

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1867)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office
Department, Ottawa.

The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
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Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, NOV. 18, 1949

Parties And Politics

A straightforward article in the New
York Times Magazine discusses the role of
the "independent" voter in politics. American
politics is inferred, but the points
made by the writer apply with equal force
to this country. Briefly, he finds that this
type of voter—the man or woman who, for
one reason or another, fails to join any
political party or to share its responsibilities,
constitutes one of the very real obstacles
to the growth of strong party platforms,
strong candidates committed to enact
them, and clear party responsibility for
performance in office.

A large majority of "independents" are
such because they have, or think they have,
a genuine aversion to "party politics." Yet
analysis shows that the "independent" is at
the mercy of, and completely dependent on,
the party politics and politicians he so dis-
dains. True, he has a choice between candi-
dates and platforms, but it may often
happen that these are third-rate—precisely
because the large body of independents ex-
erted no effort to force the selection of
first-rate men and policies.

This is the answer to the frequently
voiced complaint that party policies are
"rigged" and party candidates and office
holders foisted on conventions by militant
minorities. Let the "independents" get in
and fight for what they want themselves.
It's a free country. Sitting on the sidelines
gets them nowhere.

Politics is simply the mechanics of democ-
ratic government, and the politicians we
elect are its instruments. To refuse to ac-
cept responsibility for these men or their
actions is—in the words of the Times Maga-
zine writer—"in a very real sense, refus-
ing to accept responsibility for the work of
the world and the course of history."

By joining a political party, and especial-
ly in taking an active part in public affairs,
the "independent" does not necessarily cease
to be "non-partisan" in the true sense of
the word. There is nothing that requires
anyone, in the privacy of the voting booth,
to abandon his freedom of conscience. Dis-
agreement within parties on both men and
issues is common, expected and healthy.
True non-partisanship for either individuals
or organizations would consist in supporting
—and to the hilt—those policies of either
party with which one agreed. But for in-
dividuals, the opportunities for effective ac-
tion of this kind are extremely limited—if
one is not a member of a political party.
Within a party, and before an issue gets to
the public, one can thrash out, criticize and
perfect, in a non-partisan, open-minded man-
ner, a controversial, difficult problem. Once
the program is agreed upon there is cer-
tainly no cheap partisanship in supporting
it wholeheartedly. This implies much greater
political effectiveness, and also far more
"independence" of thought and action, than
in accepting programs or issues evolved be-
hind the scenes by parties in which the
voter is too diffident or too disgruntled to
raise a voice.

Broadening Education

New Jersey school superintendents were
told of some of the deficiencies of education
recently by Dr. Earl J. McGrath, United
States Commissioner of Education. High
schools, stressed Dr. McGrath, must attempt
to meet the need of students who will not
finish high school. He proposed that the
curriculum be modified to bring it closer to
the society pupils live in and to make it less
dependent upon books. He urged more work
experience to retain the interest of high
school boys and provide a link between ac-
ademic instruction and the everyday activi-
ties of life. More emphasis must be placed
upon citizenship and pupils must have a
chance to see how democracy actually work-
ed. The emphasis must be shifted from
subject matter to a way of life, namely
democracy and this implies a greater re-
spect for each individual child. Guidance,
concludes the Doctor, is the catalytic agent
which brings the needs of the children
and the educational programme together.

That talk would have gladdened the
heart of Lord Baden Powell, the founder
of Scouting, for his philosophy was that
boys learn by doing. It is only necessary
for teacher or leader to provide the oppor-
tunity and the practically unlimited energy
of youth would make full use of it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Nervous tension is almost a symptom of
the age and one is inclined to envy people
who seem calm. As with so many things,
however, the experts take another view.
Tense people, it seems, try to keep them-

selves immobile because they fear that they
will reveal nervousness by movement, and
are actually only increasing their tensions
by holding themselves still. Such people
can't win.

The predicted shortage of feed grains
in this country bodes ill for the livestock
industry. Unless means are found of over-
coming it we are likely to see a rush to dis-
pose of stock with consequent glut and then
scarcity.

The City Council's action in raising the
minimum value of houses constructed in re-
stricted zones from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per unit
of multiple dwellings does not represent any
raising of building standards. It merely re-
flects, probably only partially, the increase
in construction costs.

Another birth on a trans-Atlantic air
liner brings up again a problem which will
become increasingly common. The place of
birth of a child born aboard ship was settled
long ago as being in the country of registry
of that ship. Similar provision for aircraft
should be made without delay.

Britain's national debt has increased 40-
fold in the last half century, the U. K. treas-
ury disclosed. The country now owes £25,-
267,000,000, or £503 for every man, woman
and child in its population. Sir Stafford
Cripps, chancellor of the exchequer, sup-
plied the figures to the House of Commons
at the request of Labor member Rhys Dav-
ies.

It is proverbial that an onlooker sees
most of the game and Canadians can take
considerable satisfaction from the comment
of Lt.-Gen. Sir Neil Cantlie on our military
and veterans' hospitals. The general, who is
director-general of medical services in the
British Army, commends the combination
which, he says, gives army doctors broader
experience than they would get if they had
to serve in military hospitals alone.

"Camp follower" was not a very appro-
priate term for External Minister Pearson to
use in connection with his demand that Can-
ada should be recognized as of equal na-
tional importance by the United States when
dealing with international affairs. Camp
followers in days of yore were the rabble of
women and children who accompanied regiments
from place to place wherever they
were bivouacked. Canada, surely, never has
been so contemptuously considered by U.
S. A.

The Prime Minister's plan to authorize
extending a parliament's life over the pre-
sent 5 years by a two-third vote in times of
emergency is dangerous. Many Federal
orders-in-council currently hampering the
nation derive their legality from the unten-
able assumption that a state of emergency
now exists in Canada. It would be child-
ishly simple for any government with a ma-
jority even smaller than that now employ-
ed by the Liberals, to declare an emergency
and vote itself into perpetuity.

Egg prices on November 10 this year
and previous years. The prices quoted be-
low are for Grade A. Large. At Montreal
and Toronto the prices are those at which
graded shipments are selling to wholesalers.
At other points quotations are prices to
shippers for ungraded eggs.

Table with 3 columns: City, 1949, 1948, 1947. Rows: Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Charlottetown.

"Dominion Government" now taboo. Finance
Minister Abbott told the House of
Commons that his deputy minister gave the
order to have "Government of Canada" re-
place "Dominion of Canada" wherever it ap-
peared in telephone directories. Mr. Abbott
said that following the issue of new letters
patent for Canada in 1947, the Government
adopted the practice of dropping the word
"Dominion" in Government documents. This
was because "Dominion" did not form a
part of the name of this country as was
made clear by Section Three of the British
North America Act.

Sir David Wilkie, Scottish painter, born
this date 1785. Known as the most dis-
tinguished of British historical genre paint-
ers. "Pitless Fair" was his first important
picture, and was followed by "Village Politi-
cians", "The Blind Fiddler", "Rent Day",
"The Chelsea Pensioners", "The Penny Wed-
ding" etc. Wilkie visited Scott at Abbots-
ford in 1817 and painted "Sir Walter Scott
and Family". Later Wilkie changed his
style for more pretentious themes such as
Napoleon, Pius VII, but his fame rests on
his earlier homely subjects. He visited in
1841 Constantinople, the Holy Land, and
Egypt, died on his homeward journey and
was buried at sea off Gibraltar.

The Poet's Corner

NOTHING ABIDES
No single thing abides; but all
things flow.
Fragment to fragment clings — the
things thus grow
Until we know and name them. By
degrees
They melt, and are no more the
things we know.

Old Charlottetown

CIVIC REFORM BILL
Legislative Council, Tuesday,
April 22, 1890:
On motion of Hon. Benj. Rogers
a bill to amend the City Incorpor-
ation Act was read a second time.

News From
Another Island
By "Anson"
LONDON, England: — With
Christmas only a few weeks off
we are all agreeing with our-
selves that the year seems to have
suddenly look starkly bare of
leaves. We don't seem to have had
any fall to speak of; one day it
was summer and then all at once
it was "back end"—that time of
the year when we are granted almost
as surely as day follows night, the
start of the season of rain and fog
and the constant expectation that
one day we'll wake up and find
it's snowing and that winter has
come.

Why pay for overhead U
can't wear it
WORK BOOTS, oil tanned,
heavy leather, double soles,
with steel plate on heel \$7.50

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Phone 1447 Box 344

Scandalous



Advice From Ottawa

The city of Charlottetown in
Prince Edward Island is consider-
ing the installation of traffic lights.
It is none of our business, or at
least not much, but we hope the
decision is No. We should like to
think there is one Canadian town
where traffic can be trusted to ap-
pear without red and green lights
and Charlottetown, on an island
and off the heavy tourist routes,
seems perfectly designed to serve as
an exception.

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Notes By The Way

The Alberta government's natu-
ral gas export policy as enunciated
by Premier Manning is this:
(1) No export until Alberta's long-
time needs are fully assured and
protected; (2) After that time,
each application for export will be
considered on its merits; and (3)
Other Canadian markets must
have priority over non-Canadian
markets. — Calgary Albertan.

What are termed miracles of
achievement in the world of men
are performed by people with the
capacity for continuous, absorbed
interest in what they are doing.
To be thoroughly convinced of the
value of one's work, to be sing-
ly-minded and whole-hearted in one's
devotion to a task, here is a reme-
dy for much listless fatigue. —
Christian Science Monitor.

On some stations in South Aus-
tralia sheep are rounded up by
drovers on motor cycles and horses
are used only for cattle mustering
and picnic races. "We don't use
whips or wear 10-gallon hats,"
says one of the drovers. "The sheep
ride on the tray, 20 in. square at
the pillion, and we've trained them
to jump on and off. We send them
off to round up the sheep, and
then ride slowly behind the mob,
which he can manage in his wind-
mind the bikes at all, but I don't
know what the horses think of
them." — Brandon Sun.

Although the maples splash
bright daubs of clear yellow on
hillsides of dark fir, and though
evenings bring sunsets of incand-
escent glow Autumn has spread
a sombre cover about the lake.
The water that sparkled and danced
under Summer's sun is grey
now, frowning where colder winds
brush its surface. In a sky of
faded blue, clouds have replaced
ed to browse like sheep on a
brighter field. And woods that
echoed to the querulous chatter of
a squirrel, to the cheery song of
birds, are held in a brittle stillness
broken only occasionally by
chirps.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Grid of professional cards including: Chas. R. McQuaid (B.A. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY, ETC.), MacPhee & Trainor (H. F. MACPHEE, J.A. R.C. E. SOMERLED TRAINOR, B.A. Barristers, Etc.), Bell & Mathieson (BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.), M. Alban Farmer (MONEY TO LOAN), Dr. J. C. Gallant (DENTIST), J. S. TAYLOR (Optometrist), J. A. McGuigan (NOTARY, ETC.), Frederic A. Large, K.C. (BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY), NEIL W. HIGGINS (CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT), H. R. DOANE and COMPANY (CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS).