

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew... Published every week day morning at 100 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I., by The Thomson Company Ltd.

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1956

A Little Consolation

Whatever else may be said, for or against, the practice of appointing "permit" teachers to positions in our schools, it cannot be said that it is merely one of local or even Canadian application.

At the present time, according to an official report, there are 35,000 teaching positions in New York City schools. Approximately 7,500 of these are held by substitute teachers, most of whom possess qualifications below the standards required of "regular" teachers.

There is, of course, nothing in this report to ameliorate the teacher-shortage problem which is both eroding educational officials here and elsewhere.

A Colossal Task

After converting about every other tradition of China to the doctrinaire purposes of the new political regime, Mao Tse-tung and his colleagues are reported now to be turning their attention to the Chinese language—or, rather, the Chinese "languages", for there are six general language groupings, and each of these is divided into a number of distinct dialects.

The first step in the language reformation, according to a report from Peiping, will be a reduction of pictures to about 1000 key characters. This will be enough, it is believed, for elementary educational purposes.

It is ironic that the 600 million Chinese, who make up the largest body of Communist-controlled people in the world, were brought up on dialects which in written form are opposed to the basic tenets of Communism and any other totalitarian system.

Judicial Appointments

From time to time there has been some mild criticism in this country of the system of appointing lawyers to judicial posts. The fact that preferment is often given to one who has rendered distinctive service to the political party that happens to be in control of the government at the time the vacancy occurs is sometimes cited as an inherent weakness of the method.

In a recent statement Mr. Klots cited a memorandum by justices of the City Court in support of legislation to increase their salaries. These are Mr. Klots' words: "They say they must have an increase because it has cost them so much to be elected, because it is going to cost them so much more to get elected to a higher court, and because they are under such heavy obligations to all manner of organizations and former helpers".

Doubtless, there are theoretical weaknesses in any system of appointing judges. But the Canadian system, following the British tradition, seems, on the whole, to have worked well. It is very rarely that it has resulted in maladministration of law and justice.

EDITORIAL NOTES

What's in a name? A good deal, in the opinion of Anton Roszakowski of Cleveland, Ohio, who asked permission to change his surname to Roschakowsky. "It's easier to spell and pronounce" he told court officials.

Stores and homes are not the only casualties of the St. Lawrence Seaway Project. Within another year, it is reported, 20 church buildings will have been razed to make room for the development.

It was announced in the Legislature that two persons have offered land to the Province to be used as parks. One of these generous citizens, it was revealed, is Mr. Robert Cotton who a few years ago rendered the Province a good and permanent service in the establishment of the Cotton Memorial Nursery.



SPRING FLOW

PUBLIC FORUM

THE CAUSEWAY PROJECT

Sir,—In replying to Mr. Pratt's letter published March 27th I should first like to make a few general remarks with respect to the term "controversy" as used by this correspondent and his regret that he felt impelled to use it in his argument.

In all my previous statements concerning the many difficulties entailed in a causeway project I have approached this problem objectively and with the realism which the days in the narrow waterway project have instilled in me.

(1)—Mr. Pratt first infers that I must be "biased" against the causeway project because I work on the ship and live in Borden. I believe that in my letter published March 23rd and my remarks above that I have shown my position to be negative with respect to any bias.

(2)—With respect to the fate of the officers and crew of the ferry service should a causeway be constructed I shall make no comment as I believe other correspondents intend to express their views on this point in the near future.

(3)—Next we have Borden becoming an assembly point for trucks. Well, if an unprotected causeway of the Canso type were ever constructed here, certainly extensive parking lots would be required at Borden and Bayfield, N. B. for both cars and trucks for use during the days the causeway would be closed to traffic.

(4)—With respect to a causeway survey I have no argument against Mr. Pratt's statement that qualified engineers would conduct such a survey. However, I contend that if they reached their final decisions without due regard to "local knowledge" of ice and storm conditions prevailing here, then a fiasco such as recently occurred at Port aux Basques, Nfld. is only too possible.

(5)—I do take strong exception though to Mr. Pratt's statement that a scale model of the causeway could simulate ice and storm conditions and give all the necessary answers to the questions I have raised on these points.

The Poet's Corner

DESERTED HILL

High on a hill there stands a ruined church Whose empty steeple leans against the sky. Through glassless windows peer the pine and birch And nesting plovers fit with plaintive cry.

Here in the quiet acre, slabs of slate Wear moss upon the lines of simple verse. And crudely chiseled monuments relate The prayers that silenced lips cannot rehearse.

—Herbert Elliott in the New York Times

A point of argument in temporal affairs. This "barb" is obviously directed to myself and other correspondents such as "Wandering", "a stinger on the tail of it" etc. I suppose I am a neutralist in Mr. Pratt's estimation in that I view this problem as an engineer should — completely detached from all emotional hysteria.

I am, Sir, etc., M.B. LODGE Electrical Engineer Borden, P.E.I.

THE HOUSE IS CLOSED

Sir, — A few days ago as the moon hung low over the house close, and in those moments we wandered back through the weeks to see what those members had done. Someone near us remarked, "It's over and they did nothing"; but we thought of one thing, they killed our Daylight Time and as a further thought, they put a stinger on the tail of it as a threat to anyone who would dare pull its tail to wake it again.

Those of us who reside in this city and pay as best we can for its operation looked ahead to another bright summer day when we could again have an extra hour of evening sunshine after our regular day's toil. We looked to our two members and they took the load for us to the House, only to be crushed by their buddies from the country as our Premier looked the other way and stayed silent.

We always lived with the thought in mind that the City of Charlottetown was run by the Mayor and Council we elect every two years, and if there is a power to stop us from moving our clocks ahead or back when the Council we elected see fit then we must be wrong in this thought.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (April 9, 1931)

Lober fishermen of Prince Edward Island are urging the Dominion Government to provide a boat collection service similar to that given fishermen on Nova Scotia, according to Dr. Richard Hamer, central secretary of the United Maritime Fishermen.

The car ferry experienced the hardest and longest passage of the winter in crossing from Borden to Tormentine yesterday. The steamer buffeted the ice for more than thirty hours since 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, many times being brought to a halt.

In a letter received from Mrs. J.S. Jenkins she told of flying from Sarasota, Florida to Tampa, where she qualified and was granted a permit to fly after examination at the airport there. Mrs. Jenkins is the Island's first lady flyer and so far as is known the only one in the Maritimes.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 3, 1946)

The month of March just past six degrees warmer than the average temperature for the same month during the past 38 years, according to Dr. J.A. Clark of the Dominion Experimental Station, Charlottetown. This is according to passengers an early spring season and may result in less than average yield in hay, cereal and potatoes.

The third session of the forty-fifth General Assembly of the Province was prorogued at noon Saturday by His Honour Lieutenant Governor J.A. Bernard, with the customary ceremonial, after His Honour had given his assent to the bills passed during the session.

H.M.C.S. Warrior, the first aircraft carrier to wear Canada's green maple leaf on her funnel, steamed into our home port of Halifax yesterday, a week out of Portsmouth, England, on her maiden voyage.

The Debate Continues

Fluoridation may be the answer to Canada's shortage of dentists. The Health League of Canada believes that fluoridation may be the only answer. It is estimated that it will be 25 years before Canada has enough dentists for the present population, and by then the population probably would be doubled.

The chairman of the League's fluoridation committee says that propaganda against fluoridation has been put on a money-making basis. It has been disclosed, he says, that one organization in the United States makes \$250,000 a year by selling pamphlets and propaganda against fluoridation of civic water supplies.

The Canadian Dental Association has declared in favor of fluoridation. Dr. Don W. Gullett, the association's secretary, recently used strong words in denouncing the more fanatical opponents of fluoridation. It is recognized, of course, that many of the opponents are reasonable people sincere in their belief. He was speaking of the extremists, accusing them of using the Hitlerian theory of "the bigger the lie the more chance of making people believe it."

In Windsor, Ont., where Dr. Gullett spoke, the Daily Star said: "It is impossible to believe, as many would have us believe, the Canadian Dental Association, representing an honourable profession, would have any part in a plan to poison our children or jeopardize their health in any way. Its only interest is to protect the teeth of the children, which it knows can be done without any adverse effects."

The House opening again our brave Mayor and City Council with our backing will come as a voice from the necks of those killers of Daylight Time as they cross the city line again.

I am, Sir, etc., WALTER A. OBRIEN Charlottetown

FARM PROBLEMS

Sir,—Regarding the present deplorable condition of the farming industry in Canada, farmers should learn to do as others do. Why not refuse to produce unless we have a guaranteed price for our product, said price to give us a profit over the average cost of production? Also, we have organizations which have the power to say who shall or shall not practise their profession. Could we not do this to those speculators, who are not farmers, growing several hundred acres of potatoes, and helping to a large extent to produce this surplus which is so much in evidence at the present time?

Another solution would be for our Government to buy up all farms and hire farmers to operate them. Of course, they could only be expected to work a five-day forty-hour week, and their salary would have to be high enough to enable them to contribute to a pension fund, so they could retire after so many years' service. They would also be eligible for Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, etc. I wonder what the price of food would then be. This may seem far-fetched, but what about our Railways purchased by our Government?

How, these farmers, we can take comfort in knowing that as far as the physical well-being of mankind is concerned, we have the most important job in the world. Even the wonderful advances made in medical science in curing human ills would be so much wasted effort if there was no food to sustain life. To change the subject, I am thankful to notice that we are to have Uniform Time on the Island so that we won't have the confusion we had last year. While sympathizing with our city cousins wanting an extra hour in the evening, I cannot understand why they can't have it without tampering with the clock. Will someone please explain why business offices could not open one hour earlier?

I am, Sir, etc., FARMER, Southern Mag.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It can be argued that snow-shovelling takes more blame than it deserves as a man-killer. Men have died playing golf, but nobody contends from that fact that golf should not be played by anybody over fifty.—Ottawa Journal

The thing woolly-headed dogooders invariably choose to forget is that jails, basically, are places where people are sent to be punished. Efforts at rehabilitation are perfectly all right, in their place, but let us not lose sight of the fact that people who are sent to jail should be punished first and rehabilitated later.—Calgary Herald

A Washington psychiatrist has told the "fathers of the nation" that it's time for them to "resume their rightful role" as boss of the family. Why tell the fathers? They've known it all along. If this psychiatrist, who issued what amounts to a call for bravery is so brave himself, why doesn't he tell the mothers?—Milwaukee Journal

When new port facilities were inaugurated at Aarhus, Denmark, King Christian X honored the occasion with his presence. All along the route of the royal car, school children ran with banners and shouted. The sidewalks were swarming with them. "My goodness", the king cried in wonder, "where do all these children come from?" "Your majesty", said the mayor, "we have been preparing for this great day for years."—New York Times

The strait-laced Sabbath of 50 years ago is gone, and hardly anyone would now want to give up the modern freedom of people to entertain themselves on Sunday to relax, each in his own way. But that freedom is a far cry from a commercial Sunday. It probably in no way weakens the feeling among many people of all creeds and of none that a community is a better place to live in if Sunday is a quiet day.—Winnipeg Free Press

Most of us will ride along with such worthwhile observances as Education Week, Victorian Order of Nurse Week, Brotherhood Week, and others of similarly high and worthwhile purpose. But it is getting downright monotonous the way some plucky promoters are trying to get our ordinary people overjoyed about such things as Pickle Week, Kraut and Frankfurter Week, Soft Water Week, Old Stove Roundup Week and Bird Cage Week. In fact, some of these gimmicks are into the month class such as July which is Hot Dog Month.—Globe and Mail

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The Malayan government is offering a 1,624 prize for a national anthem. But some of the best songs of this kind were the product of situations that inspired them. It's a case of mood rather than money if you get a good national anthem.—Brantford Expositor

Political leaders throughout the free world can learn from France, of what happens when the people of any country are faced with excessively high taxes. The present jumbled and unsatisfactory state of the French National Assembly is due solely to the success of a new political group which had no policy of any kind save that of protest against high taxes.—Oshawa Times-Gazette

An old lady who was a native of a small New England village was famed in her native township for her health and thrift. To an acquaintance who was once congratulating her upon the former, she said: "We be pretty well for old folks. Josiah and me, Josiah ain't had an allin' time for 50 years, 'cept last winter. And I ain't never suffered but one day in my life and that was when I took some of the medicine Josiah had left over, so's it shouldn't be wasted."—Wall Street Journal

When the authorities decided to exterminate rabbits there were prisms even from those who did not see their slow and miserable death. What would follow from so considerable a disturbance in the balance of nature? A recent example is reported from a district in Central Africa where hunters had gravely diminished the number of crocodiles—a loss which would not on the face of it seem a matter for tears. But the result was disconcerting. Edible fish almost disappeared; there were not enough crocodiles to eat the cannibal fish, which were therefore eating the edible fish. So crocodile hunting had to be restricted.—London New Statesman

THE FROZEN JUNGLE

A new, exciting novel by a former Canadian newspaperman commences in THE STANDARD this week. It tells of five men and a girl whose aircraft crashed in the uncharted Ungava and how they survived the bitter cold. Don't miss the first instalment in THE STANDARD — on sale now, complete with magazine, 12-page novel and 20 pages of comics. Only ten cents.

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