

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1948

The Newfoundland Plebiscite

This month some 170,000 electors (if they all
vote) will decide by secret ballot whether
Newfoundland is to (1) retain its present Com-
mission system of Government, (2) return to Re-
sponsible Government, or (3) unite with Canada.

According to the Atlantic Guardian, a well-
informed magazine of Newfoundland, it would
appear that the plebiscite will actually be the
final step in a long-drawn-out fight between those
who favour Responsible Government and those
who want to see Newfoundland become the 10th
province of Canada.

From the day the National Convention opened,
in September 1946, and indeed before that,
it was obvious that a Responsible Government
versus Confederation showdown was coming.

The last-minute plunge of Mr. C. A. Crosbie
into the unexplored and unknown issue of Economic
Union with the United States is simply another
angle to the Responsible Government fight.

Whether or not Confederation would be the
best thing for Newfoundland, those who are be-
hind the Confederate Association at least have
something definite to put forward to the people.

The fight is now on in earnest, and it has all
the aspects of a general election battle. Target
of both sides is the great body of voters who are
caught between cries of "Newfoundland for New-
foundlanders" on the one hand and "Baby Bon-
uses for Everybody" on the other.

Railway Costs And Revenues

The Transport Board's judgment on railway
freight rates points out (page 16) that the oper-
ating expenses of the two railways, between 1939
and 1946, increased by \$155 millions. That is a
very large sum.

The Transport Board, in seeking to show
that rising costs have hurt the railways, cites
not 1939 but 1940 against 1947. In 1940 the
profit was \$80,558,000 on traffic carried of
\$383,836,000. Thus, says the Board, an increase
in business between 1940 and 1947 of over \$300
millions produced a smaller profit—\$71.4 mil-
lions, against \$80.5 millions. But 1940 surely was
a year of exorbitant profit.

The reason that the higher operating costs
are not a good argument for higher freight rates
is that the railways have doubled their business.
They are paying the higher costs and making far
more profit than in pre-war years.

rose from 129,362 in 1939 to 180,353 in 1946.
The payroll went up accordingly. But, naturally,
more employees are required to look after \$646
millions of traffic than \$325 millions of traffic.

Actually, while railway costs went up
\$155 millions between 1939 and 1946, the busi-
ness done by the railways increased by \$321
millions and the profits from \$49 millions to \$71
millions.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The end of the war in North Africa, this
date 1943.

It is good news to learn there is prospect of
an increased acreage of potatoes this year.
Potatoes are the "Cash Crop" on which farmers
most depend.

So there is likely to be a new Federal-Pro-
vincial Conference after the election to settle
taxation problems. Wonder if Mr. King will be
there to issue the invitations.

There are to be more than usual transfer of
United Church ministers from the Province at
the coming Conference at Sackville, it is re-
ported. In some districts almost every charge is
due for a change.

Island sand for glass manufacturing was ad-
vocated by the Development Commission, ap-
pointed by the Mathieson Government. The
main drawback then was that glassware could
be imported so cheaply there was not much in-
ducement to invest capital in such an enterprise
locally.

Sir Ronald Ross, M.D., Medical investigator
and discoverer. Was on the staff of the Lon-
don College of Tropical Medicine, when he dis-
covered that malaria was spread from one per-
son to another by the Anopheles mosquito. Up
till then it was believed it was the unhealthy
tropical atmosphere that bred the disease, and
Sir Ronald's discovery led to an entirely new pol-
icy treating epidemics.

Hudson Bay Route shipping and United
Kingdom business conditions will be discussed in
Regina May 18 by Mr. Peter Dalgliesh, pres-
ident and managing director of the shipping firm
of R. S. Dalgliesh Ltd., Newcastle, Co-operatives
Minister L. F. McIntosh said recently. Mr.
Dalgliesh will also seek information on the po-
tential demand for British goods in Saskatchewan
and elsewhere on the prairies. The first Dal-
gliesh Line sailings to Churchill this season are
expected shortly after mid-July.

Divorced persons who remarry have been de-
scribed by Rev. L. W. Fowler of Port Hope,
Ont., as "self-confessed adulterers." He told the
Presbyterian Synod of Toronto and Kingston the
Church's refusal to marry such persons created
a problem. If a Presbyterian clergyman refused
to marry divorced persons he sent them "shop-
ping around the various clergy for someone to
solemnize the marriage," Mr. Fowler said. He
introduced a motion to set up a committee to
investigate problems of divorce, remarriage and
civil marriage. The present Marriage Act was
outmoded, he said. The only grounds for di-
vorce was adultery. He urged an extension of
the Marriage Act to provide for existing marital
problems.

Dr. G. S. H. Barton, Deputy Federal Min-
ister of Agriculture since 1932, reaches retire-
ment age of 65 June 29 and may be succeeded
by Mr. J. G. Taggart, now director-in-chief of the
department's Agricultural Services Division. Dr.
Barton, one-time Dean of Agriculture at Macdonald
College, in recent years has represented
Canada on the World Food and Agriculture Organi-
zation. He has been mentioned as a possible
appointee as director-general of F. A. O. when
he retires here. Mr. Taggart, a former Min-
ister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, held sev-
eral appointments in the Dominion Department
during the war and now is chairman of the Agri-
cultural Supplies Board as well as head of services.

In life, Viscount Bennett was a convinced
and enthusiastic Imperialist and in death his
wishes in this respect are being carried into ef-
fect. The Duke of Gloucester, a brother of the
King, and Mr. Norman Robertson, of Island stock,
Canadian High Commissioner in London, were
among the guests at a Royal Empire Society ball
in aid of the Bennett Memorial Fund. The late
Viscount, who was a vice-president of the Society,
left £2,500 (\$10,000) to be applied on redemption
of the mortgage on the society's building, with
the proviso that another £2,500 was to be given
if £5,000 was raised by other means within a year
of his death. The Society states £3,800 has been
collected to date, and it is confident that the
£5,000 goal will be reached by the anniversary of
Lord Bennett's death, June 26.

Are the Maritimes benefitting at the ex-
pense of the Prairies? In the House of Com-
mons, Mr. Douglas Harkness (PC-Calgary East)
renewed charges that Government policies have
led to a "terrific" reduction in hog production in
Western Canada. While Western production has
fallen off, Eastern output has advanced, he said.
This was because of the Government policy of
subsidizing Western feed shipments to Eastern
Canada. It was an "arguable proposition"
whether that policy was the best for Canada as a
whole. However, there was no doubt that the pol-
icy operated against Western Canada, because it
reduced the Western farmer's income. In this
connection Mr. William Bryce (C.C.F.-Selkirk)
renewed his request for the establishment of a
Board of Livestock Commissioners. During study
of Agriculture estimates, he said that if such a
board is set up it should have farmers in its mem-
bership. The board could determine livestock
policies for the country.

-Notes By The Way-

A small's pace is estimated at one
mile in 10 years, which is slower
than anything except the progress
of civilization. — Edmonton Jour-
nal.

Two weeks on the sands and 30
on the rocks is what the average
vacationer adds up to. — Kitchener
Waterloo Record.

To mention but a few, Mother's
Day is May 9; Father's Day, June
20; Children's Day, June 26; Na-
tional Baby Week is May 10-17;
Cleanup Drive, May 17-19. What
still is needed is a Make Taxes Part
of the Cost-of-Living-Index Week.
—Toronto Financial Post.

If, under ideal British democracy
and British law, the death penalty
can be proved essential to deter-
ring murders, then the majority of
Britons will no doubt sensibly seek
to return the hangman to office.
But if there is no upswing in capi-
tal crimes, abolition will have a
good chance of becoming permanent.
In either case Canada has little
to lose by waiting. As to how Brit-
ain's experiment works out. —Van-
couver Province.

Argentine's corn crop has been
unofficially estimated at 285,000,000
bushels as compared with the 1947
crop of 229,000,000 and 117,000,000
and 114,000,000 bushels in 1945 and
1946. Last year a farm in New
South Wales grew £1,000 worth
of hybrid corn on eight acres, about
60 percent better than the yield
of ordinary corn. As a result 3,000
acres will be grown in Australia
this year, and it is predicted that
50,000 acres will be seeded in 1949.
—Family Herald and Weekly Star.

There is something terribly
wrong with the regulations or oper-
ation—or both—of a peniten-
tiary when desperate convicts are
so inadequately guarded that arms
can be smuggled in to them. What
words should be used to describe
this sort of supervision that made
such smuggling possible, and that
made it possible for two convicts
to hide themselves in a car and
not be missed? What words should
be used to describe a system which
allowed an automobile to leave the
penitentiary's main gate without
even a routine check of its con-
tents: it is a system of supervision
and operation that leads inevitably
to death or the threat of death.
—Kingston Whig-Standard.

Delivering his Andrew Lang Lec-
ture, on "Law and Custom," at St.
Andrew's University, Lord Macmil-
lan said—"The lover of our ancient
laws and institutions, which we
have inherited from our fathers,
cannot but look on with some dis-
may at the process which we see
daily in operation around us where-
by the customary common law of
the land, which has served us so
well in the past, is being more
and more superseded by a system of
laws which have no regard for the
usage and customs of the people,
but are dictated by ideological
theories." Parliament now inter-
vened in matters formerly thought
to be entirely outside its scope. Un-
necessary legal restrictions which
interfered with freedom of action
and the settled ways and customs
of the people inevitably led to
evasion and a general lowering of
moral standards. —London Times.

Sarah Henley, a Bristol beauty,
killed by her lover, flung herself
from the 250-ft. high Clifton Sug-
geron Bridge. That was in 1928.
And the other day Sarah Henley
—who became Mrs. Lane, of Croy-
don Road, Bristol — was buried.
She died a natural death at 84.
When she jumped the wind filled
her crinoline and she parachuted
down into the River Avon and was
rescued unconscious but unhurt.
The official history of the bridge
relates: "First, the woman turned
a complete somersault, and her
clothes formed a parachute, and
she was blown across from the
Somerset side to Bristol side,
down the river." "To the fact that
she jumped instead of falling head
first she undoubtedly owes her
life, as, owing to her remaining
in an upright position during the
greater part of her descent and
her dress acting as a parachute,
she escaped death." In more mod-
ern times no one has survived the
250 ft. drop. —London Daily Mail.

At last someone — an English-
man with an unusual facility of
observation — has discovered why
telephone cords get twisted into
tight and intractable knots. He
says that most men and women
pick up the receiver with the right
hand, and then shift it to the
left, which replaces the receiver on
the rests. Every time this happens
the cord is given a kink, and in
time many kinks make a big twist.
This sounds reasonable. (True we
have just picked up the telephone,
and discover that we lift the re-
ceiver with our left hand, listen
with our left ear, and replace the
receiver with our left hand—but
then our cord is not kinked.) What
is to be done about it? Should the
listener give the cord a half-hitch
around a convenient chair? Should
he laboriously pinch the kink out
of his cord after completing each
call? Should he try to develop
greater dexterity with his left
hand? Our guess is that he will
go right on getting kinks in his
cord, as at present. —Peterborough
Examiner.

Unless the ancient art of roof
thatching can be revived there is
a likelihood that the picturesque
thatched cottages that have lent a
quaint, old-world atmosphere to
the lanes and roadsides of rural
England for so many years will be-
come a thing of the past. This
state of affairs was revealed when
the occasion arose to repair the
roof of a farm house in Hereford-
shire, a section of the country
where some of the most outstand-
ing examples of thatching exist.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to
the discussion of current
subjects of
interest. The Charlottetown
Guardian does not neces-
sarily endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

"MOM AND DAD"

Sir,—Even in these days of
sophistication and plain speaking,
many parents are bound by un-
holy traditions regarding sexual mat-
ters, and still cling to a "hush-
hush" attitude as far as their
children are concerned. The re-
sult is that most children have
been kept in ignorance of the
"facts of life," very often result-
ing in tragedies such as is being
portrayed this week at the Prince
Edward Theatre, under the title,
"Mom and Dad."

It is quite true that the picture
is far from perfect, and no doubt
displayed mainly for commercial
purposes, but even if it is only
successful in saving one boy or
girl from a tragic mistake, it is
well worth the effort.

Many of us like the "Mrs. Blake"
of the picture are very young and
anxious to "protect" our children's
"innocence," and not only do we
try to improve our own morals,
but tragically strike the "Blakes"
home—and let us not be too sure
it won't strike ours. Giving our
children plain scientific infor-
mation on these matters is the best
guard against such tragedies.

The day is not too far distant,
we hope, when our school hygiene
text-books will include the "facts
of life" in a more detailed man-
ner.

I would urge every father and
mother of adolescent boys and
girls to see this picture. Make
certain your boys and girls see it,
and if at all possible accompany
them so that you may review it
together and so be in a position
to explain any points not under-
stood. By viewing this picture
together you will find yourself
drawn closer to your children, and
will thus make it easier for them
to talk over these intimate prob-
lems with you.

The theatre management is to
be commended for making it pos-
sible for the people of Charlottetown
to view this vital film.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A PARENT OF TEEN-AGE GIRLS

Books Just Published

Red Sepulchre by Peter Simonds
(Adams Press, Montreal) is a story
of adventure behind the Iron Cur-
tain. The "mixed" crew of a Lan-
caster piloted by Flight Lieut.
"Red" White, D.F.C., R.C.A.F., ex-
ploded over Moose Jaw, balled
out over Hamburg in the final
days of the war. Their experiences
as prisoners of war and their es-
cape with some eighty others to
the Russian lines provide plenty of
action. The author's attitude to the
Red Army is indicated by the title.

Ranger, Sea Dog of the Royal
Mounted by Charles S. Strong, il-
lustrated by Kurt Wiese (John C.
Winston Co. \$2.75). How could a
six-months-old puppy, a Samoyede,
one of the oldest breeds of dog in
the world, have come to be adrift
in Davis Strait in a kayak? That
was what puzzled the men of the
seagoing police, on the Royal
Mounted patrol boat St. Roch. Fi-
nally they decided to give Ranger
for safekeeping to a lonely boy in
Halifax Harbour, and the white
dog's life settled down to be quiet
and uneventful. But fate took a
hand, and the quiet life was dis-
placed to the wastes of Northland
and a killer Eskimo and the trail
of the gold watchcharm. Roger
and Ranger, side by side, plunged
through adventure after adventure
until they not only solved a mys-
tery but sailed triumphantly into
Vancouver on the St. Roch. Here
is another great dog story, packed
full of excitement and action that
will make Ranger, Sea Dog of the
Royal Mounted, take his place a-
longside Silver Chief, Vallant and
Lassie Come Home.

Ticktock and Jim by Keith Rob-
ertson, illustrated by Wesley Den-
nis. (John C. Winston Co. \$2.75).
It was a choice between the "best
watch in the world" in a shiny
gold case with sixty years of his-
tory behind it, and an unimpe-
achable horse with hip bones pushing
their way through its hide and a
limp in the left foreleg. But to
Jim the choice — a watch in ex-
change for a real Texas mustang —
was a foregone conclusion! When
he found that his father not only
didn't share his enthusiasm, but
that Ticktock, his own horse, was
not very welcome, there were many
anxious hours. Ticktock did stay,
however, and Jim's adventures with
him that wonderful summer are
as exciting as any you've ever read.
Not to give the whole story away,
we'll just hint at the pony express
Jim ran, the mystery he walked
into, the fire, the conspirators —
practically everything you can
think of to make an unforgettable
story.

COALVILLE, Leicestershire,
England — (CP) — Rhoda Taylor,
who refused Billy Burton's pro-
posal 46 years ago, married him
when both were widowed.

It was found upon inquiry that it
was impossible to obtain a thatcher
in the county equipped to do the
work. The Herefordshire branch of
the Council for the Preservation of
Rural England reported that be-
cause of this shortage asbestos
thatching is taking the place of re-
specting renovation. In Somerset
County, considered one of the
beauty spots of rural England, it is
reported that only 47 thatchers
remain, and that their
average is between 60 and 70. —St.
Thomas Times-Journal.

BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY

(BY W. N. EWER)
The outstanding features of the
two-day debate in Britain's House
of Commons on foreign affairs
were, I think, the general appreci-
ation of the gravity of the European
situation and the general approval
of the broad lines of the Govern-
ment's policy.

That there should be criticism on
detail was, of course, inevitable. It
is indeed the very purpose of de-
bate. And there is still much dis-
quiet among the Government's own
supporters about, for example, the
development of events in Greece.

But on the whole there is a
greater unity of opinion in the
House of Commons — and in the
country generally — than at any
time since the end of the Second
World War.

The Communist coup in Czech-
oslovakia has had a sudden effect,
as of a chemical reagent which
suddenly clarifies a cloudy solution.
And that effect has been en-
hanced and reinforced by the conduct
of the Russians in Berlin.

Except for a tiny minority, it is
now accepted — however reluct-
antly — that Europe is now
divided into the "two camps" whose
existence H. Zhdanov proclaimed
at the foundation meeting of the
Cominform. It is realized that
this division has been deliberately
created by the Soviet Government.
And it is realized that the Soviet
camp is, in its intentions,
dynamically expansionist and
politically aggressive — that the
Western Democracies have to de-
fend themselves and their way of
life against a persistent and
continuous offensive from the
East.

I do not mean the people here
expect war or regard war as in-
evitable. There is in this country
no trace of "war-mongering." Nor
is there any parallel to the steady
flow of invective and abuse which
the Soviet press directs against
not only the "monopoly capitalists"
but against the Socialist Parties
of the West.

There is here — not only in the
Labor movement — a willingness
and a desire for a restoration both
of friendship and of co-operation
with the Soviet Union and with its
associates.

But there is also a realist
appreciation and acceptance of the
fact that, at any rate for the
present, the Soviet Union desire
neither friendship nor co-operat-
ion, that it takes every opportunity
to reject co-operation and uses
every device to destroy even the
remnants of friendship. It is an
aggressive and provocative mood.

Faced by this stark situation,
the danger of which are only too
evident — the House of Commons
as a whole made it clear that it
endorses and approves the twin
lines of Britain's policy.

Those lines are, first to consoli-
date the defensive forces of the
West, lest weakness might tempt
Russians to turn from a political
to a military offensive. And second,
while firmly opposing all attempts
at encroachment and refusing to
yield to the pressure of a "nerve
war," to abstain from any action
which might make the situation
worse — from meeting provocation
by counter-provocation.

Mr. Bevin, in effect, summed up
that whole policy in a few sentences
when referring to the position in
Berlin. "We are in Berlin as of
right. It is our intention to stay
there. I hope that the attempts to
settle these problems by a war of
nerves will be brought to an end."

That on the one side. On the
other, he was equally emphatic in
his insistence that the United
Kingdom Government and the
British authorities in Berlin had
"kept quite cool and refused to be
irritated."

Those sentences, as I say, sum up
and epitomize Britain's policy to-
wards the Soviet Union. It is one
of preparedness for the worst but
of hope for the best. It is one of
complete firmness coupled with
patience and prudence even under
deliberate provocation. And there
is all the time a readiness to reach
a "tread and last" settlement.

There can be a peaceful settle-
ment for all Europe without very
great difficulty if Russia will
genuinely renounce her Imperialist
aims of expanding her
hegemony over other states and
her Communist aims of overthrow-
ing the "capitalist Democracies"
and of establishing Communist
dictatorships throughout Europe.
But, unless and until she does so,
Western Europe must remain,
calmly and unexcitedly, on guard.

That is Mr. Bevin's thesis. And
the importance of the recent De-
bate in the House of Commons is
that it shows that this thesis has
the almost unanimous support of
Parliament — which very accu-
rately reflects the feeling of the
country.

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The Poet's Corner

FROM "PARACELUS"

Earth is a wintry eld;
But spring-wind, like a dancing
paillard, passes
Over its breast to waken it; rare
verdure
Buds tenderly upon rough banks,
between
The withered tree-roots and the
cracks of frost-
Like a smile striving with a wrin-
kled face;
The grass grows bright, the bougias
are swollen with blooms,
Like chrysalids impatient for the
air;
The shining doris are busy; beet-
les run
Above the furrows, ants make their
ado;
Above, birds fly in merry flocks —
the lark
Sings up and up, shivering for very
joy;
After the ocean slopes; white fish-
ing-gulls
Fit where the strand is purple
with its tribe
Of nested limpets; savage crea-
tures seek
Their loves in wood and plain; and
God renews
His ancient rapture!

—Robert Browning.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

BAPTIST VESTRY OPENING

"On Sunday last the new Bap-
tist vestry, Charlottetown, was oc-
cupied for the first time. Rev. J. A.
Gordon, the pastor, conducted the
services, in his usual spirited and
earnest way, notwithstanding that
he had only just risen from a sick
bed. By a strange coincidence it
was just ten years ago that he as-
sisted at the opening services of
the church recently destroyed by
fire. His sermon in the morning
was based on the 14th. and 15th.
verses of the 3rd. chapter of 1st.
Timothy. It was one of the most
interesting, appropriate and prac-
tical dedicatory sermons we have
ever listened to. Striking in
thought, vigorous in presentation,
and comprehensive without wan-
dering, it declared, with telling ef-
fect, the gospel as it is in Christ,
and the fundamental principles of
the Baptist faith."
—Island Guardian, Dec. 27, 1939.

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