

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN
 Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
 Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa

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

TUESDAY MARCH 5, 1946

Half A Century Ago

Without interest is the following editorial comment from the old Prince Edward Island Magazine of May, 1899. It would seem that our City Councillors, then as now, were frail mortals, subject to much criticism:

"Very few of our citizens are ever interested enough to attend any of the regular meetings of the City Council. Ask those who stay away, why they do not go and they will shrug their shoulders. . . . Briefly it is because the Councillors are hypnotized. Nothing is being done—citizens have given them up, and consider them mere figure heads. . . . Work on the streets has been gradually lessened, the sidewalks have been neglected, no attempt has been made to increase the attractiveness of the city by planting trees and work of that sort—and all for the sake of a little-souled economy, the climax of which is a reduction of one-eighth of one per cent of the tax on personal property—a reduction that will not earn a solitary thank-you, but will be received with contempt. At the same time the appropriation for streets has been considerably reduced. . . . The laborers who were formerly employed will not be able to get a day's work. . . . The scavenger, at a magnificent salary of five dollars a month, was discharged in order to reduce expenses. . . . The Park Roadway will be finished about the end of this century—or the next; a leather medal ought to be got ready for the man who will have delayed it so long. Black Sam's Bridge also is being left alone—a standing disgrace to the city. . . . Another economy proposed is to tie up the watering carts. One of these is a combination affair which cost a lot of money. It may be put in the museum with the high-priced street roller, which is a good thing to use on the streets and for that reason is seldom used." After this is done the solemn curfew bell might be sold. The corporation of Summerside are advertising for a fire alarm. Charlottetown might then burn down; but we would have the money for the fire bell."

Another topic of apparently timeless interest is dealt with in the very first issue of this old Magazine. The leading editorial in Volume 1, Number 1, March, 1899 is entitled: "Is There Any Practical Way of Dealing with the Liquor Problem in Charlottetown?" The writer, whether prophetically or otherwise, concludes that the Canada Temperance Act is on its last legs and that Government sale of liquor is desirable. "This," he argues, "would secure the first object—the elimination of the money influence—and at the same time provide (so far as that is possible today) that the liquors consumed should be pure—a decided gain in all respects over the drugged beverages so fearfully common." And in conclusion: "Out of the profits of this sale the Government to establish coffee houses with comfortable rooms, where men could meet to spend their evenings, smoke their pipes, discuss politics or any other subject; and where, at the same time, meals could be had at as cheap a rate as is consistent with the cost. Such houses would, we think, be supplied by our citizens with attractive literature free of cost; and might well become places where free lectures and talks would be given on subjects of vital importance to the health and happiness of our people, as well as on lighter topics of general interest."

A Fantastic Story

The decision of Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, rajah of Sarawak, to hand over his state to Britain recalls to the *Winnipeg Free Press* a fantastic chapter in the development of Empire. It is the story of an empire which grew against its will through the chance activities of a brilliant and adventurous group of Englishmen.

Stamford Raffles and James Brooke were two of a type whose names fill the role of employees of the East India Company. They operated far from home and well beyond control. They added thousands of square miles to British territories. Raffles operated in Malay, Brooke founded a dynasty in Borneo.

As so often happened in the development of Britain's eastern Empire, it had no connection with official British policy and went in fact against it. It had almost nothing to do with the East India Company. But Brooke was bored in Malay and did something about it.

He bought a schooner, enlisted the help of some friends and sailed "to free the Malay archipelago from barbarism." He rescued the Sultan of Muda from headhunters and the grateful old man made him Sultan of Sarawak.

Since then the Brooke family has ruled 50,000 square miles of north Borneo, an area rich in oil and rubber and which before the war had not a penny of debt.

The war changed much. Sir Charles Vyner Brooke was driven from his principality and

its reconquest was the work of the Australians. Now he has given it to the British as a Crown colony.

Sarawak was an anachronism but a romantic one and if it lost some of its flavor in recent years, it remained a monument to the adventurous in the soul of men.

EDITORIAL NOTES

P. E. I. Hospital collectors are on their rounds. They are volunteers and should be honoured and respected as such.

Will there be an election for the vacant Water Commissionership, or will the defeated candidate at last election be called upon to serve?

With the recent arrival of eight British war brides at Montreal airport, a total of thirty-four English wives of Canadian servicemen have reached this country on five trans-Atlantic flights of Trans-Canada Air Lines. The eight war brides proceeded to points in Ontario, Quebec and the West.

Britain has produced a blanket weighing less than the square yard than any other in the world. Shrink proof, moth proof and rot proof, it weighs only thirty-three ounces—for a full size. It looks like a quilt, has pure fleece stuffing with a Fortesan silk fabric cover, and traps millions of air pockets in the fleece, giving the maximum warmth with the minimum weight. Dressing gowns, bed jackets, cot-covers—all can be stuffed with the super-heat material, which was evolved after years of research by Britain's wool industry. Production of the new blanket at present is intended for export.

The Federal Government may make further concessions to the central provinces to ensure agreement at the conference, even though the net result for taxpayers throughout the Dominion would very closely resemble the position they occupied before the Second World War. It is reported that the Prime Minister himself is disposed to secure peace at any price, but there are shrewd observers who assert that the price would be a serious schism or break in the Federal cabinet.

They're all doing it—increasing expenditure! A special sales tax on all goods other than food and similar necessities of life may be imposed in Halifax to keep down the civic tax rate in the face of mounting costs of the city's operation. It was forecast at a meeting of the committees of the Moncton City Council that the city's budget would mount over the \$1,000,000 mark this year. The city departments drew up their estimates and although they have not been passed by the council, the total appropriation will probably be about \$100,000 greater than last year's \$976,606.42.

The St. Thomas *Times-Journal* having corrected the *Guelph Mercury* for calling Mr. George Drew "Prime Minister of Ontario" now finds its correction corrected, and by no less an authority than Mr. Howard Measures of External Affairs. Schooled in things as mysterious as the "Table of Precedence" (which itself refers to Premiers as "Prime Ministers of the Provinces of Canada"), Mr. Measures says: "There is authority for calling the Premier of a province a Prime Minister. Official recognition is given this title in the publication issued by the Secretary of State of Canada on honors, seniority and precedence."

Thirty-two members of the Canadian Forces who served overseas and are now demobilized have been awarded scholarships by the British Council to enable them to study in Britain. All of post-graduate standing, they have been selected in co-operation with the Canadian Department of Veterans' Affairs, and their subjects include Medicine, Dentistry, Physics, Geography, Textile Technology, Town-planning, Librarianship, Economics, Law, Education, Music and Drama, and Fine Arts. The scholarships are for periods ranging in the first instance from six months to a year, but some may be extended.

The 5,000,000 pounds of shortening Canada is importing from the United States is for distribution to lumber camps, bakeries and manufacturers, and will not find its way into grocery stores, according to the current issue of "Canadian Grocer", Toronto. The U. S. shortening is made from soy bean oil. During its distribution, no Canadian shortening will be manufactured for those trade channels, but the present limited ration of Canadian shortening will continue to be supplied grocers on the present basis. Canadian Grocer predicts no early improvement in supply of either shortening or lard. Hog production has slumped badly in recent months and the supply of vegetable oils continues considerably below requirements.

James I of England, and VI of Scotland, died this date 1625; son of Mary Queen of Scots and Darnley, was proclaimed James VI of Scotland in 1567, he curbed the power of the nobles, and succeeded Queen Elizabeth on the English throne in 1603; he had obstinate belief in the divine right of Kings, and in the duty of the passive obedience on the part of the subjects; his reign was marked by constant struggle with parliament which, in the following reign led to the Great Rebellion. "The wisest fool in Christendom," James had been taught by George Buchanan, and was the author of several books, which, though mediocre, show scholarship; his unhappy reign was due to the fact that he was much influenced by unprincipled favorites: "No news is better than evil news. . . . To substitute parliament for King is 'to make the plough go before the horse.' . . . Tobacco smoking is a branch of the sin of drunkenness, which is the root of all sins." . . . "I will govern according to the Commonwealth, but not according to the common will." . . . "He was a bold man who first swallowed an oyster." . . . "I can make a lord, but only God Almighty can make a gentleman."

Notes By The Way

A lot of high-ranking service men are finding out that there are only privates in civilian life. — Chatham News.

You remember plastics—those amazing modern substances which take the place of steel in everything and nation-wide industrial recovery.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Canadians are a silly people. They haven't nearly enough houses but every winter they burn down more of them to create a greater shortage. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

It is a very clever person who can distinguish between a feeling and know at what point reason begins and wishing leaves him. — The Victoria Colonist. He thought it is so bound up with human wishes that it becomes cold. — Outlook. Other than reason without feeling would soon have the world on its head. Man is a sentient being.

As bonds of the Ninth Victory Loan, purchased in October last at 100 per cent of the market value, plus accumulated interest, it means that in the period the investment in world-wide securities has earned nearly 13 percent per annum. Of course the rate of interest cannot be maintained, but already has justified prediction that the direction.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Still another town, Minnola, N. Y. has worked out a test for drunkenness to be applied to suspected motorists. They will have to say, "around the rough and rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran." Very hard to do, but not impossible. The fact that there is no dependable test for drunkenness. Sooner or later, the Minnola police will find a man who can sing off the tongue-twister without a stutter, yet may be almost incapable of standing. — Quebec affects scores of people the same. It has just one invariable characteristic—it will not mix safely with gasoline. — Windsor Star.

Those who feel aggrieved at the restrictions in the aftermath of the war, should regard the news from Great Britain, where the state of mind might look like a stricken land which was raped and ruined by the ruthless German invader. The state of mind is not a grim future is not enough, we all might take deep thought of what our own country would have been had it, by ill fortune, Germany had won the war.—Brandon Sun.

A control system, no matter how devised it, that appears strong enough to permit America to share the world will hold out to the small nations that assurance of survival which is the greatest need of the world today. The world needs an atomic control quickly, but it will probably have to be put on the screen. Their minds agree, then the security council must agree, and finally congress must agree with it. If anything is shared and any suspense lifted.—Manchester Guardian.

One of the plagues of surgery is to change dressings—the cause of the nuisance is that they are taken off may tear or rip the wound open again. But now, woven nylon, originally improvised in Pacific army hospitals from window screening, seems to solve the problem, says The Scientific American. These screens are flat and little stiff, they come off easily and both surgeons and patients were pleased at the absence of pain in dressing changes. On top of all that, the wound underneath heals more smoothly in better shape for grafting.

Forgotten something lately? We don't brood about it. You probably didn't want to remember it anyway. That's what Dr. Arthur E. Hill, of the University of Cincinnati, says. Dr. Hill adds that forgetfulness is a sign of the times. He says that the reason for this is a cause. Inventions come so fast, we don't have time to learn them. He says that the reason for this is a cause. Inventions come so fast, we don't have time to learn them. He says that the reason for this is a cause. Inventions come so fast, we don't have time to learn them.

The desire to be neatly, appropriately and fashionably attired is basic in civilized life. The desire to be neatly, appropriately and fashionably attired is basic in civilized life. The desire to be neatly, appropriately and fashionably attired is basic in civilized life. The desire to be neatly, appropriately and fashionably attired is basic in civilized life.

Actors and actresses don't—or at least they shouldn't—portray themselves on the screen. Their film virtues and their faults are not their own attributes and shortcomings, but those which they have briefly assumed for the purpose of one picture. What matters it to us if an actress is really hard and flippancy providing she can convince us in pictures that she is tender-hearted and moved by a deep concern for a world. The actor who in real life may be a miserly crook may still be able to portray an open-handed benevolent philanthropist. The actress who in real life is exactly the same people as they portray on the screen. Think of the number of vicious characters who would be running around loose in Hollywood.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

A.R.P. EQUIPMENT

Sir,—In Premier Jones' report of A.R.P. equipment, as given in the *Guardian* of Saturday, it is stated that "the town of Borden and the village of Mt. Stewart were the only two settlements not retaining equipment of issues to them in 1941. Both places had some C.N.R. equipment and felt that they might dispense with A.R.P. equipment." This statement is incorrect. The fire fighting equipment is owned by the citizens of Mt. Stewart and not by the C.N.R.

RURAL BEAUTIFICATION

Sir,—The plan for rural beautification as outlined by Col. E. W. Johnstone in a recent issue of the *Guardian* is one that has provoked much favorable comment and deep interest in the past of farmers generally throughout the Island. I am pleased also to note that the Chartered Board of Trade has endorsed the scheme, as have also some of our most prominent business men and leaders of public opinion.

As to the merits of the proposal there can be no question. As a province we have everything to gain and nothing to lose if this simple undertaking is entered into by the people generally. It doesn't cost anything to do it, and either by the government or by those who wish to enter the lists as competitors. All that the plan requires is that the people individually and collectively interested in the matter of putting forth their own particular home by a special cleanup of the premises, the application of paint or whitewash to their buildings, the planting of a few trees or shrubs and as an added attraction, the planting of a lawn that need not be extensive.

The general opinion is that we are on the eve of a great development in the tourist industry, and if we wish those people to come here and keep returning, we must be able to do what we can to make them welcome and make our little island more attractive. In this every property holder, big or small, has a part to play, and the concerted efforts of all will assuredly bring results in the greater happiness and contentment of our people generally. Let us therefore get behind Col. Johnstone in this matter and make an effort to make this little island what we love to call it the *Guardian* of the *Winnipeg Sun*. I am, Sir, etc.

J. B. MILLMAN

Kennington, P. E. I.
 March 2nd, 1946.

The second day out we were told that there was a shop on board. I went down with a distinguished civil servant to have a look. There were shelves stacked great high with boxes of milk chocolate. We each bought a box and went back to our cabins. That afternoon the thought struck me that I might go down on the off-chance that there was a box still left. I arrived in the ship precisely on opening time. The shop was empty. My friend was there already. Guiltily I looked at each other and then went in. "Can I have two more boxes?" We winced when the storekeeper positively shouted, "You can have 20 if you like." — R. H. Crossman in the *London Statesman*.

AMBASSADOR'S WIFE TAKES JOB

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 4.—(CP)—Some women might consider being an ambassador's wife a full time job, but the wife of the United States ambassador to Brazil, Mrs. Adolf A. Berle, Jr., finds time to devote half of every day ministering to charity patients in a hospital here. Mrs. Berle, who holds a doctor's degree from New York University School of Nursing, has been selected an honorary member of the Society of Medicine and Surgery of Rio de Janeiro in recognition of work which has saved the lives of her Brazilian colleagues.

This work consists in part of showing a new staff physician in a hospital here, giving medical attention to charity patients. Mrs. Berle spends every morning at the hospital, then frequently visits other hospitals, inspecting their facilities and always urging the enrollment of more nurses.

She also lectures on medical subjects and, like her husband, speaks excellent Portuguese. Thus she is able to discuss with her Brazilian colleagues and students hospital and medical practices that are new to some of them.

Besides her professional duties, Mrs. Berle maintains a home for her husband and three children.

Don't Trifle With Constipation

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Light In A Dark Corner Imperialism

(Globe and Mail)
 In his annual report to Parliament, Mr. Watson Sellar, the Auditor-General, has revealed a most interesting departure from standard practice in connection with Government expense accounts. He notes that by special Order-in-Council, requests by Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, the Minister of Labor, the wives of Mr. Justice G. B. O'Connor of Edmonton, Chairman of the Wartime Labor Relations Board, and Mr. Justice M. B. Archibald of Halifax, chairman of the National War Labor Board, both received a living allowance and travelling expenses in order that they might be with their husbands in Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada. Mr. Sellar notes that the Order-in-Council granting these expenses did not specify the legal authority on which the innovation rested.

From this example of irregular practice, it may easily be realized what might remain hidden under the monumental pile of 90,000 Orders-in-Council and Treasury Board items issued by the Government during the war. It is obvious that no Cabinet committee could scan, regulate or control the flow of such orders, and at the same time keep the business of the country going. It can be seen now what was done under cover of secrecy. At that time, there was not even the moral check of eventual disclosure to bring pause before the act.

Mr. Sellar is to be commended not only for his astuteness in noting this item, but for the moral courage he displayed in revealing it. It does much to restore public confidence in the processes of expenditure to know that such a man is on the watch for irregularities. It does even more to justify the fight which Mr. John Diefenbaker, the constitutional critic of the Opposition, made—almost alone—to restore to Parliament the right and duty to peruse all Orders-in-Council. The chance that such extra-legal actions will be overlooked or concealed under the present National Emergency Transitional Powers Bill is considerably reduced. The bill is lifted several notches above the level to which wartime irresponsibility had allowed it to decline.

STYLISH DENIES FLAPPER REVIVAL

NEW YORK, March 4.—(CP)—The girls who like long hair are all upsets. The men who admire flowing tresses are up in arms. Beauticians are divided in their opinions. Models and movie stars are pleased. And everybody's arguing.

The cause of all this rumpus is Sally Victor, the milliner who is famous for making her customers look pretty. Sally, a kindly, smiling little person who wouldn't hurt a fly, is slightly agast at all the fuss. She has had to hire an extra secretary to answer the flood of letters that has descended upon her, and to answer the jangling telephone.


All Sally did, you see, was to show her hats at her recent spring opening—"Big Bob," a deep, tall cloche, and "Little Bobbie," a shorter model of same—with the recommendation that they be worn with short bobbed hair.

Now the stylists and the columnists are charging heatedly that Sally is trying to bring back the unwomanly, unattractive flapper of the twenties.

And attends to the numerous social functions of an embassy. She often accompanies the ambassador on frequent trips over the nation, learning along with him the ways of Brazil and its people.

QUICKIES

By Ken Reynolds



"Set my trap in the *Guardian* want Ad!"

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No one is immune to misfortune. The best safeguard against the numerous hazards which beset your person, home, property and business is adequate insurance coverage in strong, experienced companies.

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the Terrible Twenties, with her boyish bob flat chest and all. Sally insists she meant no such thing. Says she: "I just thought the young girls might look cute with their hair cut shorter and curled around their faces. They do, too. But I've never been in favor of flat chests or unfeminine styles, and I never will be. Why does everybody pick on me?"

FIRST BRITISH STAMP

The first postage stamp of Great Britain was made in 1840 and bore a portrait of young Queen Victoria.

BY THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRISTOL, England.—(CP)—Crowds watching removal of German bombs fell flat on their faces when a 500-pounder fell 50 ft. to the ground. They did not know the explosive fuse had been removed previously.

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