

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1953

Provincial Capitals

Charlottetown's City Council has received a proposal from the City of Quebec that Provincial capitals petition the Federal Government for an annual grant amounting to one dollar per head of the Provincial population.

There should be no possibility, of course, that the grant interfere with general grants to all municipalities on the bases of their not collecting an income tax; services to Government property; payment by citizens of gasoline tax; and the upkeep of streets used by through traffic.

The grant should be requested, rather, on the basis of the desirability of this country having Provincial capitals of which it may be proud. This is already recognized so far as the National Capital is concerned.

It is arguable, of course, that the responsibility for financing such development is Provincial and a few years ago, indeed, that would have been conclusive against the proposal. Today, however, as it is taken for granted that the Federal Government is the major taxing authority it is no longer improper for Ottawa to make outlays which formerly would have required appropriation by the Provincial Legislature.

Literacy Standards

A handbook of statistics on education and related subjects published recently by the Scientific and Cultural Organization of the United Nations (UNESCO) shows that 96 per cent of adult Canadians are able to read and write.

In Russia only 81 per cent of the population is able to read and write. The position of women in the society is reflected in the figure of 73 per cent literacy for Russian women and 91 per cent for Russian men.

"The number of titles of books and other non-periodical publications placed on the market is a measure of the intellectual life and the publishing enterprise of a country," the UNESCO handbook observes.

"Though now considered to be almost a necessity of modern life newspapers are not everywhere easily accessible." The United Kingdom is also well ahead of the rest of the world in the number of newspapers circulated per thousand of population.

Old Polar Mystery

Fletcher's Ice Island, the drifting U.S. Air Force base at the very top of the world, may well have been Admiral Peary's mythical Crocker Land, never sighted again after the man who first reached the North Pole "discovered" it in 1906.

This important geographical conclusion is contained in an article by Lt.-Col. Joseph O. Fletcher of the United States Air Force, for whom Fletcher's Island was named, in

the current issue of the National Geographic Magazine. "No discredit reflects upon the brave and experienced Arctic explorers of another day," writes Colonel Fletcher. "Men of the Air Force can testify that ice islands closely resemble land, particularly when the viewer is walking around on one of a summer day."

Colonel Fletcher has established that the ice islands broke from a thick glacial shelf, part of an age-old icecap, anchored to the northern coast of Ellesmere Island. Once a piece of shelf breaks off, it becomes an island which can drift at the mercy of wind and tide in a clockwise sweep around the western sector of the polar basin.

The Air Force was not slow in coming to the conclusion that a base which might drift across the North Pole, and which would be at all times in an area from which sea-level-based observation stations are reporting all-important weather data could prove extremely valuable.

Colonel Fletcher tells the story of the initial thrilling landing, of the first dangerous days during which he proved to his superiors that men could live on this firm ice platform with thermometers at -40 degrees Fahrenheit, and of the scientific enterprises which were begun during the three months he commanded the base.

He found shrimp in the cold green seas around him, fresh tracks of polar bear and white fox on the island itself, and sea birds wheeling high in the bitter polar winds. Despite the forbidding ice, Colonel Fletcher and his men made themselves comfortable with frown-in luxuries that included a modern oil range, washing machine with drier, and even fluorescent electric lights.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The early increase, this Spring, in employment is welcome to workers and merchants alike. Those, however, who are accustomed to having work done before labour gets scarce will have to make a start on their jobs even earlier than usual.

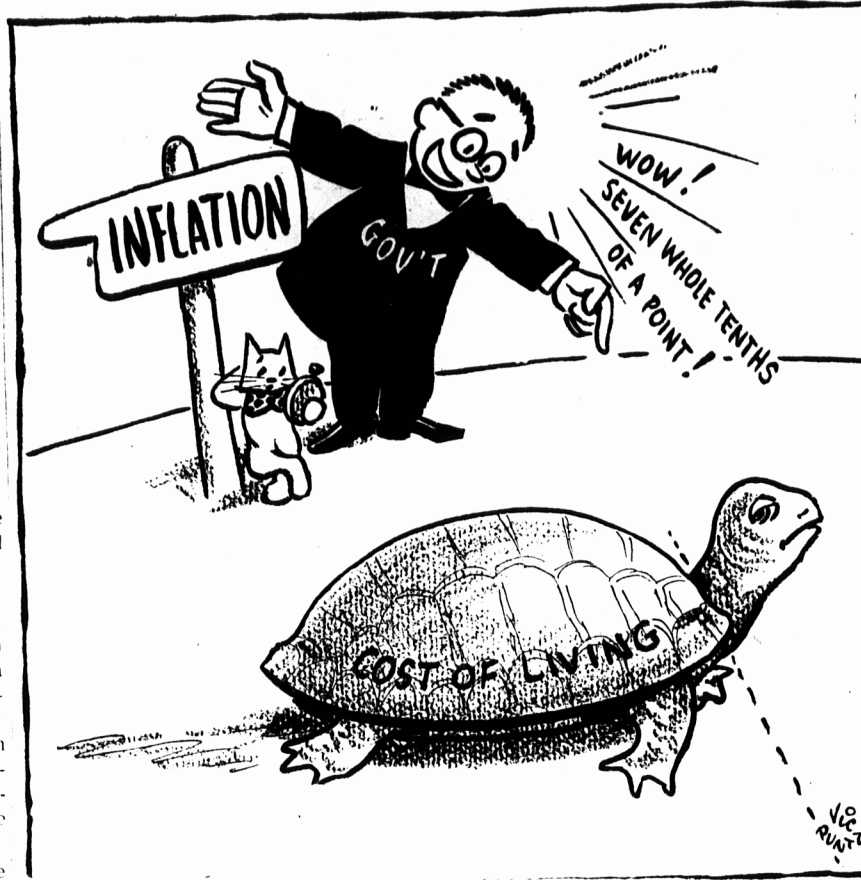
This Province has always paid unnecessarily high freight bills because of the exceptionally high proportion of less-than-carload lots shipped both from and to the central Provinces. The new formula, therefore, permitting mixed carload lots, should be particularly valuable to local merchants and shippers.

Benjamin Jowett, English scholar and theologian, was born this date 1817. A great scholar, he may be considered to have rediscovered the Greek philosophers and led the way towards clearer understanding of the Bible, particularly of St. Paul. He also did much to reform English universities and reconstruct the Indian Civil Service.

Canada is to receive a maximum of \$2.05 for wheat rather than the \$2.25 hoped for under the new International Wheat Agreement. As this country's supply quota is 15,000,000 bushels higher, however, than under the agreement of four years ago when the maximum price was \$1.80 there should be prosperity for the West. It is to be hoped that Britain and the other importing countries which have not yet signed the agreement will be convinced of the advantage of doing so.

Prince Edward Island has had a distinguished visitor this week in the person of the Rt. Rev. Alexander Armstrong Scott, D.D., Moderator of the United Church of Canada. In his public addresses at Summerside, the Moderator dealt particularly with the work and influence of the Christian church in India, a subject on which he is a recognized authority.

In The Right Direction Anyway



PUBLIC FORUM

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

APPLIED DEMOCRACY

Sir, — The March 27th number of The Guardian contained a good letter by W.L. Green on "Some Defects of Democracy." He called attention to some unpardonable abuses and injustices in our capitalist system, our so-called "free" enterprise social order.

The blame for the unfairness of our social order does not, of course, rest on Democracy as such, but on our own failure to use the Democracy we have to put a stop to the injustices nurtured by a selfish capitalist system. Democracy is ruled by the people, all the people, not by and for a favoured few.

Democracy is its source and motive in the fundamental truth plainly revealed in the life and teaching of the Founder of Christianity, namely, that people (God's human family) are supreme in value above all created wealth.

Democracy has its source and motive in the fundamental truth plainly revealed in the life and teaching of the Founder of Christianity, namely, that people (God's human family) are supreme in value above all created wealth. This undeniable truth invests Democracy with a certain sacredness which every person should recognize and apply.

This is not a dictatorship, though sometimes it looks like it. Every man and woman is divinely created and of eternal value in God's sight and with "inalienable rights" and has a vote equal to that of any other man or woman.

Unfortunately, men always and everywhere, covet the property of others and the power that goes with property. Our social order must impose restraint and control on this greed, or society becomes a jungle, a dog-eat-dog struggle in-

The Age-Old Story

And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

To Save The Famous 'Victory'

HMS Victory, Admiral Nelson's famous old flagship, is being eaten by the death-watch beetle, and it is to be given anti-beetle treatment through radio-active pellets inserted in the wooden hull or by a heavy X-raying of the ship. The experts say such treatment will soon wipe out the beetles and give the ship another lease of life.

The Victory herself survived the Napoleonic wars, survived storms and the stress of the years, eventually to be retired to the assumed security of a permanent berth beside a pier in Portsmouth harbour. Her hundred guns were dismantled but the Navy kept a proud and fatherly eye on the ship, welcomed visitors and showed them where Nelson died, where Nelson strode his quarter-deck, the cramped quarters where the sailors lived and moved and fought.

But the Victory's future was not to be all serene. In World War II she was a training ship for the Navy and on its active establishment. She was bombed and machine-gunned by the Germans, and instead of a brotherhood, or as someone has said life becomes "like a ladder on which everyone licks the boots of the one above him and kicks the face of the one below".

I am, Sir, etc., J.W. HOWE, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

POOR FIRE PROTECTION

From a letter by T. B. Tremain, Esq., in the Royal Gazette, Jan. 28, 1934: "I feel it my duty, through the medium of your paper, to offer my warmest thanks to the inhabitants of this Town, and particularly the Engine Company, for their prompt and strenuous exertions at the fire which this morning occurred in my neighbourhood (on Kent Street, in the house of Mr. Andrew LePage) to which alone can be attributed the safety of the adjoining property. I must, however, take the opportunity of expressing my astonishment and regret, that a community like this should be so ill prepared with implements so indispensable to its safety in case of fire.

"True it is that a law has long since been enacted, requiring householders to provide themselves with a Fire Bucket each, for the public safety—but this law has either not been complied with or persons leave their homes without this necessary implement. The Engine, which should have at least four and twenty Buckets attached to it, is without any, nor are there any public Ladders and Fire-hooks by which a building may, if necessary, be pulled down, to check the raging of the flames. Of these there should be at least six of each, of the very best description.

"Surely, persons holding property in Town would not hesitate to tax themselves the trifling sum required for this purpose. Would it not also be advisable that twelve instead of four Fire Wardens be appointed permanently, from among the holders of property in the town, who should be empowered with full authority to direct the operations of the inhabitants at a fire?"

her guardians no doubt are showing now with understandable pride the war wounds received in 1940 by this famous ship which 135 years earlier had carried Nelson to his most famous triumph—and to his death. It would have been an ironic circumstance if the Victory, with such a record, having survived so much, having lived through wars from the savage broadsides of wooden ships to the battles of steel monsters fighting at twenty miles, should succumb to the silent assault of the death-watch beetle.

LONDON OP — Captain Robert Scott's famous ship Discovery, in which he sailed for the South Pole in 1910, may be towed from its berth on the Thames and broken up. It has been used as a museum and sea coast headquarters but upkeep costs are mounting and funds are dwindling.

COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE W.K. Rogers Agencies Limited PHONE 540 and 541 181 QUEEN ST. CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I. AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Notes By The Way

It would be hard to sell communal farming, Russian style, in a country like this where no two farms even have the same kind of gate.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Kingston Whig confirms a suspicion we've had for some time, but didn't like to mention. "The typical flower seed catalog is written by an unmitigated optimist and illustrated by a liar!" —T. D. F. in Ottawa Citizen.

We hear of a boy in the hospital for an appendectomy who developed an illness which baffled his surgeon, an obstetrician who happened to be passing in the hall, a brain specialist who dropped in and an orthopedist who was in the next room. It turned out the kid had measles.—Winnipeg Tribune.

When it comes to travelling out of Yellowknife, or out of Churchill on the Bay, into the surrounding territory and into the Arctic, the bush pilot and his plane are still the answer to a trapper's prayer. They have simply moved farther north, where the bush is still wild. Their flying, in the main, is no longer based at Edmonton or at Winnipeg, but close to the Arctic Circle and close to the edge of the barrens. That is Canada's good fortune.—Edmonton Journal.

The British Council of Churches appeal to young people of all churches to keep vigil on the eve of the Coronation. The appeal says: "As the Queen prepares to make her own dedication in Westminster Abbey it is fitting that she should be joined in spirit by countless young people all over the country who will be praying for God's blessing on her and on the people over whom she is called to reign."—London Times.

The United States is determined to reduce its foreign aid spending, according to Senator Robert A. Taft. Provided the U. S. liberalizes its trade policies, allowing more foreign goods to be imported, a reduction in aid need not harm its friends. But such recent U. S. actions as new restrictions on the import of dairy products are not encouraging.—Ottawa Citizen.

A car parking development allows a motorist to move in a space about 16 inches longer than the car itself. The driver just noses his car into the parking space and turns a dashboard lever, which, in turn, lowers the spare tire hydraulically until it lifts the car into the curb. The device can also be used to get the car out of a tight spot.—Rotarian Magazine.

We are in sympathy with the young man in New York who spent three years cooped in an attic rather than listen to or watch television. On the strength of it he is to be given a mental examination. We protest. If we were subjects of television, we would be Toronto, are a fair sample of TV entertainment, we think the young man from New York is far from crazy. In fact we think he rates a round of applause for good taste.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

It should be quite clear to everyone concerned that education costs are too high, not only in Kingston but also throughout the province as a whole. It may be that the only answer some school boards will be able to find to meet the problem of the high cost of education will be reductions in staff — with, of course, certain specialist categories being the first to go. It is an unpleasant outlook, but the willingness and ability of communities to pay educational costs are just about at their respective limits.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

Mr. E. H. Horne, the prospector who discovered what now is the rich Noranda mine, has died in Nova Scotia — he sold out for a comfortable fortune, established a farm at Windsor, N. S., and lived to be 88. What Noranda has meant to Canada in employment, in additions to the national wealth, in dividends, to shareholders, it is impossible to calculate, but the figures would be impressive.—Ottawa Journal.

As you drive into Cobourg from the west end of the town, the highway curves abruptly south. At that very turn next October Cobourg will become a world centre. There, on the property of the County old people's home and adjacent farms which have been taken into the scheme for the purpose, the first World Plowing Contest will be held. This grand design is the offering and instrument of the Ontario Plowmen's Association. The World Plowing Contest is not just a cocky bit of tub-thumping which will be heard really only in a few southern Ontario counties. The world abroad is hearing, too.—Peterborough Examiner.

It is a common human weakness to blame a whole people or group, different than ourselves, for the actions of a few members of the group. We can, and we know you can, cite dozens of examples of this. And every time a newspaper, in its headlines, identifies an individual, charged or guilty of some offence, by his nationality, race or color, such a newspaper nourishes this human weakness.—Citizenship Council.

You laugh at my intense pre-occupation With this small patch of earth we call our own: Should we put pansies here, or sweet alyssum, And pink petunias, or a deeper tone? You ask what does it matter if the roses Are planted slightly back of where I said: And in the cosmic scheme of things will'n notice If giant zinnias turn out dwarf, instead?

My answer to your delicate impatience Contains the creed of gardeners everywhere: It's each man's loving care for his own portion That makes the total sum of earth so fair.

—Barbara Overton Christie, in the Christian Science Monitor.

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