

THE GUARDIAN

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

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Our Navy

The Royal Canadian Navy which achieved such a creditable record during the war, is deriving a great deal of unwelcome publicity from the series of "incidents" which have taken place aboard three of His Majesty's Canadian ships during the past few weeks.

No matter what the cause, or how insignificant the effect, it is the fervent wish of all Canadians that there be no repetition of such undesirable breaches of discipline.

It is worth noting that during the war, there were similar incidents in connection with the embarkment of Air Force personnel for transport overseas. On two occasions the men walked off the ships because of alleged unsatisfactory accommodation.

Of the three services, the Army seems to have the best record although conditions under which they trained and fought were far worse than either of the other two. Also the Army had to accept a great many who could not get into the Navy or Airforce because of educational or medical standards.

Man joining the Navy today have high qualifications. They are carefully screened, and include men of the highest calibre from our universities and high schools all eager to learn and share in the traditions of the silent service.

There have always been "gripes" and ample provision is made in naval regulations for the satisfactory airing and adjustment of grievances. The time-tested regulation that orders must be obeyed first and complained about later in the service manner is a wise and just precaution.

Naval authority too must share the responsibility in not thoroughly re-educating the recruit. Naval routine in peacetime must certainly impress the new entries as being greatly wasteful, and their desire of progress and personal accomplishment continually frustrated.

When the Chief of Staff orders the Fleet to action, it is in the form of a peremptory command which must be unquestionably obeyed. Similarly when the Captain of one of the individual ships issues an order, the required response must be forthcoming.

Naval warfare, in which the life of all may depend upon the action of one, demands hair-trigger obedience and a sense of duty above personal considerations.

Tunnel Through The Alps

Mont Blanc, crowning height of the Alps, is to have a hollow steel tube driven through its heart. A great new tunnel is planned to secure uninterrupted road communication between Paris and Rome, and engineers will pierce the 16,000 foot high mountain at a height of 3,095 feet on the French side emerging on the Italian side at some 3,065 feet above sea level.

Judging from the experiences of the men who built three other tunnels, the Simplon (12 and a half miles long), the St. Gothard (nine and a half miles), and the Mont Cenis (seven and a half miles), the Mont Blanc project will not be without its hazards, says an English exchange.

The Simplon tunnel, opened in 1905, was less of a problem because of the great advances made in engineering during the intervening years. All the same, nature resented man's intrusion underground with his diamond drills, his steel and his dynamite.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Air casualties are unavoidable at times, but recently there seems to have been more than enough.

"Golgotha" is to be shown today at the Prince Edward, not Empire, Theatre as mentioned here yesterday.

The Anglo-Indian regular air mail and passenger air service inaugurated this date 1929—the first of its kind to be established. Since followed by airlines between all parts of the world, a remarkable progress in 20 years.

"In the fullness of Time" Tomorrow Newfoundland automatically enters the Dominion, and everybody now is happy—a commendable achievement after generations of petty differences which kept us apart.

The city of Saint John is going all out to make effective its new anti-smoke-by-law. Perhaps with a lessening of the smoke nuisance that city's famous fog will also thin out a bit.

Canada's decision to embark on a network of radar defences for major cities and other strategic points was probably unavoidable. The implications, in terms of control of flying are, nevertheless, staggering.

The retirement of the Duke of Edinburgh from the Navy has greater significance than is generally realized. It means that though the operation on His Majesty has given temporary relief, a cure is impossible.

The Senate of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, have decided to confer the degree of Doctor of Divinity on Hon. Major John Foot, V.C. and the Very Rev. C. Ritchie Bell, B.A., B.D. at the annual Convocation on April 19.

Indoor recreation in the City is now practically at an end, both the Forum and the Curling Rink going into vacation after an unusually successful season. Bowling and Forty-fives will have their own way, till the ball game opens out.

An innovation in an appendix to the Hansard number containing the Budget Speech is a striking series of graphs illustrating trends in the national economy and in taxation. Finance Minister Abbott evidently lends his support to the Hansard society in its efforts to popularize the reading of the official report.

The N. S. Light and Power Company in Halifax has truly played the part of a good neighbour in refusing to sell its now obsolete tram cars to a Florida man who wanted to convert them into roadside hot dog stands.

Over the Easter recess loud-speaking equipment is to be tried experimentally in the Commons chamber in Ottawa. Considering the violence of recent interruptions, it would seem that the most important consideration should be the means of cutting off all microphones except that being used by the Honourable Member having the floor.

There are just two Bloc Populaire members in the House of Commons and they extinguished themselves politically by voting against approval of the Atlantic Pact. No one would consider them Communists, and certainly they are not claimed as Liberals, Conservatives, C.C.F.'s, Social Credit, or Liberal-Labour.

Queen Square School is to be congratulated on its effort in carrying on a successful mock parliament and in enlisting the aid of the Hon. Eugene Cullen, Speaker of the Legislature. Generally speaking, educational groups do not make sufficient use of the aid of public men who, though busy, are usually glad to give youth the benefit of their experience.

The Royal Canadian Air Force celebrates its 25th anniversary April 1st. In 1919 the Government created a board for the control of aeronautics. Under the National Defence Act, 1922, the powers of the Air Board were vested in the Minister of National Defence. In 1927 strength of the R.C.A.F. was 95 officers and 375 other ranks. Earlier, Canada's J.A.D. McCurdy, M.E. made the first aeroplane flight in the British Empire, Feb. 23, 1909, at Baddeck Bay, N. S.

Timely warning has been given by Col. J. D. Stewart, convener of the Street Committee of the City Council that several of our hard-surfaced streets must be replaced, they now being practically unrepairable. It must be evident to most people who use them that our thoroughfares are not a good advertisement of our City Council's progressiveness and efficiency.

Building new schools is a costly undertaking. The Board of Trustees of Sackville School District No. 9 will apply to the present session of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly for permission to borrow \$675,000 for the purpose of erecting a new school in Sackville. Permission was granted to the board to borrow \$400,000 a few years ago but the board now feels that the building costs may exceed this amount.

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.

BUTTER PRICES

Sir.—Why is it we have to pay so much more for butter here on Prince Edward Island than in the other Provinces? In Quebec, where margarine is strictly prohibited, the consumers are paying around 60 cents for butter. Here a butter factory in West Prince wants 65 cents per lb. wholesale FOB factory.

I am, Sir, etc., A CONSUMER, Bloomfield Station.

Second Look At The Budget

(Ottawa Journal)

Illustrative of current confused political thinking, of queer ideas that have come to us about the relation of the individual to the State, are comments heard on the Government's budget. Hearing and reading such comments one might almost believe that Mr. Abbott, reducing taxes by \$368,000,000, had handed us that much money out of his own pocket.

Mr. Abbott has given us nothing. Nor has the Government. All Mr. Abbott has done is to decide to take away from us less of our money. And Mr. Abbott is not returning to us one cent of the money he took from us needlessly and wrongly in the years 1946, 1947, and 1948.

Mr. Abbott's surplus this year is \$675,000,000. His surplus last year was \$670,000,000. His surplus the year before that was \$373,000,000. Thus in three years Mr. Abbott took from the public, through taxes, a total of 1,618 million dollars more than he needed.

Mr. Abbott, in 1946-47, could have made the tax reductions he made yesterday and still have had a surplus of \$5,000,000. Mr. Abbott, in 1947-48, could have made the tax reductions he made yesterday and still have had a surplus of \$302,000,000.

Mr. Abbott, in 1948-49, could have made the tax reductions he made yesterday and still have had a surplus of \$203,000,000. Therefore, Mr. Abbott, cutting taxes now for the purpose of winning an election, is not even making the "partial restitution" that Mr. J. M. Macdonnell spoke of. Mr. Abbott is giving back nothing. He is merely taking less.

We are told that Mr. Abbott used the 1,600 million dollars he took from us needlessly to reduce Canada's debt—that the "net debt" has been cut by 2,000 million dollars.

Let's not be fooled by that. The "net debt" of Canada is not the "true debt." It is the funded debt. The debt which we pay interest. That funded debt now stands at the staggering total of 15,600 million dollars.

It is not to be discovered what has been happening to Canada's debt, the way to find out is to look at the amount of interest we are paying on it—interest which must be raised by taxes.

Debt interest in 1946-47 was \$464,000,000. Debt interest in 1947-48 was \$455,000,000. Debt interest in 1948-49 (estimated) was \$493,000,000.

Thus the interest on the debt which we pay this year is \$8,000,000 greater than what we paid a year ago, and only \$1,000,000 less than what we paid in 1946-47. That is the measure of Mr. Abbott's reduction of debt burden—the measure of his provision "for a rainy day."

And speaking of provision for rainy days, it was only a few months ago—just prior to Annapolis—Digby and Nicolet—Yamaeka—that Mr. Abbott was telling us how this was the thing he must go on doing. It was a theory which he trotted out in his budget of last year. The theory that when times were good it was the part of the government to tax for all it was worth, so that something might be laid aside for a day when "rainy days" would be less soon—the "rainy day."

Where is that theory now? Mr. Abbott told us that times were good, and that he expected them to stay good through the coming year. But Mr. Abbott, holding this belief, has quit his job of providing for the bad days, stopped thinking of clouds and rain, suddenly begun acting as though the sun would shine forever; thrown his "cyclical budget" doctrine, so dear to the hearts of the planners, into the Ottawa river.

Perhaps just as well. Because for all that Mr. Abbott provided for his "rainy day," this despite all the unnecessary money that he taxed out of our pockets, his abandonment of "cyclical budgets" can make no serious little difference. Mr. Abbott's provision for a "rainy day" took the form of spending the money he was supposed to be laying up for it—the while embarking on other commitments which became permanent charges and which, capitalized, brought more debt burden. Governments don't provide for "rainy days" by having 80 percent of all their branches and departments spending more money than before—by bringing peacetime expenditure to an all-time high.



The Poets Corner

FROM "THALABA"

How beautiful the night! A dewy freshness fills the silent air; No mist obscures, nor cloud, nor speck, nor stain, Breaks the serene of Heaven: In full-orb'd glory, yonder moon divine Rolls through the dark-blue depths; Beneath her steady ray the Government that they had approved of a plan drawn by John Plaw, architect, upon which they called for tenders; but as no tenders were forthcoming they decided to purchase the materials themselves and go on with the work.

Lenten Meditations

The Times, London SCIENCE AND PEACE

No one doubts the urgent need of a sound and enduring peace settlement; in the words of the Atlantic Charter, "a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries." In the earlier stages of its modern growth science was hailed as the bountiful giver of all things needful for man's earthly welfare.

Its present application to the creation of lethal weapons of destruction has changed all that; too plainly it can bring death as well as life. How violently the atomic menace has shaken the self-confidence of mankind is reflected in the recent reports of three religious commissions in Britain and America: "The Era of Atomic Power," "The Church and the Atom," and "Atomic Warfare and the Christian Faith."

In view of the cosmic dangers to which humanity is now exposed these documents affirm the paramount Christian duty (as one of the reports says) "to exercise a redeeming and saving influence in the chaos of conflicting nations." The Archbishop of York deals impressively with the same subject in the concluding chapter of his recent Visitation Charge, "Watchman, What of the Night?" There he urges upon the Church the task of working for "the restoration of the spiritual and religious foundations on which alone a new Europe can be firmly built."

The Age-Old Story

I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen. I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

POWNAL SQUARE JAILS

For more than one hundred years Pownal Square was the site of that necessary institution, "the County Jail", without which, in the words of our first Governor, Patterson, "government was only the shadow without the substance."

In 1805 the Government appointed Alex. Howe, Peter McGowan, Robert Hodgson and J. F. Holland commissioners to erect a jail. On Jan. 15, 1810, they reported to the Government that they had approved of a plan drawn by John Plaw, architect, upon which they called for tenders; but as no tenders were forthcoming they decided to purchase the materials themselves and go on with the work.

The corner stone was laid by St. John's Lodge, A.F. and A.M., and a full attendance of the members of the Lodge was present. This was quite a novel spectacle for the people of Charlottetown, as it was probably the first ceremony of the kind ever performed here.

The following inscription on a parchment scroll was read by Thomas Robinson, the Master of Ceremonies: "The foundation stone of this prison in Charlottetown, in Prince Edward Island, was laid in the administration of His Excellency Colonel John Ready, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and Dependencies, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c., on the 23rd day of August, A.D. 1830, and in the first year of the reign of His Most Gracious Majesty, King William the Fourth."

The jail was constructed with a pitched roof and gables at each end, but half a century later this was changed to a flat gravelled roof. With the exception of the Old Court House that formerly stood on the west corner of Queen's Square, it remained the oldest public building in Prince Edward Island. For over eighty years it stood enclosed within its great high fence and its windows encased in iron bars, a grim looking abode indeed.

Notes By The Way

When a city is growing as fast as Edmonton is, few can resist the temptation to "guess" what the population will be in five years, or ten. Forecasts made by Norman D. Wilson, traffic expert of Toronto, in his report on the E.T.S., are therefore interesting and should have a good deal of significance; for on them he bases his recommendations for immediate and long-term planning. During the next five years, Mr. Wilson is confident that Edmonton will have a population of 165,000. He writes, "the city will certainly have 140,000 population in 1950, and most certainly 200,000, and not impossibly 250,000, by 1960."

The City of Ottawa made history for itself when an agreement was signed to add part of Nepean township west of Ottawa to the Capital itself. The territory involved is 7,420 acres and it now has a population of 20,000. This new addition is hailed as a further step in the development of Greber's plan for a national capital, and is of immense advantage in planning and co-ordinating new public services, sewers, water supply, hydro and transit facilities for the people living there. The rest of Canada will be inclined to congratulate Ottawa on this forward move. It is both a sign of progress and evidence that Canada's Capital City is moving forward, if at times slowly, to a size commensurate with its position. — Calgary Albertan.

The frequency with which intelligently handled films, originating in Britain, France, Italy and other European countries, have been gaining favor over the Hollywood product, is something to give the United States picture capital cause for careful analysis. The public has amply demonstrated whenever there was opportunity, that it does not like the low estimate of its intelligence that is accorded by many American film producers. The thoughtless nonsense, the slavish adherence to set types, the routine plots and situations that characterize many pictures, are apparently not enough to keep the people crowding in. Hollywood perhaps is beginning to recognize this—some of the recent releases seem to indicate such a recognition—and if this is so then both the movie industry and the public have better times in store. — Victoria

Reduction in postal rates on gift parcels to Great Britain was offered; and that now announced (to take effect April 1) will still leave these charges too high. For many they will remain all but prohibitive. The new rates will apply on "gift parcels to the United Kingdom (from Canada) containing non-perishable foodstuffs, discarded wearing apparel, and soap." The matter is not, of course, wholly in Canadian hands; the arrangements have to be made "with the British Post Office Department and the steamship companies"—but what with its heavy annual surpluses the Canadian Post Office Department could very well contribute a share which would bring these rates down to more reasonable figures. For, after all, Canadians who pay these rates send gift parcels out of the goodness of their hearts and should not be penalized by heavy and unreasonable charges.—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Dartmoor Prison officers have been puzzling over the biggest escape mystery in the 140 years' history of the gaol. How did a man five feet, 11 inches, nearly 12 stone, 37 inches round the chest and more than 40 round the hips squeeze between two iron bars less than seven inches apart? For this is how Victor Harold James, 31-year-old burglar, of Gillingham, Kent, got away from the prison hospital, where he was undergoing treatment, for 17 hours on the moor. And after the prison officers had gone to measure the distance between the bars and found them to be 6-8 inches and no more, James, in Okehampton Police Station

awaiting his return to the prison, told "How I did it." "I got my head through my body just followed," he said. His absence was discovered at 4 a.m. The sheets from the bed were missing, but were found outside the prison walls, torn into strips and tied together, with an iron hook at the end. He had stripped completely and smeared himself with grease from the medical stores to squeeze through the bars. Before doing so he had thrown his pyjamas and his prison clothes outside. — London Daily Mail.

American women have been attacked as a race of man-dominating Amazons. They have been pictured as the spoiled and petted darlings of a luxurious society. They have been extolled and envied, revered and reviled, for their emancipated status and privileged position. But it took the Russians to present the American woman as a brow-beaten, underprivileged creature who turns to drink as a solace for her hard capitalist lot. Naturally, the Russians can quote statistics to illustrate their case. There is altogether too large a number of female alcoholics in the United States—and a much larger number of male alcoholics. Women in some areas still suffer from wage discriminations and legal disabilities. But Anya need not pity Maybelle. And since the commissary lady and Judy O'Grady are sisters under the ideology, we suspect that a good many women on either side of the Iron Curtain will greet with a Mona Lisa smile any attempt to portray the women of the opposing camp as broken beasts of burden. With both communism and democracy suing for their favor today, they know what they know. — Christian Science Monitor.

Attention has been called here on several occasions in recent months to the fact that Canada lags far behind the Soviet Union in exploration, colonization and development of Arctic and sub-Arctic territories. Fresh force and infinitely greater knowledge are applied to this matter by Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson. In an article here the famous explorer and scientist declared Canada and the United States are doing nothing toward the development of their vast northern regions. On the other hand the U.S.S.R., he said, is pushing settlement of the Arctic at a somewhat more rapid pace than Canada and the U. S. settled the West in the 19th century. Twenty-seven years ago Dr. Stefansson in his book, The Northward Course, urged a colonization policy which would make Canada as wide from north to south as it is from east to west. This advice, he says, still stands. While Canadians have been content to attribute any seeming absence of opportunity in this country to the feeling that they were hemmed into a narrow strip of inhabitable land between the U. S. border and the "frozen north"; and while they have been bemoaning the absence of a frontier to keep alive the vigorous pioneering spirit, the Russians have established a city of 40,000, Norilsk, 200 miles further north than any part of the Canadian mainland. And 50 miles inside the Arctic circle they are raising crops of barley, oats, rye, root crops and hay. Pioneering spirit laid the foundation for the best that is in Canada. The acceptance of the frontier's challenge bred the men who have contributed most to the worthwhile things of the country. To the north lies another frontier and new opportunities. The thoughts of a Canada that is overlooking this challenge, and that this oversight may someday prove a costly one. — Montreal Gazette.

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