THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.
The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett.
Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, ESDAY, JAN. 1[illegible] 1950.

Interest In Elections

Much has been said and written about party politics, practically all of it unkind. Yet in any state that would avoid the bane of despotism or totalitarianism, political parties are inescapably necessary. If the hypothetical "man in the street" wishes to be a factor in forming his country's politics, and not merely submit to them, his obvious course is to seek out those who think as he does on important questions and combine with those others to put his ideas into practice. Government is, of course, a complex task and it is unlikely that the individual will find any significant number who agree with him on all points. He can then remain in his tiny minority or else join those who advocate his most important principles, and try to convert them to his views on other matters while working to make his chosen party a power in the land. Only thus can he influence the course of events. The "independent" in politics inevitably finds he is really the ineffective. The man who "doesn't take any interest in politics" is the man who puts in power the self-seeker who could not possibly influence any large number of voters, but who depends upon the majority of them not taking sufficient interest to insist upon getting the type of candidate they profess they would like to have.

In municipal affairs there are no party politics as such, and to this fact may be attributed the not infrequent indifference shown by the voters in civic elections. It is always hard to get out a large vote, and practically impossible unless there are clearly defined local issues, and men willing and capable of expressing their views. Back in the year 1859, just four years after Charlottetown became incorporated, the Hon. Edward Whelan wrote in The Examiner: "No one seems to take any interest in civic affairs—no one speaks of the forthcoming election—and no one seems to know or care whether the present City Fathers will be re-elected. Then, wherefore should we trouble our heads with speculation on the subject? We must take it for granted that our fellow citizens are delighted with the present Municipal Government, which have distinguished themselves by doing nothing." With minor variations, this has too frequently been the complaint from that day to this.

What is the remedy against such public apathy? Certainly we do not want party politics injected into civic affairs; but we must find a substitute by arousing public interest, not only in the candidates but in the issues for which they stand. One of the best means of achieving this end is by the calling of a public meeting where every prospective candidate would have an opportunity of airing his views. The meeting might be held either before or after nomination day, which in Charlottetown this year falls on February 1. Preferably it should be held after the Council's annual meeting, which is set for January 27. The reports will then all be in, and there will be ample time before the election date, February 8, for the voters to come to some intelligent conclusion. This practice, when followed in the past, invariably resulted in a larger turnout at the polls.

It is of little use to preach to the electors that it is their duty to get out and vote, unless they have something concrete to vote for.

Newfoundland Development

The intimation that Premier Smallwood has succeeded in securing Rockefeller development money for an economic survey of Newfoundland is hailed by the Financial Post as "big news indeed," not only for our newest Province but for the rest of Canada.

For years the greatest need of Newfoundland and other vast undeveloped regions of this country has been new capital. Without it there can be no hope of even locating our natural resources, let alone making real use of them. And by attracting American venture capital for this job we are on the way toward solving another big and pressing problem, the balancing of our dollar account with the United States. American money poured into development work in Newfoundland and elsewhere will help to balance our excess purchasing in the U. S.

This was the historic pattern followed by Great Britain when that country was world's banker. A large portion of British sales abroad was balanced by British capital investment abroad, including hundreds of millions of dollars in North America. Wisely Britain did not follow the shortsighted policy of demanding all cash for its exports but welcomed what imports were available and made local capital investments to cover the balance. Now the United States, after some bitter experience on an opposite course is beginning to see the wisdom of that policy.

"For underdeveloped countries like Canada that change can be of tremendous significance," says the Post. "But we must realize that capital will only come where it is welcome, where it gets a fair chance for safety and a reasonable profit to its owners. On the whole the Canadian record in this respect has been good. If is vital for us and our future that it remain so."

EDITORIAL NOTES

All eyes are focussed on Ottawa for the Federal-Provincial Conference proceedings.

* * *

Charlottetown civic elections will see at least two, if not three candidates for the mayoralty, and contests in every ward for councillors. This shows a healthy municipal state of affairs.

* * *

Ottawa now has a municipal council of 33 which is three members more than the legislature of this Province. It will be interesting to discover when it ceases to be a council at all, and becomes an assembly.

* * *

The proposed use of infra-red lamps in the curing of kippered snacks from herring may or may not be commercially feasible, but it has unlimited possibilities from an advertising point of view.

* * *

There seems to be as much, if not more, competition for a policeman's job here than for a senatorship, though it seems the number of prospects for the senate vacancy is increasing. At least two others have been mentioned in addition to Premier Jones and Mr. Lester Douglas, M. P.

* * *

Premier Smallwood announced that he intended only to observe what goes on at the constitutional conference at Ottawa, but the fact that he was the first Provincial Premier to arrive there indicates that he does not intend to let very much escape his observation.

* * *

The report which the Royal Commission on Arts and Sciences will produce may or may not have any significance, but the commission has already served a valuable purpose in stimulating cultural organizations and bringing them and their efforts before the public.

* * *

Sir Hans Stoane, physician and naturalist, one of the founders of the British Museum; was governor of Jamaica in 1687 and made a collection of native plants; returning to England in 1727 he was made president of the Royal Society, and the same year was appointed court physician to Queen Anne, and later to George I and George II.

* * *

The Ottawa Citizen carries a long and informative article on the rank of Commonwealth envoys, deploring the fact that they should rank below ambassadors in the table of precedence, but without once referring to the fact that the Canadian Government has already taken steps to shift them up to rank with ambassadors on that table of which the printed versions are now, of course, out of date.

* * *

An acute world shortage of human skeletons is causing concern among teachers and students of anatomy who are finding human bones both expensive and difficult to obtain. Skeletons for medical teaching have usually been supplied by India, Russia and France, but since the war the French Government has passed laws which make it impossible to maintain the previous large scale supply and now even France herself is said to be faced with a skeleton shortage. A London firm has however found a solution to this problem of the "skeleton in the medical cupboard." It has just moulded its first plastic skeleton which is complete in every detail of its 206 bones and, so 'tis said, stronger and much cheaper than the real thing.

* * *

The cartel charges against the match industry seem to indicate that Mr. MacGregor's commission was not treated against "after-glow." Bryant and May, English match manufacturers, have for many years been in the forefront of combines and cartels. It is recalled that over twenty years ago an enterprising firm in British Guiana saw the possibilities of starting a wooden match factory there, where wood and labour were plentiful and matches dear. No sooner did they get underway than Bryant and May pulled wires through the Colonial Office to have excise duties imposed to protect Bryant & May's imported matches from local competition, and to help to smother the new enterprise at its birth. Evidently, according to Mr. MacGregor's report they are still at their old game, crushing out local industry. Subsequent to Great War I Bryant and May were involved in an international match control scheme in which a Swedish firm played a prominent part.

The Poet's Corner

THE ANATOMIST

He many a creature did anatomize,
Almost unpeopling water, air, and land;
Beasts, fishes, birds, smalls, caterpillars, flies,
Were laid full low by his relentless hand.
That oft with gory crimson was distained:
He many a dog destroyed, and many a cat;
Of fleas his bed, of frogs the marshes drained;
Could tellen if a mite were lean or fat,
And read a lecture o'er the entrails of a gnat.

—Mark Akensids (1721-1770).

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

TENANTS' APPLICATION

"A numerously attended meeting of the tenants of Laurence Sulivan, Esq., residing on Lot 22, was held on Tuesday at Hope River school-house, convened for the purpose of petitioning the proprietor to authorize his agent, William Forgan, Esq., to receive the rents of the tenants due or to become due, in merchantable produce, a course rendered necessary from the scarcity of cash throughout the Island. C. Birch Bagster, Esq., J. P., was unanimously called to the chair, and Mr. E. Hill appointed secretary. Several resolutions were adopted, and the following committee was appointed to draw up a petition in accordance therewith: Messrs. C. Birch Bagster, Jeremiah Simpson, James Sullivan, John Simpson, Sr., James Byrns, Thomas Hays, James Parsons, John Hodgson and Duncan Ross. The chairman, in concluding the business of the meeting, reminded his audience that the course they were pursuing was a conditional one, and that constitutional means could alone ensure its accomplishment."

—The Islander, Nov. 8, 1844.

Tomahto? Tomayto? Fruit? Vegetable?

(Toronto Telegram)

The Ottawa Journal, bent on spreading useful knowledge and harmless pleasure, tells us editorially that the tomato is "a native American herb of the nightshade family; it has a large red or yellow berry." It adds: "Tomatoes are delicious when sun-ripened on the vines; they are good in juice, scalloped, in soup and chowder."

That is only the half, or less of it. They are good eaten raw, with or without salt, pepper and vinegar. They taste delicious when eaten plain with white bread and butter. They are admirable when fried with bacon, or with chops. They make an excellent preserve, or jam. Reduced to catsup, catchup or ketchup—all three terms are approved by Webster — they form the great American condiment, with which tasteless foods may be flavored at home, and with which the fine but strange flavors of foreign foods may be disguised abroad. Stuffed or quartered, they are a valuable ingredient in a salad. They are sometimes used—for a reason not quite clear—as filling in an omelette. They may be sliced, stewed or canned. They are a most amenable fruit, or vegetable.

But the most controversial. Is the tomato a fruit or a vegetable? That is a question frequently argued. The Encyclopaedia Britannica speaks of "the common tomato with large fruits", but in another place lists it among the common vegetables. The Oxford and Webster dictionaries call it a fruit. It seems to be a fruit. No sooner is that settled than the question of pronunciation crops up. This is a matter of taste. The Oxford favors tomahto while Webster likes tomayto. The latter can cite potato for support, and the former may argue that its style is nearer the original Spanish and French "tomate." In a Canadian restaurant if you ask for tomaytoes the waitress will call them tomahtoes, and if you ask for tomahtoes she will call them tomaytoes. You will both be right, either way.

Under its original name of "tomate," the fruit or vegetable came north from South America. It was a simple, unsophisticated berry then, but was called the "love apple" from a belief that it induced in human beings a liking for their opposites in sex. Now, it has been so altered by cultivation that there are more than 150 varieties, none credited with the love-inducing quality. Whether the world has lost or gained may be debated.

Radioactive Oysters

(Christian Science Monitor)

A great deal has been said or surmised about people trying to pry secrets out of the Atomic Energy Commission. But the A. E. C., in co-operation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, has embarked on the ultimate in counter-espionage. It hopes to pry atomic secrets out of an oyster.

It is some time now since savants discovered what kind of noise annoys an oyster (a noisy noise, of course), but now the F. W. S. hopes with radioactive isotopes to learn what kinds of food appeal to an oyster.

We hope this will not encourage connundrums adding further alliteration to "an atom's anatomy". To be sure, it may throw important zoological light on the question of just how mum is an oyster. But again we hope that if researchers succeed in learning from the oyster the secret of how to bomb cuttlefish, sting rays, and octopuses (octopi, did you say?), they will not infer therefrom that the world is their oyster.

By Their Fruits

The Decisive Year

(By W. N. Ewer)

The year 1949 will, I think, be seen in retrospect as one not of dramatic but of decisive change in the world situation. Stalin and his associates had seen 1948 as a year of spreading "revolution" — or rather Soviet ascendancy in Europe. It was not so much that they were dazzled by the romantic coincidence that this was the centenary of "the '48'." It was rather that all their analysts—except for a space the troublesome Varga—assured them that the West was both politically and economically on the verge of collapse.

There was a "revolutionary situation." The moment was ripe for an offensive. And, believing in their prognostication, Stalin opened his offensive on four fronts. On the North, the blockade of Berlin was put into force. In the centre, Czechoslovakia was seized without a blow. In the South an intensification of the Greek civil war was ordered. While "behind the lines" strenuous efforts were made to bring about collapse in France and Italy. On the flanks the war of nerves beat against Scandinavia and Turkey.

* * *

In the summer the offensive was in full swing. Anxiety in the West equalled the confidence in Moscow. There were many who believed that before another twelve months had gone by the Western Allies would be forced to evacuate Germany and that Russian armies would be on the Rhine. And, though the airlift to Berlin had, in fact, been a decisive counter-stroke, the pressure of attack was still maintained when 1948 ended or 1949 opened. At the close of 1949 it has failed or been abandoned for the time being all along the front. The change is complete.

During 1949 the Berlin blockade has been lifted and the Greek civil war ended. Communist offensives in France and Italy have failed and been called off. Even the war of nerves has died down. The theme of Soviet propaganda is peace and a professed fear of attack by "Western Imperialists." Even the expected attempt to coerce recalcitrant Yugoslavia has come to curiously little.

* * *

The reasons for this complete change have been two. First, there has been steadiness and consolidation of the West. Western European countries have made it clear that they would not be intimidated into a policy of appeasement and that they would certainly resist any further aggression. And the United States has made it plain that if conflict came American aid would be "without stint." If the Berlin airlift was the first decisive counter-action, the signing of the Atlantic Pact was the second. In 1947, at the founding of the Comform, Russia had declared a cold war between the "two camps". In 1948 and 1949, the West accepted the challenge; and Stalin wisely had more cautious second thoughts.

But there has been another and by no means unimportant reason for the change. If the West has proved stronger, the Soviet empire has proved weaker than Stalin foresaw in 1948. The revolt of Tito has succeeded beyond expectation. And the rest of the satellite countries are riddled with discontent, with nationalist resurgence, and with a growing hatred of Russian domination and Russian exploitation.

Stalin is forced to think not of extending but of consolidating his empire, of repression instead of aggression. The purges and treason trials are the most dramatic symptoms. But the trouble is both widespread and deep-seated. The satellite Governments have to threaten ruthless action against all Opposition. Even the Communist parties are unreliable. A Soviet Marshal has to be put in charge of Poland's armed forces. And there are signs (as in Malenkov's Pravda article on Stalin's birthday) that there is no little discontent and unrest in the Soviet Union itself. It is no time for adventurous or risky foreign policies.

* * *

But, it may be objected, this analysis ignores the Far East and the great Communist victory in China. Surely all that has happened is that Moscow has swung its offensive from West to East, from Europe to Asia.

I think not. The victory of the Chinese Communists is an event of tremendous world significance. The Chinese Communists, however, like the Yugosalvs, won their victory themselves with singularly little aid from the Soviet Union. Stalin's preoccupation at the end of the war was not to help his Chinese "comrades" but to recover for himself the territory and dominant situation of the Tsars in North East China. And the greatest handicap of Mao Tse-Tung's armies has been their lack of aircraft which the Russians could have given them but did not. That is a very significant fact. Another is that Mao at the Moscow Birthday celebrations spoke of Stalin as a "teacher and friend." The teacher and leader" is a phrase required of satellites. It was a quiet declaration of independence and equality.

* * *

There are now in the world two great powers whose Governments profess devotion to Marxism. One is Russia and the other China. I would add that just as the one is now very Russian, the other is and will be very Chinese. But the essential point is that they are two—not one.

And 1949 has been as definitely a year of defeat and failure for Stalin as it has been a year of victory and success for Mao.

The Age-Old Story

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Who Is Intelligent?

(The Printed Word)

A contributing editor of a Vancouver monthly publication claims that The Printed Word is too intelligent for farmers. "Over Farmer Brown's noggin," is what he says. The inference is that a special kind of writing is required for farmers, a sort of easy-steps-for-little feet. The author of this attack on Canada's major industry brags that he himself is "city-fied," and apparently he considers himself brighter than farmers.

This brings up the large question of whether country or city people are the more intelligent. If it were to be settled by a poll the country folk would probably win, because they still outnumber the populations of our swelling cities. But what is the truth?

On the basis of education there are likely to be found in cities more people who are highly educated, but there are vast numbers who definitely are not. Education costs more in cities—costs the ratepayers more, anyway. But cost is no certain test. Education costs less in P. E. I. than in Toronto. But who, except maybe that city-fied editor, will undertake to establish that the Islanders have less savvy than Torontonians — the people who run up the big Communist vote.

One bit of evidence on the side of farmers is that they have intelligence enough to live in the country. There is evidence, however, which would go to show that people living in Vancouver are not so dumb either.

Not many Canadians who are stuck in other cities can get up much steam these days in running down the intelligence of farmers and those who make their homes in the smaller communities. The hey, rube! joke sounds weak when you are jammed into a bus.

It is hard to tag a fellow Canadian dull-witted when he manages his affairs so that he has ready access to fishing, hunting, skiing, golfing, just walking with clear air to breathe, looking at trees and streams that are not tired from other people's looking at them, and taking his wide, unhindered view of the vast sky above.

— Notes By The Way —

We are as anxious as anybody else to respect Canadian justice, but we get spots before the eyes when we read that one man has been fined $50 for catching a fish out of season, and another has been fined the same sum for killing a man while driving a car.—Peterborough Examiner.

Although we have been only too pleased to report the generally improved operating circumstances for the mining industry with the attending improvement in profits, the fact should not be lost sight of that many of the mines — and gold mines in particular — are operating on a dangerously slim margin of profit. It is a point that the astute labor leader would do well to bear constantly in mind.—Northern Miner.

Large areas of the world are today faced with starvation or near-starvation. We are haggling with Britain over food contracts. Surpluses are piling up on the North American Continent. Whatever the economics of this paradox, to destroy food or store it in anticipation of selling it for practically nothing seems almost criminal in view of the desperate need of great armies of humans in Europe and Asia. — Hamilton Spectator.

A deadly weapon which can be tucked into a handbag, or into a coat pocket, is obviously extremely difficult to control. Such a weapon ought to be outlawed. Manufacture of revolvers could be prohibited, except under licence, and those revolvers which were made should be solely for the use of police officers. Manufacture of ammunition for revolvers already in existence could be prohibited, except manufacture for police use. The law could require owners of revolvers to turn them in to the police, with a very heavy penalty for failure to do so. There need be no move to make the ban cover shot-guns or rifles. They are just as deadly as a revolver, but they can't be tucked into a lady's handbag or shoved in a coat pocket. They can't be carried into a bank or store without attracting attention. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

The balance of nature, by which excesses in animal population are checked, will continue to be a mystery to most laymen. It is interesting, however, to read that scientists of distinction, Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan, professor of zoology at the University of British Columbia, and Dr. William Rowan, of the University of Alberta, are now turning their attention to the theory that the sun spot cycle may be a factor in the heavy reduction expected in another two years time among rabbits, grouse, marten, lynx and other wild game. Many factors in the balance are subject to logical enough explanation. Fatal parasites, for instance, accompany the tent caterpillar, decimating the ranks of the crawlers when they reach peak infestation. Weak strains in game fall prey to predators that weed out all but the fit; numbers are kept down and quality is kept up. When food supplies fall, certain species are reduced to a point at which few more than the required number for breeding survive. — Victoria Times.

A judge in Ohio recently sentenced a drunken driver who had knocked down a pedestrian to spend as much time in jail as his victim spent in hospital. If the judge had the power to inflict the same amount of suffering there would perhaps be much merit in such a sentence. As it is, it looks more like a spur-of-the-moment decision than a considered sentence. But at that, it seems a more equitable sentence than is meted out in Manitoba, where the drunk driver generally goes to jail for only seven days and has his driving licence cancelled for six months — as though a drunk behind the wheel were not just as dangerous as a drunk waving a loaded weapon. Those disposed to drive while under the influence will continue to do so as long as the punishment is mild. The penalty should be severe enough to stop the majority of individuals getting behind the wheel when under the influence of liquor. — Winnipeg Free Press.

In most of the government liquor stores this week and last we had an example of what life would be like if the state ran all the business. To make a purchase that an ordinary private store would handle in a few minutes even at Christmas, took from half to three-quarters of an hour. In many cases the customer was required to enter three separate queues, some of which wound in and out of every corner in the store and around every pillar. And when he did reach the goods counter the buyer often found a slow-motion clerk who, in producing a bottle, would put the most reluctant host to shame. It is no wonder that production is so slow in those countries where the state runs everything or tries to. By the time the citizen queues up for his food, his clothing and whatever else his government graciously allows him to buy, he would have little time for anything else. —Toronto Financial Post.

Electrical Contractor
WIRING AND REPAIRING
ERNEST R. RAMSAY,
129 Elm Ave. Phone 1063J

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Matheson & Peake
A. W. MATHESON, K.C.
A. H. PEAKE, B.A., LL.B.
Barristers, etc.
Collections - Money to Loan
90 Great George Street
Charlottetown

Palmer & Haslam
A. J. HASLAM, B.A., LL.B.
Barrister, Etc.
Bank of Nova Scotia Chambers
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
MONEY TO LOAN

M. Alban Farmer
MONEY TO LOAN
B.A., LL.B.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc.
Charlottetown, P. E. I.

MacPhee & Trainor
H. F. MacPHEE, B.A., K.C.
E. SOMERLED TRAINOR, B.A.
Barristers, Etc.
Toombs Bldg. 165 Queen St.

Dr. W. R. Carson
Chiropractor
Palmer Graduate
CHARLOTTETOWN
491 Prince St. Phone 1072

J. A. McGuigan
NOTARY, ETC.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR,
CURRIE BUILDING

Gaudet & Hazard
Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries, Etc.
Canadian Bank of Commerce Bldg.
MONEY TO LOAN
GILBERT A. GAUDET, B.A., LL.B.
Canadian Bank of Commerce Bldg.

Bell & Mathieson
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, &c
R. R. BELL, M.L.A.
D. L. MATHIESON, L.B., K.C.
Attorneys at Law
LOANS ON CITY AND FARM PROPERTIES
150 Richmond St.
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Chas. R. McQuaid
B.A.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY, Etc.,
Eastern Trust Building
CHARLOTTETOWN
Phone 1711

Dr. A. L. MacIsaac
DENTIST
Dental X-Ray
GLORIA BUILDING
179 Grafton St.
Phone 291

J. S. TAYLOR
Optometrist
Eyes examined, glasses fitted.
Corner Kent & Queen Sts.
Office Phone 1956—House 1013

A. Walthen Gaudet, LL.B.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc.
Phillips Building
111 Grafton Street
Money to Loan Collections

Joseph R. MacMillan, LL.B.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc.
75 Queen Street
PHONE 776
Money to Loan Collections

Frederic A. Large, K.C.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY
Royal Bank of Canada Chambers
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Successor to
George J. Tweedy, K.C.

When you travel . . . whether by boat, train or car . . . include Personal Effects Insurance in your plans. Then you can't lose, if your baggage is stolen, lost or damaged. See us about modern insurance.

W. K. Rogers Agencies Limited
GENERAL INSURANCE AGENTS
CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Phones 540 & 541

H. R. DOANE and COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
OFFICES: Charlottetown, Halifax, Moncton, Amherst, New Glasgow, Truro, Kentville.
IN CHARLOTTETOWN: Randolph W. Manning, C.A., Brenick M. Sears, C.A., Lorne H. Ives, C.A., W. Grant Thompson, C.A.
Phones: 2080 - 1447 Box 247

NEIL W. HIGGINS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
CURRIE BUILDING
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.
Tel. 1636 Box 453