

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1954

The Legislature

There could probably be no better time for the Prince Edward Island Legislature to meet than in the early spring when road conditions and other aspects of the Province are at their worst.

Although the opening date should put our legislators in a sufficiently alert frame of mind there is much that will tend to lull them into inactivity.

The House will be concerned with the revision of its own rules of procedure, a committee for that purpose having been appointed at the last regular session.

It is always an important occasion for the capital when our legislators are in the city and Charlottetown again welcomes them.

The Sacred Ganges

To understand India—and this is one of the major problems in world diplomacy today—one must take into account the extraordinary significance of the Ganges.

Beliefs are vital factors in the motivation of human actions, and the religious associations centred about the Ganges are much in the limelight at present.

Water dipped from the Ganges is carried to all India, to be sprinkled upon the new born, the married, and the dying.

Thousands of pilgrims annually make the long journey to Gangotri, high in the Himalayas near the origin of the Ganges.

At Allahabad the Ganges joins another sacred river, the Jumna. Hindus consider this point the holiest place on earth.

of gifts, as prescribed by Hindu custom. Some 5,000,000 Hindus are now gathered at Allahabad for the current festival, which Hindu astrologers have proclaimed the most auspicious in more than 100 years.

As Mecca is the holiest of holy cities to the Muslim, so is Banaras to the Hindu. It is a place of more than 1,500 jumbled, gold-roofed temples.

Good Teeth Or Bad

The only possible solution to the problem of the high incidence of decay in Charlottetown children's teeth would be the fluoridation of the City's water supply.

The case for fluoridation of water supplies is very nearly unanswerable. Discovered accidentally, when researchers in the United States found that the one factor which made some communities have better teeth than others was the presence of sodium fluoride in local water supplies.

No investigation made into its effect has ever resulted in an unfavorable report. There has, of course, been opposition to the practice. Individuals, including some members of the medical profession, have pointed to the dangerous nature of the substance.

The arguments against fluorine could be used with equal force against chlorine, which is almost universally used to kill bacteria in water supplies but which was also familiar to soldiers of the First World War as a most deadly poison gas.

EDITORIAL NOTES

One of the things which Prime Minister St. Laurent has learned in his travels is that "O Canada" can be played faster and with more spirit than is customary in this country.

The weak position of municipalities in raising revenue is put with wry humour by the Listening Post, organ of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities.

Horace Walpole, fourth Earl of Orford, English author and letter-writer, died this date 1797. He sat in Parliament for over a quarter of a century but is famous, not as a politician, but as a writer.

"We think of the Age of the first Elizabeth as the most glorious era of British enterprise," declared Bertrand Russell, O. M., talking on the BBC.

"The Lord gangs with a' righteous men!" — Rev. J. E. Heathwood, Belfast, P. E. I.



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.

RECOLLECTIONS OF P. W. C.

Sir—As I look back over fifty years I regard P. W. C. as a great school. Its teachers are treasured in memory. I had tried for a scholarship, but a smarter boy got it.

My memories of the old College building and what went on there are very vivid. Dr. Anderson was principal. His voice and accent were enough to arrest attention and keep the boys in their places.

Dr. Cayen was the senior professor. His head was full of Latin lore. He taught us French and Shakespeare, but like many a good teacher his discipline was weak.

Dr. Robertson taught us Roman History and Higher English. A better teacher I never knew. No wonder in after years he became principal.

I was always amazed at how Professor Jordan could demonstrate on the black-board a difficult question in mathematics. A very shy, modest man, but a genuine in great degree.

Those men had to be exceptional for they had under them some brilliant students. Before I left my home school I thought myself pretty smart. I could always make good marks, but when I got into P. W. C. where were gathered the smartest boys and girls from all over the Province I lost my high opinion of myself.

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The Poet's Corner

PSALM ONE IN SCOTS

Aye blest will be the man Who never gangs astray, Who ever shuns ungodly men Nor gangs in sinfu' ways.

The Age Old Story

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

It was my privilege to know, yes, the teachers in P. W. C. had to be exceptional. I believe the tradition of scholarship has been maintained. P. W. C. is still a good school, one of the best of its kind.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SHAW

Sir—During the past years some of us were not slow in using space in your valuable paper in order to express our views on people and things that did not at that time meet with our approval.

With this in mind I would like to be among the many who I am sure will want to say some nice things regarding the retirement of our good friend, Mr. Walter R. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for this Province.

In closing I wish to refer to a remark which I understand was made when Mr. Shaw was present. It was to the effect that if you give a Scotchman a pension he would live forever. I think I could believe from that, that if the pension was a sizeable one he might even live longer.

W. B. McLELLAN, Alma, P. E. I.

BOUNCED BACK

GRIMSBY, ENR. (CP) — HARTY Roberts, 34, male on the trawler Thorwick Bay, said he was swept overboard by a huge wave, and washed back on deck by another.

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TRAFFIC SAFETY

While many accidents are the result of drunken drivers—it has been established by driver education consultants that the average motorist unconsciously and habitually makes certain errors in driving, and that these errors are the cause of nearly all traffic accidents.

Every effort should be made by all drivers, to reduce the terrific and needless loss of life and injury caused by Highway Traffic.

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Birds For Stamps

Now that the Post Office department has decided to put out a new five-cent stamp with the likeness of a gannet on it, Canadian naturalists may be expected to come forward with other suggestions for an avian series.

This would narrow the field considerably, because most of our birds do not harbor strong political feelings. They are apt to nest in Canada and forsake it because they can't stand the winters, and loaf their time away, until next housekeeping time, anywhere from the mid-United States to Patagonia.

The stamp designers might also perform a useful service by showing Canadians what that exasperating creature, the ovenbird, looks like. The ovenbird is one of the commonest inhabitants of the woods, but like the whippoorwill (who won't do for a stamp; he doesn't dress smartly enough), it is heard far more often than seen.

It is heard far more often than seen. It has a voice twenty times its size, which is about that of a chickadee. When it does deign to show itself only in migration, as a rule, it struts about the lawns and moist meadows with its golden crown that on display, walking, whereas by rights it ought to be hopping.

W. I. GREEN, Stanley Bridge.

Old Charlottetown

The Charlottetown Woolen Factory had a fine display of dress goods for ladies and gentlemen at the Prince County Exhibition this week, the exhibit being under the supervision of Mr. George R. Montgomery.

Another point brought out in Atlantic City—not a particularly original point, to be sure—was that schools cannot be expected to do everything that needs doing in the life of the individual pupil. The school system, in general, is in favour of the home remains the place where the child must begin to adapt himself to the issues of life which, after all, is what education is all about.

My own view, based on some little experience with homes and schools and other social institutions, is that most people now days are not so much from the schools. There is no sense in denying the obvious fact that in many present day families, and not only the so-called under-privileged ones, discipline of any sort is a very neglected art. Why, therefore, should it be thought strange that the schools, at least many of them, take the line of least resistance in the matter of discipline?

Social responsibility is, usually a home product; it is assessing the sins of the progressivists, the sleek traditionalists, if any there be, should be charitable and admit that where irresponsibility exists in the school system or systems it is a fair reflection of a condition that exists all round us like the sea. There is little to indicate that any superintendent who made a serious attempt to guide his schools along the road of fundamental moral and spiritual values—which must always include a readily accepted discipline—would retain his popularity for any great length of time; unless, indeed, he happened to be extraordinarily well trained in diplomacy as well as in the techniques of his office. It is a very simple matter to blame school administrators for everything that

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The Passing Scene

Just about the time our local goes wrong in the schools; to do so, however, is to over-rate their importance.

In stressing the importance of attention to the needs, desires, and capabilities of the individual pupil (more easily said than done in the average school), the Atlantic City convention resolved that "the autocratic policy (do as I say) is outmoded. If that be so, what is to take its place? Obviously, the only final alternative to do as I say is do as you like!" It is hard to believe that this can lead to anything but a decline in any classroom. There must be "rules of the game" in any social group, however democratic; and rules without someone to care for them are clearly worse than useless.

A special report on subversive influences in the schools said that, while no Communist should be permitted to teach in school or college, there should be free classroom discussion of all ideological issues from High School on. This appears to be a reasonable recommendation. If young people in the Free World are to combat and resist the intrigues and blandishments of Communism they should be given every opportunity to hear from competent teachers just what Communism is and why it is foreign to democratic society. And, not only Communism but everything else that is out to destroy free and responsible government.

A boy (or girl) of fifteen is old enough to receive intelligible instruction in the cold, hard, and evil, facts of a philosophy against which he might be called upon to bear arms two or three years later.

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GROWING CANADA

OTTAWA. (CP)—The population of Canada jumped 30,000 during December, the Bureau of Statistics estimated Monday. That put the population figure at 15,035,000 on Jan. 1. During the second half of last year the population rose by 214,000 from 14,821,000. The increase in the first half of 1953 from 14,649,000 on Jan. 1 last year.

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