

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1951

A Hasty Election

The announcement of a general provincial election on April 26, less than one month following the prorogation of the Legislature, indicates that whatever motives the Government had in mind, it is not primarily concerned about the convenience of the electors.

It was, of course, generally understood that the Government would go to the country some time early this year, and it is the business of the Government's opponents to assume that it will seize the most opportune time.

Premier Jones states that calling an election at this time will not interfere with the season's activities of farmers and fishermen; but by the same token it is surely under an obligation to see that the voters can get conveniently to the polls.

One reason, perhaps, for the Government's decision besides the obvious one of catching everybody unprepared, was to get the provincial contest over before the Federal by-election in Queen's.

The "Turnover Tax"

Prince Edward Island potato growers have more at stake in the proposed provincial tax on retail sales, to impose which provincial governments are presently seeking to amend the British North America Act.

Supposing, for example, potato growers in Central Canada wished to exclude Prince Edward Island products in order to keep the market exclusively for themselves.

New Brunswick was prevented from imposing such discriminatory taxation only because of the refusal of the Senate of Canada to approve a resolution of the House of Commons designed to allow provincial governments to impose hidden or indirect taxes.

ation of retail sales will be to enable them to destroy what Confederation was intended to build up." Mr. Meighen believed that such a tax, proposed in 1936 and again today would have the same effect as tariffs between the provinces.

Sloppy Thinking

Sloppy thinking is at the root of much of the trouble in the world and is reflected in the misuse of language which itself leads to unfortunate results.

A case in point is the common practice of accusing public men of acting from "political" motives when what is meant is that they are improperly appealing to the worse motives of people.

"Political" action is properly none of these things. It is the conduct of affairs of state, far more important than personal business or other activity in private life.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Jeeps were in demand Saturday in order to enable politicians to visit their constituencies.

Nomination day will be Tuesday 12th—short time for the constituencies to pick and choose their most likely winners.

Poll committees have yet to be organized, and with little time left for work when they have been selected. It is an awful political mess.

The Fishermen's Loan Report seems to show the necessity of reviving the office of External Auditor. The Conservatives kept it active, but the Liberals dispensed with it—and the Fishermen's Loan Scandal is one of the consequences.

It used to be claimed that the printing of the payments to labourers, contractors, etc., in the Public Works and Auditor's reports was the greatest safeguard against financial scandal ever adopted.

King's County has been promised special consideration by the Highways Department because of being omitted from direct Trans-Canada Highway benefits.

Richard Cobden, English statesman and apostle of free trade, died this date 1865. His main objective was free trade and international understanding but, recognizing that the most immediate task was to solve the problem of the people's food, he devoted himself to the work of the Anti-Corn Law League.

As is, perhaps, not unusual here the rental control bill rushed through at the last minute of the Legislature seems to be an attempt to be all things to all men. It avoids the criticism of doing nothing about excessive rents but leaves the opprobrium of attempting to enforce it to fall on the reluctant city and town councils and on the courts, which of course can only give effect to the by-laws as they may be drafted.

It is so easy to collect money for charity that in Montreal there is a development of rackets. Montreal Gazette says: "A drive for funds for a small and virtually unknown hospital for incurables ended with expenses eating up all of the money collected, a not inconsiderable sum. An organizer was hired at \$40 per day. He retained canvassers who visited a flock of public spots, using taxis paid for out of collections, and who themselves received 40 per cent of collections in their receptacles marked 'Hospital' as commissions. Now the institution is in worse position than before its drive."

Honours were evenly distributed between two leading dairy breeds in the largest rally of cattle yet seen at the recent dairy show in Scotland. Ayrshires had by far the largest entry, numbering 107, while Dairy Shorthorns were second with 39 entries and Friesians third with 25 head.

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.

HOME FOR DELINQUENTS

Mr.—The "store-corner" discussions around Georgetown now are on the recently published article in The Guardian concerning the newly proposed delinquent homes in Belfast and Georgetown, where the delinquents will be taught handicraft and other useful trades.

The homes, I understand, will be financed by the Government and I think it is a wonderful idea for it will give young delinquents, who have not had a proper upbringing, a chance to better themselves.

Many of these delinquents are very intelligent and they just never had a chance to manifest their skill, and consequently they must go on down their misguided ways without proper care and rehabilitation.

Moreover, I think that if these boys had an opportunity they would take advantage of it, and many of them would turn out to be valued and respected citizens of our towns and villages.

Therefore, I hope, for the sake of the delinquents themselves, the Government will carry out this very worthy undertaking, which will help all those concerned.

I am, Sir, etc. C. R. S. Georgetown, P.E.I.

ETERNITY IN MAN'S HEART

Sir.—In the course of my reading this week, I came upon this sentence: "Also he hath set eternity in their heart." It is not in Scripture, in so many words, but the idea belongs to Scripture. Men, all men, crave eternal life, because God has set eternity in their hearts. Man is made in the image of God. That is the deepest truth in creation. Man is eternal as God himself. Why then should man become inured to this world as though it were his eternal home? He is denying his creation. He was not made to worship the god of this world.

This year's Easter is past and will be dropped from the churches for another year. Easter hymns, Easter music, Easter sermons will be heard no more for another twelve months. The usual slump in our church activities will set in. The glow will pass. Is it because we don't really know that God has set eternity in our hearts? Is it because we have got permanently into our heads that the thing to do is to eat, drink, and merry for tomorrow, and that at the end of us like the dog that barked his last in front of a car? This attitude to life does not commend our intelligence. "We need," as the African said to Dr. Laubach, "an injection for our ignorance."

At Christmas and Easter we try to have a special feast, something good; but the family that feeds daily upon the "wonder foods" is generally the healthy family. There is no wonder food for the human soul so sustaining, so invigorating as the message of the Resurrection, and it should be sung and preached often, in some form or other. Born out of the Resurrection has come the Christian Sabbath, the Christian Church, and the New Testament. God has set eternity in our hearts, and we know that is a fact when we stop to think. We were made for Him and our destiny is His house in glory.

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

TEACHERS' SALARIES

Sir.—I read "King's County's" letter and felt that it was just about as pointless as Senator Grant's criticism of Mr. McLure's demand for Federal aid for education.

The writer stated that I was throwing surplus garbage. I am quite certain that it was not garbage to state that Senator Grant had no reason to criticize Mr. McLure for making a worthy suggestion. I didn't have to reach into any garbage can to find the fact that Ottawa garbage collectors receive twice the salary of some P.E.I. teachers, nor was it a misstatement to say that past Liberal governments have nothing to be proud of in respect to teachers' salaries.

The writer claims that the Senators are having a tough time these days to keep their skirts clean. Well, at least they have enough time on their hands. They can better afford it than the P.E.I. teachers. Of course, I didn't know that they were skirts but I certainly think they should. Then they would look their part. Apparently the writer is a defender of the Senate; why, I don't know. What has it ever done since it was founded? Nothing. It sits there exactly the same and will apparently continue to do so. Think of all the taxpayers.

Now a Cat Control Bill is pending in the State of California and it is in the same danger as the Illinois Bills were. Illinois also could pass a Bill quickly. The Canadian Government and people could confer tremendous benefits both to their country and to ours by seeing that their valuable birds which come and do our nation great service are not wantonly slaughtered on account of neglect and selfish interests. Canada will be getting back fewer and fewer of its precious birds, while the insect and weed losses will mount higher and higher, unless action is quickly taken.

I am, Sir, etc. GERTRUDE CHARNY, Friends of the Birds, Inc. Santa Barbara, California.

Let praise devote thy work, and skill employ Thy whole mind, and thy heart be lost in joy. Well-doing bringeth pride, this constant thought Humility, that thy best done is naught. Man doeth nothing well, be it great or small, Save to praise God; but that hath saved all: For God requires no more than thou hast done, And takes thy work to bless it for his own.

Census Sentiments



Old Charlottetown

"We are pleased to find that the Hon. Mr. Howland has brought before the Assembly the subject of stocking the rivers of this Island with salmon. The Hon. George Beer, some weeks ago, by a communication to the newspapers, introduced the same subject to the notice of the public. We have several rivers well adapted for salmon, for which there is an unlimited demand. There should not be the least difficulty in creating an extensive and valuable salmon fishery in St. Peter's Bay and the rivers which empty into it. Winter River, the Dunk, and several other rivers might also be stocked. The difficulty of protecting the fish is the chief one. Let the Government pass the requisite laws, and sell by auction the exclusive right to the salmon in the several rivers of the Island, and ere long we shall have abundance of salmon, and a new branch of industry, without any cost to the revenue, by the withdrawal, for the general good, of individual privileges now little more than nominal and altogether valueless."

The Islander, March 26, 1869.

CATS AS HUNTERS

Sir,—I have written to your Governor General and your Prime Minister calling attention to a truly serious situation, but since support of the public is often important, I hope that you, the press, will bring the facts before the citizens of Canada, for the joint welfare of the people of Canada and of the United States.

Some years ago, gratifying success followed my pointing out to Director-General Rowe of the Pan American Union, that our birds born in the United States were slaughtered by people in the South American Countries, when these birds sojourned there and were entitled to protection just as our other citizens would be. The idea promptly took hold and treaties were made and ratified between the United States and all of the South American countries. It enhanced the Good Neighbor Policy, for birds are God's messengers or ambassadors of good will between nations. They know no national boundaries.

I regret that it did not occur to me before, but a reverse situation exists between the United States and Canada. The United States is rapidly destroying our precious and irreplaceable insectivorous birds, born in Canada and sojourning here and entitled to our protection, just as other Canadian citizens would be. This destruction is undoubtedly costing the Canadian people hundreds of millions of dollars. The loss in the United States runs into billions. To illustrate how your birds need protection here, I cite one out of many instances. In a lake front park, there was a large migration mainly of Warblers and Flickers, which nest in Canada. These are among the birds called "economically pests." I counted ten cats in daylight in an orgy of massacre of these lovely and valuable birds. At least 100 birds were killed in one day. I appealed to all authorities, but their answer was, "We can do nothing because there is no law." Canada does have a cat control law for the protection of birds.

There are untold millions of vagrant cats in the United States preying on the birds, largely Canadian, that would protect forests, orchards, crops, and gardens. A report from the Forest Service says that insects destroy more trees than fire. We are dependent upon birds to save the forests. These times in the State of Illinois, Friends of the Birds had a Bill introduced for cat control, in order to protect valuable birds, but each time vivisection interests finally defeated the Bills; the reason seeming to be that if cats are not allowed to run at large, the excessive breeding will be checked and fewer pet cats can be picked up. According to an estimate by the great conservationist Hornaday, every cat picked up free by the medical interests costs the public \$5,000 or more. It isn't right and it isn't fair.

Now a Cat Control Bill is pending in the State of California and it is in the same danger as the Illinois Bills were. Illinois also could pass a Bill quickly. The Canadian Government and people could confer tremendous benefits both to their country and to ours by seeing that their valuable birds which come and do our nation great service are not wantonly slaughtered on account of neglect and selfish interests. Canada will be getting back fewer and fewer of its precious birds, while the insect and weed losses will mount higher and higher, unless action is quickly taken.

I am, Sir, etc. GERTRUDE CHARNY, Friends of the Birds, Inc. Santa Barbara, California.

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Notes By The Way

There has been much talk recently of the great importance of a transcontinental highway as part of the country's military preparation program. Without it no cross-Canada movement of high-way transport is possible. And that appears to be some way off, at the present rate of progress.—(Montreal Star).

There has been a great deal of talking and writing about flying saucers but it has remained for rural England to deal properly with them. Whether flying saucers are real or imaginary, they are now permanently preserved as the name sign of a pub. To the "Foaming Jug" the "Three Tuns", "Hop and Barleycorn", "The Two Brewers" and "The True Briton" is now added "The Flying Saucer", which is as it should be.—(Winnipeg Free Press).

The trade of an armorer—in the old sense of a craftsman who made and repaired suits of mail—might seem to be about as obsolete as anything could be. Yet the New York Times recently discovered a real live armorer only a few miles from New York City, busily at work among helmets and visors, broadswords and lances. He is Kenneth Lynch who claims to have made 1,000 complete suits of mail and associated hardware in the last 20 years or so. Mr. Lynch's principal customers, as might be expected, are museums and art galleries, as well as Hollywood studios which have decided to perpetrate another medieval epic. He also receives orders from a few private buyers, some of whom are a little on the eccentric side. One customer arrived in a Rolls-Royce, announced that he was William the Conqueror, and ordered a suitable outfit for the year 1066. Whether he then went off to fight the battle of Hastings all over again, nobody knows.—(Edmonton Journal).

The stately town hall of Stockholm, Sweden, erected during the years 1911-1922, is a symbol of the pride which the good burghers of that capital take in their city. Moreover, it is an attempt to express national characteristics in architectural terms. The site was carefully chosen, so that the building faces the sun and the sea, and has ample space on three sides. The planning alone took several years. The building serves not only as a municipal administrative headquarters, but as a national monument. It contains objects of historical interest, and is a center of municipal life. A photograph of the impressive structure appears on this page. Apparently Stockholm, at least, know what it means to live in their country's capital. This is not true of Ottawans. Otherwise, the question of a city hall and its site would not have been made the political football that it has. The federal authorities have pointed the way toward a city hall that would contribute to the Capital's development. The national government is willing to pay part of the cost. But the little men who run the city's affairs have permitted racial prejudice to deter them from selecting the best site, which is the location on Nicholas Street, and which happens to be in Lower Town. They have wriggled and writhed and procrastinated, selected first one site and then another, knowing all the while that these were not available. These little men have not only seen to it that Ottawa has no city hall suitable to the National Capital, but have endeavored to throw away thousands of dollars in rental fees for overcrowded administrative quarters. Ottawa may be the Capital of a rich and proud country (Sweden has only half of Canada's population), but no one would know it by looking at the city's administrative offices.—Ottawa Citizen.

A five-storey concrete and steel parking garage to accommodate 600 cars at a time will be built near the centre of Tampa's downtown shopping district, a group of businessmen and property owners announce. The white, modern style building will provide seven storeys of storage space. Plans for the \$750,000 cooperative enterprise were reported by the president of the Tampa Merchants' Association, following a directors' meeting. A new Tampa company has been chartered. The Atlantic Coast Lane

Shall mortal man be more just than God? Shall a man be more pure than his Maker? Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly: how much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth? They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding it.

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The Poet's Corner LAUS DEO Let praise devote thy work, and skill employ Thy whole mind, and thy heart be lost in joy. Well-doing bringeth pride, this constant thought Humility, that thy best done is naught. Man doeth nothing well, be it great or small, Save to praise God; but that hath saved all: For God requires no more than thou hast done, And takes thy work to bless it for his own. —Robert Bridges.