

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1947

Maker of Modern P.E.I.

Probably the greatest statesman this Province
has so far produced entered into rest yester-
day, in the person of the Hon. J. A. Mathieson,
retired Chief Justice. No one was better ac-
quainted with the rights and needs of this Province
than Mr. Mathieson; he had them on his
finger tips, as it were, and could enumerate
and enlarge on them at any given time or
place. He was a living encyclopaedia of in-
formation on the history not only of Prince Ed-
ward Island, but of every province in Canada
and the Dominion itself. He was recognized as
an outstanding authority, and was consulted by
statesmen and historians alike on both matters
pertaining to Confederation, and to the re-
spective powers and responsibilities of the provinces
and the Dominion.

So far as this Province is concerned, Mr.
Mathieson was its practical preserver and up-
holder. Prior to his coming into power,
Prince Edward Island was on the down-grade,
gradually falling into a position where it
would have been a comparatively easy matter
to merge it with Nova Scotia whence it came.
When he first entered public life, Mr. Mathieson
forewarned the danger, and determined to face
it resolutely and to overcome it. After many
years and many sleepless nights he evolved a
plan and policy for the salvation of the Province,
and gathered round him a body of stal-
warts who steadfastly supported him in the at-
tainment of his objective. These were mostly
Conservatives, but included not a few Liberals
who saw whither we were drifting, and were pre-
pared to sacrifice party for Province. He took
office as Premier in 1911, the year of the Bor-
den Federal victory, and the two Governments
worked as one in an endeavour to restore the
Province to its rightful place, and to revive its
prosperity.

Mr. Mathieson was a man of great determi-
nation, of indomitable courage, of clear vi-
sion; he was an excellent judge of character,
not easily fooled, and of steadfast friendships.
He enjoyed the respect, regard and esteem of
most of the statesmen of his day, and genera-
tion; and this was never more manifest than
when he and Hon. Mr. Arsenault went to the
1913 Inter-Provincial Conference. From Nova
Scotia to British Columbia he had friends at
Court, as it were, and they rallied to the Is-
land's support. Similarly at Ottawa, where he
laboured in association with the late Mr. Angus
McLean, M.P., and Mr. Donald Nicholson, M.P.
Mr. Mathieson had personal friendships on both
sides of the House, which he cultivated for all
they were worth to the Island, and consequen-
tly when it was proposed to amend the British
North America Act regarding representation,
Mr. Mathieson was able to have our House of
Commons membership fixed at not fewer than
four, irrespective of population, similar to the
number of our Senators. This may be termed
the charter of modern Prince Edward Island;
for with that we also got through his and
Messrs. McLean and Nicholson's efforts, our
regular communication with the mainland re-
cognized as a Confederation right, and the in-
stitution of the Borden-Tormentine Car Ferry
as the first step in that direction.

In domestic affairs, Mr. Mathieson intro-
duced many reforms, not least being vote by
ballot and the administration of the Prohibition
Act by an independent commission representa-
tive of temperance sentiment, which proved re-
markably successful, and freed the administra-
tion of many details and worries.

In the position of Chief Justice Mr. Mathieson
ably maintained the dignity and reputation
of the Bench so long associated with his pre-
decessor, Sir W. W. Sullivan.

It may be said of Mr. Mathieson that he
was the Maker of Modern Prince Edward Island,
and his name will hold a foremost place in its
historic annals.

The Freight Rates Hearing

It is estimated that the present application
of the railways for a 30 per cent increase in
freight rates will, if granted, mean additional
revenues to the railways of \$85 millions per
year; and since freight rates in Central Canada
are held down by water, highway and U. S. rail
competition, this increased cost will inevitably
fall chiefly upon the Maritimes and Western
Canada.

The hearing of the application of the rail-
way was fixed by the Board of Transport Com-
missioners for January 8. The Provinces appear-
ed before the Board on December 23 and asked
for a postponement of two months, that is, un-
til March 8, to enable them to prepare their
cases. The railways resisted this postponement
doing so, in the words of C. F. H. Carson, their
chief counsel, "with all the force we can com-
mand." The board, by a majority decision,
granted a postponement only until February 11.
The Provinces then applied to the board for an
order instructing the railways to produce the
information previously denied them.

From the beginning, the railways, in the
phrase of Col. J. L. Lalston, counsel for the Mar-
itime Provinces, have sought to "hold the whip"
over all who have had the temerity not to op-
pose—but to so much as question their application
for an additional \$85 millions per year. They
have gone the length of declaring that they are
not obliged to furnish information unless those
receiving it will say in advance, "what use they

propose to make of such material if it was fur-
nished." They avow a "compelling urgency" in
their own, as distinct from the public interest.
They dismiss all opinions which do not coincide
with their own as having, "no bearing upon" or
"relevance to" the case. They pilloried the
questions put to them by the Provinces as a
"fishing expedition." The absolute limit in what
has been a very high-handed performance, in-
deed, was the comment of Mr. Dysart, counsel
for the National railways, on the request of
counsel for the four Western Provinces that the
Transport Board should hold hearings on the 30
per cent application in western Canada. Mr.
Dysart said: "If the request that this board go
on a junket across the country and hold sittings
at various centres is allowed, it will, I suggest,
prolong the hearing three months." Perhaps,
upon reflection, the National railways will
desire to modify this attitude to the public.

The Transport Board is now dealing with
the formal motion of the Provinces for the in-
formation which the railways have refused volun-
tarily to supply. The Board has the power to
compel the railways to produce this information.
Alternatively, the Board, if it chooses, can
cripple the Provinces as to the facts in this case
just as it already has hampered them as to the
time required to prepare for the main hearings.

It is worth recalling, as does the Winnipeg
Free Press in this connection, that the Board of
Transport Commissioners was created some forty
years ago for the express purpose of establish-
ing fair and reasonable freight rates in this
country. It is required to do so not from the
standpoint of the railways but of the public.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is good news to everybody to hear that
prices for fur pelts are strengthening—they were
the only weak link in our production chain.

The City "did itself proud" Monday in cele-
brating Citizens' Day—an event that will long
be remembered in the annals of the Province
and of the Nation.

Perhaps the recent change in the lead-
ership of the Department of Justice has something
to do with the delay in the filling of the vacan-
cy on the bench of the Supreme Court.

Evidently Premier McNair, New Brunswick,
does not allow his prospects of becoming Chief
Justice to interfere with what he considers just
criticism of Premier King's policy regarding the
Province's rights. More power to him.

Every handicap may prove a blessing in
disguise if looked at in right frame of mind.
According to a manager of a movie theatre,
queues are one of the finest social institutions
ever introduced. Before the public was taught
to queue it was a free-for-all, with the danger
of somebody getting hurt.

William Wilkie Collins, English novelist,
born this date 1824; he achieved popular suc-
cess with the then best seller The Woman in
White, followed by an equally popular story The
Moonstone; he showed much aptness in fram-
ing melodramatic stories on the basis of a se-
cret withheld until the denouement; was a
friend of Charles Dickens, and a contributor to
Household Words, of which Dickens was editor;
he wrote a drama, The Frozen Deep, in which
Dickens and other celebrities appeared.

Where Germans proved good churchmen.
The only men in the choir at the morning ser-
vice in Ratho Parish Church, Midlothian, Scot-
land, on Christmas Sunday were eight German
prisoners of war from a camp in the district.
The Germans, who had made an offer of as-
sistance after a pulpit appeal for more choir
members, sang the English version of the Psalms,
Paraphrases, and hymns. Wearing P. O. W. uni-
forms, they have been attending the services in
the church for several months.

How many glass bottles do you buy, use,
break, or lose every year? No one can answer
this question, but the big glassworks know from
experience that world requirements are increas-
ing from year to year. One single Scottish
glass-bottle factory, has now decided to in-
crease its yearly production from 43 to 100
million. This tremendous increase, demanding
a capital outlay of \$20,000,000, will require a
great deal of effort to achieve. In about 3 years'
time, that is before 1950, the firm hopes to
reach the one-hundred-million mark.

The late Rev. Dr. Ryan will long be remem-
bered as one of the outstanding Methodist
clergymen of the Province, for he ministered
both in Charlottetown and Summerside. He
was noted for his sincerity; he did not play poli-
tics, either in the pulpit or out of it, and heved
close to the line in the denunciation of what
he considered wrong; at the same time, always
ready with encouragement to the tempted and
fallen. He was an out-and-out prohibitionist,
totally opposed even to scripts, and on this
score differed from such staunch Methodists as
the late Mr. Henry Smith, Mr. James Paton and
Dr. Harry Johnson who favoured them. It was
he who coined the phrase "blood money" to
describe the revenue the Government received
from the sale of liquor.

Bracken may now be added to Irish
Moss as providing a new and profitable industry.
If experiments by an Argyll farmer prove suc-
cessful, bracken, the heart-break of the Scottish
farmer, may be the foundation of a new in-
dustry and solve a problem for house-builders.
Mr. F. F. Nichol, of Furnace, has succeeded in
making from dried bracken a substance which
he claims can be used as a wall lining—a type
of material for which there is an urgent de-
mand by builders. If the bracken boards stand
up to exhaustive tests and prove a practicable
proposition, there are possibilities of a thriving
industry being established. And the supply of
raw material is, as farmers know to their sorrow,
unlimited.

Notes By The Way

Giant snails which the Japanese
cultivated for food are multiplying
rapidly and destroying vegetation
and native gardens in New Guinea,
New Britain and New Ireland. The
London Times reports. They are
four to five inches long and three
inches high.

The largest door in the world
will shortly be fitted to the new
aircraft assembly hall at Pilton,
Bristol, which has been built to
house the Brabazon Mark I air-
craft. The door is 1,046 feet across
and 85 feet nine inches high. It
weighs 200 tons and can be thrown
open in two minutes. The Brabazon
world's biggest airliner, is ex-
pected to go into service in 1951.
—UK Information Office.

In some countries, salt is a pre-
cious commodity because of its
scarcity. Yet the world has an abun-
dantly untouched, almost inex-
haustible supply. That's the salt in
the ocean. It has been estimated
that there are 14,180,000,000,000,000
tons of salt in the seas, with about
150,000,000 tons being added every
year by rivers. This enormous
amount, if recovered, would stack
up a layer a mile and a half deep
over the entire United States.
—Ships Magazine, New York.

The start of the school year
peaks in as good a time as any
to express the wish that American
youth again might be taught the
art of penmanship. Young people
—and a great many people who no
longer are conspicuously young—
seem to have been somewhat mis-
educated in this respect. Only on
rare occasions does the average
person get a letter neatly and
legibly written. A majority appear
to agree with Hamlet's statement
that it is "a baseness" to take pains
in any task of inscribed communication.
—Washington Star.

If there is a home entitled to
consideration or kindly thought, it
is the one kept on a small salary,
especially when that salary is in-
termittent through failure to have
employment. Just how the mother
manages when the small salary
comes even when she gets new books
beyond the understanding of those
who have not experienced such a
chapter. When the period of unem-
ployment is protracted and with
the demand for food, fuel and
clothing continuing the same as
when she was employed, the prob-
lem is acute to the point of in-
jurious self-denial. —Guelph Mer-
cury.

The people you see browsing
around stationery stores at the
moment are generally buyers of
diaries. They are getting new books
for the year ahead. Starting Wed-
nesday, they will chronicle their
day-to-day doings, the weather,
local and world incidents, or such
information as they wish to remem-
ber. They are methodical, keen
keepers of their diaries. It is a
hobby with them. But it is fun
and valuable. Much past history
of the nation and the world has
come down to us from diaries that
people kept for their own memo-
ries and information. —Boston
Post.

Being President of the United
States no doubt has its advantages.
The President has a house, which
many citizens haven't; he never
has to stand in line for lunch or
theatre tickets; he can cash a check
anywhere without being identified;
if he says anything in the newspa-
pers print it; if his wife wants to
give a party the Marine Band will
come and play for it; he never has
to clean up after himself; and he
did nobody would tell him to stop
lively. But there are disadvantages.
A President is compelled most of
the time to live in public, like a
cat in a store window on Sunday.
This must get tiresome. —New York
Times.

I heard this week a story which
may have appeared in print before,
though I doubt it. Campbell-Bann-
erman entered the Cabinet for the
first time as Secretary of State for
War in 1918, during the administra-
tion of Mr. Lloyd George. When the
King's Speech was under considera-
tion it was found to contain a
Latin quotation, and the new Sec-
retary for War made bold to ques-
tion its accuracy. His colleagues were
aghast, but the Prime Minister,
the classicist Prime Minister received
the suggestion with urbanity.
"Bring me" he said to his secre-
tary, "the Martial I was using yester-
day." The volume appeared and
was carefully consulted. "I find,"
said the Prime Minister, "that the
Secretary for War is perfectly
right. But" he added glaring round
the table, "the words are taken from
a poem which no decent man ought
to read." —London Spectator.

Counterpart to the old story
about slaughter houses using every-
thing including the pig's squeak, is
found in scientific laboratories,
where the mouse's squeak and the
rat's tail wag are put to use, relates
Science Service. The strength of
pain-relieving drugs is measured
by a mouse's response to an electric
shock in tests at the Wellcome Re-
search Laboratories at Tuckahoe,
N.Y. The mouse is given the drug
and then given 15-volt electric
shocks to its tail. The number of
shocks that can be given before the
mouse squeaks is used to measure
the strength of the drug. The rat's
tail wag is used for the same pur-
pose at the Lederle Laboratories at
Pearl River, N.Y. The rat's tail
is placed in a groove and by means
of a lens a light is focused on the
tip of its tail. The length of time
it takes before the rat moves its
tail gives the measure of how
effective the drug is in stopping
pain.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to
the discussion of ques-
tions of interest. The Charlottetown
Guardian does not neces-
sarily endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Sir,—As one who attended the
public services in the Armoures in
connection with Citizenship Week
I could not fail to note the example
of good citizenship set by the large
choir assembled for the occasion.
Not only was their performance
outstanding—many remarked on
the excellence of the singing—but
their fortitude was equally note-
worthy. We in the audience were
chilled to the heart during the
hour we sat there. The members
of the choir were there for twice
as long, as they were assembled at
2 o'clock for practice, and they
had to remain in their places until
the end of the broadcast at 4 p.m.
I realize that the test of a citizen
is too casually the week in and week
out devotion to duty of these vol-
untary helpers in the various
church services. To see such a fine
turnout and to hear such a splen-
did performance, it is necessary to
remember of this type of community
service.

I am, Sir, etc.
L. LOWTHER.

7 Jan. 1947.

READING FOR PRESBYTERIANS

Sir—I have read with pleasure
the Reverend P. Jackson's letter
in your issue of Dec. 26. It ends
up with the following paragraph
which I now quote: "Let the people
cherish the memory of those who
gave their lives to secure our re-
ligious freedom." The Scotch
settlers, however, had a hard struggle
breaking in the wilderness and
making this Island "the Garden of
the Gulf" so that they had not
much time for the reading of
Scripture, let alone the study of
the manners, customs and religion
of their forefathers.

I write these lines not to stir
up controversy, but to encourage
the young people of Scotch descent
to take more interest in the read-
ing of Scotch literature, especially
ecclesiastical history.

What about the pabulum of the
immediate past and present gen-
erations of Scotch young people?
What do they know of the killing
time (28 years of it), the signing
of the Covenant, the massacre of
the clans at the Battle of Culloden
by Butcher Cumberland, etc.? An
I might in saying that many Scot-
tish farm houses are lacking books
descriptive of Scotch lore and the
struggles of their forebears?

Dare I recommend to the present
generation the reading of the fol-
lowing books: The Life of John
Dunlop (McGree), The Westmin-
ster Confession, Fox's Book of the
Martyrs, The Pilgrims' Progress and
last and best The Holy Bible which
many of us still believe to be the
word of God.

For light reading I would recom-
mend such books as G. Barrow's
Three Volumes, and Smith's A
Summer in Skye.

The perusal of these books
should furnish their minds with a
straightforward, big straighten-
ing and pray: "God of our Fathers!
be the God of their succeeding
race."

In conclusion let me testify that
the only hope for the world's
disease is the carrying out of the
old Covenants' Watchword:
"Give Christ His Crown Rights."

Wishing the Guardian and its
editor the compliments of the sea-
son.

I am, Sir, etc.
BALLYNASREEN.

Indian's Path
To Independence

(By R. W. Brook in United King-
dom Information)

Although the London discussions
between the United Kingdom Gov-
ernment and the Indian Party
leaders failed to achieve the im-
mediate reconciliation between
Hindu and Muslim objections re-
quired to induce the Muslim dele-
gates to attend the opening ses-
sion of the Constituent Assembly con-
vened to frame India's new Con-
stitution, it is legitimate to claim
that the United Kingdom Cab-
inet's initiative was not wholly fruit-
less and that pessimism concern-
ing the final outcome would cer-
tainly be premature. It will be re-
membered that as an alternative
to a separate Muslim state (Pakis-
tan) comprising the predominantly
Muslim provinces in British India,
the Cabinet Mission, which spent
three months conferring with the
Indian leaders early this year, re-
commended the grouping of provin-
ces on a basis which would meet
Muslim demands, within the ambit
of an Indian Union, retaining a
central government responsible
only for defence, foreign affairs
and communications.

In its statement on this point,
the Cabinet Mission described the
grouping as "an essential feature
of the scheme," which "can only
be modified by agreement between
the parties." Although this seemed
fairly explicit, the Hindu Congress
Party regarded the grouping sys-
tem as optional, whereas the Mus-
lim Party regarded it not only as
compulsory, but as an essential pre-
requisite to their participation in
the Constituent Assembly. To quote
Mr. Gandhi's summary: "The Con-
stituent Assembly is based on the
State Paper. That Paper has put
in cold storage the idea of Pakis-
tan. It has recommended the device
of grouping, which Congress inter-
prets in one way, the Muslim League
in another, and the Cabinet Mis-
sion in a third way. No lawyer

can give an authoritative inter-
pretation of his own law, if then there
must hold the height
of duty constituted court of
law must decide it."

On this controversial issue, the
United Kingdom Government ac-
cepted the Muslim interpretation
of the word, but has not ruled out
an appeal to the Indian Federal
Court (English, Hindu and Muslim
judges) on the points on which the
parties cannot reach direct agree-
ments. As the United Kingdom
Government add: "If in spite of
this reaffirmation of the intention
of the Cabinet Mission, the Con-
stituent Assembly desires that this
fundamental point should be re-
ferred for decision of the Federal
Court, such reference should be
made at a very early date. It will
then be reasonable that the meet-
ings of the sections (concerned with
grouping arrangements) should be
postponed until the decision of the
Federal Court is known." It has
also been made clear that the United
Kingdom Government will
not accept any constitution which
in effect, was framed by a one-
party Assembly in an endeavour
to establish a one-party State.
Happily there is no reason to ap-
prehend that this declaration will
prompt the Muslim Party to re-
nege its promise to abstain from the
Constituent Assembly, although
its attitude naturally hinges largely
on the Congress Party's reaction
to the United Kingdom Govern-
ment's declaration.

On the contrary, as the only al-
ternative to an agreed form of
Government in India is a com-
munal conflict, resulting in an ad-
ministrative breakdown, leading to
economic chaos and perchance
civil war, it may be anticipated
that the Indian leaders of all com-
munities will try every construc-
tive suggestion before abandoning
hope of an amicable settlement.
Indeed, if we may judge by their
reactions to the recent communal
massacres, the majority of leaders
are not only averse, individually
and collectively, from civil war in
any shape, they are also acutely
conscious—at a time when only the
most delicately balanced food or-
ganization and rationing is sav-
ing tens of millions of people by
starvation—that in any prolonged
or widespread disturbance fam-
ine would claim a thousand times
as many lives as the most serious
conflict. Furthermore, despite occa-
sional evidence to the contrary, it
is clear that Mahatma Gandhi's
sincere and persistent advocacy of
non-violence has left its impression
on important sections of Hindu
Indian self-government initiated
on extremist counsels inside and
even outside the Congress Party.
It is particularly unfortunate that
at such a crisis in India's fate,
communal combat has been carried
into the new Indian Government,
in which five Muslim representa-
tives function as a separate bloc,
and decline to accept the normal
cabinet convention of collective
consultation and responsibility.

Here again it is likely that the
pressure of events will force a
gradual approximation to joint dis-
cussion and action, if not in all
spheres, at all events over a very
wide field. Meanwhile team work
at the executive level is deferred
until arrangements and agreements
have been devised leading to Mus-
lim participation in the Constituent
Assembly.

In this unbalanced situation a
saving factor is, and will remain,
the steady insistence of the United
Kingdom Government, Parliament
and public generally that the time
has come when Indian statesmen
must resolve their own differences
and shoulder their own responsi-
bilities. As Mr. Amery opportunely
reiterated, the policy of complete
Indian self-government initiated
by the India Act of 1935, was car-
ried to its logical conclusion with-
out a dissentient vote in Parlia-
ment when he was Secretary of
State for India, and the recent
Cabinet Mission was only com-
mitted with the understanding that
policy into effect. It may also be per-
tinent to emphasize to impatient critics
that the process of evolving a
form of government acceptable to
400,000,000 people is not in prac-
tice so simple that an occasional
indian or impatient need occasion
undue discouragement. Particularly,
it must be remembered that the
transition of India from depend-
ence to independence means that
provinces and states are being in-
vited to form a voluntary union
despite the many sharp divergen-
cies of religion, culture, language and
outlook which made India the polit-
ical mosaic it is. On one basis or
another, India's full political in-
dependence is now assured within
a relatively short period. Whether
unity can be combined with free-
dom is an issue, at present, in
doubt, which Indian statesmen
alone can decide. Whatever the
final decision, economic progress

DUBLIN (C.P.)—The govern-
ment has commuted to life imprison-
ment the death sentence imposed
on 23-year-old Daniel Joseph Duff
of Suncroft for the murder of James
Byrnes 39, last September.

Now get real relief from coughs,
soreness and congestion of bron-
chitis—this double-action
way that actually

WORKS 2 WAYS AT ONCE
PENETRATES
deep into bronchial
tubes with soothing
medicinal vapors.
STIMULATES
chest and back sur-
faces like a warm-
water poultice.

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The Poet's Corner

FROM "THE SPINNER"

A poet must not fall.
Must hold the height
Of soaring song, and call
Through day and night
His challenge to the planets going
By
Through the unmeasured valley of
The sky.

A poet must be made
Upon the thorns
Of life and, unafraid,
Salute his morn.
However horrible the lark's night;
With laughter, dare the hellconian
height.

Be humble and obey
The goddess, she
Will tell you what to say.
For poetry
Was heaven's last, highest, holiest
gift to earth—
She came that moment when man's
soul had birth.

—Robert Norwood.

Old Charlottetown
(And P.E.I.)

FIRST INLAND MAILS

On May 3, 1827, a bill was passed
of perhaps as much importance
submitted to its Legislature before
or since, viz.: "The establishment
of an Island Mail Service." In the
draft of the address presented to
Lieutenant Governor Ready it was
recommended that steps be taken
to cause a mail to be carried to
Princeton at least once a week
in summer, and once a fortnight
in winter, returning by Traveller's
Rest, where a post master would
be appointed, and from there by
Bedouque and Trvon River to Char-
lottetown; also that a like mail be
established to Twines Rivers and
East Point. For the financing of
this project His Excellency was re-
quested to fix a rate of postage
"or otherwise" the House prom-
ising to make good in a future
session any additional expense.
"Stage wagons" between Charlottetown
and Princeton, he would buy
one as soon as the new line of
roads and bridges was completed.

The inland mails left the Char-
lottetown Post Office for the first
time in the history of the Colony
at noon, July 11, 1827, but as the
roads were not in a fit state, or for
some other cause, Mr. Bagnall did
not run his wagon with any de-
gree of certainty for mails and
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DUBLIN (C.P.)—The govern-
ment has commuted to life imprison-
ment the death sentence imposed
on 23-year-old Daniel Joseph Duff
of Suncroft for the murder of James
Byrnes 39, last September.

Now get real relief from coughs,
soreness and congestion of bron-
chitis—this double-action
way that actually

WORKS 2 WAYS AT ONCE
PENETRATES
deep into bronchial
tubes with soothing
medicinal vapors.
STIMULATES
chest and back sur-
faces like a warm-
water poultice.

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