

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1949

The Senate Vancancies

Dr. Grant's decision not to run in the coming
Federal general election, for which he was
re-nominated as Liberal candidate for King's, is
being interpreted as meaning that he has one
of the Island's two vacant Senatorships in his
pocket. For the other, the names of Hon. G. H.
Barbour, Minister of Public Works and Highways,
and Mr. J. Lester Douglas, M. P., are
most prominently mentioned.

In Mr. Barbour's case it would mean creating
a third vacancy in the ranks of the Provincial
Government, a course which at Ottawa may
be regarded as more expedient than running two
new Federal candidates in place of two of the
sitting members. While Messrs. Wright and
Campbell were non-portfolio members in the
Provincial cabinet, Mr. Barbour holds a key position
and presumably, if he is to be appointed,
it will be with the consent and approval of his
leader, Premier Jones.

In any case it is likely that the agony of
suspect for all deserving democrats will soon
be over. If a late June or early July election is
decided upon at Ottawa — and this appears
to be the general opinion — the Senate plums
will be falling very shortly like fruit in autumn.

Work For Experts

The Ottawa Journal quotes a veteran farm
leader as pointing out to a group of city consumers
that in their desire to obtain cheap food
they were often unfair to producers and failed
to realize the effect of too-cheap food on urban
employment. The widespread belief among consumers
today, he said, was that all farmers were
rolling in wealth, did not pay income tax and
were charging all the traffic would bear.

Such a belief, or a variation of it, adds the
Journal, is common talk in urban centres and
crops up frequently at consumers' meetings. Other
necessities can rise in price, often by substantial
amounts, without too great public fuss but
let food take a similar course and there are
resolutions of intense indignation. Much of this
feeling no doubt stems from the widespread notion
that farming is a simple matter of planting
seeds and waiting for the harvest, of sitting
back while the animals do the real work.

This speaker, himself a good farmer, had
a different notion and he tried to impart it to his
audience. His idea was that the successful farmer
today, like a successful city businessman, was
a combination of factory owner, high-skilled
technician and student of current affairs. His
factory was the farm he owned and in which
he frequently had a substantial investment — on
which he was entitled to a fair return on capital.
He had to be highly skilled to handle soils
and crop rotations and his animals, or his investment
would quickly melt away and there would
be another mined-out farm. Study of market
trends and ability to foresee demands was part
of his business.

"There is much to be said for this attitude,"
says our Ottawa contemporary. "Good farming
today is as complicated and as highly skilled
a job as that of the trade of the best artisan.
That all farmers have not got that skill is
admitted, and likely accounts for the number
of failures. On that basis the farmer is entitled
to the pay of a skilled mechanic. He is also
entitled to a return on his capital investment,
the cost of production such as labor, animals,
seeds, fertilizer and machinery. These all add
up, even on a small farm. But the point is that
they add up to things which the casual consumer
seldom bothers to think about."

Security Mania

An almost hysterical mania for security and
for protection is the underlying cause of many
of our political, economic and financial troubles
today throughout the world, Benjamin Strong,
president of the United States Trust Company,
said in an address before the ninth yearly forum
of economic and social trends at New York
Town Hall. The forum is sponsored by the New
York Chapter of the Chartered Life Underwriters.

Wars and unemployment frighten people
more than we realize, Strong said, referring also
to certain abuses that have crept into economic
and financial life.

"So we are tempted to adopt almost any
measures, including suicidal deficit financing
and destructive taxation, in a vain attempt to
attain security by methods that are wrong, and
can lead only to disappointment. . . . Our people
cast their votes for candidates who promise
to provide benefits and security for them. . . .
The people need and should have intelligent,
farseeing and unselfish leadership from their
elected representatives. Our hopes for the future
rest on a return for this leadership to its
proper place."

Dr. Louis I. Dublin, second vice-president
and statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance
Company, told the forum that intolerable
conditions may develop in a decade or two unless
the acute problems created by our aging
population are met now. By 1975, he pointed
out, three-fourths of the people will live beyond
the age of 67; today the age line beyond which
three-fourths live is 60; in 1900 it was 24. The
proportion of older persons has about doubled
in the last half century and the absolute numbers
have quadrupled.

Dr. Dublin also warned against abuses of
old-age assistance provisions, declaring that in a
number of States they have become a scramble
for more and larger benefits, a trend quite different
from what those who initiated the old-age
and survivorship insurance program had planned.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. George—England's Patron Saint.

In Montreal they have reversed procedure
by setting police to catch a policeman, alleged
to have turned bank hold-up man.

Stocking streams can pay dividends Ontario's
Fish and Game Department has found. An
estimated twenty-five million pounds of pickerel
were in this year's run in the Mississippi
River near Ottawa.

The Canadian Army is mending dikes in
Manitoba and constructing bridges in New
Brunswick. If the troops also need road building
exercises there are plenty of suitable training
areas on the Island.

Mr. Duplessis is said to believe that he was
wise on the margarine issue, that he has made
himself solid with the farmers, while any discontent
in the cities as a result will not be
serious. In Montreal, he looks to an alliance with
Mayor Houde as an anchor to windward.

The reconstituted Fisherman's Loan Board
has an unenviable task on its hands. To distinguish
between earlier loans made to provide
capital equipment from those in the nature of
direct relief is an almost hopeless task in itself
without the additional problems of future lending
policy.

Three-dimensional films seem to be due
for a come back, without the aid of two-colour
glasses through which earlier audiences had
to view them. A Danish engineer has developed
a special set of lenses to fit over the ordinary
movie camera which together with a special
plastic screen accomplishes the trick.

Dr. E. S. Archibald, director of Federal Experimental
Farm is impressed with the progress
New Zealand has made in improving pasture
grasses. He has hopes of seeing our own grazing
season extended in both spring and fall as
well as overcoming the problem of drought.

Britain is producing bigger and better children
than before the war despite food rationing.
The Scottish Health Department published figures
which show that the average boy of 13 is
just over six and a half pounds heavier than
a boy of similar age in 1932. Girls of the same
age are nearly seven pounds heavier. Health
experts say that these figures probably are the
same for the whole country where oatmeal porridge
has been largely substituted for butcher
meat.

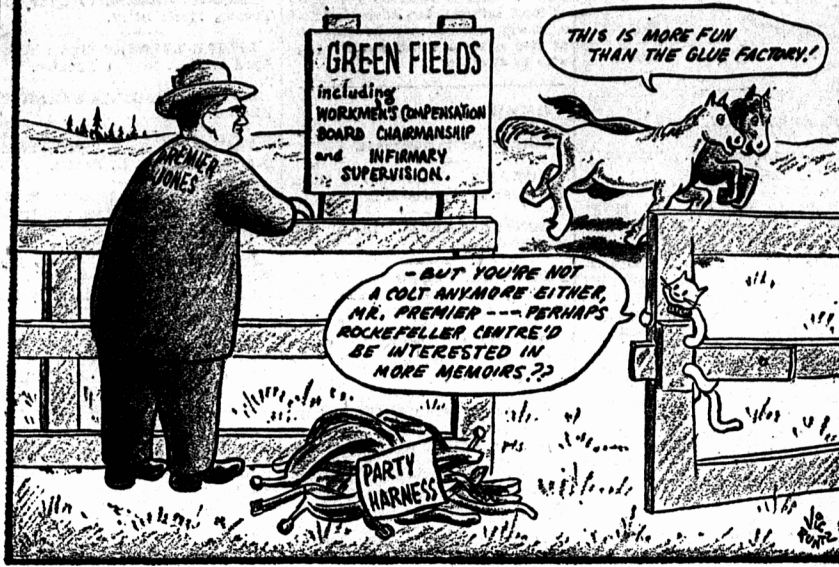
The consumption of canned foods by Canadians
during the past 25 years has increased
about 23 times faster than the population on
the basis of estimates of container manufacture
and statistics on the major food packs for
the period. Comparison of figures for 1948 and
1923 indicates that the consumption of canned
foods has increased approximately 1,000 per
cent during that period, while the population
has increased 44 per cent. This sharp increase
has resulted from a combination of greatly improved
knowledge of food processing and scientific
developments in can manufacture, as well
as the introduction of many new types of food
packs.

Mr. Claxton, according to a Toronto writer,
did himself no good with his hasty denial
of the generally known fact that a considerable
percentage of RCAF planes of various types are
laid up. He succumbed to the panic which Mr.
Drew seems to inspire in Ministers. All that
was necessary for him was to say that he would
find out the facts, and why this policy was
followed. Actually, this country's defence preparations
are on too small a scale to be even practical
in these days. The mild mutinies on three
RCN ships undoubtedly arose from their being
undermanned for manoeuvres, not to speak of
operations. There are plenty of Generals at
Headquarters, not to speak of Admirals and Air
Marshals. These ranks are manned adequately.
Shortage is of "other ranks." A reasonable guess
is that all services will have to be about doubled
in personnel, before they reach the point at
which any of them can be considered as providing
anything like a task force.

Here is a tip for the Provincial Government
on how to obtain cheap electricity for farmers
and others. Gigantic wind towers rising nearly
1,000 feet into the air with wind wheels more
than 500 feet in diameter may turn the landscape
of the future into a Wellspan dream if
Hermann Honnef, a German engineer, has his
way. Honnef plans on harnessing the winds to
produce cheap electric power on a large scale,
thereby saving millions of tons of coal and oil
in a year. Well known in Germany as the architect
of tall buildings — one of the most famous
is the 888-foot Berlin radio tower—Honnef has
proposed the construction on the banks of Lake
Selenter, east of Kiel, of a large electricity plant
to be driven mainly by power derived from the
winds. He has submitted his plan, complete with
all drawings and specifications, to the Schleswig-Holstein
Government. Its cost is estimated
at between \$1,800,000 and \$2,400,000.

William Shakespeare, poet and dramatist,
born this date 1564; regarded as the greatest
imaginative and intellectual force the world has
ever known. Saw the light of day first in Stratford-on-Avon,
Warwickshire, he grew up in the
"spacious times" of Elizabeth, an age of great
national triumphs in literary as in other fields.
His father was John Shakespeare, merchant; his
mother Mary Arden, a wealthy farmer's daughter.
He was their third child but eldest son. He
began life as "general utility boy" in London
theatres and rose through the stages of call boy,
actor, play-adaptor, and dramatist to the
unchallenged leadership of the theatrical profession
both as actor and author. "Blank verse
Shakespeare the poet used with a sublimity, a
harmony, a dramatic fitness which others may
have equalled but have never excelled." It may
be noted that his plays contain 106,007 lines,
814,780 words, and that out of 1,277 characters
only 157 are of the castles sex.

TURNED OUT TO PASTURE...



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.

DEPLORABLE CONDITION

Sir,—The roads through most sections
of New London North are
reported to be in a deplorable
condition in some spots. Roads in this
part of the country are so narrow
there is no choice but to go right
through the mud holes, hence
many cars are getting stuck.

I am, Sir, etc.

G. F. F.

THE NEW LONDON ROAD

Sir,—I read with considerable
interest two letters which appeared
recently in the Public Forum
of your paper concerning road
conditions at New London this season.

It is quite obvious that both
writers are deeply concerned and
disappointed with the manner in
which the people of this end of
the district were used over the
plowing of the roads. Certainly it
caused the farmers a great deal
of inconvenience to take their
plows by sleigh some distance to
where the snow plow stopped.

Surely it was a small job to finish
the plowing of this road, when the
plow was within two or three miles
of the north end of Clifton Bridge
and vicinity twice, and would have
given all the people on the road
an equal chance to get their
produce to market. As we are all
taxpayers, I am sure it would have
caused less hard feelings and been
better for all in the end.

The writer mentioned promises
made by Hon. Messrs. Large and
Stewart previous to the large election.
It seemed like a good time to
make those promises before an
election, because those gentlemen
were not to be seen or heard from
for some time after.

There seems likely to be a Federal
election in the near future,
but here is hoping that it will
not be too soon, so that the snow
may be thawed and gone, as this
road is used considerably by our
campaign "heroes" before elections.
If I try to get into this vicinity
in the near future, I would advise
them to go to Kensington and
take the course the snow plow took,
as that road should be fair by this
time. It would cause them inconvenience
if they got their cars
stuck at this end of the road, because
they would have to go to
the other end to get anyone here
to pull them out.

I am, Sir, etc.

OBSERVER NO. 2

New London, P. E. I.

FOXES, SKUNKS, ETC.

Sir,—I always read "Hunters'
Corner" in The Guardian with
interest, and from my own observations
can agree with the writer
in practically all he says.

First the foxes. There never was
a fox ranch within eight miles of
here, and although in the north
fields near the shore I have seen
every colour of fox, I never yet
saw one near the buildings. I
think the foxes are blamed for a
lot of things the raccoons do. I
have shot and even caught them
with my hands at night on several
occasions, trying to get into
where I keep my hens.

A raccoon will attempt to climb
to the roof of the barn looking for
an opening to get in. But the
skunks are the real problem. I
trapped for thirty years without
seeing any difference in the annual
crop of mink and muskrat until
the 15th of May this year, 1947.
We had two dry seasons. The
skunks went along the banks of
the rivers which were dry below
the entrance to the muskrat dens.
They dug out all the young muskrats
and destroyed them.

1948 was a wet season, and the
water level in the streams was
high. Last fall I trapped 70 muskrats
and four mink. They were
more plentiful than for years. So
far this spring I have 14 skunk
mounds and intend to keep after
them. The bounty should be paid
until the 15th of May this year,
to see if they could not be
reduced. Paying fifty cents a mink
on young ones would be better
than having to pay \$1.00 next
year on them as adults.

About hunting mink or muskrat
with dogs, my observation over
a number of years leads me to
think that any person guilty of
this practice should get three
months in jail for first offense,
and a year the next time without
option of a fine. There is no way
one can clear out rivers like

The Poet's Corner

UPLAND CEMETERY

When you pass this way in winter
and winter weather,
The gray stones lean together,
Conspirators they act as though
Death is just a catnap under snow.
You sense they're waiting, watching
down the road.

Up which the town folk come,
Discussing who will make himself
at home.

Next among them. Here, you sense
the dead.

Gossip still—tell bits of news
And tales, and muse
With the sharp dry wisdom of the
very old.

Since they exchanged the village
for this cold
Meadow under sunny winter skies,
They seem quite satisfied. Here
equal lies.

Neighbor by neighbor, head by
head,
Content, they dream
Safely of husband, child or wife or
lover.

Those passionate and hard long
lives must seem
Less than a day, or a tall cloud
going over.

—Blanca Bradbury in the New
York Herald Tribune.

MAJOR INDUSTRY

Two-thirds of Ceylon's occupied
population are engaged in the production,
distribution and export of
tea.

Results of it here. One man who
came to Naufrage harbour from
Summerside hunted for several
winters with a dog and cleaned
out every river he trapped in.
I hope that before the next
session of the Legislature "Hunters'
Corner" will make a drive to have
a law passed forbidding hunting
furbearing animals with dogs.

I am, Sir, etc.,

P. C. MACDONALD

Monticello, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

POTATO EMBARGO BILL

In the House of Assembly, Feb.
7, 1848, "Mr. D. MacDonald, from
the Committee of the whole House,
on the consideration of the propriety
of laying an Embargo on the
exportation of Potatoes for a limited
period, reported, according to order,
the Resolution of the said Committee,
which Resolution was read at the
Clerk's Table, and on the question
put thereon, agreed to by the House,
and is as follows:—"That owing to the
failure of the Potato Crop, and the
consequent scarcity of that article of
food, it is expedient to introduce a
bill having for its object the prohibition
of the exportation of Potatoes from
this Island, at any time prior to the
First day of August next."

"Ordered, that Mr. Thornton, Mr.
J. Longworth and Mr. D. MacDonald
be a Committee to prepare and bring
in a Bill in accordance with the
above reported Resolution."

The Bill was accordingly prepared
and introduced, given first, second
and third readings, and passed
on Feb. 12. Then on Feb. 24 appears
the following minute in the Journal
of the House:

"Resolved, That a Committee be
appointed to search the Journals of
the Legislative Council, to ascertain
what proceedings have been had
on the Bill intitled 'An Act to
prohibit the exportation of Potatoes
for a limited period, and to revive
and continue certain parts of an
Act passed in the Tenth year of
the Reign of Her present Majesty
for that purpose.'"

Messrs. Thornton and Haviland
were appointed to this committee,
and they reported having discovered,
from the Journal of the Legislative
Council, that the Bill had
been given the "six months' hoist"
by that body on February 10.

EATING MORE CHEESE

Consumption of all types of
cheese in Canada has increased in
recent years to more than five
pounds per capita, annually.

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You Want an Imperial

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for speed as well as commercial purposes. They have
the fewest possible parts to perform the work required
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CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

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Allison F. McLean—District Manager at Summerside.

Cyrus A. E. Shaw—District Manager at Montague.

Agents Throughout The Province

Notes By The Way

One group of graduates who are
unlikely to have any difficulty in
finding jobs this spring are those
in mining engineering. This is so
over the whole Dominion, but no
where more than in this province.
Not only are oil companies anxious
to sign them up, but the exploitation
of mineral wealth in the Yellowknife
area, and in other parts of the
North West Territories, offers additional
opportunities. — Edmonton
Journal.

Less than one housewife in a
thousand is unhappy in her social
life, according to first results of a
mass survey conducted by Mrs. Eva
M. Hubback, principal of Morley
College, London. "We housewives
often feel we would have more time
for interests outside the home if
we had better houses and more
help in looking after children,"
Mrs. Hubback told the Daily Graphic.
— London Daily Graphic.

Canada has done much in recent
years to make peace-time life in the
services a happy and not too arduous
one. But privileges can be abused—
and the whole integrity of naval,
military and air force discipline
upset—by false notions of individual
rights. If a man thinks enough of
his country to wear its uniform,
later Mrs. Frober goes and her death
at the age of 89 has recently been
reported in Suffolk, England. Did
the original Alice share some of the
adventures of the fictional Alice? It
would be strange if she did not,
since in our own lives, at the drop
of the Mad Hatter's hat, a procession
of Carroll-Tenniel figures walks
across our mental scene. Sometimes
we are astounded as the parade
goes by at the similarity between
ourselves and our neighbors and
these living illustrations. Some of
us rush through life like the White
Rabbit, being agitated about keeping
the VIP's waiting. Some impatiently
scream, with the Queen of Hearts,
"Off with his head!" when our paths
are crossed. Others invent things
which are going to work, if and
when we find time to remember
what they were to be used for.
Most of us, as we get older, seem
to be "a-sitting" on a gate, muttering
mumbly and low as if our mouths
were full of dough. We are lucky
if, before we reach this state, we
have had the good fortune and wit
to contribute, in our generation,
any mark as sensible as—"There's
nothing like when you're feeling
faint." — Montreal Gazette.

GROWS MORE WHEAT

As compared to 1946-47, India's
wheat production was better in
1947-48 by more than 600,000 tons.

The Age-Old Story

So that we may boldly say: The
Lord is my helper, and I will
not fear what man shall do unto
me.

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