

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1948

Why Public Interest Lags

Mr. J. M. MacDonnell, one of the ablest and most conscientious members of Parliament, complaining last week of the lack of public interest in vital government measures, said it was "a sad reflection on the level of public consciousness in this country."

"That there is a lack of public interest in national questions, an absence of alertness over them, no one need doubt at all. We wonder, however, if this weakness—and it is a grave weakness—isn't due in part to Parliament itself, or to our MP's themselves?"

"How much work do our MP's do—apart from putting speeches on Hansard—in stirring up public opinion—in taking government, as it were, to the people? In the last 25 years in this country the platform has practically been abandoned. Whereas in the old days we used to have public men on the hustings all over the country, and often joint debates between party gladiators, rousing public interest and excitement, giving to public issues what Mr. Churchill once called the 'sense of urgency,' we now have 'radio talks' that to many of us are about as inspiring as last week's laundry bill.

"Politicians seem obsessed with the radio—labor under the delusion that people listen to radio speeches. The truth, of course, is that not one politician out of 10 knows how to use the radio, and that to the extent they are listened to on the radio—which is a very slight extent—they do themselves more harm than good. "There is the matter of personalities. In politics, as in most of life's activities, personalities are always more attractive than issues. Thus in the days of Macdonald and Laurier men were compelled towards politics. Macdonald and Laurier were picturesque figures, in the tradition of the great chieftains, rallying the multitudes. Today our political leaders, faced with different issues, are more in the municipal mould, don't compel the same loyalty, the same affection, nor even the same passionate hostility. That in itself, and to a far greater degree than many suspect, detracts from interest in politics."

The Journal's diagnosis might well be applied to Provincial as well as Federal politics.

Diplomatic Language

Mr. Harold Nicolson of The Spectator must have had Mr. Mackenzie King, as well as Mr. Bevin, in mind when he, the other day, made the following pronouncement on Mr. Bevin's speech on the situation in Europe: "He (Mr. Bevin) began to employ words and phrases which can only confuse understanding. At one moment he spoke of Western Europe as a 'unit'; a few minutes later he was referring to the 'organization and support of a Western Union'; in a later passage he used the odd word 'organism', and he ended by saying that the whole scheme aimed, not at a rigid system, but at a 'spiritual union' or a 'brotherhood.' This mutable and imprecise phraseology will inevitably lead foreign observers to interpret his statements in their own manner. The Russians will regard the scheme as a Western bloc organized as the spearhead of American capitalism. The Germans will interpret the speech as a hint of the opportunity for which they have been longing. Count Coudenhove-Kalergi will be convinced that he has converted Mr. Bevin to his scheme of a United Europe even as he converted Monsieur Briand many years ago. And large sections of American opinion will suppose that Mr. Bevin intends to transfer to Western Europe the benefits of the American federal system. None of these expectations is likely to be realized. Mr. Bevin indicated a line of policy with which a large majority of people will agree; it is unfortunate that by employing many inconsistent terms he should have exposed his pronouncement to conflicting interpretations."

Canada's Vote On Korea.

Canada and Australia presented the only negative votes to a resolution of the UN Little Assembly calling for a UN-supervised election in South Korea. Our negative vote was stated to be based on a legal interpretation—that the Little Assembly had no authority to amend the General Assembly's instruction, which was that an election should be held in all Korea, North and South.

Actually, observes an exchange, our negative vote was born of something more than a constitutional objection. The UN Commission in Korea, of which Canada is a member, has run foul of Russia, has been refused admission to North Korea. It has, too, encountered much opposition in South Korea. The Canadian Government has a suspicion that in forcing an election in South Korea in the face of Russian enmity and without being ready to follow through with such force as might be required, UN is, to put it bluntly, walking out on a limb. It is a limb not unlike the one UN finds itself on overhanging Palestine. Canada played a strong part in putting UN on the Palestine limb and is thinking twice about repeating the process in Korea.

The real explanation to Canada's negative vote on Korea, says the Journal, is to be found in that portion of Mr. Lester B. Pearson's speech to

the Toronto Board of Trade last month wherein the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs observed: "It may eventually be fatal to the United Nations, if it is asked to accept commitments which it cannot fulfill, because, in the absence of military agreements under the Charter to enforce its decisions, those decisions have behind them only moral force and the weight of world opinion." The realism of this viewpoint is not going to inspire those who feel that UN has a magic strength greater than the strength of men—but it may be good for UN nonetheless.

EDITORIAL NOTES

All our representatives at Ottawa are in the limelight these days.

The city is preparing for spring thaws, opening drains and sewers and breaking up the ice at key points.

Finland's acceptance of a Russian pact is almost a foregone conclusion. It would mean widespread starvation in that country if Russian grain supplies were cut off.

Mr. McDowell, M.L.A., Manitoba, said in the Legislature: "If I, as a farmer, put as much water in the milk I sell as the government does into its whisky I would go to the jug for 90 days." There may be more truth than poetry in this, which, moreover, has its local application.

Ford cars are to cross the Atlantic but in a westerly direction. The Ford people have decided to test American reception of small English cars. The pre-war market was not receptive to the small car but with increasingly congested traffic conditions in the big cities the reaction may now be favorable.

To refer to or address a member by name on the floor of the House is a breach of parliamentary etiquette. The restriction of ancient origin and probably stems from the primitive custom of keeping one's true name secret as a protection against evil spirits. Perhaps that is why formal "naming" of a member by the Speaker is considered a severe punishment.

It is reassuring to note, on the authority of Hon. J. A. Glen, Minister of Mines and Resources in reply to a question in the House of Commons by Mr. McLure, that cost of the highway from "Russia" (misprint for Rustico) to Cavendish, insofar as this road lies within the confines of the National Park, will be paid 100 per cent by the Federal Government. Unfortunately Mr. Glen did not say when the work would be undertaken.

Alessandro Volta, Italian physicist and electrical inventor, died this date 1827; was a professor at both Como and Pavia before taking up residence in England where he was awarded the Royal Society Copley medal in 1791; proceeding to France he obtained the patronage of Napoleon who provided him a state pension. In the year of Waterloo he became director of the philosophical faculty of Padua University. He was a pioneer of electrical science, and the electric "volt" was named after him.

Politics make strange bedfellows. General McNaughton, who stepped into Col. Ralston's shoes as military adviser of Prime Minister King subsequent to the Hong Kong disaster, is now urging a "supreme" effort of conciliation before turning to the sword to solve the Palestine crisis. Unfortunately the small British force in Palestine is already experiencing a repitition of the Canadian force in Hong Kong, while the United Nations stand idly by in the attitude of "let George do it."

It is good news that the employment situation here promises well as soon as winter leaves us, which should be about the beginning of next month. There is a tremendous lot of building operations ready to be undertaken which should provide work for hundreds of citizens, while farming and fishing will have been resumed. Not many places are so favourably situated in this respect, and it is to be sincerely desired that the Governments and Councils will do all possible to encourage further building operations together with the introduction and development of minor industries. The best help is self-help, and as a province and as municipalities it is our duty to begin at home by providing the necessary facilities and encouragement.

According to Mr. Claude Smith at the local branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, "Prince Edward Island used more milk per person than any other Province in Canada in 1947. About 12,000,000 pounds of milk per year is sold to the local trade." That is something of which we have reason to be proud. In Alberta the cost of the production of milk has been calculated as follows: Concentrates, 74.4; roughage, \$1.04; pasture, etc., 15.5; labour, 96.1; buildings, 57.6; hauling, 25; total, \$37.2. Mr. Claude Smith's comment on this is: "The labour figure here allows the farm owner the same price as his hired man and makes no provision for management and supervision. It includes no profit, so they allow 54 cents to cover these costs. They fix the rate at \$4.25 a cwt. for 3.6 milk. On our farm we use a simple method to figure costs. We are feeding one lb. grain for every quart of milk, 25 lbs. hay or roughage and about 40 lbs. turnips or mangels to each cow and our cows average about 20 lbs. milk per cow a day. I think every producer realized the cheaper milk can be put on the market the more he will sell. Every economy must be practised not only in buying feed but in raising our average production per cow. The average production can be increased if we can arrange to have our cows freshen once every twelve months."

Notes By The Way

No woman objects to a man's having the last word, provided it is an apology. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

"Don't call a man a liar unless you can prove it," advises a writer. Or unless you are ready to go court, run or fight. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

The right of British universities to be represented in Parliament has been abolished under a Labor Government bill, thus wiping out a 350-year practice. It seems a pity, in a way, to see that go, but since the vote for the reform was 318 to 6 and since the Conservatives abstained from voting, it can be assumed that the tradition had become outmoded. — Brantford Expositor.

The good behavior of the inhabitants of Hunnebostrand, a small place near Gothenburg, Sweden, for many years been a source of embarrassment to the local prison authorities. The continued lack of any kind of offender has now resulted in the decision to close the local prison altogether and to offer its entire stock of convicts' costumes — numbering three — for sale by auction. — London Times.

Fire Commissioner Codman's statement that most fires in Boston this winter were caused by defective heating equipment, is reason enough for all householders who haven't done so already to check their own heating plants for possible danger signs. It has been a severe winter and equipment has been overloaded. It is not hard under such conditions for heaters to become unsafe through faulty adjustments or blockages. Mr. Codman's size-up of the situation should be sufficient warning to all who wish maximum safety in their own homes. — Boston Post.

At this season of the year, housewives in search of variety, could consume large quantities of Ontario apples for cooking — for pies, for apple dumplings, apple sauce and other tasty dishes. Many of them are already doing so. Many others would do so if they were just made more "apple conscious." Great quantities of fruit continue to be brought in from the south, oranges and grapefruit providing one of the brightest spots in the panorama of rising prices as they continue at unchanged levels. — Owen Sound Sun-Times.

Opera is a queer business. It's a mongrel art, but like many such dogs, it has devotees galore. Just the other night in Rome, a young American soprano, making her debut in Gounod's "Faust," was asked to deliver the famous "Jewel Song" but she couldn't sing the words. She left the casket of them on her doorstep. So she went and got the box herself, turned away, turned back again, acted surprised and went into her song. Well, that's not asking the audience to overlook so much, when you consider that in another opera the dead man rises to sing a swan song. — Windsor Star.

The main trouble about electric (power) seem to be that the high-pressure campaign to sell the electric idea to the public has been much too successful. With the extension of electric service to rural areas and the multiplication of electric gadgets in the homes, the demand for power has grown with leaps and bounds. New industries, re-emerging since the war, have added tremendously to the load. Droughts have slowed down power plants and forest fires have crippled distribution systems. The result is that there is not enough power to go around and brownouts and blackouts spread while the power corporations plead with their customers to save electricity. — Toronto Telegram.

There is a tendency to regard even reasonably pure speech as an affection. Another difficulty is the herd instinct which provides catchwords, usually senseless, and always transient—not the chances which come to a language continually in a state of flux, but empty, more or less meaningless phrases which for a time are on every tongue. There seems to be no ready cure for this condition, unless it lies in teaching a respect for the mother tongue, and a desire to keep it as far as possible, and without descending to stiltedness in its pristine purity. The fundamentals are fairly well taught in the lower grades of school. Perhaps it is a problem with which the high schools and the colleges must deal. — Chatham News.

Every year a large number of wild duck and other birds are swept over the brink of Niagara Falls to be killed instantly, or are drowned in the rapids. A few days ago about 1000 ducks met this fate. The birds rest in quiet waters between Chippawa and Fort Erie. When wintry mists come, they do not know where the currents are taking them and they topple over the escarpment. There is enough destruction of bird life without the mass killing which has been going on every year for perhaps centuries. Surely something could be done to prevent it, and conservation organizations ought to get together on this problem. We have no engineering experience, but we throw out the tentative suggestion that a series of meshed wire fences be constructed up river in a strategic direction so that the currents would gradually edge the ducks over to the bank before reaching the fatal precipice. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of public interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Sir,—With references to the letter in yesterday's Charlottetown Guardian, signed "Accountant." He states "money expended on the sinking fund is not an expense or payment on ordinary expenditure." The money provided for the sinking fund is, and rightly so, met out of the total revenue cash receipts.

In a double entry system of accounting a journal entry is made debiting revenue cash and crediting sinking fund account. If the Provincial Accounting was carried out on the double entry system of accounting the sum of \$322,765 could not have brought back to the Revenue side of the account and left on the expenditure side of the account because a journal entry would have been made debiting sinking fund and crediting cash revenue, and in that way revenue total would have been increased and expenditure payments decreased. But in that way no provision for Sinking Fund would have been made for loans at maturity.

I am glad to see that "Accountant" states that the balance of my communication is correct, except perhaps the last paragraph. The last paragraph in my letter reads: "Unless this unaccounted for money is put into the Province into bankruptcy." Yet "Accountant" states in the last paragraph of his letter: "The Sinking Fund is supposed to pay off the debentures when they become due, but actually the Government has depended on the banks for most of the money to pay off the debentures."

"Accountant" finally makes the absurd statement: "If there were no sinking fund the gross debt would be so much less." I am pleased to see that he agrees with me when he states: "But to have P. E. I. bonds in Sinking Fund is an absurd thing only a make believe—it is not standard accounting."

WHY TEACHERS ARE SORE

Sir,—The answers to the following questions are not entirely of my own formulation. They are the result of many discussions with other young teachers during the past two years. In view of the many articles concerning our schools in your paper at present, I believe this is the proper time for this letter to appear in print. Why are young men and women leaving the teaching profession in P.E.I.?

The main reason is that of economics. Most of the other elements that the teacher finds unsatisfactory in his profession can be traced back to that twentieth century necessity.

If a young teacher left his profession, could he make a larger income elsewhere? Yes. Most of the teachers have a fair amount of education — one, two, and even three years of college or university. There are positions they could obtain in other fields where the minimum salaries are more than those offered in education.

Why, then, do they remain in the teaching profession, even for a short while? This question has often been asked. The answer is that they like it. A great number of people can't understand that such an emotion is possible. People who do realize that it is possible to like teaching often suggest that the teachers should be satisfied with their lot. The response to that is simple. Teachers are human beings. That means they respect dignity and crave a small proportion for themselves. They do not wish to be treated as a poor relative of the community in which they happen to be teaching. Teachers would like to stand on their own two feet and be reasonably free from economic straitenedness.

Isn't it true that the teacher works only five hours a day five days a week? No. The teacher who works only five hours a day is certainly a rare specimen. I have yet to meet one. Ten hours is probably the average working day. When exams are in progress, the number of hours is increased. Week-end relaxation is a very rare occurrence in the average teacher's life. There are reports, tests, and many other things with which to occupy his time. Any evening the teacher takes off he usually finds it necessary to retire early because of the constant strain on his mental capacities and nerves. Teaching, as it is now being done, is a very demanding mental concentration, is more exhaustive than physical labour.

Teachers' salaries were raised last year. Are they nearly satisfactory yet? No. The cost of living in the province is still rising. Teachers have to pay income tax (a fact so ridiculous that it creates cynicism). They have to save every school term for the next summer school. Most teachers try to carry a little insurance. They now find themselves in a position where five per cent of their salary has to be contributed towards the pension fund, as set up by the provincial government in 1947. A considerable number of them are still paying off debts they accumulated in their efforts to gain an education. There are some young teachers who wish to further their own education so as to become better suited for their work, but at present it is impos-

Lenten Meditations

(From The Times)

MAN AND HIS CREATOR

It is not easy to define true religion. One man will say that it is the spirit of good neighbourliness, the readiness to assist the afflicted, the will to lead an upright life. In a recent survey of public opinion on the meaning of life, many replied to an inquiry by saying that religion simply meant "doing good." They appeared to be vague as to what was involved in the word "good," and "being good" did not appear to have the same importance as the doing of it.

Another will agree with Whitehead's famous definition that "religion is what a man does with his solitariness," and place his emphasis upon quietness and silence, upon the flight of the alone to the alone. Others may allow for this, yet maintain that true religion is only to be known in association with their fellow human beings in the act of common worship.

Yet another emphasis will be found among those who urge that it is the recognition by man of his creaturalness before his Maker, which involves knowing himself as a sinner who stands in need of forgiveness, of new life and power for living well.

True religion must surely include all these aspects of the relationship between man and the Creator, yet it is, unfortunately, possible to rest in partial religion, and to insist that this part is the whole.

Jesus called men to re-think the purpose of their lives and to recognize their need for God's help and forgiveness; but He also fed the hungry and healed the sick.

Thus it is right that the attitude of the good Samaritan should be reproduced in the religious life but religion is not complete if that is all.

It has been said that "Religion is an activity with many sides to it. There is something to learn, something to feel, something to choose, something to do, and something to belong to." The whole of human personality is called into relationship with God, and true religion is concerned with the object or goal of all human striving, which is to know God as He is, to love Him for what He is, and to obey His will.

PIGS IN ABUNDANCE

In the course of the present winter the increasing number of carcasses of pork carried by the S. S. Stanley has been a subject of much remark. An astonished gentleman at Pictou recently asked one of the officers of the Stanley how it was possible that such a little place could produce such an enormous number of pigs. "Oh, mon," replied the officer — he is Scotch — "the woods over there are full of them; and the people just shoot them down like rabbits."

Prince Edward Island Magazine, March, 1899.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

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The Poets Corner

THE SORROW OF LOVE

The quarrel of the sparrows in the eaves, The full round moon and the star-laden sky, And the loud song of the ever-singing leaves, Had hid away earth's old and weary cry.

And then you came with those red mournful lips, And with you came the whole of the world's tears, And all the sorrows of her labouring ships, And all the burden of her myriad years.

And now the sparrows warring in the eaves, The curd-pale moon, the white stars in the sky, And the loud chaunting of the unquiet leaves, Are shaken with earth's old and weary cry.

—W. B. Yeats.

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Why Trains Are Shorter In Winter

(Stratford Beacon-Herald) A recent news item explained that in cold weather trains are cut in length because "heat can only be sent so many car lengths from a locomotive." Officials at the C.N.R. station here raised their eyebrows when informed of this. It was, they said, the first time they had heard of it. Trains certainly are shorter in cold weather, they agreed, but the reason was that low temperatures decreased the operating efficiency of a locomotive.

Cold weather serves to stiffen lubrication. When the mixture of oil and grease in the journal becomes slightly congealed, it naturally offers more resistance to motion of the axle, and the progress of the train is impeded. A train of a size that could operate efficiently in warm weather would have to be shortened by 10 percent at 15 degrees above zero in order to have the same efficiency, and by 20 percent at 15 below. At 40 below zero a 50 percent cut in the length of the train called for. Happily, trains do not require too-sizeable cuts.

Regarding heat sent to the coaches, a modern engine can send steam heat back at a pressure of from 200 to 275 pounds per square inch if necessary. This is never necessary, since doing the train's course from rolling along in one direction to flying about in all directions. A maximum pressure of 120 pounds per square inch is allowed, and check valves in each coach insure against the pressure's becoming greater than this.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

PETRUSBERG, South Africa — (C.P.) A dog here has struck up a friendship with a small albino rabbit his master found. The rabbit weighs three pounds and the dog is a 209-pound Great Dane.

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