

THE GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1951

Today's Voting

The Provincial election campaign of 1951 is practically over. All that remains now is for the voters to do their duty. It is to be hoped that this contest will see a record vote in every district, and that whichever side gets into power will have a stronger opposition in the next Legislature than we have had for several years in this Province.

It is to be hoped that in this election every voter will be careful to mark his or her ballot properly. In federal elections of late years, it is estimated that more than one percent of the voters frittered away their opportunity to elect the candidate of their choice, by spoiling their ballots.

Several candidates have openly gone on record as repudiating any attempts at bribery or use of liquor in the campaign. If this laudable practice is made general, today's election will be the most noteworthy in the history of the Province.

U. S. Premier?

Perhaps celebrating one hundred years of Responsible Government in Prince Edward Island is sufficient excuse for making an observation on constitutional practice in the United States.

A simpler device, requiring no constitutional amendment, would be for the President to select his Cabinet, or command a House leader to select a Cabinet, which would have the support of Congress.

There would be an end to unseemly deadlocks between the administration and legislature, the office of President would be removed above day-to-day political squabbles, and Congress could at any time call upon the responsible heads of departments to answer for the conduct of executive government.

Woodlots

The cutting and sale of large quantities of partly grown softwood this year has provided many farmers with a most welcome source of ready cash when the market for potatoes has been weak to say the least.

The premature cutting, however, cannot be carried far without proving altogether too costly. In addition to the loss from marketing the lowest priced wood product there is the anticipation of income which should be available each year from a reasonably managed woodlot.

sent onslaught means that a source of future revenue is being dried up.

That is not all that is being dried up. Trees are necessary, as every farmer knows, to break the wind that would dry up and blow away his topsoil and to provide areas where snow and rain can steadily soak into the ground instead of running off on the surface.

From the point of view of both the preservation of his investment and continued income he will soon find that the benefits of conservation outweigh immediate cash return.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Election Day. According to the views of all parties this will be the last occasion on which Islanders elect a legislature by an unequal franchise.

The horseless carriage spelled the doom of the high silk hat and modern cars seem deliberately designed to consign the felt hat to similar oblivion.

The public should judge practical politicians mercifully. If one had the time, energy, public spirit and personality to run an election, just how much better than they would one campaign?

One subject which did not arise in the present campaign is the extension of the Charlottetown airport. Presumably that is being properly saved for the Federal by-election.

Our farmers to be discriminated against. The Railways are calling for another 14 per cent increase in rates, but claim it would not be applied fully to livestock, lumber, pulpwood, fuel-wood, apples, sand, gravel and stone.

The president of the Royal Bank of Canada challenges that if Canadian capital is not playing a large enough part in developing our resources and expanding our industry the reason must be not that Canadian capital is too meagre for the job, but that, in spite of high stakes, Canadian capital refuses to take the risk.

A "Roorback" not uneldom has a reactionary effect. Issued to the electors on the eve of polling with the one and only object of unfairly injuring the opposite political party's prospects, the unfairness of hitting below the belt is apparent to all right thinking people.

Charles Farrar Browne, American humorist, better known as Artemus Ward, was born this date 1834. He was a typesetter but discovered that editors would pay for manuscript copy and audiences would pay to hear him.

Here is something better than a fashion show. In London, a hosiery dealer in the bustling Oxford Street shopping district hit upon a novel stunt to dispose of his stock of nylon stockings.

It is reported that postage stamps depicting famous Canadian tourist attractions are under consideration by postal authorities. Mr. Douglas Oliver, secretary of the Canadian Tourist Association, told the third annual Ontario tourist conference that artists have been invited to submit designs suitable for an issue of "tourist stamps."

Mr. James Sinclair, Parliamentary assistant to Finance Minister Abbott, told the House of Commons the opposition were making use of the "big lie" in an effort to win the support of the people. Hitler had used the "big lie" propaganda system and it had been picked up by the Russians.

Poor Figuring Or False Pretences

(Montreal Gazette) Are big surpluses something for governments to be proud of? Or are they something for which they merit condemnation? These very worthwhile questions were asked in the House of Commons by Mr. J. M. Macdonnell, financial critic of the Progressive Conservative opposition.

Mr. Macdonnell, most certainly, was not recommending that the Government budget for a deficit. But he was suggesting that it should be possible to estimate more closely just what is needed to balance the budget.

A surplus would be an extremely commendable result, if it were the output of economy. It would be highly desirable if the Government were to report at the end of the fiscal year that it has not spent as much as it had budgeted for.

All this seems to suggest that the Government likes large surpluses. But an eminent British Chancellor of the Exchequer once said, "If a Chancellor of the Exchequer took half a crown more than he needed, he was guilty of getting money by false pretences."

Big surpluses have another questionable result. They are likely to act as a serious discouragement to Government economy. It is very hard to create a sense of urgent economy in Government departments, when everyone knows that the Government is likely to have extra millions to play around with.

Out Of Place Comedians

(St. John Telegraph Journal) Some of the members of the House of Commons seem to think that they are humorists. Apparently, they also believe that any question raised by representatives of the Atlantic Provinces is fair game for their jibes.

There was a revealing little exchange the other day. Mr. W. Chester S. McLure, M.P., for Queen's, Prince Edward Island, rose to advocate the construction of a grain elevator at Charlottetown.

Mr. W. J. Ward, M.P., for Dauphin, Manitoba, suggested sarcastically that Prince Edward Island would not be able to use a boatload of grain. Somebody in the back benches, whose name the official reporter didn't note, shouted: "How about a whale-boat?"

Mr. Stanley Knowles, M.P. for Winnipeg Centre, chimed in with the hilarious pun: "That is a whale of a good answer."

Mr. James Sinclair, parliamentary assistant to Finance Minister Abbott, then expressed the opinion that if the Prince Edward Islands obtained a grain elevator "they would put potatoes in it."

Now it's true that Prince Edward Island is the smallest province, but she is a full partner in Confederation and the men her people elect and send to Ottawa are entitled to a decent hearing.

Mr. McLure was pressing for a solution to a problem which, to his constituents, is real and serious. P.E.I. has always suffered from poor and costly transportation—so much so that her population has actually declined rather than increased in the last eighty years.

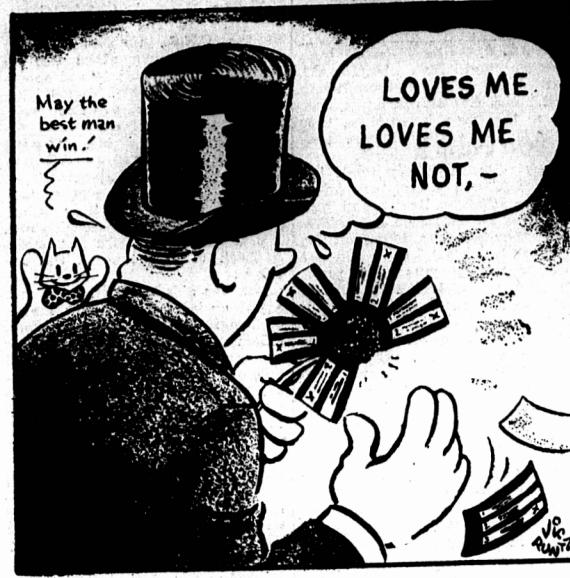
NEW YORK, April 25 (AP)—Edwin S. Friendly, president of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association today proposed inviting Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz, dispossessed editor of Argentina's La Prensa, to come to the United States.

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To-night We'll Know



The Poet's Corner

THE LAST MINSTREL The way was long, the wind was cold, The Minstrel was infirm and old; His withered cheek, and tresses grey, Seemed to have known a better day; The harp, his sole remaining joy, Was carried by an orphan boy. The last of all the Bards was he, Who sung of Border chivalry: For, woeaday! their date was fled, His tuneful brethren all were dead; And he, neglected and oppressed, Wished to be with them, and at rest. No more, on prancing palfrey borne, He carolled light as lark at morn; No longer courted and caressed, High placed in hall, a welcome guest, He poured to lord and lady gay The unremembered lay: Old times were changed, old manners gone; A stranger filled the Stuart's throne; The bigots of an iron time Had called his harmless art a crime, A wandering Harper, scorned and poor, He hezged his bread from door to door, And tuned, to please a peasant's ear, The half a king had loved to hear. —Sir Walter Scott.

"STAR OF DAVID" GEM LIGHTENBURG, South Africa — (CP)—A rough diamond bearing a perfect outline of the Star of David has been found in the diamond diggings in this Transvaal area. Its market value is low but it may have a bigger sentimental value. It is thought the image will disappear if the diamond is cut or polished.

CALGARY — (CP) — Josiah Hallman, native of Waterloo County, Ont., who was one of the early ranchers in Alberta, celebrated his 98th birthday here. Hallman's oldest great-granddaughter now is attending the University of California.

Murphy Paints advertisement featuring a man painting a house and text: 'Make your home a picture too... Outside... MURPHY EXTERIOR PAINTS... Inside... MURPHY PETAL TONE... All around the house... NARVO... Use Murphy Paints SOLD BY R. T. HOLMAN LIMITED, McGUIGAN & BOYLE, FENNEL & CHANDLER LTD., R. T. HOLMAN LIMITED, McGUIGAN & BOYLE, REUBEN TUPPIN CO., W. H. BURNS, MALPUEGUE, P. E. I.

Notes By The Way

A former Ziegfeld girl turned broker has become a general partner of Jacquin, Stanley and Co., Wall street firm. She is Barbara Joiner Parsons, a native of Belton, Texas, who was with the Folies for a year following World War I. Later, she took an extension course in corporation and trust law at the University of Chicago. She is registered as an investment adviser with the SEC. She is the wife of an industrial engineer.

The lady who is apparently still generally known as Rita Hayward has arrived in the United States with her two children. Her husband, Aly Khan, has not. He explains that "it is impossible for me to leave Europe now that the flat-racing season is starting." Clearly and manifestly impossible. How stimulating to find someone prepared to put first things first.

Well make up your mind, growled one driver at the driver head, who had signalled that he was going to turn to the left, had hesitated, and then had gone straight on. True of driving, true of life in general, says the Guelph Mercury. The fellow who cannot make up his mind throws all his plans awry. He will give us a decision by such and such a day. We build upon that expectation and when the day arrives he is still undecided. When he finally does decide, the chances are that the scales of his judgment have been inclined one way or the other through the consideration of a minor point and not because of a clear analysis of the situation.

General MacArthur has made no complaint about his dismissal by President Truman. Good soldier that he is, he knows that his Commander-in-Chief could do no other in the face of repeated insubordination. It may also have occurred to him that precedent was against him, for in circumstances not dissimilar General MacArthur found another general guilty of speaking his mind in defiance of his superior officers and supported the court-martial decision to suspend him from the army. The offender was General Billy Mitchell, who provoked one of the greatest military controversies in American history by his insistence on the value of air power over sea power.

Shades of Charles Dickens and the days of debtors' prisons were revived by a question and answer contained in Votes and Proceedings of the Saskatchewan Legislature for April 5. Mr. Trippe, an M.L.A., asked the government the following question which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sturdy: Question: "What offences were charged against the six prisoners listed on Page 81 of the annual report of the department of social welfare and rehabilitation 1949-50 under the Saskatchewan Hospitalization Act?" Answer: "Two prisoners were each charged with three separate offences of failure to pay the Hospitalization Tax in accordance with the provisions of Subsection 2 of Section 15 of the Saskatchewan Hospitalization Act, 1946, as amended. On summary conviction they were fined and ordered to pay the tax. On failure to pay the fine and the tax they were sentenced to jail in accordance with the provisions of section 739 of the Criminal Code." It is amazing in this day and age to think that people have been sent to jail in a neighboring province by a Socialist government because they were not in agreement with that province's hospitalization act. Are there no other methods such as garnishment of wages or sale of goods and chattels rather than oblige such citizens to spend time in jail with common criminals? It is to be hoped that the Saskatchewan government at least had the decency and a sense of the fitness of things to incarcerate the objectors in the jail hospital.—Win-

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