

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. 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 MONDAY, JULY 27, 1953

The U.N. And The Peace

As noted in Canadian Press despatches, the signing of the truce agreement in Korea yesterday has come after thirty-seven months of bloodshed in that unfortunate country between the Communists and United Nations forces. It concludes the longest armistice negotiations in history, and it is remarkable in many other respects as well. Millions will echo the hope expressed by General Clark that the end of hostilities will foreshadow the beginning of a peace throughout the world as well as in Korea. He warned, however, that "a long and difficult road still lies ahead, and there are no shortcuts." Even with regard to final settlement of the Korean war, that warning remains valid. But it is something to have achieved a cease-fire under so many difficulties, and to have obtained a breathing spell in which trial at least can be made of peaceful negotiations.

The peace conferences which will now take place during the present armistice will not be without difficulty. Normally in case of hostilities between nations the United Nations stands ready to act the part of conciliator, the friend of both sides seeking only a mutually satisfactory settlement. In the Korean affair, however, the United Nations is a belligerent, having taken military action to oppose Communist aggression against the Republic of Korea.

The situation now is that in negotiating a peace there is no strictly neutral international body. The Soviet Union is allied with Red China and at the same time a U. N. member and so will have a say both as to terms proposed by the U. N. and the attitude of Communist China to those terms.

The negotiations for a cease-fire have dragged on seemingly endlessly but the prospects for delay in a final settlement are infinitely greater. There is the very great advantage, of course, that delay will no longer mean the sacrifice of the lives of brave men. It is unlikely that anything short of a general settlement of far eastern affairs will be acceptable to the many parties and interests involved. A preliminary question is that of who shall be represented on the various sides to the proposed settlement. Both justice and the practical necessity of limiting participation favour the United States proposal that only those countries which were active in the fighting should have a say in the settlement.

The Post-Depression Vote

A big uncertainty in the Federal election on Aug. 10 will be what a writer in the Financial Post describes as the post-depression vote. Though many candidates do not seem to realize it, the audience they are addressing today varies significantly from that of only a few elections back. There is a very considerable number of electors, for instance, who in their adult lives have only lived under a government of the Liberal party. More than one in three have no personal memory of the great depression, of low taxes, of a period when there was no inflation and no baby bonus. Most of these younger people moved around considerably during the war years, have no recollections of the political issues and fights of a generation ago, and no formal connection with any political party. While they are well spread across the country, they are much more concentrated in the urban areas and particularly the new urban areas.

One standard Canadian political appeal may backfire in areas where the post-depression vote is important. That's sectionalism—the appeal to the special interest of an area or group. For one thing, these younger voters have grown up in an era of nationalism, when the spotlight was on Ottawa and on Canadian activity as a nation. Then, these younger Canadians have got around a good deal, what with one thing and another.

In general, the post-depression voters are spread pretty evenly across the country's 265 constituencies. In most areas they seem to run around 27% or 28% of the total electorate. There is a heavier-than-average concentration in the Maritimes as a whole, probably chiefly in the urban centres.

"It's always dangerous to generalize, and in politics it's frequently fatal," concludes the Post writer. "The 2.3 million voters in their twenties and early thirties probably won't vote as a block, any more than all women vote as a block, or all Irish-Canadians. But it's reasonable to suggest that, on the evidence, some of the old generalizations may not apply to today's young voter, and some of the standard political arguments may not appeal. That, applied to 2.3 million votes may turn out to be an important political fact, in the election or after it."

Blind-Spot Drivers

The New York Safety Council, which recently conducted a survey to examine 8,000 car drivers, found that one in every five had serious defects of vision. Most of the cases were greatly surprised that they had any defect, and even those who knew they had defects thought they were right because they wore glasses. Many of the cases who wore glasses were found to have only 20-60 vision in each eye and only 20-60 for fused vision, which is below the minimum standard set for driver licenses in New York. Most of them, when they had new lenses put in, passed all driving tests at a good grade.

It is more than likely that the same proportion of defective vision would be found elsewhere, comments an exchange. No wonder the slaughter on the highways continues year after year despite all the warnings and road regulations, if such a high proportion of drivers are half blind.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Nomination Day.

It has long been claimed that a fur coat is a necessity rather than a luxury for Canadian womanhood. Now an American judge has ruled that the same applies in the State of Connecticut. Because a fur coat is a necessity the judge ruled that the bill-of-sale need not be registered.

Congratulations are in order for the newly formed Alberton Athletic Association. With the enthusiastic backing of interested citizens West Prince should produce at least its share of outstanding athletes as well as maintaining a high standard of participation in sport and general physical fitness.

The British Government, having denationalized the steel industry, brought under national control by the Socialist administration, is now faced with the problem of selling back the plants to their former owners or other interested parties. Eighty companies had been bought out. The amount paid the owners was £246,000,000 in 3 1/2 per cent British Iron and Steel Stock. That, according to The Times, is now worth £220,000,000.

Joseph Hilaire Pierre Belloc, English poet, essayist and historian, was born in France this date 1870. He went to Oxford, served in the French army and in 1902 became a British subject. With Cecil Chesterton he established the "Eye-Witness", afterwards the "New Witness" and engaged in a great variety of literary work. Most of his novels were illustrated by G. K. Chesterton. His enthusiasm for travel and love of places is reflected in numerous tales including, "The Cruise of the 'Nona'."

The sting of a bee is no light matter. What it technically involves is described by Evelyn Cheesman, the authority on insects, speaking on the BBC. "The poison is made up of two fluids, formic acid from one gland and an alkaline from a pair of glands. They unite in a tiny reservoir and then flow down a channel of the sting into the wound, being pumped down it by a special set of muscles. When once the bee has set the poison flowing the operation becomes automatic, so much so that if the bee tears out the whole delicate apparatus you can watch the muscles still working the pump, and this movement has been known to go on by itself for as much as eight minutes until the machinery runs down."

It is becoming a little difficult to keep an accurate count of the number of protests sent by Ottawa to Washington against restrictive trade measures of one kind and another. There has been a series of such official protests dealing with quotas already imposed on imports of Canadian dairy products. The latest has to do with oats and salt water fish filets. "It is to be hoped," comments the Ottawa Citizen, "that this particular stiff note receives more notice than its immediate predecessor, which somehow became tucked away in the state department files without any higher official knowing of its existence."

Back To The Scene At A Busy Time



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.

ELECTION CAMPAIGNING

Sir,—Like many "islanders abroad" I have been following the election campaign in the columns of your newspaper, and although I see very few references to political activity I am convinced that an active campaign is being waged. Prince Edward Islanders have long been noted for their keen interest in political affairs as evidenced by the high percentage of the electorate which goes to the polls on election day.

There is one institution which seems in danger of passing away from the island scene. This is the joint political meeting which once was a regular part of an election campaign. I can remember my first such meeting in Victoria in 1930 (long before I was off voting age I hasten to add!). The hall was crowded and the four candidates Messrs. McLeure, Myers, MacMillan and Jenkins elicited enthusiastic response from their supporters and sustained the attention of those who were opposed or neutral. It was a lively evening and stimulated for me an interest in public affairs which I have not lost. Such debates not only interest (and perhaps at times entertain) the electors but they sharpen the minds of the candidates. Skill in debate is necessary for one who would occupy a leading place in a parliament. One sometimes is sadly convinced that many of our MP's today lack the ability to make the most of their opportunities for skillful thrust and parry in the discussion of contentious issues.

I hope these joint meetings will not completely pass out of the island picture and it is good to see that Messrs. Kicham and MacDonald are carrying on in Kings'. In other parts of Canada the idea of having opposing candidates on the same platform is beginning to catch on. Several Western Canadian cities have one such meeting during the campaign sponsored and advertised by Boards of Trade and similar groups. In some constituencies like Carleton Ontario a joint meeting is held on official nomination day and is the high point of the campaign. Similar gatherings, might easily be arranged at Charlottetown, Summerside and Georgetown. In this way we would retain in part a practice which has done much to foster an interest in public affairs.

I hesitate to take up further space in your columns, otherwise I would like to comment appreciatively and at length upon the resolution of the Provincial meeting of the Women's Institutes. I think their work on electoral reform deserves the most thorough consideration. The resolution on teacher standards and on the teaching of Latin will, I hope, receive the most earnest attention of the department of education. The Island is not alone in suffering from the sad results of a too-ready acquiescence in the views of those so-called practical technological experts in the education field who led the mad rush to slough off the "non essential" of the liberal curriculum. Education is for living not only the making of a living. If we forget that we may still be able to carry on a program of training but education is much more than that.

I am, Sir, etc. HEATH N. MACQUARRIE Ottawa, July 25.

FAULTY TEACHING METHODS

Sir,—I offer the following comments as a teacher, in the hope that they will enable less experienced members of the profession to avoid some glaring blunders in teaching methods, from which thousands of children suffer irredeemably. First about this "mark business"—marks given the child as an estimation of his ability. How does the "teacher"—I mean the learned in-

The Age Old Story

And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Intelligent teacher—not the "salary collector" and the "hold my job a-all costs" sinner—I mean the laud or gentleman of honest judgment, and intelligence—How does he or she regard "marks" in relation to grading a child? Such a teacher will reply somewhat in this manner: "Marks are merely the prize for a well played game of letters. Like a game of cards or checkers the players all play well but all cannot win, the prize makes the game interesting for the players whether they win it or not; it just enjoy the game, and play it just for the fun of competition; so marks for a student are merely something to make the game of learning interesting."

I wonder if the average teacher realizes that, when she marks a paper for a "normal average child," she is writing down a true estimate, in percentage, of "her own ability to teach" not the "ability of the child to learn." It is true. When a normal average child makes 20 per cent in a paper—a child whom he has taught, the teacher's ability to teach measures just 20 per cent. In other words, he or she is not fit to teach or has not yet learned how to teach—not the child; the teacher is to blame. No average normal child has a right to make 20 per cent of what he is expected to know of what the teacher has taught. If properly taught, the average child should know 80-100 per cent of what the teacher "has taught," if he or she has done his work properly, and is gifted with common sense, and judgment which he or she has applied.

I do not mean, of course, that a student should know 80 to 90 per cent of what is given in a test set by some other teacher who has not taught the child, like Grades X, XI and XII in the Maritimes. That would be impossible because these exams are likely to contain facts and references that the teacher of the child overlooked or did not think important. The 80 to 90 per cent must be the result of the normal average child's work given by the teacher who has taught him.

One day a very hard working teacher, just beginning her first year, came to me almost in tears. "What shall I do?" she said, "my best pupils made only 20 per cent." I was two years her senior in experience. I could only reply what I had already learned, "change your tactics, your teaching is at fault when normal children know only 20 per cent of what you've taught. Start thinking. Find some way by which your cleverest children will 'get' and retain 90-100 per cent of what you teach." The abnormal and retarded ones should make 50-60 per cent of what you "teach"—providing you actually "teach."

I speak from experience, and I can bring teachers the best proof of all—students and children, young men and young women 15-18 years to prove what I say,—students whom I have taught, who found learning an interesting game, and wanted to go on playing it. I have heard of the "change your tactics" not a measuring stick. Two pupils failed during my first and second years. None have failed since. It took that long to discover ways of presenting to my pupils the subjects in an interesting manner, from which they got and retained 80-100 per cent, according to ability. Inspectors from both Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have commended and recommended my teaching methods. None have condemned them. Equally, all have commended my "judgment," but to these inspectors I

The Poet's Corner

WHEN MOLLY SMILES

When Molly smiles beneath her cow,  
I feel my heart — I can't tell how,  
When Molly is on Sunday dressed,  
On Sundays I can't take no rest.

What can I do? on worky days  
I leave my work on her to gaze?  
What shall I say? At sermons, I  
Forget the text when Molly's by.

Good master curate, teach me how  
To mind your preaching and my plough;  
And if for this you'll raise a spell,  
A good fat goose shall thank you well.

—Anonymous, 1732.

owe many hints and helps that contributed to success, when I was inexperienced and ignorant. I made mistakes like others and profited by them.

Now about the abnormal or retarded child, what shall we do? Leave him in the same grade year after year? The think and human marks teacher doesn't know what he made; she asks, "where and how will he get most out of life and school?" The answer is clear. He cannot make "marks" or win in the game, but he will get most by grading each year along with pupils of his own age. Some times such a child recovers at Grade VII or IX and comes almost to normal, but he may not.

Likewise, I may add that it is also, the attitude of the teacher towards the normal average child. "Marks" are not his measure though they have made his year of study interesting as a game of checkers. No, marks are not the question. The question is "can this child manage and begin the work of the next grade?" She knows what lies before him in the next grade, and asks herself, "Have I done my duty by this child? He has been in school regularly (parents' duty). Has he, under my system, covered and mastered the practical elements of Grade VI to such an extent that he can continue in the next grade?" She knows the answer. If he cannot carry on the work of the next grade, as a normal average child, under her system of teaching, then she has failed again—not the child. She (or he) is not only guilty of collecting salary that she has not earned, but she has committed a crime against the child—the helpless undeveloped child—whose parents may not be in a position educationally, to protect him against this crime. I have known and taught some of these children—sufficiently to evaluate their ability as somewhat above average, in some cases and to say at first hand that the teacher not the pupil was a failure.

Many young teachers—beginners—as I did at first distrust their own judgment, and attempt to follow rules, and laws with respect to books and courses. I estimate that the Grade V and VI Mathematics Exercise books contain fractional operations that can be mastered only by a Grade IX average age (14-15 years). Grade VII or IX age is 9-10 years. Grade VI 10-12 years. Age rather than grade counts. Fractional problems for Grades V and VI, I find, should be restricted to the simple (1 rule) operations, for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing, etc., in straight form. Tricks and twists are wasted time. The pupil never masters them prior to Grade VII or IX in any case. But the writer of those books seems to have assumed that the Grade VI should be "master" of all these operations with all the reverse tricks—usually not mastered before Grade X or XI.

The same is true of a number of these exercise books. The books are good—splendid—well prepared. Some old children—the exception, will master them, but the teacher must use her judgment. That is what it was given her for and it is what the Department of

Notes By The Way

Only two groups of automobile drivers go out on Sunday, those who drive 15 miles an hour and those who drive 75.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Sicilian, aged 93, who has just graduated from elementary school, is described by his teacher as particularly good at history. So he ought to be. He must have seen plenty—Brantford Expositor.

It is disturbing to contemplate that 20 years from now, at the present rate of cutting, mature stands of red and white pine in the North Bay forestry district will be exhausted. The lumber industry has long been one of the mainstays of our region. Now, it end seems in sight, unless the industry can be carried on through use of immature stands of timber.—North Bay Nugget.

A couple of science-fiction writers in the United States have presented would-be space travellers with a most perplexing problem. What is to be done with the garbage from the space stations or rockets? The writers point out that the refuse can't just be pitched out of the airlock, for it would be attracted by the small gravity of the station or rocket and "hang around" indefinitely. A suggested alternative is to shoot the garbage well away from the happy home in space. The chief of garbage disposal would have his men pack the stuff for an extended journey and load it into a gun; then "You may fire when you are ready, Mr. Jones!" Unfortunately, the waste would either spiral to earth, or circle the globe indefinitely, beginning the formation of a train of garbage satellites. Neither of these alternatives attracts one very much.—Edmonton Journal.

Hollywood movies have added a third dimension, the illusion of depth, to their movies. If the word dimension is considered in its wider sense, that of scope, this is not the movies' third, but fourth dimension. To length and width of pictures they added sound, 25 years ago. The system is a simple one in principle and the principle was discovered more than 100 years ago. Human vision gives depth, because it is a composite of two views of the same object, each view reflected by one eye. A camera with two recording lenses at eye-distance apart, can produce the two views. By taking each view in a different color, then equipping the viewer with glasses which interpret these colors, the effect is complete. Hollywood is delighted with its "discovery of the stereoscopic process at a time when the movie business was in a particularly bleak part of the popcorn concession alone keeping many movie houses open.

Education expects her or him to do. I have been reminded by, at least, two inspectors to "use my own judgment." No one else can do this since no one else may know your particular pupils, and their needs—not even the author of the book, who prepared a course from which the teacher is free to choose and which she is free to arrange and modify according to their special needs.

There are many sides to the "child teacher" problem. I have considered only the average normal, or above average, who attend school regularly. Again I repeat, an average normal child should know 80 - 100 per cent of what his teacher teaches; and this percentage evaluates the teacher's teaching ability, be it high or low. No average normal regular attendance child "fails," falls below 65 per cent except by a fault of the teacher. He may fail to 60 or 65 by fault of his parents who neglect his home training and control—or do not see to regular attendance. It's about time that the teacher who is interested only in obtaining more salary, became awakened to a sense of conscious duty and responsibility, which is his and hers.

I am, Sir, etc. "ULRIC"

and more and more others, even with popcorn, being forced to shut down. The truth is that there are several other dimensions Hollywood will have to discover before its worries are permanently over. One is originality, another is intelligence, a third is good taste. Put these dimensions into movies and Hollywood can throw away its polaroid glasses.—Montreal Gazette.

A few days ago twenty-one tractors were lined up on the farm of Mr. Harvey Shewfelt, who lives near La Riviere. Mr. Shewfelt was too ill to get out on the land himself and the prospect of his empty acres had been doing nothing to improve his health. The tractors were manned by Mr. Shewfelt's neighbors and before the day was over they had ploughed and harrowed 220 acres and seeded 120 acres. Those neighbors probably feel that they have done nothing to make a fuss about. Harvey Shewfelt was in trouble, so they put in a day's work to help him out; surely any neighbor would do as much. It may be so. All the same it is nice to read about those farmers down at La Riviere. If it were not for people like them Canada would be a far less powerful nation than it now is.—(Winnipeg Free Press).

"Yesterday" writes a journalist in the Toronto Telegram, "we saw a group of six houses that were a slum. They were small, without paint; their doors and windows gaping. The yards were only ten feet square and the only vegetation couch-grass. How miserable these people must be, we thought, since they must live in such depressing surroundings. Then we looked upward: five of the six houses had television antenna." No doubt it is stupid to waste, in whatever social surroundings it is practiced. It shows a lack of self-mastery. We do not excuse those who squander a good income. But do we know what poverty is? When one lives in "depressing surroundings" and is unhappy, one seeks an escape. Television is—at least at the beginning of it—an opium which few can resist. When life is sad and there seems no way out it calls for something new to avoid the seller of illusions.—(Le Devoir, Montreal).

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

ODD CIVIC BY-LAW

"It appears that our City Fathers have discovered a new motive power which bids fair to eclipse the celebrated Keeley motor, while at the same time it will work a revolution in the prices of agricultural produce, more particularly that of straw. The details of the invention have not yet been made public, but from what we have so far learned, we are enabled to state that it will undoubtedly prove a blessing to the truckmen of this city, many of whom find it difficult to make over a meagre living during the present depressed times, as they will be enabled to dispense with horses during the winter season, and thus will be saved the necessity of providing straw or hay for their hitherto not over-well, fed nags.

The only facts of which the public are yet in possession may be gleaned from section 13 of a law respecting truckmen and truckage, passed on June 13th last, which enacts that "Every licensed truckman shall have affixed to his harness, for the purpose of drawing his sled or sleigh, at least one good and sufficient open bell." It may be seen, at a glance, that no vendor will be required, not even the very small amount of fuel supplied the Keeley motor—the only condition to be implicitly observed being that the bell be open mouthed. It has been suggested to us, but we will not do the City Fathers the injustice of supposing that they were ungenerous enough to mean "an open-mouthed Belle!" —The Examiner, July 14, 1879.

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