

THE GUARDIAN

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New Civic Government

Yesterday's contest for civic honours resulted in several surprises. Only two members of the outgoing administration, Coun. Keefe in Ward Four and Coun. Johnstone in Ward Five, survived along with Coun. Gormley, Ward One, who had previously been re-elected by acclamation along with Mayor Stewart. The others fell by the way, giving place to Mr. Farmer in Ward Two, Mr. Storey in Ward Three, Mr. Elmer MacDonald as Mr. Keefe's colleague in Ward Four, and Messrs. Cudmore and McCormack in Ward Five. The outgoing Water Commissioners fared better, both Messrs. Gillis and Bevan being re-elected, with Mr. Ives as the new member replacing Mr. Curran, who did not run on this occasion.

The results of the contest appear to indicate that civic indebtedness has been getting out of bounds and that a more economic administration is required by the electorate. As noted yesterday, however, no opportunity for a general discussion of the issues was provided, and a good deal depended upon the candidate's personal appeal and organizing ability.

On the whole, the new Council appears to be well balanced, with able business men among the newcomers who should not find it difficult to familiarize themselves with civic procedure. It is to be hoped, and expected, that they will work harmoniously as well as conscientiously in the public interest under Mayor Stewart, and that every effort will be made to keep caucus business at a minimum, and to encourage free and frank discussion at the open meetings.

The successful candidates are to be congratulated upon their efforts, and the unsuccessful ones also on the spirit in which they fought and have taken their defeat. They may console themselves with the reflection that elections are at best uncertain, and that many of our most outstanding public men have had to take rebuffs in their stride. It is all part of the game. The important thing is that we have public spirited citizens prepared to enter and re-enter their names for civic honours, in which the cares and responsibilities far outweigh the personal returns. May it always be thus, and may we always have occasion to console the losers as well as acclaim the winners. They manage things differently in non-democratic countries; but here we like to see a good fast field, whether on the race track or at the polling booths. And if a dark horse romps home occasionally, nosing out the favorites and upsetting the calculations, that too is part of a grand old tradition.

Realities Of Investment

British money and British skill should be developing Canada's great iron ore potential north of the St. Lawrence. The investment would certainly be a good one and capital would be welcomed in this country. Unfortunately Britain has not the capital to invest. It could only come from an excess of exports over imports and returns from existing investments, and today the picture is one of Britain's striving to barely balance the exchange with the western hemisphere.

The Beaver's idea of British-owned industry flourishing in Canada will not be realized in any foreseeable future but there is, nevertheless, a great opportunity for the Old Country to supply skilled manpower and great quantities of equipment for an expansion which will be financed by American and Canadian money. If the history of foreign investment is any guide, the British Isles will be saved from much future unpopularity by present poverty.

Aggrandisement

Nationalization of industries leads to gross extravagance and wasteful expenditure, as has been instanced in the United Kingdom.

Many observers here for some time have had a questioning eye directed towards the National Film Board, says The Gazette. There has been a tendency of the Board to assert its position, and to try to become a bigger and bigger body, with some of the sweep and power and finances that have been gained by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. "It is now known that the National Film Board has acquired a large property in St.

Laurent, near Montreal. There it will erect an 'installation.' This installation will likely run into millions. It has even been reported that the cost may run up to six million.

"Nobody questions that the National Film Board needs improved quarters. Its present quarters have been described, no doubt quite accurately, as 'cramped, scattered, inconvenient and hazardous.' The Massey Commission recommended that 'in the interests of economy and efficiency, and in justice to Film Board employees, this deplorable situation should be changed.'"

"But in providing the new premises, 'the interests of economy' ought certainly to be kept in mind. It would be a pleasant world indeed if everyone could work under ideal conditions. But the conditions of the world are, unfortunately, not ideal at the present time. And there must be a very substantial adjustment between what the Film Board would like and what it should get."

"No doubt the people of Canada need services such as those which the Film Board can perform. But in their own interests, the people of Canada need to be sure that the Film Board does not do work which could be more economically commissioned to private companies, that the Board does not seek to expand its own scope without the discipline of caution, and that a 'suitable building' does not represent the ambitions of the Board rather than the plain needs of the public."

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. Valentine's Day.

The absence of a Mayoral contest made itself felt in the voting for Councillors and Water Commissioners yesterday.

This Province has more poets to the square mile than any other province of Canada—even letters to the Editor taking poetic form.

The spirit of the crowd makes itself felt impressively in a gathering for mourning, the emotion being contagious.

Curling is attracting boyhood just as hockey did in bygone days. In the West it is reported that more people attend a curling bonspiel than do a football or hockey final.

When the Federal authorities declare a public holiday it is not necessary, though characteristically diplomatic, for the provinces, cities, and towns to issue similar proclamations.

Despite the 21.8 per cent that Canada's population has increased since 1941, there is a very great discrepancy between this country's rank amongst the nations from point of view of size and from that of population.

Our system of government distinguishes between the powerful and the dignified aspects of the state. We pay homage to the Queen and her representatives but feel no hesitation about letting her ministers know what we think of their efforts.

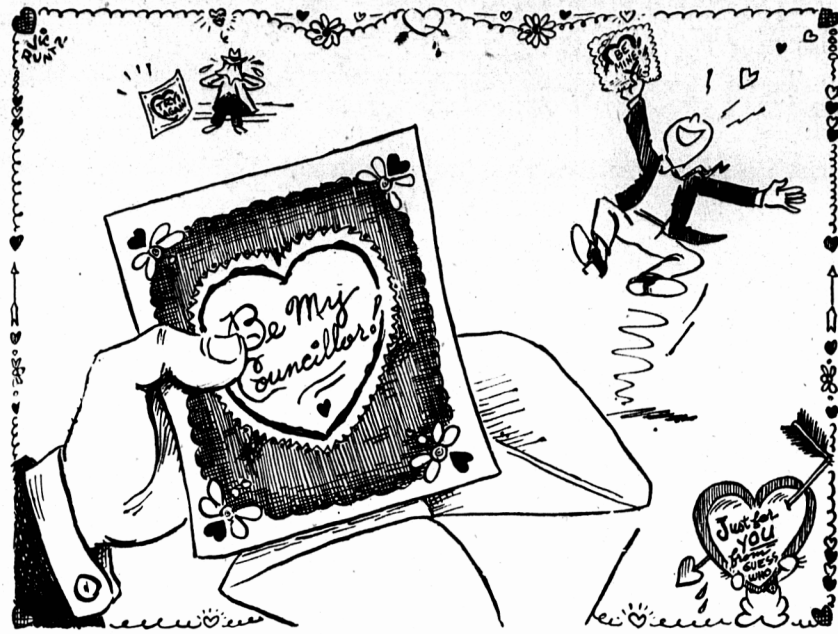
The Mayor and Council for Charlottetown have two years in which to influence the city's development. Obviously much of their concern must be for the peripheral areas which are not part of the city proper but whose existence it is impossible for Charlottetown to continue to ignore.

Mr. Graham F. Towers, governor of the Bank of Canada stated recently that the rate of personal savings will be a factor in determining the trend of prices this year. From the individual's point of view the trend of prices will be a vital factor in determining savings.

Captain James Cook, celebrated English navigator, died this date 1779. He commanded a British sloop at the capture of Quebec and charted the St. Lawrence from Quebec to the sea, and later the waters off Newfoundland and Labrador. He showed New Zealand to be divided into two large islands and explored the coast of Australia. His explorations ended the myth of an unknown South Continent.

They are all doing it—getting back to preparedness. Canadian cities may start hearing the wail of air-raid sirens this spring, a Health Department announcement indicates. The department, in charge of civil defence, announces that delivery of sirens to "certain major cities across the country," has started. An initial shipment of 200 five-horsepower, two-tone sirens, will be completed by early March. Sirens already have been delivered to Montreal, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Victoria, Halifax and Saint John, N. B. Other deliveries will be made during this month or next. Once installed, the sirens will undergo tests to determine their suitability to the area and the whole program will be reviewed with a view to modifying or supplementing it.

Some Of The Boys Got Valentines



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.

STALIN AND OUR KING'S DEATH

Sir, — There probably has never before in history been such an outpouring of sympathy and affection as has been at the passing of our beloved King. I well remember when Queen Victoria died there was genuine and widespread grief. I was with an old Scotch minister when the news came. He broke down and cried like a child who had lost his mother. But this mourning is more universal and very genuine. Of course, the facilities of communication are vastly quickened from what they were in 1901, but our King was such a good man, devoted to his people and brave far above the ordinary. He seemed to typify all the best in the British race. He makes us feel afresh that the bonds that bind our Empire together are bonds of love, and an Empire thus bound together will not soon crumble.

What does Stalin think of all this passionate expression of regard for a ruler? His empire is held together by force which is always accompanied by warped morality, and if that power were relaxed for a month, he will know that his whole empire would fall apart. His is a nation trembling with fear. Does he see that the British nation has a mighty power that Russia lacks? Last summer, Molotov, his family and a few friends were having a picnic in a beautiful spot beside a wood, where was posted armed guards in sight of the party. A queer kind of a picnic! And wherever Stalin and his great men go, they are heavily guarded. What a dog's life they must lead!

Jesus said: "They who take the sword shall perish with the sword." The Russian principle of government will bring disaster upon that nation as surely as water runs down hill. But what does Stalin think of all this regard for our King? Does he think at all, or has prejudice closed his mind against every thought but the Communist philosophy? We remember how time and again the Pharisees acknowledged that Jesus was right and that his power was divine, and yet they went right on to kill him, believing they were doing God service. Prejudice can be awfully stupid and cruelly headstrong. It is much to be feared that prejudice is sealing the fate of the Russian government. This is, perhaps, the severest pronouncement of divine judgment.

We all have to guard against falling into this state of mind. It is like a well, easy to fall into, hard to get out of. We can easily be prejudiced against Russia, and see nothing good in her. Some politicians in the U.S. and Canada have gone daft about Communism, seeing one behind every bush. We must remember that only six millions are members of the Soviet party. The rest are obedient servants, many of whom, at heart, are not Communists, and there are some commendable features about the government. They are death on a raft. Their Russian prisoners are treated humanely and modern reforming methods are used. When they came to power, about 20 per cent of the people were literate. Today, over 75 per cent and education is spreading, and along many lines, especially scientific. We do fear and seriously distrust Russia, but we must guard against going too far in that direction. I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN. Stanley Bridge.

The Age-Old Story

Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilegal; and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the Lord said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadesh-barnea. Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God. And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the

Notes By The Way

Chief Constable Mulligan's warning that Saturday bank closing will create a serious problem for police, deserve consideration. The chief fears that Saturday bank closing will force business firms and stores to carry large amounts of money over the weekend and thus increase the danger of robbery and holdup. Nobody should try to use the chief's views to bring about re-consideration of Saturday bank closing, but the chief's fears are the best possible argument for an automatic deposit service at all banks during the long banking weekend. The banks should provide some sort of automatic deposit system to cover the 60-hour hours banks will be closed over the weekend. — (Vancouver Province.)

The number of railway wrecks which have occurred in Northern Ontario so far this year has been startling. Fortunately, the wrecks have not cost any lives, but they might have. Damage to equipment has probably run past the million-dollar mark and delay and inconvenience have been costly both to the railway company and passengers. The accident jinx has struck a hard blow at the safety record of the rail lines, but there undoubtedly has been an element of human carelessness involved. The series of wrecks should serve as a warning to the railways to make doubly sure that safety regulations are observed and that even the slightest bit of carelessness is eradicated. No one expects the railways to go on operating forever without an accident—but when they become frequent there is something wrong. — (North Bay Nugget.)

The Canadian Wildlife Service at Ottawa is reported to be carrying out experiments in crossing lake trout with speckled trout in Western Canada. An Ottawa biologist says that the lake-speckled trout hybrid may develop into a better lake fish than either the lake trout or the speckled trout. "I don't think it is very wise for biologists to be fooling around with the fish when conservationists are pressing for Government action to restock depleted waters and to take steps to preserve fish and wildlife. Knowing the habits of fish, biologists are well aware that certain species of fish will not live in harmony. Tropical fish fanciers who establish community tanks recognize the danger of certain types of fish to eat their distant relations. — (Sudbury Star.)

Lord Alexander's appointment as Defence Minister is doubly welcome. There can be no possible doubt that he is the man for the job. Soldiers, it is true, have not always been completely successful in political office (even Kitchener was not above criticism in a post for which he was in theory admirably suited); but Lord Alexander is a soldier of rather an unusual type. He uses such much as authority and can persuade as well as command. Above all, in spite of long years spent in the study and exposition of the military art, he is entirely free from any delusions that soldiering is the whole or even the most important part of life. No one is more likely than he to understand the complexity of present-day policy, and to see that defence is only one of innumerable calls upon our economy. — (London Daily Telegraph.)

The American Congressman who was surprised to learn that Canada is not one of the possessions of this country which could be sold to the United States might recall the speech made in the House of Commons in 1782 by Sir James Marriot, who resided in the court of admiralty. He told the House that "although it has been frequently pretended that the inhabitants of the colonies were not represented in parliament, that was quite mistaken". The first colonization by national sovereignty was the establishment of Virginia, whose grants and charters were followed as, for instance, to have and to hold of the King's Majesty as part and parcel of the manor of East Greenwich, within the county of Kent. So the inhabitants of America were, in fact, represented in parliament by the Knights of the Shire for the county of Kent. This singular discovery that America was part of Kent although delivered with all due solemnity excited so much merriment in the House that the Speaker found it necessary to employ his authority to restore order. — (From Manchester Guardian.)

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) PETITIONS The following were among the petitions presented to the House of Assembly during the session of 1943: From John MacLean, of Georgetown, joining, praying to be remunerated for loss sustained on his contract for the erection of the Georgetown Market House. From Hugh Logan, jailor of Georgetown Jail, setting forth, that owing to the insufficient state of the fence around the jail yard, two of the prisoners made their escape, in consequence of which he was made liable for the debt for which one of them had been imprisoned, amounting to the sum of \$38 10s., and praying to be released from the payment thereof. From George Birnie, Charlottetown, for a pecuniary grant as a bounty for the establishment of the Phoenix Foundry in Charlottetown. From George Henry Chudleigh and William MacKay, Charlottetown, contractors for slating the Colonial Building, praying for a remission of the Colonial duty on the slates imported by them for that purpose. From Samuel Gurney, Charlottetown, praying for a remission of the Colonial duty on teasels, eye-wash soap and other articles used in the manufacture of homespun cloth. From James Welsh, Lot 48, yeoman, praying for aid towards putting and keeping in repair a pump and well at the Ferry House, opposite Charlottetown. From William Douse, Esq., agent for the Earl of Selkirk, praying to be relieved from the payment of the sum of \$128 10s., assessed upon Townships Nos. 39, 40 and 62, under the Road Compensation Act, toward completing the road leading from Wood Islands to Montserrat River, which road having recently been opened. From divers merchants, mechanics, farmers and others, setting forth that "in the opinion of some intelligent persons, there are certain indications of the existence of coal formations in various parts of this island, and praying that it be appropriated a sum of money for the purpose of ascertaining whether such is the case or not."

The Poet's Corner FROM "TO THE QUEEN" ... May you rule us long. And leave us rulers of your blood As noble till the latest day! May children of our children say, "She wrought her people lasting good; Her countenance was pure; her life serene; God gave her peace; her land reposed; A thousand claims to reverence closed In her as Mother, Wife and Queen; And statesmen at her council met Who knew the seasons when to take Occasion by the hand, and make The bounds of freedom wider yet By shaping some august decree Which kept her throne unshaken still. Broad-based upon her people's will, And compass'd by the inviolate sea." —Lord Tennyson.

The Passing Scene

By Observer TEACHERS' STRIKES

Strikes and rumours of strikes affecting members of the teaching profession—surely one of the most useful of all callings known to man—provide anything but happy news.

To be sure, teachers as well as any other group have a legal right to strike if they feel like it. No one in a free society, except it be in a time of real national danger, can be compelled to work at anything for which he is convinced he is not receiving adequate wage or compensation, for that would be a negation of personal freedom of which our democratic philosophy makes so much. Nor can it be denied that the strike weapon, when used sensibly and after other means have failed, can be, and in fact many times has been, an instrument of social and economic justice.

The right to strike is one of the many rights which were won by individuals and groups in many lands at considerable cost. Like every other privilege it has sometimes been abused but, in the main, it has brought much good to society generally. No thinking person would wish to see it taken away by arbitrary legislation. There is not much danger of this coming to pass, however, for the political pressure exercised by labour unions and federations is apparently becoming stronger and stronger all the time.

Further, and quite apart from any political influence, public opinion would not tolerate much tampering with this hard-won democratic privilege. It can safely be assumed, therefore, that the right to strike is with us to stay, and we may as well make the best of it. About the only thing we can do now, governments and all others concerned, is to regulate the privilege in such a way as to ensure its democratic usefulness. That, of course, involves education in moral and social responsibility. For, privilege of any kind that centres only in legal rights without regard to social duty is bound to become corrupt and, in the end, destroy the very purpose for which it came into existence in the first place.

There can be no doubt that teachers generally are underpaid. I have yet to hear anyone express an opinion to the contrary. Their salaries have not kept pace with the rise in the cost of living, although they are much better off in their respect than were their professional forbears of a generation or two ago. This latter point, however, is of no consolation to present day teachers who in many cases must find it extremely difficult to make ends meet. It is hardly to be wondered at that, as they have pondered on the seeming indifference of governmental authorities, in itself a reflection of public apathy, they have turned to the strike weapon as perhaps the only hope for betterment of their condition.

While I agree that such action is not to be wondered at, I do think, in all conscience, that it is to be deplored. That teachers have a right to strike goes without saying. Whether or not it is the answer to their problems is quite another matter. Personally, I do not believe it is. Well informed teachers must be aware of the fact that they do not stand alone in their wilderness of imperfectly requited labours. The fact of the matter is that public service of the most essential sort is hardly ever to be measured by the amount of financial recognition it is likely to receive.

Take the case of ministers for one example of this seemingly unjust vogue (I refer here to ecclesiastical ministers, not to cabinet ones). These, in general, have always rendered a fine service to mankind. At least, so we have always been told, and so most of us believe. If, however, they were to be judged by the pittance many of them receive in salaries and

other emoluments, they would be very far down in the list of useful citizens. In the U. S. A. where clerical salaries on an average are considerably higher than anywhere else in the world, a statistical report compiled a year or two ago showed that in the salary earning groups the average clergyman was placed just a building ahead of the apartment dweller. It wasn't long before someone suggested that the ministers should join a union and go on strike. Fortunately, for the good of their own souls, better and wiser counsels prevailed.

Another instance is that of the celebrated country doctor who has grown old in the service of his neighbours, often with precious little financial reward. Almost everybody shouts his praises, but hardly anyone ever gives a thought to his financial status. When his bills (often nominal). When his life is naturally pleased. When they are not—and this is by no means a rarity—he carries on cheerfully just the same. If you were to suggest to the patients of the nonagenarian Dr. McDonald of St. Peter's, for example, that the money he has received in his long and distinguished practice was commensurate with the great social service he has rendered, they would be greatly shocked. No physician with any sense of vocation would ever think of going "on strike", come what may.

Teachers will say, "All this is very fine but it does not help us much in our economic difficulties." Perhaps not, but I imagine it does in their thinking, for teaching is a vocation of the highest order. Like all other kinds of work in which men and women are called and not merely "appointed", it brings rewards and satisfactions for which no amount of money could ever pay. Striking may bring teachers a few more dollars in their monthly pay cheques but with them, I believe, there would come a weakening of the intangible gifts that make a good teacher's life and service worth while. A satisfactory living wage is without question a teacher's right, and the authorities are very shortsighted not to see that he gets it, but I am not persuaded that it deserves to be considered by the teachers themselves as being "in primis".

As public opinion becomes more enlightened it will demand more equitable salary adjustments for those hard working and dedicated men and women to whom we entrust the intellectual training of our children. The advancement of this enlightenment is, in itself, an educational task of the first magnitude. It merits the earnest cooperation of all who desire our schools to be training places for good citizenship. The former "big-stick" relationship as between the teacher and the pupil is now, happily, obsolete. What good its revival would do the teachers in their relationship with public opinion generally is uncertain. One thing is sure—and the teachers know it better than anyone else—kindly persuasion and well founded argument are still powerful weapons.

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