmingly more autocratic than the most unpopular monarch who ever lived. The people had national, elected assemblies before 1914. Now they have none, or if there is, it is merely a body called together at long intervals to say "Yes" to whatever these professed democrats want to impose on the masses. The monarchial countries are democracies; the Communist countries are autocracies.

Communism In China

Events of recent weeks, says an exchange, indicate that Chiang Kai-Shek has come to realize that if he is to get the full sympathy and support of the Western powers in his struggle against China's Communists, he must do considerable house cleaning himself.

After twenty years of one-party rule and almost as long a period of two-party war, China is to have a multi-party government under terms of a new statement by the Generalissimo. General Chang Chun has been named head of the Executive Yuan—a post corresponding to that of a prime minister in our form of government—and the Social Democrats and Young China parties have been given government representation.

Thus Kai-Shek has at long last broken the monopoly of the Kuomintang. It remains to be seen whether he will permit the new elements in the government free and public criticism and will support Chang Chun in a badly needed clean-up of corrupt officials.

Still outside the government are the Communists and the Democratic League. The latter organization, according to observers in China, has lost almost all its strength. The Communists, as has been made very plain, have no desire to co-operate in anything less than a Communist dictatorship. They are the ones who, more than any other single group, have committed the ravaged country to the further devastation of civil war.

The new head of the Executive Yuan was well chosen. He is a liberal in whom the leaders in the western powers repose much confidence. When General Marshall was in China seeking ways and means of ending the civil war, Chang it was who gave him the greatest co-operation.

The Gerrymander

There is no sportsmanship, says the Ottawa Journal, but only mean partisanship, in the recommendations of Parliament's Liberal-weighted redistribution committee. For these recommendations go back to the contemptible tactics of the "gerrymander," a term opprobrium which we had hoped belonged no longer to our politics.

The constituency of Muskoka-Ontario, represented by the chairman of the Progressive Conservative party, is wiped out; the smaller riding of Glengarry (smallest in the Dominion), represented by the Prime Minister, is left intact; two additional seats are provided for Northern Ontario, where Liberals are in majority; the Lake Centre, Saskatchewan, riding represented by the Progressive Conservative captain, J. G. Diefenbaker, is all but eliminated; and West Ottawa is split in two, the Progressive Conservative part of it hived with Carleton, Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito would approve this highly.

The tacking on to Carleton, a rural riding, of all that part of West Ottawa south of Carling avenue, and taking in Ottawa South, is as foolish as it is brazen; a bolder attempt to make West Ottawa safer for the Liberal party could hardly be imagined. Decent Liberals, one can but hope, will dislike it as much as Conservatives.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Our City Councillors were well advised to rescind the resolution passed with respect to Daylight Saving Time.

Frances Bret Harte, American novelist, poet and humorist, died this date 1902; his publications include The Luck of Roaring Camp, Condensed Novels, Thankful Blossom, Truthful James ("Heathen Chinese"); while his most popular poem is the beautiful Dickens in Camp: If, of all words of tongue and pen, The saddest are these: "It might have been," More sad are these we daily see: "It is, but hadn't ought to be!"

The thirty-sixth Paris Trade Fair which will run from May 10 to May 26, 1947, will present 8,000 exhibitors to 2,000,000 visitors. Installed on its own grounds only twenty minutes away from the center of Paris, the Fair covers about 126 acres, of which a little more than half are taken up by permanent buildings and the rest by temporary constructions erected each year. An avenue one mile long with frequent electric car service runs from one end of the park to the other. The latest novelties and designs of French industry will be shown at this year's fair. Requests for space have been so numerous that the newly built additional accommodations are already too small.

Notes By the Way

If we got hooked for another war, could it not be arranged at the start to have it end when the fighting stops?—Ottawa Citizen.

It's a tough period a man faces when nobody will hire him because he's 40 and his old-age pension isn't due until he's 70.—Kitchener Record.

General MacArthur is said to favor the United Nations taking over the ruling of Japan as a test case. The idea sounds all right, provided General MacArthur is given the task of bossing the job. He's doing quite well at it now.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Niagara Falls expects to receive 3,000,000 visitors this year. A preponderance of this number will be Americans, many of whom will find their way to other parts of Ontario. Welcome them for what they are, paying guests.—Welland-Port Colborne Tribune.

Woodstock has not had a recorded case of diphtheria in something like seventeen years—a marvellous record and a great credit to the community. But complacency over the record should not allow any relaxing of the safeguards against this disease.—Woodstock Sentinel Review.

After many months of agitation by Scottish farmers, millers, grocers and housewives, oatmeal and barley products have been removed from the points rationing scheme. Such a removal is sufficient for all normal demands for human consumption. The Minister reminds traders and the public that the sale, purchase or use of these foods for other than human consumption is an offence.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Why do we use the expression "apple pie order" when we mean that things are done in their right place? asks The Guelph Mercury. Because every Saturday a certain Puritan dame, Hepzibah Merton, made a practice of baking two or three dozen apple pies to last her family through the week. She labeled each according to the day of the week on which it was to be used, and the pantry, thus arranged, was said to be in apple pie order.

Now that towns no longer are snowed up, stork-watching has given way to the practice of keeping an eye out for other birds, says The Toronto Telegram. It is reported from Port Dover, Ont., that Arthur Preston, a local bird lover, saw a hooded warbler last week. This green and yellow specimen is seldom observed outside Florida or Texas and winter in Venezuela. An opinion expressed is that the recent Texas tornado was responsible for sending the hooded warbler so far out of his regular air lanes.

On a per capita basis we are to have an army just one-tenth the size of that maintained by sorely-harassed England. Soviet Russia has an airborne army which alone is four times the size of our whole standing force and the United States has set a minimum base on a population ratio basis, makes our setup look uncomfortably haggard. Extravagance in supporting a heavy military establishment is, of course, unthinkable. But to risk the ghastly shambles of the last war, when pacifism was paid its ultimate tribute in blood of those whom it had betrayed is even worse. As the Governor-General has so aptly put it our armed forces are not to become a negative element. If they do, then it is the civilian who will suffer.—Hamilton Spectator.

We wonder if some of the stylists of the automotive industry have not grown a trifle away from the common people. Instead of fixing up new cars with a lot of shining metal and fancy gadgets, would it not be better to give the people a high quality car at a cheap price? There was a lot of "Keeping up with Joneses" in the automobile business and there still is some of that. But, so many persons have been priced right out of the market as car costs grew higher and higher. Now, instead of wondering whether to buy a car with this gadget or a car with that nifty, most people are hoping they will be able to buy a good car that will go. Fancy styles are all very well and they do attract the eye, but the motoring eye is getting jaundiced as price tags stay in the stratosphere.—Windor Star.

Canada has probably 500 different kinds of birds, and each different kind has a different travel schedule; in fact, some kinds scarcely travel at all and may be found even in the most severe winter weather in their accustomed haunts, says The Guelph Mercury. Canada values its bird travelers for the aesthetic pleasure they give by their presence, by their beauty of color, and by their charm or song. They are an important control of insect pests in forests and gardens, and some kinds, which are grouped as game birds, are a major attraction for hunters. In the fall, not only are the game bird kinds used for sport, but they are also valuable to the residents of Canada as providing an important part of their food supply. To protect its bird travelers which spend part of the year in Canada and part of the year in the United States, Canada some years ago entered into a treaty with the United States which by co-operation between the two countries, extends protection to migratory birds by means of closed seasons, bag limits and the prohibition of unfair hunting methods. Canada's migratory bird treaty of 1916 has been of major assistance in conserving this resource, and has been hailed the world round as the first international treaty for bird protection.

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.

HARM POLICIES

Sir,—I have read the Guardian's editorial entitled "Mr. Gardiner's Policy" with keen interest, with reference to the curious gyrations in Canada's subsidy policy in regard to barley and oats.

At the foot of Parliament Hill, as you know, there is the national office of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, representing 375,000 of the organized farmers clear across Canada. Obviously, there is no information or data on this coarse grain price or feed relationship, either from the viewpoint of the market or the primary producer which is not available to the Minister of Agriculture? Of course there is plenty of room for confusion as between what is 'available' and what actually is 'used'?

The organized farmers' desire to steer clear of the shoals and narrows of party politics, as doubtless you are aware, is deep and built upon bitter experience. Nevertheless, the Agriculture Minister has the inestimable service of a nation-wide personnel in the C.F.A., the Agricultural Advisory Board, and similar thoroughly representative and posted authorities, at his call in the building of a given policy. I would like to think that these men are in something like continuous consultation—before, rather than after decisions have been arrived at? There is a paragraph in that excellent report of an address by Premier Jones in the P.E.I. Legislature (Guardian, Apr. 26) which expresses precisely what this reader has in mind: "Moreover, I submit that resolutions coming from farming communities should go first to the Farmers Federation. If the farmers can't agree among themselves, why their own Federation of Agriculture, they needn't bring those resolutions into this House expecting to have an agreement."

Of course there are a hundred facets in the agricultural problem, which alter with the viewpoint of the farmer from province to province; but when all is said and done, there is a lot of common ground of agreement for men of good-will? I am, Sir, etc., "FEEDER"

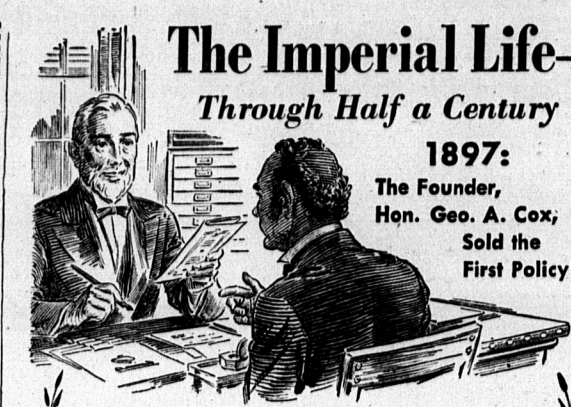
The Poet's Corner

GARGANTUA Gargantuan ranges of blue-dappled hills Roll down titanic coasts of cobalt shires. While inland dreams a sunstruck Streaked with the level scarfs from temple fires. Down, down the hills a bull-voiced water-fall Plunges from cloudy cliffs that climb so high. It echoes like an organ from a hall Of stairs that wind into the windy sky. And there are monstrous footprints in the sand That mark the rusty roadways red as snakes. Onto the land paved with level floors Of copper water stagnant in iron lakes. And hooded peaks vault into cloud-edged ponds From whence the island's voice rolls out to sea. Reverberating words of blatant thunder. Dull as a demon's glee. Its hills sequester meadows walled with fire. On which like evil prayers the splinked lie. With flame on the plumes that bloom upon their wings. While red clouds wither by—The roc has made his nest among the cliffs. And in the evening from a mountain's dome. Remote as thought, there blurs the sound of drums. That call the giants home.—Hervey Allen.

Old Charlottetown

BARLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

In November, 1898, it was announced that subscriptions should be solicited for the establishment of a public library "with the understanding that the books shall be held by the Y. M. C. A. not as an asset for the institution liable for its obligations, but in trust for the citizens of Charlottetown." Application to the Legislature for an act to administer the trust was made the following year, the committee in charge being the Y. M. C. A. president with three other representatives of that institution (one to be a woman), the Superintendent of Education, the principal of Prince of Wales College, a representative from the Charlottetown Teachers' Association, and eight other members (two to be women) to be elected from year to year by vote of the subscribers to the funds of library.



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return of the books so lent, but will be repaid at any time on application.

Fish Inspectors

A new departure in government practice has been the establishment of a special course of training for fishery inspectors on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. It has been instituted by the federal Department of Fisheries, collaborating with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Civil Service Commission. The vocational training section of the Department of Labor is also assisting. This course of training is now proceeding in the Maritimes and in British Columbia. At schools in these provinces, young war veterans are receiving instruction in science subjects such as chemistry, biology and bacteriology. They are being given lectures by experts of the Department of Fisheries in fisheries engineering and fish culture, as well as lectures on the work of the Fisheries Research Board, the Halibut Commission and International Salmon Commission. These lectures and courses are to give them a complete knowledge of the work of the Department of Fisheries, as well as of the various duties they will be called upon to perform as inspectors. It is a new kind of school and something entirely new in government procedure.

There are at present 130 taking courses. From this number 100 will be selected for permanent appointment. These men have been chosen for training by the Civil Service Commission in consultation with the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Veterans alone were eligible; and candidates were required to have the equivalent of a high school education. On each coast the men thus selected were taken on the staff of the Department of Fisheries as temporary employees and paid the usual salary. They were sent into the field to different fishery districts where they worked under the district inspectors for a month. The work of a fishery inspector is exacting and complicated. The duties include the enforcement of fisheries regulations of which the main purpose is conservation. In British Columbia, the inspection of salmon spawning streams and the clearance of obstructions to the passage of salmon is a very important part of an inspector's duties. During the course, the trainees are given thorough and detailed instruction in the various fish-processing methods such as drying, filleting, canning and freezing. This is to fit them to advise fishermen as to the approved methods of handling and processing fish. The course also trains them as inspectors of the various processed fish products, so that when they take over their duties as regular fishery inspectors, they will be competent to carry on efficiently and inspection of finished products according to the inspection and grading regulations regarding fish.

The course includes a few subjects to help them brush up on their high school work such as mathematics and English. But the main emphasis is placed on such subjects as chemistry. This is to give them the principles underlying fish processing. Bacteriology is taught to them so that they will understand principles of sanitation and food preservation and it also deals with spoilage of fish. Biology gives them a knowledge of the life history of fish. These particular subjects will not only give them information on fish in their natural habitat—but will enable them to determine measures for the conservation of fish. Then they obtain instruction in handling fish and various ways of preparing them for market. Included in their course is some instruction as to the special value to Canada as a source of minerals. Oceanography is also given; study of ocean temperatures, currents, and their effect upon the movements of fish. Visual education is made use of by means of films specially made as an aid to the biological study of fish.

NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS
In order to comply with the law of the Province we will operate on Standard Time.
Starting May 5th our office hours for the summer months will be from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. daily except Saturday when we close at 1 P. M.
The reason for doing this is to enable our office staff to enjoy the evening hours of our summer and we feel our customers will be glad to co-operate.
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