

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, FEB. 25, 1950

By A Slim Margin

The surprise in the British general elections yesterday was the frail majority which the Labour Government succeeded in obtaining, after its sweeping electoral victory of 1945. The result may be regarded as a great personal tribute to Mr. Churchill, who at seventy-five entered the campaign as Conservative leader with all the vigour and gusto of a man in his prime.

In any event, Labour may claim to have left its mark on the nation for years to come. It has nationalized many big industries, including the railways, the coal mines, shipping and waterways, electricity, commercial airlines, cable and wireless communications, and the Bank of England. It claims to have reduced unemployment to the vanishing point, effected a redistribution of wealth through heavy income taxes, and brought greater health than ever before to Britain's children through special allotments of wholesome food and special medical services.

The Conservatives maintained that their primary goal would be to halt further nationalization and bring greater efficiency to government, including those industries and businesses already nationalized. They hammered at the regimentation, controls and lack of individual freedom which has characterized Labour policies.

While they failed to overthrow the Government, it is evident that their campaign had tremendous effect, and that a very substantial element among the British voters is opposed to further experiments in socialism.

The Late Mr. Bradley

The death of Mr. P. S. Bradley, retired Secretary of the Department of Education, will be learned with deep regret throughout the Province. During his many years in the Department Mr. Bradley was in close touch with the teachers and trustees of every school district, and his knowledge and experience were of great value to every administration under which he served.

He was a model of courtesy and efficiency, but perhaps his outstanding characteristic was modesty. Newspapersmen found him an encyclopaedia of information about educational matters, and he was always ready to give them assistance provided they kept his name scrupulously in the background. Those privileged to know him intimately were aware that this was no pose. Though generous in his praise and appreciation of others, he detested the limelight and regarded his own sterling qualities as something to be taken as a matter of course.

The Guardian joins with Mr. Bradley's many friends in expressing its respect on this occasion, and its sincere sympathy to the bereaved family.

Important Meetings

As will have been noted from advertisements in the press, all our farmers throughout the Province are invited to attend meetings in their school districts on Tuesday evening next. The meetings are being sponsored by the Federation of Agriculture, their purpose being to determine by ballot whether the producers of potatoes, poultry and eggs in this Province are in favour of establishing marketing boards based on existing Dominion and Provincial Legislation.

The personnel of the proposed boards would comprise three bona fide producers appointed by the farmers, one representative from the private dealers and one from the co-operatives. Such boards would have to be approved by the Government and a "special plan or scheme" drawn up to regulate the marketing of the product concerned.

The general principle of the plan would be to give such boards authority to issue and cancel licenses to dealers, to fix minimum (in some cases maximum) prices, regulate shipments for certain markets to prevent flooding, etc., keep dealers and producers informed of prices and market trends, allot marketing quotas to dealers or growers if necessary, act as a central marketing agency in emergencies for disposing of surpluses, maintain uniform price levels and, as far as possible, eliminate price-cutting and excess speculation by co-operating with similar boards which will be set up in other Provinces.

Business would still be done through the ordinary trade channels, but the boards would have authority to cancel the license of any person or firm failing to comply with the regulations. In some cases this plan

might also mean slowing down the movement or requiring farmers to store their produce until markets are opened up or prices are adjusted.

The necessity for organization along the lines suggested has been highlighted by the recent serious drop in prices of farm products of several kinds. In large industrial areas, the short-sighted view is taken that these price declines—in many cases below cost of production—are advantageous to the working man. In this agricultural Province we know better. Farm prices are the basis of our whole economy, and the present effort to stabilize these prices at moderately remunerative levels is not only a move in the right direction, but perhaps the only one, in the present circumstances, which will ensure success. It is essentially a farmers' movement, and it marks a stage in agricultural co-operation of great significance. The Federation is appealing for 100 per cent support from our farm population in this campaign, and the efficiency with which the drive is being conducted augurs well for its success.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 1st Sunday in Lent.

It will be interesting to see if the prospect of Income Tax refunds will induce taxpayers in any numbers to file their return before the April 30 deadline.

Another Island victory was scored by Prince of Wales College students in winning first and second prizes respectively in the drawing contest sponsored by Mt. Allison University.

Repeated injuries and deaths in boxing seem to call for some form of protection. Boxing associations would do well to consider making compulsory the wearing of something similar to the present practice helmet.

Ontario's five-year highway programme, besides its awe-inspiring magnitude, is remarkable for being "fluid" in nature. Parliamentary re-votes will not be necessary for monies unexpended at the end of each year.

Islanders will sympathize with Premier Smallwood in his contention that it now appears that the intention of the terms of union was not written with the necessary clarity. When it comes to seeing a constitutional duty there are none so blind as those who will not see.

Notwithstanding that we have an Islander as Deputy Minister of Fisheries, the Island smelt fishermen were excluded from the month's extension which had been granted New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Mr. Mayhew, of course, was too busy holidaying in Bermuda to discover the omission in time.

Dr. William Buchan, Scottish physician, died this date 1805. He gained renown by publishing "Domestic Medicine," the first English book of its kind, a volume which found a place on the shelves of almost every household, and still, brought up-to-date, is presented, together with the Bible, to many couples as a marriage present on setting out on life's domestic journey.

For years farmers have complained that they cannot get anywhere because of lack of combination. When it came to a choice between the industry's well-being and party affiliation, the affiliations won every time. Now a new spirit has been roused, and an opportunity will be given to farmers in every district to unite in their own interests irrespective of political parties.

The Federal Ministers are gadding about so much these days that they have not time to become acquainted with what is going on or not going on in their respective departments. Mr. Garson has been particularly unfortunate in this respect as the MacGregor reports on flour manufacturers and match manufacturers testify. The plate glass industry seemingly is unfortunate in not having friends with pull in the Government.

\$1,500.00 has been forwarded to the Mid India Branch of the Christian Nurses' Association in India by the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire to assist financially in the translation and printing of 2,000 text books for the use of Indian women who are training to serve their people as nurses. In announcing this donation, Mrs. Frank P. McCurdy, the National President, explained that as Hindi has been adopted as the official language of India, the most recent editions of English and American text books are being translated into Hindi by this Association and will be made available also for other hospital groups as well as for the nurses who are training in the mission hospitals in Mid India.

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.

OLD COINS

Sir, — Mr. Clem G. Peters of Cape Breton asks about a coin dated 1867. "Self Government and Free Trade" are the words on one side of this coin. This evidently was in general circulation as there are several the same as his in the collection at the O'Leary Drug Store.

There are several other Island coins in this collection. There is one, Prince Edward's Island 1855 and another, Prince Edward Island 1856, with Self Government and Free Trade on the other side of each.

Another, a square rigged ship with a smooth flag (not worn) and one with the same ship but with a flag with the crosses of the Union Jack. On the other side of each — "Ships Colonies and Commerce."

In 1911 Canada issued a Cent, on one side the King's head and around it — "Georgius V Rex et Ind. Imp."

One in 1914 — The King's head and around it this time — "Georgius V Dei Gra. Rex et Ind. Imp." In 1911 for some reason "Dei Gra." was omitted.

I am, Sir, etc., A. J. MATHESON

O'Leary, Feb. 23, 1950.

LITTLE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Sir, — As the acting president of the Little Theatre Guild, I am the recipient of an anonymous letter condemning the Guild for presenting their performances in the Empire Theatre, largely because it is generally regarded as a fire hazard and more particularly since the disastrous fire occurred at the Roll-away Bowling Alley.

The writer of the letter suggests that our productions should be staged in a ground floor auditorium. In the first place, I would like to point out that there is not a ground floor auditorium in the city suitable for the production of plays as they should be staged, with the necessary lighting, visibility and audibility, other than the Prince Edward Theatre. The high rental of this theatre precludes the production of the Little Theatre Guild programme, when you consider that the membership fee of the Guild is only \$2.00, even if Spencer Theatres Ltd. were willing and able to rent the theatre for stage plays indiscriminately.

Secondly, electrical installations on the stage have recently been gone over and certain recommended changes and improvements have been made.

Thirdly, our staff of ushers have explicit instructions to check all exits from the Empire Theatre carefully, immediately before every performance. Also it is a strict rule of the Guild, that there shall be no Smoking back stage at any time.

I am, Sir, etc., GENE D. FOSTER

Acting President, Little Theatre Guild

The Poet's Corner

OLD DAN'L

Out of his cottage to the sun Bent double comes old Dan'l, His chest all over cotton wool, His back all over flannel.

"Winter will finish him," they've said Each winter now for ten; But come the first warm day of Spring Old Dan'l's out again.

— L. A. G. Strong.

The Age-Old Story

The work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.

STILL TOUGH AT 108

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 — (AP) — Samuel Bennett, who says he is 102 years old and the last surviving Civil War veteran in Montana, was in the hospital today — but still spry enough to talk off the press.

"Go away and mind your own dang-dang business!" he shouted from his hospital bed as reporters and photographers tried to talk to him.

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Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

COL. GRAY'S COMPLAINTS

Dire consequences of the lack of a Police Force in Charlottetown, as detailed by the Hon. Col. John Hamilton Gray in the Legislature on May 1, 1854:

"Upon my return to my native country, after an absence of a quarter of a century — I quitted this Island a boy. I returned a man with some grey hairs — my baggage having arrived subsequently at this port, was delivered by a carrier who was drunk, and I found one strongly bound case had been thrown violently off the cart and stove in, and property to the value of £40 destroyed. Some articles of which could never be replaced. I immediately applied to the owner of the ship, but although this gentleman expressed much concern for my loss, he told me he was afraid I could not punish the man, as the law would not reach a man who was drunk and not disorderly. Had a policeman been on the wharf or on the streets of the Town, my property would not have been destroyed, nor my feelings outraged by the ruffianly conduct of the man when I remonstrated with him on his conduct. From that hour to the present, I have not received any compensation for my loss.

"I may also mention, that shortly after I took my father's grounds (at Spring Park) and had time to look around me, I went to some trouble to plant young hardwood trees close to my door, all of which were soon cut down and carried off, and other damage done to the amount of some pounds. At length, with the help of my servants, I apprehended one trespasser, and upon asking for the Police Office, was told there was none, nor any Police either.

"After walking first one mile, then another, I reached the office of one of the senior Magistrates of the Town. His Worship having heard my story, sent for a Constable. After waiting an hour, this functionary arrived; my complaint was found proven, and upon the worthy Magistrate beginning a very proper lecture for the future benefit of the delinquent — who by the bye had just left the Jail, after imprisonment for a burglary, and immediately afterwards committed another similar crime — I say while the Magistrate was speaking, the Constable with some nonchalance said: 'I wish, Sir, you would be quick; for I have a batch of Bread in the oven.'

"The Christmas Day following, upon walking down the high street, immediately after Divine Service, I saw a scene to which the Carnival at Naples was only a trifle; only, that instead of sugar plums, good hard Snow Balls were used upon every person walking the streets; females and males were equally pelted. Upon my going into the house of an old resident, I was told that there had been attempts made to stop it but to no purpose; and I could not help exclaiming, 'Parents are mad who permit this!' I saw not only boys but grown men indulging in these peculiar privileges.

"But I now come to speak of a crying evil, and one I have felt sorely for the sake of those poor fellows who bring their corn, their potatoes, or small articles to market, dragging through our wretched roads for perhaps twenty miles and more. Arrived at the Market Square, they turn their backs, and instantly find their bags torn to pieces, their property

scattered and destroyed, by cows which the law states shall not be permitted at large; and yet this law is powerless for the want of a few police to carry it out.

"I would ask your Honours also to take a look at the wholesale plunder on the Government demesne — see the manner in which the Lieutenant Governor's grounds have been invaded and the fences totally carried off — why, His Excellency himself remarked to me that he would willingly have paid the wages of a policeman rather than see such destruction to the public property; and a good sum the public will have to pay to restore the railings.

"Look also at the plunder around St. James's Church, the windows of which have often been broken by the idle and disorderly; and to go no further than a certain locality not possessing a very euphonious name — I mean the Bog — why, it is but lately an esteemed friend of mine, the Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, was driven from his house to another part of the Town, it being impossible for this gentleman to subject his family to the scenes enacted close under his windows.

"The obscene language, the Sabbath breaking, I have been a painful hearer of, and witness to, since my arrival here, has exceeded what I have ever known in other places, and at times I feel ashamed of my birthplace. And now I will only add, that if the capital of this Colony, which is one of the fairest belonging to the Crown of England, is to be deprived of the advantages and protection to be derived from a few Police, it stands a solitary exception."

(Colonel Gray was speaking on his motion for second reading of a bill entitled "An Act for establishing a Police Force and preventing desertion from Her Majesty's troops stationed at Charlottetown.")

BABY STARTS CONTEST

LACOMBE, Alta. — (CP) — Birth of a daughter to high school teacher, A. Avery, became the opportunity for high school students to do something about the school counsellor's dollar shortage. They organized a contest, at a price of 10 cents, to guess the baby's middle name.

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Notes By The Way

It is very honest of Germany to ask for a standing army, instead of organizing anyhow as unformed Sunday hikers, bird watchers and edelweiss fanciers. — Winnipeg Tribune.

Chewing tobacco is on the way out in the British Navy. As soon as the present supply is gone, the issue will be stopped. Which may mean that navy life will not be so colorful in the future. — Fort William Times-Journal.

"An English schoolmaster once asked a Welsh boy this question: 'If a farmer had 10 sheep in a field and three got out, how many would be left?' 'None,' said the boy. 'You don't understand the question,' said the schoolmaster. 'But you don't understand the sheep,' said the boy." — Sheep Farmer Speaking in BBC Program.

Eighteen months' frustration is not a good introduction to life either as a soldier or a citizen. We have got to get rid of conscription before it destroys our fighting capabilities. We cannot do it overnight. But as the Liberal Party alone has urged, its eventual abolition in peacetime ought to be our national policy. We ought now to be moving toward a small, professional, streamlined defence force, well trained, well equipped and well paid. — News Chronicle (London).

Judgment was reserved in Calgary court in the case of the wrong bear hide, brought by Dr. H. N. Jennings, against A. S. Wolfe, Edmonton taxidermist. The Calgary physician and big-game hunter claims \$5,000, saying the bear he killed with five bullets "realized my lifetime ambition," and was 7 ft. 11 in. from nose to tail and "almost as wide." The hide he received was only 6 ft. 4 in. and 31 ins. across the shoulders with no bullet holes. — Toronto Saturday Night.

No doubt it could only happen in Hollywood. But a news item describing a new union headquarters building in that city — its saffron facade, its pink pillars, glass walls, tropical gardens and "executive" desks built to suit their personalities" — leaves one wondering if this latest development in the management-labor relationship may be the beginning of a new trend. It was not inappropriate, of course, that the Musicians Union local should have opened its new headquarters with a big party and lots of music. The 15,000 guests found a 12-hour entertainment that included a continuous television broadcast, a

radio show starring top flight actors, and other features. But it is the matter of the "desks built to suit the personalities" of their users that intrigues us. If this movement spreads beyond the lush California scene, what may we expect to be provided for Messrs. Petrillo, Reuther, Green, Murray and others? And shall some great granite block be rough-hewn for the use of John L. Lewis, to match his personality? There is no end to the prospects. — Victoria Times.

Regardless of their political leanings and beliefs, the great majority of the Canadian people will express their gratitude to Gratian O'Leary, noted Ottawa newspaperman, for the effort he displayed in arranging for the purchase of a permanent home for the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party at Ottawa. — Sherbrooke Record.

A committee to investigate anti-Argentine activities, modelled on the American original, has been established by Dictator Peron in order to strengthen his police state. And the United States which instigated such hunts in the west, is this time the witch. Peron has discovered that there are more subtle means of eliminating opposition than by formally banning it. It is unhappily true that he learned his lessons in the Western hemisphere. — Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

NOT ALL HIS FAULT TIMMINS, Ont., Feb. 22 — (CP) — Victor Shultkow, charged with non-support, claimed it wasn't all his fault. He said in court today his wife ordered from the house by his wife and left his saxophone, clarinet and violin behind. And how can a musician make money with no instruments, he wondered. Finally he sneaked in when his wife wasn't looking, got the instruments, sold the saxophone for \$75 and gave his wife \$50. Magistrate S. Atkinson dismissed the charge.

SYMBOL OF PENITENCE VATICAN CITY, Feb. 22 — (Reuters) — Pope Pius today placed ashes on his own head before Mass in his private chapel in the Vatican palace as a symbol of penitence for the beginning of Lent.

ON THE SPOT NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C. — (CP) — One nine-year-old boy won't be turning in any more false alarms. He turned in an alarm the other night from a box in front of assistant fire chief William Brooks' home. Brooks was sitting at his window, just behind the box.

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