

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 1948

A Civic Problem

While controversial issues have not arisen in connection with the forthcoming civic election, there is one matter with which our citizens are vitally concerned, and which they will expect to hear discussed at Friday night's annual meeting of the City Council.

The rapid expansion in building activities in areas contiguous to Charlottetown has caused a very serious health problem. A special committee appointed at the last session of the Legislature took note of this fact, expressing concern at the conditions, particularly in respect to water supply, sanitary facilities and housing accommodations.

(1) That provision be made for the immediate employment of a qualified engineer. (2) That the compilation of a building code be proceeded with immediately.

(3) That a "Well Diggers' Act and regulations in respect to the operation of the same be immediately prepared.

(4) That barn and sanitation standards be immediately prepared with a view to improving the milk supply.

The proposed Well Diggers' Act was introduced and passed, forbidding, in certain prescribed areas, the digging of wells without a license from the Minister of Health, authorizing the Minister to make regulations prescribing the location of wells in relation to buildings or sanitary facilities on the same or adjoining premises, etc.

Hint To Housewives

Mr. H. G. James, Sherbrooke, writes as follows on how to improve the quantity of butter in a household: "If a few more housewives played tricks with their butter instead of placing it in the refrigerator until they needed it on the table, the butter situation in many households would be considerably eased."

Prices Inquiry

Prime Minister King's promise of a parliamentary inquiry into the rise in the cost of living, will, it is hoped, be conducted in a fair and non-partisan manner. The public has been prone to lay the blame for higher prices at the door of particular groups in the community, and without any reliable evidence some industries and enterprises have been accused of profiteering.

The committee, suggests an exchange, can render a real service in the education of public opinion by calling as witnesses qualified, trained economists to relate the maladjustment caused by the war to present economic conditions and particularly the price level. What is not sufficiently understood by the public is that today's high prices are attributable to the scarcities due to war's destructiveness.

prices and inflation. If there have been occasional instances of profiteering they should be brought to light and the resulting publicity will probably be sufficient to end them. A fairly-conducted inquiry will probably reveal that no group or class in the community have been profiting excessively.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Devaluation of the franc, whatever it may eventually mean to the stability of other currencies, should ensure greatly increased French exports of wines, laces and china.

A bad third to a private individual in Quebec and the government of Ontario, the Dominion government is at last preparing to bring in immigrants by modern means, via air.

At the consecration of Very Rev. R. H. Waterman to the office of Coadjutor Bishop of Nova Scotia in Halifax, Tuesday, the Presbyterian Church in Canada was represented by the Rev. T. H. Bussell Somers, M.A., S.T.M., Moderator of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. J. F. Arnett is to be congratulated on being re-elected by acclamation Mayor of that progressing and "coming city" of Summerside. He has a magnificent record of public service to his credit, and Summerside may well feel proud of its first and representative citizen in the maintenance of the progress and dignity of the community.

Interest in the civic election is living up. What has tended in recent years to create lack of interest in failure on the part of successive Mayors and Councils to convene a meeting of electors to give an account of their stewardship. Public spirited citizens continue to throw their hat in the ring for civic elections.

Premier Jones in the nature of things is a politician, but he is a farmer first and all the time. In Ottawa this week interviewing the powers-that-be there he devoted most of his talk to fertilizer, milk, butter, margarine—if margarine was permitted to flood the market, it would destroy the dairy industry.

We are not nearly so mature a generation as we fondly think. We look with condescension on our ancestors who, being loath to change the law when it obviously needed changing, fell back on fictions. The arbitrary selection of standard periods for such things as the dollar saving program enables us to discriminate against certain countries, while holding high the banner of non-discrimination.

Official estimates of the Australian wheat yield for 1947-48 have been reduced by 36,000,000 bushels by summer rains—the heaviest monsoonal rains in the wheat belt for 30 years. The Australian harvest time is normally settled and dry. This year it has been almost incessantly wet in New South Wales, and wet also in Victoria and Queensland.

According to the Saskatchewan News the market this year for pelts shows signs of strength, and better prices are expected, especially among short haired furs. At a special ranch and wild mink sale held by the Fur Marketing Service in December, 1947, approximately \$100,000 worth of pelts were sold. A strong demand was evident, with an increase over the previous year's prices.

Vocational and academic training will soon be provided inmates of Saskatchewan provincial jails under a new government plan administered by the corrections branch of the Department of Social Welfare. The program, a result of recommendations contained in the Saskatchewan penal report of 1946, calls for vocational training such as farm and motor mechanics, woodworking and carpentry to be taught in the jails.

The Charlottetown "Y", which is the oldest organization of its kind on this continent, has held its 92nd annual meeting, and reported progress all along the line, notwithstanding that it has been handicapped recently by lack of a central meeting place waiting the completion of the magnificent new building, corner of Prince and Euston. Under the energetic and inspired guidance of Mr. James MacConnell, the membership, juvenile and adult, has been kept actively together, the institution of regional "gangs" tending to sustain and develop the interest of "the rising hopes" in the work and objectives of the "Y".

Earl Haig of Bernessyde, 1st Earl, died this date 1928; much of the success of the Allies in Great War I was due to his friendly relations with the French, and to his ready acceptance of an Allied Command with Foch as generalissimo. Made Field Marshal on January 1, 1917, and Knight of the Thistle in July the same year. After his brilliant advance of August 1918 he was awarded the Military Medal from France. On his retirement he received the Order of Merit in 1919, an earldom and \$400,000 together with the thanks of Parliament for the eminent part he played in defeating the enemy.

Notes By The Way

For the first time in our history a 200-pound woman can carry \$10. worth of groceries through a revolving door. — Brandon Sun.

Under present circumstances, the business of renting houses is what the English call a mule's game: nobody will go into it. And because nobody will go into it, there is a severe shortage of rental housing in Canada a shortage which will not be appreciably relieved till the Government comes to its senses and throws rent controls into the discard where they properly belong. — Calgary Herald.

That an accused husband had sufficient provocation to justify the spanking of his wife was the conclusion reached in a Windsor court. It's nice to know husbands still have some rights. But, remember men, there must be ample provocation—sufficient to convince a court—before you take the little woman over your knee. It would also be a good idea to ensure that the wife hasn't a rolling pin handy. — Windsor Star.

Motorists should take time to clear their rear windows of ice and frost these wintry days. Many accidents on the roads are caused by the driver's rear vision almost wholly blocked by an accumulation of frozen snow or a coating of frost on the back windows. It takes only a few minutes to remedy such a condition and to allow it to exist invites the danger of accidents. — Brandon Sun.

The red planet Mars — named after the Roman deity who stands as the symbol of war—is now rising to ascendancy in our January sky. Astronomers gazing into the interminable neutrality of the heavens tell us this mysterious planet about which so much has been thought and written, grows brighter until at last it outshines his two rivals in the nightly show — Saturn and Regulus. With three such performers in the sky, star gazers who brave the zero air will be rewarded with a brilliant picture. Saturn glows with a golden radiance; Regulus gleams like a diamond. But it is ruddy-faced Mars which holds the place of honor in this sidereal theatre. And Mars is the mythical god of war, and this is a year pregnant with huge uncertainties and unknown events. — London Free Press.

The Ottawa Journal repeats its opinion that "the primary function of a school should be to turn out young people with a love and reverence for education, and above all with understanding that education is a continuing process." To that, "Hear, hear!" Especially the part about it being a continuing process. Some graduates we have known, however, disdain even the continuing process of education, and apparently despite all their schooling, never learned how to look up anything in an encyclopedia. — Brantford Expositor.

The story of the pampered jail youth who has finally gone to jail for stealing his stepfather's car is most provoking. Here is a boy, 22, who, a year ago, stole his mother's life savings of \$15,000 and was found by police only after a four-month spree. His mother refused to prosecute, so he went scot free. Now he's been apprehended for car stealing and has begun a one-year term in jail. And his mother has left his stepfather because the latter insisted on prosecuting. Mother love is one of the finest things the world has to offer, but like all fine things, too much is too much. Here's a mother so foolishly doting that, in her eyes, her son literally can do no wrong, and when he does it, she doesn't want him punished. She must realize that there comes a time when neither she nor anybody else in the world except the boy himself, can save him from the results of his folly. He's a grown man, even though she'd try to keep him mama's boy. He must pay the penalty for her foolish overindulgence, which live too close to her indulgence. She thought to give him everything, to make life easy for him. So he's in jail. It's food for thought. — From Windsor Star.

One of the reasons why so many people in the world are suffering from one kind of neurosis or another, doctors claim, is that they live too close to their neighbors and too close to each other. Coupled with living too close to the next door neighbor is the inescapable fact that as the cost of home construction has gone up the size of the dwelling has gone down so that it is now quite common to find families living in quarters where they are literally falling all over one another and where parents can find no place of quiet away from noisy children—or vice versa. In this connection some interesting information contained in an old builder's book shows how much the modern, moderately priced home has shrunk in size compared with the mansions of the 1800s. For example, in 1801, for \$7,300, a brick house could be built that contained twelve rooms, had three floors and approximately 3,500 square feet of floor space. For the same price today a new home would contain a smallish living room, a kitchen, a small hall and perhaps a dining alcove and two bedrooms. The building would be at the most a storey and a half in height and contain about 1,000 square feet of floor space. If the people of Canada are to have larger living quarters it would seem that present costs of construction must be drastically cut probably through new methods of building with new and much cheaper materials. — Brantford Expositor.

"Quo Vadis"

By Robert S. Berghoff, M. D. in "The Canadian Doctor"

"Whither are you going?" cooing, prattling little chap? Gleelessly you clap your baby hands as you push your home-made one mast sailboat across the tub of water—your own private ocean. Out it goes, back it comes at the pull of your string. Master of your own destiny. Life is, simple, is it not?

"Whither are you going?" my little man, with your school books dangling from a strap, and your top swinging in the palm of your free hand? Still carefree, are you not, a creature of instinct, unconsciously following a plan, apart from the world and yet a part of it. Still sailing your toy ship, but already others are pulling and guiding its course.

"Whither are you going?" you stalwart youth in full possession of all your physical and mental faculties? Does that tilt of your chin and your furrowed brow bespeak minor battles—some lost, some won? Confusion in your face, vexation too, but purpose and determination in your eye? March on, my man, you are in the army now, the army of life. May God speed you and guide you, and guidance you need like never before. Find your path towards happiness!

Be tolerant and patient for a moment, my youth, and harken to this homely message. Man is born with an insatiable desire to avoid pain, misery, suffering and want, and to achieve perfect happiness. Even though through the years he senses that this is impossible, on and on he goes in his mad futile search for this Will of the Wisp. The path toward Peace and divergence.

Some follow the highways that lead to gold, to glory, to conquest, and some few tread the narrow trail of service, service to their God, service to their fellow man.

All roads if travelled doggedly, tenaciously and with forthrightness converge to a common objective, ultimate peace and contentment. Which will you choose? Now, my youth, is the appointed time for your decision!

"Whither are you going?" man of maturity? Your jaw has lost its aggressive contour, your brow is wrinkled with care, the natural results of your battle with life. You sail your ship with difficulty now, for the ocean is no longer your ocean, but terms with craft—some friendly—others continuously crossing and recrossing your bow, harassing and endangering you at every turn. Possibly you should have taken a different, a wider tack, bypassing this seething maelstrom, and sailing your ship on some smooth distant water in peace, and solitude? Does that look in your eye bespeak despair? Have you selected the wrong path towards happiness?

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"Whither are you going?" a nile toothless, decrepit old man? Late, too late to ask that question? Your ship has reached its harbor—Your life's work is done. Your face is lined with care. Your eyes are dimmed, but ah—they retain the faded smile that beamed from them as you pulled your way home—your one master on a string. So your life was worthwhile? And the light in your eyes is the projection of the memories of acts of kindness, of helpfulness to your neighbor? Well done, old Skipper! Rouse yourself to a final effort: Back on your ship, twine those gnarled old hands once more around your rudder and with tilted chin and a steadfast eye sail your ship courageously into the calm and peaceful harbor of eternity.

The Doctor—An Ideal

The initials, M.D. after the name of your family doctor, mean much that is important to the health and happiness of the individual, the family, and the community. Your family physician is more than just a person highly trained and skilled in the medical profession. This skill plus human kindness and understanding, the will to ease pain and prevent death, forgetfulness of self in service to humanity—all of these qualities make the family physician one of the most valuable and best loved persons in the community.

Your doctor is first of all, a healer of the sick. Upon beginning the practice of medicine he takes an oath to consider paramount the health and well-being of his patients. Rain or shine, night or day, many are the true stories of the calls he makes to help save the life of a child with pneumonia, deliver a baby, or ease the suffering of an elderly person.

Not only is the physician a healer of the physically sick but also a healer of the mentally ill. Unpublicized but forgotten are the talks in the privacy of the physician's office in which he helps reassemble the misguided thoughts of a patient with financial troubles or one with marital difficulties. Your physician is aware that many of his patients who complain to him of physical aches and pains are actually suffering from unduly acting mental stress.

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The Poets Corner. SEXTON'S EPITAPH (From "Ding Dong Bell")

These be the ashes of Jacob Todd, Sexton now in the land of Nod. Digging he lived, and digging died. Pick, mattock, spade, and naught beside.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

DEER DESTROYED

During, or more likely prior to, the actual settlement of the island by the French, a destructive fire swept a large part of its surface, causing enormous damage. Before this calamity occurred, the Island must have been stocked with deer. Even to this day they are sometimes found, proving their former existence here.

Britain Gives History A Landmark

(By W. N. Ewer in United Kingdom Information)

At the end of each year one is tempted to assess the value of its political happenings, to wonder for which of its events it will be remembered in history. That is not easy, often quite impossible. Who, for instance, in A. D. 622 would have chosen as the "event of the year" the flight of a certain Arab from Mecca to Medina; or in 1581 the crossing of the Urals and the capture of the town of Sibir by Yermak and his Cossacks; or in 1769 the birth of a baby to the family of Bonaparte in Ajaccio in Corsica.

So it may be that 1947 will, a century or more hence, be remembered for something, for some happening which we hardly noticed or did not notice at all. But it will certainly be remembered, as well, as the year of the ending of the British Empire in India, of which the story began with the meeting of London merchants to protest against the increased price of pepper.

Great Empires in the past have often crumbled to decay; they have collapsed in defeat or in revolution. But never before has an "imperialist" nation deliberately planned and carried out the transference of power from itself to a "subject" nation.

In the case of India and Pakistan and Burma, the empire which has ended, had been established by armed conquest. Between conquerors and conquered there was a wide gap of race and language, of religion and social ways. The "Indian Empire" was a classical example of capitalist imperialism.

The manner of its end, however, has confounded all the Marxist prophets. There should have been an increasingly intense struggle between "oppressors" and "oppressed," culminating in a violent upheaval and a revolutionary seizure of power, or in the brutal repression by the "imperialists" of their freedom-loving victims.

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stead it is the imperialist power which, having deliberately stimulated and encouraged national and democratic aspirations in peoples who, a few generations ago, knew nothing either of nationality or of democracy, has firmly and decisively insisted on relinquishing all authority over the greatest subject population in history. And the process has been entirely peaceful. It is true, there have been conflicts and there has been bloodshed; but they have sprung entirely from domestic and internal quarrels in which the British have no part.

Tired Feet. Soothe them with MINARD'S LINIMENT. The very quietude of the change has distracted attention from its magnitude and from its importance. It has deluded some critics into thinking that because it is against all precedent, and as such their own theories, it cannot be real.

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