

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 THURSDAY, NOV. 5, 1953

Streets And Highways

The conflict between the use of Provincial roads as through highways on the one hand and as urban streets on the other has come up in Quebec and seemingly been decided in favour of the latter use. A delegation from Thetford Mines waited upon Premier Duplessis to protest against a highway being re-routed around instead of directly through the city's business district.

Perhaps the fact that the delegation was headed by a colleague in his cabinet made it difficult for the Quebec premier to give a different answer, because the arguments for using streets as streets and highways as highways are weighty indeed. Taking the extreme case of the highways being continuously built-up. There could be no traffic moving faster than is practical within an urban community. Higher speeds would inevitably take a very high toll indeed in lives of both young and old.

It is questionable, too, whether the Provincial taxpayer should shoulder the burden of street construction which, after all, is comparable to maintaining the farmer's private lane. If the Province provides convenient access to a community it would seem to be up to local authorities to deal with streets and sidewalks as well as other urban services. Utilizing a Provincial highway as a street, in fact, greatly increases the cost of providing other necessary services.

The contrary argument is, of course, that it is desirable that traffic should pass the door of local merchants, the presumption being that if it could take a direct route to its destination the merchants along the way would lose trade. There is a point there but heavy through traffic does not necessarily mean more trade. Far more people can stop and buy if they have a chance to pull off the main highway than in the full flood of traffic.

Educational Costs

It has not taken long for New Brunswick's Royal Commission on school grants to learn that the grants are not large enough. Initial testimony was unanimous in holding that there was too much of a burden on the municipal taxpayer. This Province has for some years gone on the principle that substantial aid rather than emergency assistance should be given by the Province to the school districts. Even Provincial resources, however, are inadequate in the eyes of many to provide the standard of education to which Canadian children should be entitled.

There are two difficulties in the way of federal contributions to primary and secondary education. One is that education is constitutionally a Provincial matter and that the Provinces, to a greater or less degree, object to federal control which might follow federal financing. The other is the desirability, pointed out in the Matthews report on Charlottetown schools, of maintaining local interest in the local schools.

The latter is, of course, highly important. The schools function within the community and their success depends in no small measure on intelligent co-operation between parent and teacher in the task of preparing the child to take his or her place in the adult world. All too often the parent has little conception of what the school is trying to do or how it attempts to go about it. The school, on the other hand, when the unit of administration becomes too large, is in danger of losing touch with the parents and their hopes and ambitions for the child.

It would be ideal, perhaps, if federal funds could be made available for education generally but the administration kept on a Provincial and local basis. It would be one more field in which vigilance would be needed to prevent the decay of local organization and the dominance of central authority but with the experience gained in other fields, such as agriculture, which successfully combine a national and local approach the difficulties should not be insurmountable.

"Canada House" in New York

The Canadian Consul General, Mr. Roy Lawson, has suggested the need of establishing a "Canada House" in New York City. The present situation is that Canadian Government and travel offices are scattered all over midtown Manhattan.

The two big railways are at different addresses on Fifth Avenue, and Trans-Canada Airlines on East Fifty-eighth Street. The Canadian Government's travel bureau is in the French Building of Rockefeller Centre, its film bureau in the Radio-Keith-Orpheum Building, and Mr. Lawson's own office in the British Empire Building. The New York Canadian Club has its headquarters in the Waldorf-Astoria, and the Canadian Women's Club at the Savoy Plaza. Canadian banks, insurance companies and the like are even more widely dispersed. The result, as Mr. Lawson says, is confusion, inefficiency and unnecessary expense.

It might not be practicable to bring all of them together under one roof. But Mr. Lawson thinks enough of them would be willing to pool their forces to justify the construction of a \$5 million, eighteen-storey Canadian building in, presumably, the midtown area. Government and business rentals would make it possible to erect and operate such a building on a strictly commercial basis, with private companies carrying most of the load, and occupying most of the space.

New Yorkers who have dealings with Canada, or plan a trip to this country, would certainly welcome an arrangement which would enable them to attend to all the details in one building. Canadians visiting New York would be no less grateful. Quite apart from all this, notes the Globe and Mail, there is the matter of prestige. Now that it has become the home of the United Nations, New York closely rivals London as a world capital. In such a city, this Dominion should be represented by a building which elicits general recognition and respect.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Guy Fawkes Day.

The real estate market in Charlottetown has certainly been brisk recently. There can have been few periods in which such a series of important transactions have taken place.

Most of the 27th Brigade will be out of Europe by the middle of this month, having been relieved by the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade. The 27th, although not immune to criticism, has earned a high reputation both with the German people and with other NATO forces.

Protection is by no means dead in the United States. While almost every other country is trying to have American tariff and other trade restrictions lightened, powerful lobbies are still doing their best to throw more restrictions in the way of imports to that country.

Canada has very largely lost the British market because of exchange difficulties and, to some extent, differing price levels. Now it would seem that the United States is going to step into the breach and sell farm surplus for sterling, a capital export scheme which would probably be beyond the resources of this country.

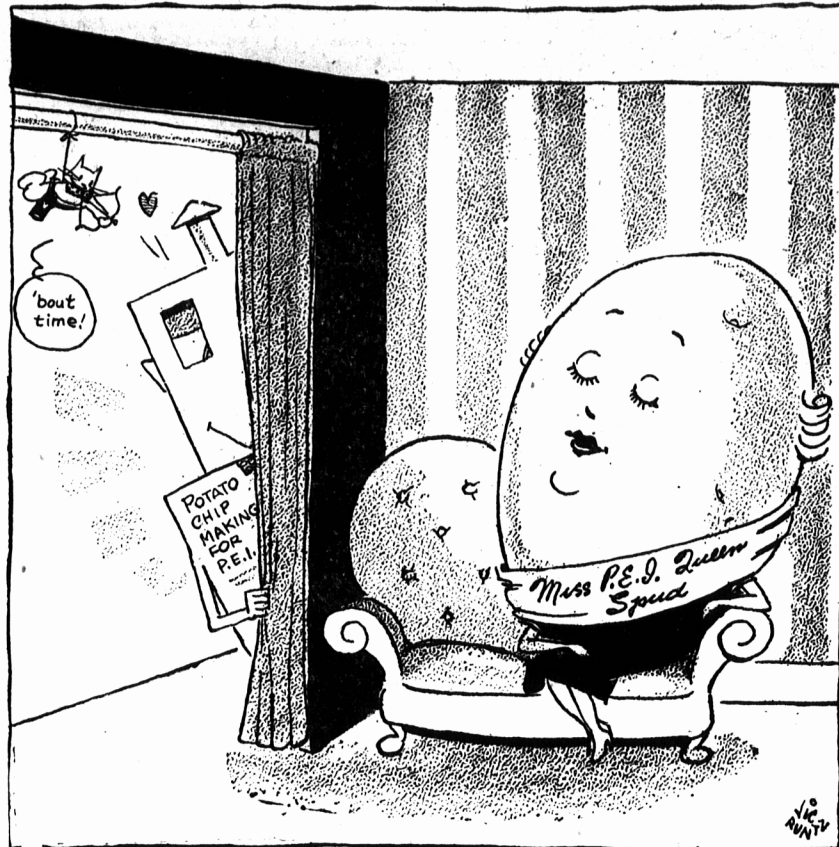
The conviction on a charge of manslaughter in Ontario based on the parking of a truck on the highway without lights should effectively direct public attention to the danger of this practice. With modern traffic, an obstruction is not merely a nuisance, it is a very serious threat to the safety of users of the highway.

The Battle of Inkerman was fought this date 1854. The English Guards and troops, with timely support from the French, beat back the assaulting Russians from the hill. In spite of their victory, however, they were unable to attempt the storming of Sebastopol. It was during the ensuing winter that Florence Nightingale won undying fame.

Loyalty to their organization is being stressed by the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association. This is, of course, of cardinal importance in the success of any group that hopes to accomplish anything for its members. The other side of the coin is the equal importance of an organization accurately reflecting the opinions of its membership. If the fishermen attain both objectives, their Association will indeed be a power in the land.

Speaking to a Manitoba audience an American oil man expressed amazement at the failure of Canadians to invest in this country's tremendous resources. "You've got to spend money to develop your country," he told them. "If you don't, someone else will grab off the opportunities." If the criticism applies to Canadians in general, it certainly applies in greater measure in this Province. The small number of Islanders who are investing in development here is resulting in outside capital coming in to do the job.

Talk Of A New Beau



The Poet's Corner

THE NILE

It flows through old hushed Egypt and its sands, Like some grave mighty thought threading a dream; And times and things, as in that vision, seem. Keeping along its eternal stands— Caves, pillars, pyramids, the shepherd bands That roamed through the young world, the glory extreme Of high Sesostris, and that southern beam, The laughing queen that caught the world's great hands. Then comes a mightier silence, stern and strong, As of a world left empty of its throng, And the void weighs on us; and then we wake, And hear the fruitful stream lapsing along Twixt villages, and think how we Our own calm journey on for human sake. —Lugh Hunt.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

WINTER TRANSPORTATION

"The Northern Light remains in Charlottetown awaiting orders in this city, all who know anything about the crossing at the Capes agree that this steamer is unfitted for the route; and it would be better to send her to Georgetown, and get a smaller or more easily managed boat to test the practicability of winter steam communication between the Capes. "It has been suggested that Batt's tug, the 'Henry Aitken', be sent to the Capes. Though she is not, in our opinion, just the kind of boat to send there, yet it cannot be doubted that, compared with the 'Northern Light', she is much the best fitted for the service required, and far the most likely to ensure a successful experiment. "It must be remembered that till railway communication with the Capes is established, that route cannot be made available for the transport of goods either to or from the Island; and, therefore, the steamer required at the Capes is only such a one as can quickly ferry passengers across, and test the practicability of keeping up constant communication with the outside world at those points." —The Examiner, Dec. 6, 1879.

The Age Old Story

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Notes By The Way

Overheard: "I'll probably walk off some of this fat now; my son has just secured a driver's license." —Kingston Whig-Standard.

A person circled his vicarage at Odense, Denmark, for nearly half an hour as he returned home after having passed a driving test. He said he had forgotten how to stop his car.—Saturday Night.

A good turn snowball is building up in a Red Deer, Alta., Wolf Cub Pack. At weekly pack meetings, each Cub hands in a list of good turns he has done. The papers are unsigned and are wrapped in tinfoil. As he received the reports, Cubmaster Callander adds them to an ever-growing snowball which will be unwrapped at the Cub's Christmas party, when every Cub will read some of the records of good turns done during the year.—From Canadian Scouting.

Lieut.-Col. A. J. Tedlie, DSO, who commanded the big military base at Churchill, Man., for three years, stressed, in a speech here on Saturday, the vital importance to Canada of Arctic research and development. Canada lies between the two most powerful nations on earth, he pointed out, and might be called "the ham in the geopolitical sandwich." Colonel Tedlie, after listing the various fields of Arctic research that are being explored, noted that the results obtained by the military in special clothing and foods, machines and fuels, are equally useful in civilian expansion in the North. This theme could be considerably extended. The best military establishment, and the least costly, is one which forms part of a civilian community which shares its costs as well as its facilities. As the Canadian North is immensely valuable in a commercial sense as well as a military one, there seems no reason why such dual-purpose communities should not grow at a satisfactory rate.—Montreal Gazette.

The disturbing revelation that women's feet are fairly rapidly growing bigger fortifies our suspicion that from time to time the less buoyant among our biologists must feel like throwing in the towel. Their evolutionary lore, built with great pains and labor, has all along taught that unused anatomical parts tend to shrink, to become atrophied and ultimately vanish. If ever this theory had ample test it would seem to have come in the present rugged age of power-operated push buttons—and especially to all our walking parts, with the garage door but a nudge away from the living room.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

One of the most familiar, as also one of the most striking, sights of the west end of Halifax these fall evenings is that of the floodlit tower surmounting the new Arts and Administration Building of Dalhousie University. Rising on a slight eminence over one of the principal thoroughfares of the city, its graceful proportions are advantageously emphasized by illumination against the dark background of trees and buildings. There is perhaps something particularly suitable about the symbolism of a floodlit university building. Here, if anywhere in a home of mental and spiritual enlightenment, there should at all times be light. For a university exists to conquer darkness, the darkness of ignorance and intolerance, and its objective is to spread the light of knowledge, reason and freedom.—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.



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The Passing Scene

By Observer FATHER PINEAU AND CHINA

While the big front-page headlines may proclaim the exciting news of the day they do not by any means tell the whole story of significant events. Sometimes a very significant item is unaccompanied by flourishes of any kind. In this category I would place the recent news about Fr. Pineau, S.J., that humble and devoted missionary who has returned to his native soil from a Chinese Communist prison.

The fact that Fr. Pineau was for a period a prisoner of the Communists is not, in itself, extraordinary. This is quite a common situation in all countries where that most vicious form of neo-paganism has managed to gain political control. It is really a tribute to the zeal and passion with which so many missionaries are trying to carry on their work amidst difficulties which most of us know nothing about, for the news reports, normally, deal only with physical things. They are not competent to reveal the anguish and torment which beset the spirit. No, it is not the fact of imprisonment itself but the manner in which Fr. Pineau quite obviously reacted to it that is significant. That at least is how it appears to me and I have no doubt that the sentiment will be shared by people of all classes and creeds and even by those who profess no formal creed at all.

In the few statements for publication which Fr. Pineau has made since his return there is no trace of bitterness or resentment. And what is even more indicative of a well-disposed temperament, there is no trace of self-pity, that "thorn in the flesh" of many pious souls, or of the martyr-complex which often has been known to becloud the attractiveness of faith. So much for Fr. Pineau's negative reaction to his trials and sufferings. But, while things negative have a place in the Christian temper, they are secondary in importance to things positive. And I suggest that it is in this positive sphere that the good missionary's faith and devotion are shown in their strongest light and character. He does not pity himself; he pities the Communists in their mad hate of religion and of everything that seeks to elevate the human mind and spirit. He hates the wholly materialistic Communist philosophy but his charity is big enough and rich enough to include Communists in its embrace for they, too, are God's children. He has not permitted the indignities and persecutions which have fallen to his lot to obscure or even diminish his sense of mission. He does not spend much time in talking about his personal experiences; he is content to tell what he knows about the materialistic concept of life which has

reached its most evil stage in international Communism. He knows by personal observation what this concept can do to degrade the life of man. And yet he can find it in his heart to pray for those who held him in chains and fetters. More than this no Christian can do and, as I read Fr. Pineau's simple words as reported in the press, I seem to reach out to a little clearer understanding of those provocative words uttered so long ago: "The meek shall inherit the earth."

Fr. Pineau returns to the Church of his allegiance, whose commission he holds. But, in the Faith, Hope and Charity he brings with him, there is a message for us all. Indeed, there is a message that the whole free world would do well to ponder in these dark days of confusion and fear. And I understand it, is that while physical force may be a necessary weapon in the hands of free men as they seek to defend themselves from the iron hand of tyranny, it has no ultimate power to renew the life of the world. And evil philosophy, such as Communism boasts, can be met successfully only by a good philosophy that has been removed from the text-books and put to work in the common ways of life. A bad idea in the hands of men who hate can be countered only by a good idea in the hands of men of goodwill.

"The trouble with our Western civilization" writes a well known essayist of our day, "is that we try to hold the Christian view of life and the materialistic view of life, both at the same time." Obviously, this is no way to combat the idea that there are no values in life worth considering except the material ones. We profess belief in the doctrine that "man cannot live by bread alone" and then, in many of our practices, proceed on the assumption that the doctrine is good but not practicable.

It is clear that, notwithstanding the harsh treatment he has received at the hands of the Chinese, Fr. Pineau loves China and would go back tomorrow if he could. That seems to be the sentiment of all missionaries who have spent much time in that ancient and storied land. The Chinese civilization goes back farther than the earliest records of history and, fundamentally, it is of great cultural charm. Its submission to the soulless creed of Communism is one of the tragedies of human history. There can be no doubt that the cross materialism which has been sweeping across our Western civilization, with ever increasing momentum, has contributed to the development of that tragedy.

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