

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, J. H. Burnett
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1950

Modernizing The Fisheries

The introduction of dragners or trawlers has been discussed for some years, but the first experimental vessel has not yet been laid down, much less seen operation.

The completely independent inshore fisherman is on the way to becoming a museum piece but his successor, although perhaps less picturesque, can be expected to raise the standard of living of our fishing communities.

Spring Monday

This year the first moment of spring is due here at 34 minutes before midnight Monday. So that brings the first full spring day—according to the books—to March 21.

"Spring," the meteorologist explains, "is a phenomenon which I observe by changes in the appearance of the lithosphere or crusts or surface of the earth."

First of all, the vernal equinox—the first moment of spring—is an astronomical date fixed by the passage of the sun across the equator. That is the moment when the sun enters the zodiacal period of Aries, the Ram. That is 34 minutes before midnight next Monday.

Again, spring is that time when the average temperature in a 24-hour period rises above 43 degrees. And that, says the academican, is more like it. That is when the plant cells begin to stir, when sap starts running in the trees.

This condition varies from year to year. Some years it begins in March, some years in April. The spring thaw generally starts between March 20 and 25. That is when the mean temperature rises above 22 degrees.

Medical And Legal Death

Death, like gravity, is a term we use without often realizing that we do not know just what we mean by it. The recent case in which a New Hampshire physician was found not guilty of murdering a patient dying of cancer, has high-lighted that fact as well as stirred up controversy over the rights and wrongs of euthanasia.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Twenty-two days till Easter.

Tomorrow the fourth Sunday in Lent.

The Irishmen had dry walking as usual for their parade.

So many proposals and projects are coming before the Legislature that it is difficult for the members to concentrate on any of them.

Freight rate increases seem a little remote to many people, but the resulting price increase on almost every article comes very close to home.

One thing seems certain. If Premier Jones should get that Senate appointment, the Red Chamber would be a much less restful spot than it now is.

Britain's merchant shipping fleet is now back to pre-war strength. The huge gap in the United Kingdom's tonnage of over 3 1/2 million tons in 1945 has been made good within 4 1/2 years.

There was a strong argument for having Newfoundland set up its own government to negotiate terms of confederation, but confederation being now an accomplished fact, our new fellow citizens would be wise to concentrate on making it a success.

A report that a British airplane manufacturer has developed a new type of test for pressurized airliners—testing them underwater—brings to mind the fact that boys have used that method of finding leaks since compressed air was first used in the bicycle tire.

Titles of motion pictures are not particularly significant, but it seems unfortunate that the National Film Board's picture dealing with co-operatives should be entitled, "The Rising Tide." It is altogether too reminiscent of "The Wave of the Future."

Since 1945, 300,000 more places for school children have been provided in England and Wales—the equivalent of about 1,000 new schools. Today the average size of school classes in Britain is 32.9. This is smaller than before World War II despite a rise in the school-leaving age.

If the average individual spent as much effort in learning how to prevent disease as he does in trying to get better when illness does strike, he would be better off physically, mentally and financially. We can't improve on that old saying—"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure." So, somewhat belatedly, announces the Federal Department of Health.

The British Medical publication Lancet has turned its attention to "dish pan hands." Noting an increase in prevalence of dermatitis of the hands the publication warns that strong detergents splashed too lavishly into the washing-up water remove the natural greases of the skin. Its recommendations are not to put too much detergent in the water and to wear rubber gloves when washing dishes.

Seven years ago, on March 20, 1943, the Allies opened a terrific assault on the Mareth Line in Tunisia and a string of brilliant successes soon brought the Germans in North Africa to their knees.

Although Canadian Army troops, with the exception of those who had been at Dieppe in 1942, had still to bloody themselves in action, a number of Canadian officers served with British units throughout the Tunisian campaign.

Alessandro Volta, Italian scientist and inventor, born this date 1745. He produced many scientific and philosophic works, and travelled considerably at times being resident in Paris and London. Napoleon admired him greatly, and endowed him with a pension. While in England he received from the Royal Society, the Copley medal for his philosophic writings. Later he was appointed the director of the philosophical faculty of Padua; a pioneer of the electrical science, the electronic "volt" was named after him.

Walking seems to be fast going out of fashion though it is the most healthy and cheapest physical fitness exercise possible. Passengers in London's buses and tubes have been the subject of an investigation carried out for London Transport Executive. Some surprising facts have come to light. Only 17 Londoners in 100 walk to work, and only 14 in 100 cycle. The average Londoner who uses public transport spends 42 minutes travelling from home to job each morning, and the more money he earns, the farther he moves away from his work.

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.

THE FEDERATION

Sir,—I think the Federation of Agriculture should take a cue from the Farm Forum on co-operation and human nature when they submit their briefs.

They shouldn't forget that the Government consists of humans like ourselves, that they weren't put there by the Federation (a non-political organization) and that they are only there for a short period of time.

The Federation has been stepping pretty high and taking full credit for every beneficial measure we farmers have received lately from both Governments. Blowing their own horn a little too loud and long!

I am strongly in favor of the Federation, but think they should come down to earth and face the facts.

For instance, who sent George MacKay to Charlottetown and boosted C. C. to his present position, of which we are proud?

In every polling district there is a staunch Liberal committee, and in each County a Liberal Association which the Governments are pleased to meet with and listen to at any time.

I am, Sir, etc., NEWTON VOTER Fourth District

Freetown, March 15.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SAMUEL NELSON'S OFFENSE

Legislative Assembly, Jan. 31, 1925:

On motion of Mr. McNeill, it was ordered that the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to bring to the Bar of this House forthwith the body of Samuel Nelson, Charlottetown, Merchant.

The said Samuel Nelson was accordingly brought to the Bar.

On Motion the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole House, as a Committee of Privileges.

The Attorney General, chairman of the committee, reported that they had agreed to the following Resolution, and that the committee had directed him to move that their Report be now received. Ordered accordingly.

Resolved, That Samuel Nelson, a witness examined by the Committee of Privileges of the whole House, has been guilty of a high contempt and breach of the privileges of this House, in commencing an action, as the agent or attorney of one Nicholas Vass, against William Pope, Esquire, High Sheriff of this Island, for obeying an order of this House, and of a further contempt of this House, in persisting in the continuance of the said action.

Mr. McNeill moved, That Mr. Samuel Nelson be committed to the Gaol of Charlottetown, there to remain during the pleasure of the House, for a high contempt and breach of the privileges of this House, and that the Speaker do issue his Warrant accordingly. Ordered accordingly.

Mr. Cameron moved, as an amendment, That the said Samuel Nelson be committed to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms. The question being put, the original motion was carried.

Wednesday, Feb. 9:

Mr. Cameron moved for leave to present a petition from Mr. Samuel Nelson, confined in the Gaol of Charlottetown for a breach of the Privileges of this House, expressing his sorrow for having unintentionally offended this House, and stating that he had discontinued the suit commenced by him against the High Sheriff as the agent of Nicholas Vass, for having obeyed an order of this House, which petition was read.

Ordered, on motion, that the petitioner be brought to the bar of the House, admonished by the Speaker, and discharged on payment of fees.

The said Samuel Nelson was accordingly brought to the bar, admonished by the Speaker, and discharged. (Mr. Nelson was a prominent merchant and a candidate for the Legislature in the election which took place in the preceding November. He had been nominated by Francis Longworth, Esq., seconded by Colonel Holland, and recommended as "a gentleman in every way qualified to discharge the important duties of a Representative of Charlottetown faithfully and independently.")

The Age-Old Story

They dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust! for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

ALL DREAMERS

Scientists say that animals and small infants have dreams just as adults do.

Order Your SPRING SUIT and TOPCOAT from J. P. MacPHERSON

More Power To The Speakers



(A NEW TREND FOR SPEAKERS IN CANADIAN LEGISLATURES, PRESENTLY UNARMED, MAY DEVELOP FROM R.E.I.'S CUSTOM, AND THE ISLAND'S GIFT OF A GAVEL TO THE NEWFOUNDLAND LEGISLATURE.)

Will It Come To This?

(Sir Leo Page in

The Times, London)

In a recent dream I found myself perusing a criminal trial in your issue of April 1, 1950. Mr. Justice Applesauce, addressing the prisoner, said: "William Sikes, you have been convicted of the crime of burglary, and, acting upon the instructions of the Psychiatric Sentencing Commission, it is my duty to pronounce the treatment upon which the commission has decided.

"Yours is a very sad case. You first appeared upon a charge of breaking a window with your catapult before a juvenile court in Faringdon. The chairman, a man obviously unfitted to deal with the case of a sensitive child, rejected with rude phrases your very convincing defence that the reason you did a great deal of malicious and serious damage to shop windows was that you had been bereaved by the death of your pet tortoise and had no one to love.

"I attribute the later deviations in your life entirely to this unfeeling and brutal magistrate, who failed to grasp the first principle of modern penology, that the sympathy of a court should be given to an offender and not to his victims.

"Your next 11 appearances were before a more enlightened court, of which the justices were all members of the Forward League or of the Don't Be Beastly to Garrotters Association. In placing you on probation on 11 successive occasions they have not actually cured you of all propensity to take the property of other persons. But that is no fair test of their wisdom.

"A juvenile court exists to provide an opportunity for the public dissemination of his views by the chairman on matters of public importance, such as the evil of such sports or entertainments as afford him personally no enjoyment. "You are now 35 years of age and the Sentencing Commission instructs me to give you another chance, your thirty-third. The commissioners have recently studied with admiration a report on 15 years' scientific research into the causes of crime consequent upon the now historic meeting at the Royal Institution on October 1, 1940. The investigations covered the behaviour not only of rats but even of human beings.

"Their conclusions disclose beyond the doubt of any scientific inquirer that your recent offences were due to the fact that during

The Poet's Corner

FISH

Fish are most old and wise. They stare from flat black eyes Out to an older age. Swimming through history, Man's small epitome. They have watched tragedy, Idyll and comedy, Glory and shame, Wisdom is part of them Like as the root to stem Warmth to the flame. Jews they have looked upon Weeping in Babylon, Egypt and running Nile, Lotus and carnation. Beauty that's old; They have crept under The low ships of plunder And Syrian gold. Thus, through deep rivers The fish swim for ever. Till the high mountains Shall crumble and fall And the low waters rise On forest and wall; Till the low waters swell Over meadow and field And man, the false builder, Must waver and yield; Till the deep waters triumph, And waiting fish triumph, To swim over all things, And pry into all things, And over and under The flooded earth's plunder Of human creating; Patiently, Silently, Surely, The fish are still waiting.

—Gwen Clear.

the first five years of your mother's life she was on two occasions, for some trifling fault, brutally struck upon her buttocks by your grandmother. "The sentence of the court upon you, William Sikes, is that your mother be sent to prison for five years; your grandmother will go to preventive detention for the remainder of her life, and you will be bound over to be of good behaviour for one month."

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Today's short short STORY A small accident may lead to a big judgment, that will drop your bank account to the zero point! Why not see us about comprehensive automobile insurance and know you are protected!

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Notes By The Way

Jolting by tractors is forcing farmers to wear corsets, says an item. To the farm wives other duties is now added the task of lacing her husband up the back before he goes to work. — Toronto Telegram.

A New Yorker is suing for divorce because his wife broke a bottle of champagne over his head on their wedding day. Apparently he objected to being launched on the sea of matrimony in so formal a manner. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

In a way it's a bit of a shame they ever invented the teen-ager. Time was when there were only adults and children in the world and the arrangement seemed at least as happy a one as the present three-group setup. — Edmonton Bulletin.

We have always wondered why it is that at least 90 per cent of public buildings have steps leading into them, whereas almost 100 per cent of stores can be entered directly from the street without there being a necessity of climbing steps. Not being architects, we can't quite understand why such should be the case. — Lethbridge Herald.

Canadians will be shocked at their country's exceedingly poor showing in this year's edition of the British Empire Games. They will not be terribly surprised, however, especially if they are at all familiar with our poor showing in the Olympic Games of 1948. Encouraging young men and wo-

men to become proficient at such sports as track and field, swimming, boxing and wrestling is the duty of any country interested in the health of its citizens. Canada is a vast, sprawling country, apparently too large for the organization of an unsubsidized athletic body interested in improving the health and athletic ability of young Canadians. The government should therefore appoint some sort of a commission to study the problem and to formulate plans for the development of a subsidized athletic organization. — Lethbridge Herald

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