

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 1948

Speech From The Throne

At least one reassuring statement appears in the Speech from the Throne with which His Honour the Lieutenant Governor opened the Legislature yesterday.

The Speech intimates that it is proposed to progress with town planning. A Municipalities Act is being prepared and a sanitary engineer is to be employed.

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An announcement from Ottawa says that pay increases for another large group of Federal civil servants have been authorized by an order-in-council passed last week.

A recent article by Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, director of the U. S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, offers some thoughtful comments on a subject which is of concern to this country as well as his own.

Mr. Hoover points to the alarming increase in the number of major crimes committed by boys still in their teens.

While he agrees that the home must be the first arena of teaching, where the child should expect to learn honesty, discipline and respect for authority, Mr. Hoover acknowledges the unhappy fact that many parents of this generation are untrained in their obligations.

"The children of such homes need help and the Sunday Schools can do much and are doing much to bring God and religion into the starved souls of these youngsters.

Travel between Canada and U. S. A. is apparently going to be affected by the dollar shortage restrictions. Trade Minister Howe told the Commons he had consulted with the Canadian Travel Bureau on facilitating entry of United States tourists to Canada.

There are no railroads in Afghanistan; merchandise is carried either by camel or pony.

There is only one capitalism that is proof against bureaucratic and autocratic capitalism: A people's capitalism, which requires: 1. A people with savings.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

A gambling raid is unusual in the City, though it has long been rumoured that professional gambling is prevalent in our midst.

The Governor's speech contained nothing for the information of the Legislature that members did not already know from the Canadian Press forecast.

Providing a thaw and gale do not make themselves felt as predicted, the week promises to be all that could be desired for attendance at both Legislature and farm conferences.

A Friesian heifer from Britain has set up a new record. Craigbet Ross, owned by a Belfast farmer, has given 31,339 lbs. of milk in 365 days at 4.76% butter fat.

As already indicated, Ottawa reports a crystallization of Liberal opinion that the Prime Minister will resign in August; that Mr. St. Laurent will replace him, and that there will be an election in 1949.

Why did not this Province join with Nova Scotia Government and New Brunswick Government in the delegation to Ottawa on provincial questions of vital interest? We were not even "on the side-lines" as is now customary on such occasions.

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-Notes By The Way-

Marlyand scientists have measured a snail's pace. It is .000383003 miles an hour. They should have measured one during the recent hot spell. Snails were passing us with what seemed like the speed of light.

Canada has a chance to develop and build up her trade next year if we can find a fair price-wage level which will enable consumers to buy our production.

The Canadian Winter is not a thing that anyone can safely ignore. It may, at any time, bring a prolonged spell of severe cold, and being unaccustomed to it, we are strained to the fullest extent of its capacity.

Though officially February is the last month of Winter, for us here on the Pacific Coast, it is never more like the beginning of Spring. Even in the most backward season, with February we feel the earth stirring a little in its sleep, and we are aware by tokens ever so slight that the time of awakening is near.

"One war that will never be won by either side is the continuous war between the sexes," asserts a columnist. True, mainly because there is so much fraternizing with the enemy on the part of both sides.

Looks as if the Queen's Park mountain labored and brought forth a mouse, with the announcement that all gas-heated schools and theatres in sections of the province affected by a gas shortage have been ordered closed.

It has been difficult to get any clear cut statement of Canadian policy on beet sugar. It would appear that Ottawa's viewpoint is pretty well dominated by the cane sugar conception, and what is done about beet sugar is merely an afterthought.

It is an unwelcome thought that in a Canadian city in the year 1948 a state of affairs should exist under which residents prefer to stay home from meetings and theatres for fear that their property may be burned or blown up by law-defying elements of the population.

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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.

EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT—PEOPLE OR BUILDINGS?

Sir,—In order to get a greater proportion of more mature and better qualified teachers as far as academic standards are concerned I submit the following proposal to the general public and to the Council of Education of this Province for their consideration.

It is suggested that instead of spending say \$200,000 on even one Composite Rural High School, it is more profitable to spend the same amount on a number of smaller schools.

The suggested annual salaries are as follows: For students of senior matriculation standing, \$1800; of second year university, \$1900; of graduates in arts or science, \$2100.

By thus selecting candidates of high attainment, a really good educational investment would be assured. In fact, the \$200,000 required for one Rural Composite High School would pay the suggested salaries of fifty of these specially selected persons for two years.

Of course, it should be understood that present teachers possessing the foregoing qualifications would be entitled to receive equivalent remuneration. Besides, an excellent professional standing by means of extra-mural or summer courses should receive an additional amount as is the case in some of the other provinces and in certain states of the United States.

On the whole it seems to me that in the Maritimes we are more ready to make educational investments in buildings than in people and in books. How about effecting a change in this tendency? I feel certain that we can solve our problem of getting teachers of a higher academic calibre by investing our money in people rather than in expensive Composite High Schools at the present time.

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Increase purchasing power of the savings and capital of the people. What's good for the people is good for business.

In his opening address to Congress on the 6th January, 1941, President Roosevelt said some remarkable things, which political astuteness of all parties should try to establish as the chosen leaders of the people as a whole.

Mr. Roosevelt said: "After the war there should be: 1. Economic security for all. 2. Equality of opportunity. 3. Abolition of every kind of privilege. 4. A high standard of living for all. 5. Adequate pensions for all old-aged and incapacitated. 6. Work for all able to work. 7. Full medical care and hospitalization for all. 8. No more riches to be piled up. 9. Full civil liberties, free speech and discussion."

He concluded: "These basic things are all attainable in our own time." Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain during the war advocates similar post-war changes.

In his book "Step by Step" he states as follows: "National leaders flourish or fade—and ought to do so—in proportion as they express and meet the public need. First do not deal in shams. Second do nothing which forces the other side to attack you. When men are denied all status, it is natural that in desperation they should prove their credentials by terror and show that force, at least, is on their side. It is surely better to allow productive force of capital and credit to create wealth and abundance and then by corrective taxation on profits meet the needs of the weak and poor. It is good politics to hunt the millionaires to break up monopolies, to tax and discipline the vested interests. But these have great power of resistance. They fight and will keep on fighting, and until the quarrel is settled, prosperity stands a tiptoe inside the door."

The two men, Roosevelt and Churchill are two great men, who by their statements wish to free all people from the slavery of financial rule. All progressive people should learn by heart what they advocate and give utterance to them on all possible occasions.

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Lenten Meditations (From The Times) PERFECTION A GIFT Solomon's palace was 13 years in building; it was of large blocks of hewn masonry, with beams of cedar. He had a great throne of ivory, with six steps up to it, all overlaid with gold, and the new navy of which he was so proud was laden with the paraphernalia of luxury: gold and spices, ivory, apes and peacocks. Because of the prosperity of Solomon's reign — although it was based on forced labour — it was remembered as Jewry's golden age. But the Lord by a casual illustration in an aside, passed final judgment on its pomp and circumstance. The splendour of that spacious age could not be compared with the beauty of the wild flowers, which were so common and cheap that the peasant cut them down for fuel. "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

INDIA TRAINS WORKERS India's railway workshops have trained thousands of unskilled workers into skilled technicians. FOR BETTER CROPS Early in the 18th century British farmers began to improve their ground by adding lime and other fertilizers and by rotating their crops.

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The Poet's Corner THOU WINTER WIND A grey dwarf has been tapping on the door Ever since dark, but no one lets him in; He tries the chimney, rushing with a roar; Then raps on windows, beckoning with a grin. Piling and scattering leaves must make him tired. And playing in the wind, a little cold; But still he hustles as though he were hired To rake the earth. He is too weak and old To jump and run and flutter, laugh and prance, And do this putting in such a hurry. But even as I watch him in his flurry, He seems to know I disapprove his flurry. So drops down quietly by the hedge to rest, While small white feathers waver from the West. —Cullen Jones in the New York Times.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) THE THICKENING FROLIC With the coming of the sacrilegious felling-mill, the grand old thickening frolic found its occupation gone. Formerly, however, when the industrious hands of the women had put the wool through the various operations of washing, teasing, carding, spinning and weaving, the service of many hands was required to thicken or full the cloth, before the skill of the tailor would be called on to manufacture it into clothing. When the web was ready and the neighbours invited, tables were temporarily erected around the sides of the kitchen. The web was extended along the centre of the tables, after being saturated with warm water well pyled with soap, and sewed together at the ends. The men and women then took their places at both sides of the table. Every hand in the company seized the web, pulled and pushing it athwart the table — at the same time moving it a little to the right and taking a fresh grip to the left. Then a song was started, in which the company joined; the measure corresponding to the motion of the web, which went to and fro across the table, and round and round like an endless chain. It was great fun, but it was also hard work, and it did not end until the master of ceremonies declared the thickening finished. By this time supper would be ready in the best room, to which the thickeners would repair and do simple justice to the good things which the mistress of the house had taken great pains to prepare. After supper the tables would be cleared, the violin produced and the company would engage in the mazes of the merry dance. —From an article by the late Senator D. Ferguson, 1890.

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