

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, JAN. 30, 1954

Civic Reports

The annual reports of the City of Charlottetown are not in the nature of a president's report to the shareholders of a company.

The members of the Council are to be congratulated on the very full and informative reports of committees.

The surplus of \$8,105.65 on current expenditure is satisfactory, particularly as it would have appeared higher but for the writing off of double that amount previously shown as uncollected from the Charlottetown Hotel.

In addition to careful financing, the reports indicate an awareness of the requirements of the city in fire and police protection, paving, lights, education and public buildings.

Despite the close attention of Councillors to their responsibilities, or perhaps for that very reason, the debt of the City continues to grow.

Greater revenue is an obvious necessity and no stone should be left unturned to obtain all proper contribution from Federal and Provincial sources before placing the full burden on the City taxpayer.

The Polio Challenge

The medical miracle of the Western world is not longevity, as many mistakenly think, points out the Hamilton Spectator; it is survival of the young.

Meanwhile perhaps the most startling phenomenon has been a series of Canadian eruptions of polio, long considered a summer disease, in winter weather.

Faced with the strange paradox of cleanliness and a new virus phenomenon the Western world sees a first glimmer of light from the laboratory.

Studies of a small number of children have shown that the vaccine, as made in the laboratory, produces protective antibodies against polio that last at least through a polio season.

Potato Blues

To prove that potato men still retain their sense of humor, an American exchange quotes the following commentary which it says is used by a California dealer to cheer up visitors discussing the current woes of the industry.

"Potatoes are grown to keep the vines from blowing away, the grower from going astray and the buyer from throwing away his money on Wall street, loaded dice, pumpkin games and the simpler forms of gambling.

"Potatoes are handled as though they are worth a million dollars. They are sprayed over by the grower, prayed over by his wife, preyed upon by the buyer.

"They are graded by the grower, regraded by the inspector and ungraded by the state experts. Any man that can think of new ways of rejecting potatoes is called a horticultural inspector and is given a \$5,000 job by the state.

"After the grower does all this, and gets what potatoes are left into a freight car, he turns them over to a broker. He is called this because he is the same as the grower, only broker.

"Then they call in the grade guesser. The grade guesser is called an inspector by the authorities, a crook by the buyer and a darned fool by the grower.

"The broker brings them back to the next town, sells them for 10 per cent less than the price and deducts freightage, demurrage, storage, lighterage, towage, breakage, postage and his own age, and that leaves the grower's children entering the orphanage."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 4th Sunday after Epiphany.

A Senate committee has approved a bill ratifying the financial agreement made last year with Britain under which the United Kingdom undertakes to pay off the balance of a wartime loan at the rate of \$30,000,000 a year until 1958.

Dew is far more important to plants than was formerly thought, according to the result of recent experiments in Israel.

Prime Minister St. Laurent's tour of eleven countries in Europe and Asia from February 4 to March 17 is a demonstration of how much of a neighbourhood the world has become.

The fighter aircraft flown by a South Korean to North Korea may be useful to the Communists for propaganda purposes but does not compare in value with the MiG-15 secured by the U. N. forces last summer.

Although only about ten per cent of homes are broken up by death, separation or divorce, 19 per cent of delinquents are reported to have come from such homes and only 77 per cent from homes in which both parents lived.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, American statesman and President, was born this date 1882. He was elected to the New York Senate in 1910 and 1912.

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Protection of Nature is not a Science, says the bulletin of the International Union for the Protection of Nature. It stands at the cross roads and, to save humanity from an over dose of applied Science, appeals to very dissimilar branches of knowledge.



The Poet's Corner

SUCCESS Success is counted sweetest By those who've never succeeded. To comprehend a nectar Requires sorest need.

Not one of all the purple host Who took the flag today Can tell the definition So clear, of victory.

As he, defeated, dying, On whose forbidden ear The distant strains of triumph Break, agonized and clear.

—Emily Dickinson

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SUSPENDED LEGISLATION

"Among the Acts passed by the Legislature of this Colony in the year 1835, there were three, the operation of which was suspended, until His Majesty's pleasure should be signified thereon.

Charles I of England, sentenced to be beheaded, went to his death calmly. On the morning of his execution, there was a cold snap in the air.

"You quote Mr. B. S. Morris as saying that about half the children in the country are below the average in reading ability.

In the wake of a snowstorm every commuter becomes a pioneer. Even the laziest may have to take to a shovel and dig himself out in the morning.

When the small town boy leaves the old home town to seek wider horizons, often he is glad to get away from it all for a while, from its narrowness, and from its restrictions, and from its smugness.

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Notes By The Ways

It's odd to think that a few years from now this uneasy era will have become the good old days.—Edmonton Journal.

By the time a man is old enough to wear over shoes without complaining, he's too old to bend over and put them on.—Edmonton Journal.

Now doctors have found that "money trouble" causes all sorts of pains and aches, and will they as part of the treatment stop sending bills to their patients?—Brantford Expositor.

International affairs are grim enough these days without the punsters getting involved. Here is a commentator claiming the liveliest issue in the Israel-Jordan tangle is the Dead Sea.—Hamilton Spectator.

As a curb for starlings, a municipality is advised to import bats to scare away the birds. Import owls to scare away the bats, then shoot the owls, which make a better target than the starlings.—From Windsor Star.

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The Public Forum

P.W.C. STANDARDS EXPLAINED

Sir, — This morning's Guardian included a severe letter from a correspondent on the subject of the failure rate at Prince of Wales College and a reply is necessary in the interest of the College.

Let me first correct the correspondent on the operating expenses of the College, for they are much less than he indicates. It is easy to forget that a large share of the costs listed under "Prince of Wales College" in the public accounts actually goes toward (1) the space, heat, light and services of the P. E. Libraries and Film Branch situated in the building, (2) a public grade school, the Model School, with 125 pupils, (3) the provision of an auditorium and other rooms for public purposes, and (4) heat, light, and power for the entire Vocational School wing.

I should indicate that the figures for third and fourth year compare most favourably with any university in Canada.

It should also be pointed out that not only must second year students meet matriculation standards if they are going on into the universities, the professional schools, the civil service and many other organizations which require matriculation, but also that a majority of them must meet the demands of employers who always insist on a general background and the ability to work and think.

This fact was discussed two years ago by the College Times, the P.W.C. students' paper: "It seems to us today," said The Times "that there are few enough leaders, whether educational or political, who are still fussy about proper standards. In a few years we shall be in the thick of things ourselves; a lot will depend on us, and on the training we get now.

The main criticism we heard of Prince of Wales College was on the alleged large number of failures in the Matriculation and other examinations. We have examined the records and we are satisfied that such criticism is unfounded.

The percentage of failures in the examinations of Prince of Wales College, both Matriculation and Term, is relatively much lower over a period of years than that of institutions of similar standing in Prince Edward Island, as we have already stated, and the teacher is often judged and classified in accordance with the success of his pupils in the matriculation examinations into Prince of Wales College.

As to the standards as a whole, I would point out that Prince of Wales' experience is no different from the situation in other provinces and that the actual results are nowhere near those arrived at by the correspondent. The certificate list is often mistaken for the pass list; actually a certificate is given for honour standing of 65% or more, and all who make 50% or more are considered as passed.

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The Age Old Story

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