

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1951

Quebec's Disagreement

The Quebec Government has refused to agree to the proposed constitutional amendment to authorize the Provinces to levy an indirect sales tax. As provincial unanimity is required to make the amendment, this would seem to put an end to the matter.

At the last Dominion-Provincial conference it was intimated that the proposed tax was designed to give the Provinces the additional money needed to meet a higher bill for old age pensions when these were made available to persons between 65 and 70.

The Montreal Star suggests that if the other Provinces still think they need a sales tax to cover social security costs it is open to them to use the method Quebec employs, of making the retailer a tax collecting agent and thus turning an indirect tax into a direct tax, which, constitutionally, they have a right to levy.

Band Concerts

The R. C. A. F. Training Command band concert at the Rollaway was greatly enjoyed by Charlottetown citizens and brought pleasant reflections that the summer season for outdoor band will soon be here.

It also brought the less pleasant recollection that the City band-stand is no more. It was allowed to become delapidated and finally had to be removed.

Trans-Canada Highway

During the first construction season since the Trans-Canada Highway Agreement was signed last year, Federal and provincial engineers have jointly inspected over 4,000 miles of the designated route. Federal Supervising Engineers of the Department of Resources and Development have been appointed for each province.

Raising Retirement Age

A South African departmental committee of inquiry into pensions contends that a man of 60 and a woman of 55 are still physically and mentally fitted to continue in service, and that the present retirement ages are not compatible with modern conditions.

Its detailed recommendation is: "That the compulsory retirement age of a future male member of the public service (excluding the armed services) shall be 63 years, provided that if the Public Service Commission recommends that it is in the departmental interest to do so he may be retained in service until the age of 65, and with the approval of both houses of Parliament, may be retained for a further period, not exceeding three years, beyond the age of 65."

the retirement age for women should be three years less than that for men.

The report points out that, because of the unsurpassed advance in preventive and curative medicine brought about by the war, the expectation of life for a man in South Africa who has reached 60 is about 17 years. Thus a pensioner, in present circumstances, faces a comparatively long period of life after retirement.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Christopher Columbus, discoverer of the New World, discovered Jamaica this date 1494 during his second voyage to America. The island was settled by the Spaniards in 1509 and taken by the English in 1655.

Declaration Day. The already known election results will be officially and exactly declared and candidates have four days in which to apply for a recount if such is shown to be required.

Tomorrow the first class graduates at Summerside under the air training programme of the North Atlantic Treaty nations. Their wings will truly represent the spirit of international solidarity against aggression in any form.

Eight original employees of the Royal Canadian Mint, on staff since its founding in 1908, have been presented with specially struck long service medals. It is reminiscent of the small boy who broke into tears when passed the jam at a picnic because, as he said, "I works where it is made."

The proposed Commonwealth Division in Korea is not a result of mere chance or even of convenience, although the similarity of its members makes the latter a consideration. Commonwealth forces and peoples have long worked closely together because we tend to take the same views of the important things in national life and world affairs.

The United States has purchased under its price-support program almost half the 61,000,000 bushels of potatoes Maine raised last year. Half were dumped under a resale program, the production and marketing administration reported.

Britain, Canada and the United States have taken another step toward standardization of military equipment by agreeing on common bolt and nut sizes. The three countries agreed in 1948 to standardize weapons to facilitate interchange of equipment and parts.

"Whether Mr. Attlee's was the last of the present series of party political broadcasts (writes 'Janus' in The Spectator) I am not sure, but I find a very general feeling that they might well be stopped altogether till a General Election is impending.

All Scouters and Scouts, as well as the public generally, will extend deepest sympathy to the deputy Chief Scout, Mr. Jackson Dodds, C.B.E., in the loss he has sustained by the death yesterday of his wife, Mrs. Jackson Dodds.

The 1951 edition of the "Canada" handbook series, prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and published under the authority of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, has made its appearance, and its 300 pages are packed with interesting facts, figures and illustrations.



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.

MARKING OF BALLOTS

Sir—I would like to answer "New Voter's" question and enlighten him, and others, as to the procedure which compels all Deputy Returning Officers to initial and number a ballot.

Upon tearing a fresh ballot from the book, the D.R.O. initials the ballot and numbers the counterfoil attached to it by perforations. It is then folded and handed to the elector.

The electors then marks his ballot in a separate room, returns the ballot to the D.R.O. who checks the number and initials, to ensure that there has been no substitution of an unauthorized ballot. The counterfoil, with the number on it, is torn off and deposited in the waste paper basket to be destroyed.

A further word on the folding of ballots. The D.R.O. folds the ballot such a way that the counterfoil may be torn off readily, without the necessity of opening the ballot to get at it. Why approximately fifty per cent of electors should choose to make matters complicated by refusing to fold their ballots, folding them differently, or screwing them into a ball, is past comprehension.

To further allay any doubts of "New Voter", the D.R.O., who already is governed by a book full of stipulations and regulations, violation of which is fraught with heavy inroads to his pocketbook and reputation, is under the surveillance of as many as two agents for each candidate who are dogmatically blind to all reason, regulations and common sense if any dispute centres around their "baby".

Therefore, I can assure "New Voter" that the secrecy of his ballot in inviolate, and that now he has assumed one of the responsibilities of living in a democracy, he will continue to exercise it.

I am, Sir, etc. A DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER. Charlottetown.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

WEST PRINCE NIMRODS

"For some time past the inhabitants of Lot 8 have suffered considerable from the depredations of sundry bears that prowled in that vicinity. The bruin fraternity was organized for plunder and travelled in company. Four of them made a raid on the settlement, in which are situated the mills of Messrs. A. & R. Ramsay, one night, not long ago, and succeeded in destroying a cow belonging to a poor widow, which they had partially devoured when they were surprised and made for the woods."

"A renowned hunter of those parts, John Hickey by name, determined on the capture of the bears, and accordingly arranged suitable traps, baited with the remains of the widow's cow. He succeeded in trapping two very large brutes, one of whom weighed 300 lbs. Another disciple of Nimrod—John Auld—desirous of emulating Hickey, also trapped two of the same gang of bears. Some time previous a cub had been captured, which makes five of those destructive animals that have been destroyed within a short time, at West Point."

"We do not know whether the law is now in force which offered a premium for bears' snouts, but if not we trust that Hickey and his brave associates will find ample remuneration in the sale of the meat and skin of the bears." —The Islander, July 20, 1869.

The Age-Old Story

I will sing of mercy and judgment unto thee, O Lord, will I sing. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

Control Or Profits?

(Winnipeg Free Press) It is a sad commentary on the idealism of 30 years ago when prohibition gave way to state control of the sale of liquor, to note the degree to which Provincial Governments are dependent upon liquor revenues.

Table with 2 columns: Province and Revenue. Prince Edward Island \$ 676,505; Nova Scotia 7,465,126; New Brunswick 5,471,929; Quebec 27,667,647; Ontario 39,780,787; Manitoba 7,681,208; Saskatchewan 9,112,458; Alberta 11,979,466; British Columbia 17,917,330.

Total \$127,722,450. Liquor control was adopted in this Province in 1923. It was taken on by the Province as a measure of control. At that time the population of Manitoba was 619,000 and total Provincial revenues were \$9 millions.

Had anyone told the Legislature in 1923 that 27 years hence, with a population gain of 113,000, the Province would be making more than two-thirds as much out of the liquor traffic as its then entire

The Poet's Corner

BY THE MARGIN OF THE GREAT DEEP

When the breath of twilight blows to flame the misty skies, All its vaporous sapphire, violet glow and silver gleam, With their magic flood me through the gateway of the eyes; I am one with the twilight's dream.

When the trees and skies and fields are one in dusky mood, Every heart of man is rapt within the mother's breast; Full of peace and sleep and dreams in the misty quietude, I am one with their hearts at rest.

From our immemorial joys of hearth and home and love Strayed away along the margin of the unknown tide, All its reach of soundless calm can thrill me far above Word or touch from the lips beside.

Aye, and deep and deep and deeper let me drink and draw From the old fountain more than light or peace or dream, Such primeval being as o'erfills the heart with awe, Growing one with its silent stream.

—George William Russel.

budget, he would have been scorned. As a means of making money, Government sale of liquor has been an unqualified success. As a control measure, it has been an unqualified failure.

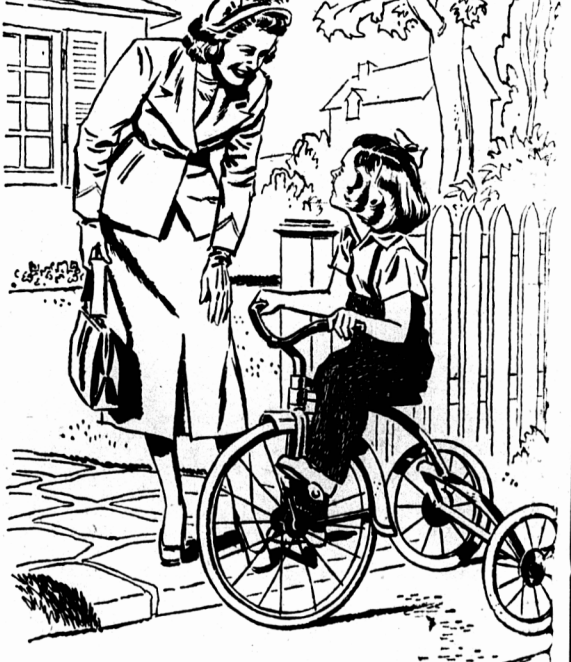
Notes By The Way

At a woman's club where first-aid was being taught, an officious and unpopular woman was putting the stretcher-bearer party through its paces. She lay on the ground and said: "Now, remember, I'm completely smashed up. Every bone in my body is broken. Now let's see you pick me up." The stretcher-bearers picked her up efficiently and then one of them asked: "Well, was that all right?" "Yes, it was all right," snapped the patient, "only you didn't have the look of regret in your eyes that I expected." — Wall Street Journal.

At the present time there is a veritable epidemic of catapult shooting. It is common occurrence for a pedestrian to hear the whistling of a pebble as it passes in close proximity to his ear, or the whine of a pellet as it ricochets from the trunk of a tree or the side of a building. Even motorists are not free from persecution by these lads, who are reported to take pot shots at passing cars, to the danger of the occupants. This is carrying things a bit too far, and it is about time measures were taken to discourage the dangerous and destructive propensities of these budding sharpshooters who use citizens as targets. — Guelph Mercury.

May is here. There's something in the realization that makes us brighter with the strengthening sun, with the flowers beginning to show themselves, with the uplifting feeling of spring really here after the long winter months. The robins know it, and are trilling their hopeful song from lofty limbs of trees in the squares and parks. The listener is tempted to pause and listen and search out the little fellow and bid him welcome. Even if it be but momentary, the songster takes the mind off the worries of a troubled world and the concerns of business or of the other tasks of the day. The cheery little robin's song is akin to the "Merry Christmas" that marks December 25 and brings man into renewed happy accord with his neighbor. Off comes the storm windows at home, in floats the pleasing fresh air of a spring morning. Winter clothing is being laid away, it is hoped with suitable care, and the lighter garb and the smartening in color spell the oncoming of summer. Soon the city and town parks will come to life as young mothers proudly perambulate their babies, and with their friends and forget the household duties for a while. The added hour of daylight joins with the bright season in making for outdoor enjoyment, too, for automobile drivers and their families, while those owning summer homes are looking ahead to weeks away from city life. And the purring brook, only recently angry and muddy with its rain-swollen freshet, is calling the fisherman to anticipation that is peculiarly his. So welcome, May Day, and all it brings of promise. — St. John Journal.

Like initials tattooed on a sailor's arm, many of the persons for whom Canadian mountains are named no longer can be precisely identified. The reason is that mountain-naming was once casually indulged in by a great many people, most of whom were in a hurry. In the early days of the country's development, surveyors, map-makers, and alpinists all were qualified to give to mountains the names of their own names or the names of their friends and associates. If any rule was practised in mountain-naming, it must have been: Whoever sees it first can call it what he likes. The same careless custom was used in the naming of lakes, rivers, and islands. The explorer, Franklin, for example, left the names of his ship's company, from the first mate down to the cabin boy, on the islands, straits and mountains he observed during his futile search for a short sea route to the Far East. If Franklin were exploring the Arctic today, he would not be permitted to assign names to his discoveries. He would be required to submit any names he fancied to the department of resources and development for the approval of its board of geographic names. That any of his suggestions would be accepted is unlikely. According to a booklet issued by the board in September, 1948, personal names shall rarely be applied to Canadian mountains, lakes or rivers. Among the exceptions to this rule are Mount Eisenhower, near Banff, Alberta Range, in the Yukon, and those mountains and lakes that are named in honor of Canadian winners of the Victoria Cross and decorated war casualties. — Ottawa Citizen.



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