

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1950

Accident Prevention

It is self evident that although compensation for injury is most valuable to wage earners and others, the prevention of accidents is an even greater service. Insurance benefits, whether paid by private companies or under the Workmen's Compensation Act, do not eliminate the loss of earning capacity or cost of treatment. They merely distribute the loss widely instead of allowing it to fall on the individual sufferer.

Advertisements published by the Workmen's Compensation Board call employers' attention to the necessity of eliminating hazards to safety on pain of being assessed at a higher rate or even of being restrained from carrying on operations until the dangerous conditions are remedied.

The provisions of the Act and Regulations are an expression of common sense and experience. Each industry sets its own rate by the number and size of claims of its employees, and it would be obviously unfair that a particular firm should be allowed to increase the cost to the entire industry by permitting dangerous conditions to exist.

Moncton's Jubilee

Moncton, with its modern airport, sprawling railway shops and road connections from all parts of the Maritime Provinces, is one of Canada's busiest centres. Next fortnight it will be busier than ever, when the city's Diamond Jubilee celebrations get under way.

Moncton's history goes back really to 1763, when the first settlers landed at what is now Hall's Creek to hew homes for themselves out of the wilderness. It became incorporated in pre-Confederation days as a bustling ship-building centre, but when this industry collapsed, Moncton became a ghost town. Confederation, however, emphasized the district's value as a transportation centre and later, when the railway shops and yards were built there, the town's future was assured. In 1875 it was again incorporated and fifteen years later was granted full status as a city. Today, its 30,000 inhabitants are seeking room for further expansion, and the Diamond Jubilee celebrations will serve to advertise its progress and development to all Canada.

The programme, which will continue from July 30 to August 12, will include non-denominational religious services, opening ceremonies, Maritime Firemen's Tournament, water follies, vaudeville shows, opera, pageant and a parade of floats in addition to horse racing and other sports. It is an attractive schedule, and comes nicely as a prelude to our own Old Home Week and Provincial Exhibition which opens in Charlottetown on August 14. These programmes should serve to complement each other, and draw larger numbers than ever before to the Maritimes at this season.

The Strachey "Plot"

When John Strachey was chosen by Prime Minister Attlee to fill the post of Minister of War in the British cabinet, grave misgivings were expressed by socialists and Conservatives alike as to the wisdom of the appointment. For Mr. Strachey is known to have been at one time an ardent supporter of communism, to which circumstance his books bear unmistakable if embarrassing testimony.

Recent developments suggest that those misgivings may have been better founded than Mr. Attlee once believed. For, in an address delivered in Colchester, England, War Minister Strachey was reported to have referred to the Schuman plan for the integration of the steel and coal industries of western Europe as a "plot".

Despatches from Moscow suggest that the Kremlin holds somewhat similar views about the Schuman plan. Called on the carpet by the Prime Minister, Mr. Strachey said he had been misrepresented, that the word "plot" referred not to the Schuman plan, but to the tactics of the Opposition in the House of Commons in respect of it. Mr. Attlee accepted his War Minister's word, and the House accepted Mr. Attlee's. There the matter would have rested but for the fact that the Press Association produced the manuscript from which Mr. Strachey had spoken. The text of the manuscript left no room for doubt that Mr. Strachey had, in fact, described the Schuman plan itself as a "plot".

Mr. Strachey apologized to the Prime Minister for having told him an untruth. Mr. Attlee apologized to the House of Commons for having misled honorable members.

And there the matter rests, except for the fact that the whole democratic world now knows not only that Britain's Minister of War was once a communist, but also that he cannot be relied upon to tell the truth. It would be interesting to know by what process of logic Prime Minister Attlee finds himself able to tolerate one of Mr. Strachey's uncertain qualities at the helm of Britain's Ministry of War.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 7th Sunday after Trinity.

Hayfever is on the decline in Montreal as a result of the city's five-year plan to eradicate ragweed—its immediate cause.

Next month Summerside Y's Men will play Donkey Baseball. The donkeys, let it be clearly understood, are to be imported.

Tomorrow the Salvation Army observes throughout the world as a day of prayer. Other Christian denominations will no doubt join the Salvationists in praying for a world in travail.

The Maritime Fertilizer Council which met here yesterday is to the soil what a medical society is to public health. The aim of each is the perfect health of its charges, but complete success would mean the end of its usefulness.

It used to be argued that wealth as well as manpower should be conscripted for national defence. President Truman's proposed budget would indicate that wealth is to have a very low draft number in the United States.

This is the truly colourful age. In the past colour was rare and the prerogative of royalty and wealth. Today those in even the most modest circumstances need not lack an abundance of it in their homes and garments.

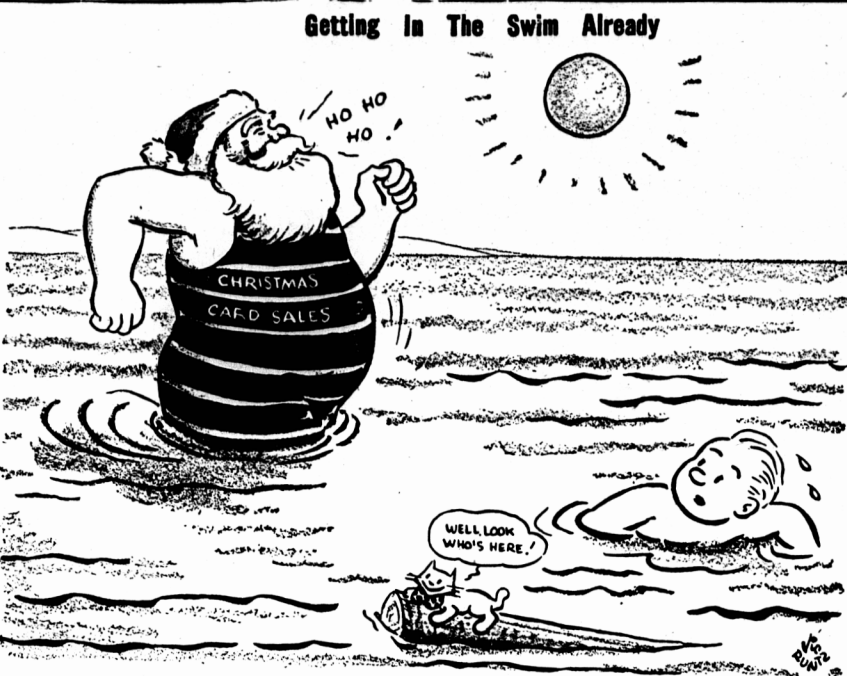
Banking was once a career offering slow promotion but with the compensation of security, including a pension at the end. Today, with the gap of the war years to be filled, banks everywhere are on the lookout for able youngsters to be slated for an early rise to positions of responsibility.

A movement is on foot to start in September an elocution or oratory class for young men to be held in the evenings at Prince of Wales College. It would deal mainly with how to hold oneself in addressing an audience, and the emphasis to be placed on the use of good English.

Napoleon II, Francois, Charles, Joseph, titular Emperor of the French, died this date 1832. He was the son of Napoleon I by his second wife, Marie Louise, Archduchess of Austria; he was created "King of Rome" at his birth. After his father's downfall he withdrew to the Austrian Court and lived as Duke of Reichstadt. Dramatist E. Rostand made him the hero of his play L'Aiglon in 1899.

The joint industrial preparedness for national defence in Great Britain, Canada and the United States has been moved a big step forward by agreement upon unification of standards of bolts and nuts. In the past, it has not been possible for American and English users of equipment to use American and English bolts and nuts interchangeably in replacement parts required. This condition existed because wrenching clearances were not the same for both kinds of parts. Only minor modifications in American standards will be required to meet dimensions agreed upon by all three participating countries. Canadian manufacturers obtain the most benefit, because in the past they have had to maintain parts stocks containing items from both British and American sources. Now they will need to maintain only one standard stock, except for obsolescent items.

It appears the British Government is strongly in favour of the federation of the British West Indies, but does not wish to force the pace for its accomplishment. Viscount Hall, First Lord of the Admiralty, told the House of Lords it would not "foist" federation on them. Nor would it encourage federation so as to force or slow down constitutional progress of the largest individual colonies to that of the slowest members. Lord Hall was speaking in a debate on a report made by a group called "The Standing Closer Association of the British Caribbean," which Colonial Secretary Creech Jones has recommended to the West Indian legislatures for "serious examination and discussion." The report of the association proposed linking all the West Indian colonies in a "British Caribbean Federation." The federation would comprise Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica. One question that will immediately arise is whether the new Federation will be in the sterling or dollar area.



Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) THE HOLEY DOLLAR

The Minutes of the Executive Council of Sept. 22, 1813, contain all that is known officially of the origin of the Prince Edward Island "holley dollar," famous among coin collectors. Currency shortage under Lieutenant Governor Smith gave rise to the order recorded in the minutes, which reads as follows: "All Spanish milled Dollars (pillar and others) to pass for Five Shillings currency, agreeably to the Act of the General Assembly. Spanish Dollars, limited to the number of One Thousand, to be cut at the Treasury, by having a circular piece taken out of the centre of each; the Dollar so cut to be issued from, and received at the Treasury as One Shilling currency."

Thus from a thousand Spanish silver dollars were made a thousand and five-shilling pieces, and a thousand and five-shilling pieces, Island currency. But it proved easier for the Treasury to multiply money in this manner than to keep unauthorized persons from doing like-wise. Accordingly on May 7, 1814, at a meeting of Council, the following minute was made: "The circumstance of sundry fraudulent and unprincipled persons having presumed to cut numbers of Dollars, in imitation of those issued from the Treasury, and to circulate the same, being brought before the Board, His Excellency, with the advice of the Board, was pleased to order that a proclamation be issued, stating: That any person or persons who shall be discovered to be guilty of such fraud, and high misdemeanour, shall be prosecuted to the utmost rigour of the law; and further stating, that no cut Dollars will be received at the Treasury but such as have been issued from thence."

As a subsequent Council meeting, June 14, 1814, the Treasurer was ordered to issue the following notice without delay, to be printed and circulated throughout the Island: "Public notice is hereby given, that I am ready to receive cut Dollars, and pieces issued from the Treasury, in consequence of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's proclamation of 24th September, 1813, at the rates for which they were issued, and for which purpose attendance will be given at the Court House every Wednesday and Saturday, from ten to twelve in the forenoon, until further notice. Robert Gray, Treasurer."

Last reference to the matter in the Minutes of Council appears under date of August 2, 1814, ordering a notice to be issued, stating that "the Treasurer's attendance at the Court House, for the purpose of exchanging cut Dollars for others, will be discontinued after Wednesday, the 28th September next."

Thus far the official record. Legend has it that a canny Charlottetown shopkeeper, Birnie by name, discovering that the centre disc had been punched too large and was therefore worth more than a shilling as bullion, collected a goodly supply of these coins and shipped them to London to be melted down. But the ship was never heard from again; and it is supposed that these relics of the Island's unique experiment in currency reform lie somewhere in the depths of the Atlantic.

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Notes From Another Island By "Anson"

LONDON, England.—Ever since the Labour Party was returned to power at our General Election this year the Conservatives have done their best to bring about the Government's downfall by proper Parliamentary tactics. Time and time again the Socialists have just managed to maintain their authority in closely contested "divisions," a defeat at many of which may have caused a new Government to be called for.

Since the Members of Parliament—on both sides—are, of course, the elected representatives of the people of this country it may have seemed that the whole nation was in a state of permanent turmoil; split, indeed, from top to bottom. How significant it was, therefore, to see that when real danger threatened in the form of hostilities in Korea, the Parliamentary ranks were closed, and the policy which the Government decided upon was at once supported by the Opposition.

No truce, this, between the parties. The Government will surely be challenged again on any issue which the Opposition feels demands a challenge, even whilst the fighting in Korea continues, but here surely was a demonstration of a nation solidly of one opinion about what is to be done in a situation of national danger. Opinions might differ about the best way of doing what is to be done but the object is the same.

This difference of opinion about the means to the end may, and undoubtedly will, cause lively scenes in Parliament, but when Prime Minister Attlee promised support to the United Nations in resisting Korean aggression, he did not have long to wait to know that he had spoken for the whole country—or as near as makes little difference—and not just for himself or his own party.

What of the Korean war itself, and what of its impact on us of this island? It seems to me that most of us are simply doing what comes naturally and, in the absence of instructions to the contrary, are carrying on as usual. What else is there to do? Everybody knows that the situation is fraught with peril, but there have been perilous situations before; who is to say that this one is worse than others we have known? If it is it won't do anybody any good to fret about it.

One is reminded of the Government sponsored posters which used to appear on our walls during the dark days of World War II. They bore a slogan telling us all to "REMEMBER YOU'RE BRITISH—AND KEEP COOL." If the words themselves helped us to keep calm, I don't know. At least they became quite well known more as a joke than anything; a joke which, incidentally, was revived somewhat ironically during the bitter winter of three years ago when we were ice-bound, short of everything we needed to keep us warm, and the exhortation of would-be humourists to us to remember we were British and to keep cool seemed anything but funny.

The news from Korea is studied well as it comes in. The war is very real to those with relatives in the Navy who are fighting all there, and an uncomfortable potentiality to others who have somebody near in the other services in the Far East. It is a matter of great concern to all those who are in uniform themselves, wherever they may be, doing their period of National Service training for the recruit quickly learns that the "exigencies of the Service" can be very awkward once he is in.

There are also many millions of us who, having spent up to six or seven years of our lives in one or other of the services during one world war, are not especially anxious to have another dose. But we don't delude ourselves if we are still of military age. We know well enough that if the fire in Korea spreads to other parts of the world we shall be in it again whether we like it or not.

As in previous times when things have looked unpleasant, there are grim jokes about shaking the moths out of our old uniforms; this may seem to be a sort of fatalism, but in fact it is probably a reflection of the jokers' wishful thought that it will not come to that in the end. And if the same joke is often heard, it is only because we are rather a nation of wishful thinkers.

On March 11, 1950, the play began. That day, two members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police marched into a chain store at Summerside, and demanded one bottle of Top Hat Bay rum, and one bottle each of the various after-shave lotions stocked by the store—Aqua Velva, Palmolive, Woodbury's, Colgate's, etc. Analyzing it, they found the bay rum's alcoholic content was 55 per cent; the alcoholic content of the various after-shave lotions ranged from 45 to 57 per cent.

Accordingly, the store's entire stock of bay rum and after-shave lotion was seized, and the proprietors were charged with having liquor illegally in their possession. Being a corporation, they were liable under the act to a fine of not less than \$1,000. But being a corporation, they also had money enough and courage enough to fight back. They pleaded not guilty and last week at Summerside, Magistrate Hinton upheld them by dismissing the charge.

Explaining his decision, the magistrate said the Crown witnesses had not proven that the lotions seized were liquor, as defined in the Temperance Act. There was no evidence, he said, as to the taste of the lotions, or whether they were, in fact, capable of human consumption. Both the Temperance Act of March 1948, and the regulations of October, 1948, specified preparations which could be used as a beverage or as the ingredient of any beverage. He asked: "Are alcoholic liquids, which all contain a high percentage of alcohol, to be included as liquor within the meaning of the Temperance Act? I think not. These liquids, though drinkable, capable of human consumption, and usable as a beverage in the sense that they are pourable down a human throat; are not subject to being consumed by swallowing, are not beverages in the fair meaning of the word."

Magistrate Hinton went on to say: "It is indeed a shocking thing to realize that every person in this Province in possession of a bottle of shaving lotion may be charged with having illegal possession of liquor. And it is all the more shocking to realize that this became law by virtue of a regulation of a commission, enacted without benefit of discussion by the members of the Legislature."

Here is the hub of the matter. Whether Aqua Velva, bay rum and the like are alcoholic beverages, is not of any great importance. What is important is the way in which the Temperance Commission pronounced them such; and having pronounced them such, had the impudence to send Mounted Police around seizing them from storekeepers, and dragging those

storekeepers into court, and threatening them with enormous fines. We had expected to see the shaving lotion case quite widely discussed in the Canadian papers. But so far only one, to our knowledge, has taken it up. This is The Ottawa Journal, which quite rightly remarks: "What we see here is an abrogation by the Legislature of its duties and responsibilities. We see a body not elected by the people, and with no direct responsibility to the people, given the power to create laws and to use the legal machinery of the province for their enforcement, to punish those who break these commission-made rules."

The Journal goes on to say: "This is a dangerous tendency, by no means confined to Prince Edward Island, and needs to be resisted by those who believe in parliamentary government." True, but how are they supposed to do the resisting? If the legislators tamely bow down to government by order-in-council, that is to say, non-parliamentary government, how can the people be expected to oppose it? Behind every order-in-council is the full force of the police, and in most cases, the courts.

In any event, we do not believe the majority of Canadians either understand, or care, what is happening to parliamentary government. They have become accustomed to being governed by order-in-council; and their leaders, in turn, have become accustomed to governing by order-in-council. Parliament is in eclipse, and thus liberty is in eclipse. Do the people wish it so? If they don't, they show precious little evidence of it.

The Shaving Lotion Case (From the Calgary Herald)

Few things please us more than seeing bureaucrats knocked down to size, and that is exactly what has happened at Summerside, Prince Edward Island, where a magistrate has not only refused to enforce regulations made by a provincial bureaucracy, but has also given that bureaucracy a public tongue-lashing for making them in the first place. If Canada had more magistrates like Magistrate R. S. Hinton, this would be a far better country to live in.

Two years ago, Prince Edward Island threw prohibition overboard, and enacted a law called the Temperance Act, which provides for government control and sale of liquor. It is administered by a three-man board called the Temperance Commission, which has power, under the act, to make such regulations as it may deem necessary. These regulations do not need to be passed by the Legislative Assembly; they are passed by order-in-council, and it was by this method that the Temperance Commission put shaving lotion under the same heading, and thus under the same restrictions, as liquor.

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The Age-Old Story

Judge not that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Lighted Lanes

MONTREAL — (CP) — City councillor Max Seliger is campaigning here for lights in city lanes. Seliger says he believes that better lighting at the rear of homes, commercial and industrial premises would not only help reduce crime, but would actually prevent night marauders from carrying out their robbery plans.

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