

THE GUARDIAN

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Frank Walker.

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1948

An Opportune Time

There are few matters of more importance
in connection with our transportation problem at
the present time than provision for more truck
traffic. This is one way in which we can beat the
railway freight increase. As Premier Jones pointed
out some time ago, we could do with ten times
our present truck carrying facilities to the advantage
not only of our Island producers, but of the
neighboring Maritime Provinces which are
our best natural market.

Reference was made yesterday to the possibility
of utilizing the Abegweit to a greater extent
in this connection. The objection to using
the lower deck for motor truck storage is the
fire hazard due to the proximity of the vessel's
diesel engines. But it is suggested that this is
by no means an insurmountable difficulty. When
the proposal to carry autos on the car deck of
the old ferry was mooted, the fire hazard difficulty
was raised, and it was overcome by setting
off a certain section of the deck space for this
particular purpose.

The same question, we understand, was raised
with regard to truck traffic on the Northumberland
Ferries Ltd. boats. At the suggestion of the
chief inspector of the Department of Transport,
special fog nozzles, capable of blanketing a sudden
outbreak of fire immediately, were installed on
the auto deck. This equipment is kept ready
for use on both the Prince Nova and the Dunning,
but fortunately it has never had to be resorted
to. No doubt something of a similar nature could
be utilized on the Abegweit as a safety measure,
and thus permit the carrying of trucks and autos
on a portion of the main deck.

This might prove a more workable scheme
than installing ramps of sufficient strength to
take heavy trucks to the upper deck, to which
objection has been raised on the ground of expense.

The alternative, as suggested yesterday, would
be an auxiliary boat or boats for truck transportation
during the season of open navigation. If the
Dominion Government can obtain these boats
this spring, well and good. They were practically
promised to use some years ago, but the
difficulty in obtaining them seems to be as
great as ever. In the meantime what is important
is that every method of increasing our truck
carrying facilities should be canvassed. Any
improvement that can be made in the Abegweit
in this connection should be done now that the
boat has gone to drydock.

Farm Production

There appears to be considerable diversity
of opinion at Ottawa as to the status of agricultural
production in Canada. In a debate on
agricultural estimates in the House of Commons
the other day, Mr. Wright (Melfort, Sask.) maintained
that there was an unjustifiable decrease
in expenditures in this department in view of the
fact that 28 per cent of the farms in Canada today
are subsistence farms. He used this term,
he explained, to define farms which produce less
for sale than is consumed on the farm itself.
There is a big variation between different parts
of the country in the number of subsistence farms.
Alberta has the lowest percentage, namely
15. Saskatchewan has 16 per cent; Prince
Edward Island, 40 per cent, and New Brunswick
51 per cent.

"Anyone who has visited Prince Edward Island,"
Mr. Wright said, "knows that Province has
a soil which is as productive as any other
Province in the Dominion. Yet 40 per cent of
the farms, to use the definition that I have given,
are on a subsistence level. The 28 per cent of
the farms of Canada that are on a subsistence
level produced less than 10 per cent of the total
marketed agricultural production of Canada;
while 10 per cent of the most productive farms
in the country produced over 30 per cent of the
marketed agricultural produce of Canada. This
indicates that there is need of a great deal
of extension work, both in the Federal Department
of Agriculture and in the Provincial Departments."

Agriculture Minister Gardiner maintained
that except for the mid-war period, present expenditures
of his department compared favorably
with other years. He cited gross and net production
figures to show that agricultural output
had been well maintained. Back in 1938 the net
farm income across Canada was \$387,000,000.
In 1940 it was \$528,000,000, and in 1942, \$1,104,000,000.
It dropped in 1943 to \$990,000,000.
In 1944 it went up again to \$1,226,000,000;
1945, \$1,003,000,000; 1946, \$1,267,000,000;
1947, \$1,259,000,000. These figures, he maintained,
"were conclusive that the farmers have
been doing a little better in the last three or
four years in Canada than they have done at any
other time in their history."

"I agree with members who say we ought
to do all we can to see that they do better
still," the Minister added; "but I do not think
it is helpful either to agriculture or to Canada
to be continually saying agriculture is going
down and down rather than going up and up,
because the facts are the very opposite to those
pictured by the members of the C. C. F. when
they speak on this question."

Incidentally Mr. Gardiner noted that while
the farm situation in the different Provinces had
improved in general in recent years,
the statistics indicate that the farmers have made
more improvement in those areas which have
stepped with livestock production.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, Sunday after Ascension.

A week of music of great merit and popularity
closes.

That Armory vote is still being dangled before
our eyes. May it materialize before next
election.

Canada is organizing an aerial expedition
to count the caribou in the northland. Isn't that
carrying suspicion of Stalin just a little too far?

Restrictive labour legislation is the trend
both in this country and in the U. S. A. Railway
workers will be wise to stick to methods short of
striking to get the pay increases they are after.

Hope the "Abegweit" will be back in good
time for the summer traffic, for reports are that
it will begin unusually early this year. In three
weeks' time the North Shore hotels will open
for business.

Teachers and farmers, writes an experienced
teacher, are the nation's eternal optimists. Although
they know that all odds are against the
hope that their crops will mature as they dream
they may, each year they plow the ground again.
At least we can plow under our old mistakes.

A para-rescue unit headed by LAC. J. C.
Coururier of Edmundston, N. B., is the latest
addition to the R. C. A. F.'s search squadron at
Greenwood airport, near Middleton, N. S. The
highly trained parachutist will descend from aircraft
to aid injured or sick persons in remote
areas where it is impossible to land a plane.

Panamanian elections tomorrow are expected
to be accompanied by considerable rioting
and bloodshed although no Communists will be
candidates. The United States has been waiting
to get the balloting out of the way so as
to renew negotiations for the lease of military
bases.

Mother's Day tomorrow; an anniversary with
memories to be treasured by all of us. It has
been the forerunner and inspiration of other
similar observances, such as Father's Day, June
20; Children's Day, June 26; National Baby
Week, May 10-17.

Recent approval of the use of E. R. P. funds
to finance British buying in Canada should prove
a steady factor in Canada's export trade. The
American dollars so acquired will make possible
our own purchase of capital and other goods
from the United States.

In a speech in the Commons last week Mr.
Gordon Graydon urged maintenance of effective
armed forces so that we would not be hitchhikers
in world affairs. "Canada has to make
sure she does not get the reputation of having
a bark that is worse than her bite in the international
show."

One of the most promising suggestions about
Palestine is the offer of the International Red
Cross to take over the entire city of Jerusalem
or even the general welfare of Palestine, food,
water supply, hospitals, etc. The Red Cross, or
Red Crescent as it is known in Moslem lands,
is almost the only body with the prestige and
resources to carry out such a task.

An American planning expert suggests that
the City of Ottawa be extended to take in the
town of Eastview, the village of Rockcliffe Park
and the townships of Gloucester and Nepean.
As he puts it, "representing in municipal organization
a situation which exists in fact." It
looks as if Ottawa is on the way to becoming an
appropriately great capital for a great nation.

The Government on the eve of the plebiscite
has made a part-time appointment of a clergyman
whose duties will consist mainly of promoting
temperance, especially among the young
people of the Province. Rather a tall order
By-the-by what became of the appointee who
previously held the office, and from whom no
official report was ever published.

V-E Day 1945. This ended the field, air and
sea hostilities in Europe, but did not bring peace
of heart and mind to the victorious Allies and
their defeated foes. Instead, it served to add
another and greater menace in the shape of
Communism sponsored by the Soviet Union, with
its espionage in every corner of the civilized
world. The world will be fortunate indeed if it
escapes a Third Great War, and may pray for
statesmen of wisdom and diplomacy to guide it
safely out of all its troubles.

U. S. A. President Harry S. Truman, born
this date 1884; graduate Kansas City School
of Law; operated the family farm from 1906 to
1917; served in U. S. Army (Artillery) in First
Great War retiring with rank of Major; after
holding various political appointments, was
elected Senator from Missouri in 1935, and was
chosen Democratic candidate for vice-president
in 1944, succeeding to the Presidency in 1945;
intends nominating for a second term in November.

Mr. Jeanicko (CCF-Kindersly) again has his
bill before Parliament to abolish appeals to the
Privy Council. His argument that Canadian
judges are as good as any others misses the point
that constitutional cases must be decided between
the Dominion and Provinces and there
would always be the feeling, whether well founded
or not, that the Federal Government could
appoint judges known to favour extension of
centralized authority. Many of the objections
to the Privy Council would disappear if it were to
sit in Canada, as would be quite proper, while
dealing with Canadian appeals.

Notes By The Way

A penny saved seems not worth the
trouble these days. — Brandon
Sun.

Life begins at 40.—If you're not
job hunting. — St. Catharines
Standard.

If murderers are merely impris-
oned for life, they may escape to
murder again. Criminologists assure
us that the second murder is much
easier than the first, and our
present law would be especially true
with the murderer knew that the
worst that could happen to him
would be imprisonment for life. —
Kingston Whig-Standard.

There will be millions of dollars
of damage in this Spring's floods in
the Prairie Provinces. The money
lost would go a long way to
build the dams needed to put
the water in the right place — in
reservoirs for beneficial use later.
Especially in Saskatchewan it seems
a shame to see so much water going
to waste. — Lethbridge Herald.

Transoceanic trips for animals
are becoming commonplace affairs.
Recent experiments show that dogs
are excellent flyers and can stand
altitudes up to 28,000 feet. Cats are
comfortable only up to 24,000 but
chickens are unhappy unless the
ceiling stays around 17,000 feet. The
looster, even though wrapped in
wet hemp sacking, is a very sensitive
fellow to high altitudes; he
just doesn't seem to like airplanes
at all. — United Nations World.

A good nurse should be worth as
much as a good gardener, some of
whom get as high as \$1.50 an hour
in this joyous Vancouver spring-time.
Whether an increase to \$3.
per week will reduce total employment
of nurses is a matter now
under consideration. Like some other
groups we know of, the nurses
are taking a good look at it and
are trying to decide what the traffic
ought to bear. — Vancouver
Sun.

Reports from Germany indicate
that the Germans in anticipation
of currency reform in the western
part of the country are using every stratagem
they can think of to cash in on
their marks before it is too late.
Catholic clergymen have been overwhelmed
with contributions to
cover the saying of mass for years
to come; grave rents to cemeteries,
while doctors, dentists, and tradesmen
are withholding current bills
hoping to collect in new currency. —
Newsweek Magazine.

The curious thing is that oil supply
and demand always have been
in a race. Reserves grow as consumption
goes up. From Alberta
to Arabia the search proceeds for
new supplies, and, strange to say,
success. And if the natural sources
run low, oil can be increasingly
constructed synthetically. The point
is that the more oil is used the
more of it man somehow succeeds
in producing. But the times present
a mighty challenge to such historic
optimism, and one could wish for
quick and practical corroboration
from both industry and government. —
New York Herald-Tribune.

The practice of gargling for a
sore throat is as old as the proverbial
hills. There are millions who
will testify that they cured, or at
least got welcome relief from a
sore throat by gargling. But now
the opinion has been advanced by
a medical authority that this procedure
is ineffective and is a
waste of time. Doctors themselves
have in the past almost un-
mously recommended gargling and
the new view must come as a
surprise to many medical men as well
as to the public. Effective or not,
it is difficult at this late date
to convince folks in general that
they should abandon this method
of treating a sore throat. — Boston
Post.

I once spent two days in an attempt
to render into language
which could be understood by a
widow in Chester the regulations
governing an application for a
passport. My draft was written in
companionable words and under
such soothing headings as "What
do I do first?" "What is the next
thing I have to do?" and so on.
When on the following Tuesday I
presented my draft to the officials
at the Passport Office they read
it through with friendly contempt.
"But supposing," they said, "that
your widow in sleepy Chester was
born in an Argentine ship when
her mother was on the way from
Bahia Blanca to Porto Alegre?" I
had no answer to this question. —
Harold Nicolson in London Spectator.

Sir Ernest Gowers' long-looked-
for booklet, Plain Words, written
primarily to improve civil servants'
English, is now available and can
be obtained from the Stationery
Office for a florin. In his second
line he speaks of something or
other being, or seeming "a work
of supererogation." Later on he
quotes someone as saying of the
words used by one great poet:
"fewer would not have served the
turn, and more would have been
superfluous"; is he quite certain
that the substitution of the last
word of the quotation would have
been an improvement? Elsewhere
he remarks that early in the war
the finding of alternative accommodation
(a phrase which Sir Ernest
condemns) caused "many a
headache." Is this meant literally,
or is it a lapse into what has become
a particularly tiresome cliché?
Let us hope the former. It seems
that people who write about the
use of plain words may after all
be only human themselves. — London
Spectator.

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.

THE COMING PLEBISCITE

Sir.—With regard to the coming
plebiscite, I am amazed at the
attitude of some recent writers in
your columns. By classing the proposed
Temperance Act and our
present Prohibition Law as equally
bad, they are plainly falling for
the propaganda of the liquor interests
and playing into their
hand.

These liquor interests want one
thing and one alone—that is increased
sales at any cost and by any
means. We have seen the success
of their technique in the other
Provinces. Step by step they are
leading us also to the repudiation
of our prohibition legislation. The
stage is set to usher in Government
Sale on June 28th.

Let us get rid of all illusions as
to the new Temperance Act. It is
promoted by a government which
has consistently weakened our
Prohibition Law by successive
amendments and which now has
in its budget an item of \$600,000
revenue from the sale of that
which it professes to restrict. It
would curvy favor with the taxpayer
by relieving him of a legislative
burden while robbing him of
all the attributes of good citizenship.

On June 28th a choice will be
set before us—Prohibition Law
with various weakening amend-
ments and a so-called Temperance
Act which throws the door wide
open to Government Sale. Of two
evils let us choose the less. Let us
oppose the brewers and distillers.
Let us refuse to make gain from
the degradation of our fellow men.
Let us keep our Prohibitory Law.
Granted that our present law is
weak, it can be strengthened.
Where there is a will, there is a
way and that way is Temperance
Education.

Let us begin a campaign in Temperance
Education through which
every child in Prince Edward Island
shall learn the truth about
beverage alcohol. The future be-
longs to these. With faith and
courage let us work for the retention
of prohibition until enlightened
minds and consciences shall
approve total abstinence and prohibition
legislation shall become
unnecessary.

I am, Sir, etc.
LOUISE CALLECK.
Central Beedee.

WHAT IS IT?

Sir.—Quite a number of people
are asking what this new Prince
Edward Island Temperance Act is?
Nobody seems anxious to tell us.
The enabling legislation was introduced
so late in the session that
even the Press failed to impress
upon the electorate the value of
this new approach, or "New Look"
as it might appropriately be called.

One thing is quite clear, however.
The new Act, not Prohibition
in disguise, as the Gullen A.
amendment was represented to be.
Just how it differs from our
old Government Sale for revenue
purposes is yet a dark secret.

The word "Temperance" today
is about the most flexible and elastic
word in the English language.
It is used to cover almost every
phase of the liquor business from
total abstinence to unlicensed indulgence.
The brewers and distillers,
with tears in their eyes, are
begging their customers to their
temperate or moderate in their
drinking habits. Departments of
Education are teaching the principles
of Government sale legislation that
will permit the free flow of alcohol
temperance legislation. Words,
when used with judgment and discretion
are for enlightenment,
when twisted out of their root
meaning they only serve to darken
conscience and to confuse the issue.

A plebiscite is being held on
June 28. We have not yet met a
man who is anxious to explain
what the issue really is. How a
government that believes in Govern-
ment control for revenue purposes
can enforce a Prohibition Act, or
how a government that believes in
Prohibition can enforce a Govern-
ment Control Act has never
been explained.

If the Government of this Province
had intended to change our
liquor regulations from Prohibition
to Government Control or some-
thing else, the proposed change
might have been made an issue
during the recent election, and the
result would have been an expression
of opinion on the liquor ques-
tion without the necessity of a
plebiscite later on.

Of all the virtues that make our
democratic system work effectively,
taking the people into our confidence
is the most important. The
sundering of the Prohibition Act
during the past few years has
strained the patience of the people
of this Province to the breaking
point.

What Prohibition accomplished in
its best days our elders, if they
would speak out can tell us. What
the Prince Edward Island Temperance
Act will do is more easily
imagined than described. The
un-
informed will be: Prohibition ver-
sus Government Control.
I am, Sir, etc.
VERNON CROCKETT
York, P. E. I.

tion in ordinary cases, and in this
respect is a Government Control
bill pure and simple. But it also
provides very numerous and drastic
restrictions against "intemperate
persons," which is the name
used to designate those who abuse
the privilege and are, for any one
of many reasons enumerated in
the bill, blacklisted by the Com-
mission or magistrate. Several
members thought the penalties and
restrictions under these sections to
be so severe that they would be
impossible of enforcement. Those
favoring the restoration of the old
Prohibition Act, however, notably
Hon. Mr. Wright and Mr. Scobie,
were loud in their praise of these
and other features of the new Act,
which they were prepared to support
in the event of the plebiscite going
contrary to their wishes. They
succeeded in defeating an amend-
ment which would bring the new
Act into force at once after re-
ceiving the Lieutenant Govern-
or's assent. The situation now is
that only two provisions of the
new bill—the appointment of a
Commission and the authority for
taking the plebiscite on the old
Prohibition Act on June 28—will
be enacted at present. The provisions
of the old Act prior to the
passing of the Cullen Amendment
are placed in the new Act, to come
into force only if carried on the
plebiscite. Otherwise, the new provisions,
eliminating doctors' scrips
but providing for stiffer permit
restrictions, and also for a full
accounting by the Commission to
the Government and Legislature
of all its business, may be pro-
claimed." In the same editorial
The Guardian suggested
that there was bound to be a
great deal of confusion in the public
mind as to what they will be
called upon to vote for or against,
and it was for the Government to
find means of offsetting this dis-
advantage. Presumably this is the
purpose of the pamphlet which the
Government has now issued on the
subject. — Ed. G.)

MOTHER'S DAY

Sir.—For the past twenty years
I have tried, regularly with my old
pen to write a few lines on Mother's
Day, that great day of days.
There is one whole day set aside
in this lovely blessed month
of May for mothers all over the
world; regardless of color, race or
 creed they are mothers just the
same.

In my travels I have seen mothers
in grand homes living in splendor,
surrounded by servants, and I
have seen them in wigwams and
in poverty-stricken homes; mothers
just the same.

Who is Mother? Is she just an
old lady with a white apron on
in your home, or is she someone to
be pushed aside while the young
have their fun? Certainly not. To
me she is the one who gave up
her youth, her happy days early in
life; the one who gave up her
good position, her parties and her
pals; the one who turned her back
on everything but slavery for you
and me; the one who saw only
the joy that would follow the suffer-
ing to bring us into this world.

To me she is the one who not
only pointed the way but led me
from the whirlpool of my child-
hood onto the bank of the sea of
life, and warned me of the breakers
and shoals.

More and more I see how tar-
sily important Mother really is.
Year after year I feel the clasp of
her hand in mine and in dreams
lay my head on her breast where
in youth so many pains passed
away. For twenty years now I have
asked for a remembrance of our

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

ROADS AND STATUTE LABOUR

"Roads are very easily made on
the Island from the nature of the
soil and climate, and very considerable
progress has been already
made in that respect, considering
the great extent of the Island, and
the small number of inhabitants,
there being tolerable roads be-
tween the capital and all the principal
settlements, which have been
chiefly made by statute labour, all
males from 16 to 60 years of age,
according to their different circum-
stances, being obliged to perform
from four to six days labour on
the high roads annually."

"The facility with which roads
can be made is a circumstance of
the most interesting nature, and
when viewed in connection with
our many navigable rivers and
creeks, affording a safe water com-
munication to a great part of the
Island, cannot fail to be highly
advantageous to every stage of
our progress and settlement. The
laying out of high roads, erecting
of bridges, and appointing and
regulating ferries is vested in the
Governor or Lieutenant-Governor
for the time being, and His
Majesty's Council, and a reservation
is made in the grant of every
township, of such parts thereof, as
may be wanted for high roads; so
that there can be no part of the
Island in which a just and reason-
able claim to a road can be refused.
The Governor and Council are
however restricted from pulling
down houses, or destroying or
chairs, gardens, mills, or mill dams,
in laying out roads, and doubtless
it will also become just and necessary
in the progress of the settle-
ment as roads multiply, to grant
a reasonable compensation to the
proprietors and occupants of all
inclosed and cultivated lands,
through which it may be found
necessary to lay out new roads
for the public accommodation,
which compensation it will fre-
quently be proper to levy on the
district for the benefit of which
the road is claimed, in order to
prevent the wanton abuse too com-
mon in new countries on the sub-
ject." — John Stewart: 1806

John Stewart: 1806

PERIL
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aircraft, of automobiles, of accident, of sickness.
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The Poet's Corner
SWEETHEART OF THE AGE
Her face to me is wondrous fair,
E'en though the silver in her hair
Replaces strands of gold.
Her love has never changed
through years.
A smile so often hides her tears;
To me she's never old.
The light of love that keeps them
bright,
So tender, true and kind,
Her voice like music's sweetest
sound,
Bespeaks what in her soul is found:
True beauty undefined.
Her heart with tenderness overflows,
Yes, day by day its beauty shows.
The beauty of my mother.
Nor time, nor place, nor pain
drowns
Returns when gone—life's pain-
less flower—
Nor changes for another.
—John Robert Lamont Campbell
within it the possibility of good
as well as evil. The atom bomb
contains the power for limiting
benefits to mankind as well as its
total destruction. Not by curbing
knowledge but by spreading it,
instilling in men the desire to use
this knowledge for the good of
the world, into which hate and greed
and indifference, and not too much
education have led us.
Though we cannot go back to
the simple life of our parents, we
can go back to the practice of the
Golden Rule, and indeed we must
go back if we wish to continue to
live. But to do unto others as you
would have them do unto you, is
far more difficult now than in the
time of our parents when the
others were the neighbors across
the road; people of the same man-
ners, faith, language and appear-
ance, as their own. Often indeed
near kin to them.
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