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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, NOV. 25, 1949

By-Election Mandatory

In a letter in our today's issue Councillor
Johnstone calls attention to the fact that,
under the City's Act of Incorporation (Sec-
tion 10) it is mandatory, in the case of an
extraordinary vacancy occurring in the
office of Mayor or City Councillor, for a by-
election to be held. The date is to be fixed
by the Mayor if the vacancy be not in his
office, otherwise by a majority of the Coun-
cillors, "such date not being later than
thirty days after such vacancy," and the
voting and other proceedings to be con-
ducted in the same manner as in a general civic
election.

On the pretext of economy, the Council
has sought to sidestep this responsibility
because "the earliest possible date for a by-
election in Ward One would precede the
next general election by only two months."
Economy is an excellent objective to aim at,
but law observance comes first. If the Coun-
cil can break the law with impunity, how can
it expect other citizens to observe it con-
scientiously? The law in this case may re-
quire modification, which can be done at the
next sitting of the Legislature. In the mean-
time, it is there, and no attempt to evade it
should be tolerated under any pretext.

A bad example of a similar nature has
been set by the Dominion Government, in
connection with a report which should have
been tabled several months ago but was
withheld in violation of the Combines In-
vestigation Act. Political expediency was
the motive in that case. The City Council is
a non-political body, and has not even the
excuse of politics for acting illegally.

The point raised by Councillor Johnstone,
who was unable to attend Wednesday's
meeting at which it was unanimously pro-
posed to bypass the by-election, is so ob-
vious as to require to further comment.

Radio Pundit In Print

A series of radio scripts by Mr. John
Fisher, noted CBC commentator, has been
published in book form. The stories run
along in a free and easy manner, and as
broadcasting material have been widely ac-
claimed. In cold type they make a less
palatable dish, and one can only regret that
Mr. Fisher saw fit to warm them over for
the more critical attention of book readers.
Here is a characteristic passage, neither bet-
ter nor worse than the rest, dealing with
the meeting of the Confederation Fathers
in Charlottetown:

"When the boat sailed up the soft har-
bour of Charlottetown and as it edged close
to the wharf away back in 1864, there were
faint and restrained cheers. Who were
these frock-coated bearded men from the
Canadas? Can we trust them? What do
they really want? Shall we lose our rights?
Shall we be lost in the big shuffle? The
Maritimers watched them disembark with
misgivings."

We shall pass over "soft harbour", as
we haven't the faintest idea of what is
meant; but why describe a delegation head-
ed by the whiskerless Macdonald, Cartier,
Langevin and Galt as "bearded men from
the Canadas"? The boat which "sailed" up
the harbour on the occasion referred to was
the Canadian Government steamer "Queen
Victoria"; it didn't "edge close to the wharf"
but anchored in the stream, and there were
no "cheers", faint or otherwise, to greet its
arrival. The citizens had all gone to enjoy
a more lively spectacle that day—a vis-
iting circus. According to a contemporary
newspaper account, "after the steamer had
been at anchor for some time, the Colonial
Secretary (Mr. Pope), the only official in
attendance, started in a canoe or flat-bot-
tomed boat, with a barrel of flour in the
bow, and two jars of molasses in the stern,
and with a lusty fisherman as his only com-
panion, to meet the distinguished visitors
from Canada."

Here was a highly picturesque incident,
right from the pages of history—made to
order, one would have supposed, for Mr.
Fisher's purpose—which has been lost in
the telling by a commentator of outstanding
radio fame. It goes to show that broad-
casting has a long way to go before meet-
ing the exacting test one is accustomed to
apply to the printed word.

Quaker Peace Proposals

The American Friends Service Commit-
tee has made what the Associated Press
refers to as a sweeping study of "The United
States and the Soviet Union." It is an
examination of the present international
situation, expressing the belief that war be-
tween the U. S. A. and Russia is not inevit-
able but that if present tensions increase,
war may result. The study recommends
that any attempt to correlate Marshall-Plan

countries with American export of surpluses
be dropped; that the U. S. reduce its re-
strictions on exports to Russia and Eastern
Europe and that new studies be made of re-
striction extensions to promote East-West trade.
The group also recommended that a unified,
neutral Germany be established as a Euro-
pean buffer state and eventually be admit-
ted to the United Nations after all occupa-
tion forces have been withdrawn. The most
important proposal of the Quakers, however,
is that the atomic bomb stockpiles of both
the U. S. and Russia be placed under United
Nations seal and that the production of all
fissionable materials be halted and verified
pending completion of control treaties for
all types of armaments.

The proposals offer a practical way out
of the present morass of suspicion and fear
and, coming from the Society of Friends,
should appeal to both East and West as be-
ing motivated by nothing but a sincere de-
sire for world peace.

EDITORIAL NOTES

New England fishermen are supplement-
ing their incomes from edible fish by also
bringing in trash or "junk" fish to be pro-
cessed into fish meal, fish oil, cat and dog
food and fertilizer. In Gloucester, where
there were no trash fish landings before
last July, the September take was 5,180,000
pounds, worth about \$17 a ton.

The horn of a Diesel-electric locomotive
is not only unsatisfactory to nostalgically
inclined fans of the railway whistle but is a
source of danger from being mistaken for
that of a bus or truck. "Wheels" reports that
a British Columbia railwayman, Robert
E. Swanson, has invented the "Hexa-
tone", a new Diesel horn, or rather as-
semblage of six horns, which faithfully
simulates the six-tone locomotive whistle.

A magistrate in Sydney, Australia, has
ruled cakes may not be eaten in taxicabs.
He upheld the plea of a taxi-driver who re-
fused to carry a child eating a fruit cake.
The magistrate said the matter resolved it-
self into whether crumbs on the seat would
soil clothing. If a woman's frock were soiled
she could claim damages from the cab
driver.

Twice on Wednesday the Speaker's ruling
in the Commons was appealed and twice
it was upheld by vote of the House. The
rule which permits such appeals has little
merit. It would be better if the Speaker's
decision on points of order were final, per-
haps with the proviso that he could take the
opinion of the House if the situation seemed
to him not to be clearly covered by the
rules.

Akin to the problem of suing the Crown,
which is now a subject of public discussion,
is the even more difficult one of suing a
foreign government. All governments are
entering more into business but the most ex-
treme case is that of the Soviet Union. An
individual libeled by Tass, the Soviet News
agency, or injured by a Russian merchant
ship, has no recourse in the courts because
both are merely branches of government
and immune to suit in our courts.

Health Minister Bevan said the other
night that he "shuddered to think of the
ceaseless cascade of medicine pouring down
British throats" now that the national
health service provides free prescriptions.
"I wish I could believe that its efficacy was
equal to the credulity with which it is being
swallowed," he told Indian students at a
London University dinner. Bevan said the
health service is expensive, but before it ex-
isted Britons were spending about £250,000,000
(\$775,000,000) a year on medicines.

Members of Parliament and Senators' ex-
pect prorogation on or about December 3
with a return to Ottawa for a new session
toward the end of February. In the interim
the Government will be busy with the Fed-
eral-Provincial Conference. At that con-
ference, due to open Jan. 10, the Govern-
ment will discuss with provincial premiers
ways of amending the constitution on mat-
ters under provincial jurisdiction and under
joint Federal-Provincial jurisdiction.

Sir Francis Legatt Chantrey, English
sculptor, died this date 1841; as a wood-
carver in his early years he acquired a
knowledge of painting and sculpture; he ex-
hibited a head of Satan at the Royal Aca-
demy when he was twenty-six years of age,
and quickly rose to fame; was elected A. R.
A. seven years later, and R. A. in 1818,
being knighted in 1835. Chantrey's finest
works are his busts and representations of
children, the most graceful of the latter be-
ing his well-known "Sleeping Children" in
Lichfield Cathedral. Among his best known
statues are those of George Washington at
Boston; George III in London Guildhall, and
Pitt in Hanover Square, London. Being
childless he left the bulk of his fortune in
trust to the Royal Academy to purchase
works of art for the nation, the amount
available being \$10,000 annually, the gift
being known as The Chantrey Bequest.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Sir.—The taxpayers of Charlottetown
will, no doubt, appreciate the
desire of the members of the Council
to save the City money by not
having a By-election to fill the
vacancy in Ward One.
When, however, a principle is in-
volved it is very questionable
whether the law should be flouted
even in the interests of economy.
The law respecting By-elections
states that if a vacancy occurs in
the Council, "The persons qualified
to vote SHALL, on a day to be fixed
by the Mayor, elect another
person duly qualified to fill such
vacancy."
The law is therefore mandatory
and should have been carried out.
I regret that I was not at Wed-
nesday's meeting to register this
viewpoint. Prior to the last Council
meeting, I heard that some were
questioning the advisability of
holding an election and I therefore
asked for a discussion on the mat-
ter. This request was flatly refused
by the Mayor. Wednesday's meeting
was a special meeting called for
another purpose and as I was cut
off from the meeting, I was unable to
attend. I therefore, take this opportunity
to set forth my views on the above
matter.
I am, Sir, etc.
EDWIN O. JOHNSTONE.

The Poet's Corner

AT THE AQUARIUM
Serene the silver fishes glide.
They glide with wan and wonder-
eyed!
As through the aged deeps of ocean
They glide with wan and wavy
motion.
They have no pathway where they
go.
They flow like water to and fro.
They watch with never-winking
eyes.
They watch with staring, cold sur-
prise.
The level people in the air.
The people peering, peering there:
Who wander also to and fro
And know not why or where they
go.
Yet have a wonder in their eyes.
Sometimes a pale and cold surprise.
—Max Eastman.

Old Charlottetown

STOCK FROM SCOTLAND
"The stock recently imported
from Scotland by the Central
Agricultural Society was disposed
of by auction at the Market
House on Saturday, agreeably to
advertisement. After a warm
competition, the Clydesdale stallion
Columbus was knocked down to
Dr. MacGregor, Brackley Point
Road, for £160. The Ayrshire cattle
sold as follows: spotted bull,
W. W. Irving £25; red bull, James
Muter £18; spotted heifer, Sir C.
Fitz Roy £21; red heifer, James
Miller £19. Much admiration was
excited by the huge proportions,
extent of circumference, and evi-
dent muscular strength of the
Clydesdale stallion, and the sum
paid for him was considered as
by no means above his value. As
to the advantages to be derived
from crossing a large stallion of
this description with the diminutive
mares of this Island, opinions
may vary; but we believe that
experience has proved that the
great improvement of cart horses
in England arose from crossing
the breed of the large Flanders
mares with diminutive stallions."
—Colonial Herald, June 29, 1839.

The Age-Old Story

There is he that scattereth and
yet increaseth, and there is he that
withholdeth more than he meet, but
it tendeth to poverty. The liberal
soul shall be made fat, and he that
watereth shall be watered also him-
self. He that diligently seeketh
good procureth favour.

REMEMBER FIGHTING MEN
WARRINGTON (England) (CP)
The mayors of Warrington is to
send Christmas parcels to all local
members of the South Lancashire
Regiment in hospital overseas.

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ocular defects."
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Not Encouraging A Barter



Potato Trade Problem

(The Scene from Shingwauk
Farm)
The baffling trade problem created
by the import and export of
potatoes between Canada and the
United States is small potatoes
indeed, but it illustrates the eco-
nomic and political difficulties
that will prevent the Food and
Agricultural Organization of the
United Nations from implementing
its plan for the disposal of food
surpluses to needy countries. The
first and politically insuperable
difficulty is to determine when a
food is in surplus supply.
In the spring of this year pota-
toes were declared to be in sur-
plus in the United States at two
hundred pounds. At the same time
the Canadian potatoes were re-
garded as being in surplus at a
dollar and something less than the
United States price. Obviously, it
was good business for Canadian
potato producers to ship their sur-
plus into the United States, but
that obliged the United States
government to buy an equal
amount of surplus potatoes from
its producers at two dollars and
seventy-five cents a hundred.

On Tree Trunks

(Ottawa Journal)
A tree trunk is one of Nature's
most highly-developed organisms.
Only a few trees have truly
smooth bark, stretching the out-
side covering as the year's annual
ring of new growth takes place in
early Summer. The oaks and
maples, ash and elm, cedars and
hemlock have a rough, furrowed
covering caused by the expansion
of the bole. The sycamore has
so little elasticity that big patches
of outside bark break off and
show the well-known pattern of
white, inner bark.
Contrary to popular opinion,
roots do not draw liquid food from
the soil. They carry water with
dissolved chemicals through a sys-
tem of tubes to the leaves. Here
the sunlight works on the chloro-
phyll and manufactures a soft,
jelly-like carbohydrate that goes
down the trunk in special food
lines to nurture each living cell.
Even the tiny white hairs at the
end of long roots made high above-
ground by all life organisms, grow
by dividing its cells; but in a
large tree only a very small
per cent of the material is living
cells.
Each year a new circular ring
of cells is made; hence man can
tell its age when he cuts a tree.
The width of the cell ring can
tell us what sort of a growing sea-
son it was generations ago.
Trees evaporate tremendous
quantities of water lifted through
the trunks and given off through
the leaves. Strangely enough dur-
ing the cold of winter when evap-
oration is almost nil, the amount
of water in a tree trunk increases.
A tree trunk is constructed hori-
zontally. The cells in the trunk
grow and increase, but they ex-
pand sideways. As new rings of
cells are made each year, the wood
inside becomes inert material.
price which should be paid for it.
The inability of needy buyers to
furnish goods and services in pay-
ment will oblige the taxpayers of
the countries of origin of surplus
food to make good the deficiency
of goods and services to the agri-
cultural producers.

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Notes By The Way

The Dominion Government, says
an Ottawa despatch, "shortly will
announce a payments-in-lieu-of-
taxation scheme to embrace all
Federal property in municipalities
throughout the country." The de-
spatch adds: "All Crown lands are
exempt from taxation under Sec-
tion 125 of the Canadian Constitu-
tion." But that isn't what Sec-

Almost everyone will admit that
the most exacting job in the world
is that of President of the United
States. Much has been said about
what a "killer" it is, but never-
theless the World Almanac tells
us that the average age at death
of the 30 deceased presidents is
slightly over 70 years. And that
includes the presidents who were
assassinated, all long before they
were 70.

What is happening to the mil-
lion bushels of apples which were
given to the people of Britain as
a gift from the people of Canada
will cause little joy among na-
tions. The British ministry of food
is placing them on the British
market for sale at the same price
as home-grown apples and im-
ported apples for which the min-
istry paid full price. What is
more, the British consumer has
no way of knowing where the
apples came from or that they
were sent over as a free gift to
the British people. The British
ministry of food takes the profit
and the Canadian Government,
which paid for the apples with the
money of Canadian taxpayers, will
not even get the good will of Brit-
ish consumers. —Winnipeg Tri-
bune.

Thirty or 40 years ago when the
Industrial Age really began to
make strides, people talked about
returning to the simple life in or-
der to escape the complicated
blessings pouring in on them. And
one or two determined souls pack-
ed their knapsacks and returned
to it. The rest of us kept right
on progressing. About 20 years
ago, maybe a little earlier, the
age of terrific specialization set
in. Science and industry began
to reveal so many aspects of ex-
perience that no single mind could
grasp them, so there had to be a
specialist for everything from
bread to gall stones. The most
daring era of all has now set in.
It's the era of complete nonsense.
Here, for example, is the Depart-
ment of Commerce getting out a
list of special days, weeks and
months during the coming year, so
that business men can "co-ordinate
their activities" with them. There
is Honey for Breakfast Week, Na-

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