

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1857)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office
Department, Ottawa.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1950

Party Patronage

In the House of Commons, Mr. Stanley
Knowles (C.C.F., Winnipeg North Centre)
put on the question paper the following
questions relative to Government patronage:

- 1. How many Government contracts, by
provinces, have been awarded to contractors
who hired their employees on the basis of
recommendations from members of Parli-
ament?
2. Who received such contracts, how
large were they and what was the nature of
each?
3. How many appointees to the Govern-
ment service have received their posts be-
cause of similar backing?
4. How many postmasters or mail car-
riers have been engaged in this same way?
5. How many contracts, by provinces,
have been awarded to persons recommend-
ed by M. P.'s; to whom were such contracts
awarded and what was their nature and
cost?
6. How many properties and premises,
by provinces, have been bought or rented at
the recommendation of members of Parli-
ament?

Giving an oral answer, Mr. St. Laurent
commented:

"I do not think that any member of the
Government would pretend members of Parli-
ament on both sides of the House do not
make representations from time to time
about contracts, about appointments, and
even about men who might be employed
by those who have contracts."

He added, however, that these repre-
sentations had "no official character" and
did not appear on official records.

"I think all honorable members will real-
ize that inquiries of the ministry can only be
answered by reference to official documents
and the correct official reply to this ques-
tion must be that the information requested
is not available."

It marked one of the relatively few oc-
casions in recent years when patronage—
a favorite topic of whispered conversation
in Ottawa regardless of what party is in
power—has been discussed openly on the
floor of the Commons.

Liberal M. P.'s loudly demonstrated their
agreement when the Prime Minister said
that "rumors" had reached him from time
to time that the Government's supporters
were "not always satisfied with the atten-
tion that is paid to their recommendations
by ministers, or deputy ministers or even
by the civil service commission."

The Speaker ruled that Mr. St. Laurent's
oral reply constituted a full answer to the
questions.

However Mr. Knowles said later that he
intended to press his search for full patron-
age information. It was common knowledge,
he said, that such patronage was a common
feature in the administration of the Domi-
nion and he expressed the view that the
Prime Minister's answer was an admission
that this was the case.

Gets Honours Now

Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King did not fa-
vour the bestowal of honours when he was
in charge of the Government, but since his
retirement he is having them imposed upon
himself. He will receive the highest civic
decoration The Netherlands can bestow at
a special investiture during the visit of
Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands to Ot-
tawa this month. The decoration — the
Grand Cross of the Order of The Nether-
lands Lion — was awarded Mr. King for
his "outstanding services to the Allied cause
during the war" especially in connection
with the part Canada played in the libera-
tion and rehabilitation of The Netherlands
when Mr. King was Prime Minister. The
award was made Feb. 6 in a special de-
cree by Queen Juliana. Prince Bernhard
will visit Ottawa March 10-12 at the end
of an official visit to Dutch territories in
the Western Hemisphere.

Trucks vs. Railways

Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Trans-
port, has been challenged by the trucking
industry to appear before the Royal Com-
mission on Transportation "as the federal
government's chief witness on transporta-
tion policy." The challenge was issued by
the trucking industry's national spokesman,
John Magee of Toronto, Executive Secre-
tary of the Canadian Automotive Transporta-
tion Association. The C. A. T. A. is a
federation of provincial transport associa-
tions representing 5,000 trucking firms. Ad-
dressing the annual convention of the Auto-
motive Transport Association of Quebec,
Mr. Magee was sharply critical of an ad-

dress delivered a fortnight ago in Toronto
in which Mr. Chevrier stated that he was
convinced "that trucking had gone beyond
its economic radius of operation." The Min-
ister told the Toronto Board of Trade Club
on February 20th that while he was not
advocating the complete curtailment of high-
way trucking "if it is left unchecked it will
undoubtedly impair the efficiency of our
railroads and destroy the economic advan-
tages which we still enjoy."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The trade representation at Newfound-
land last year cost \$3,783.23.

Retired Provincial Government employ-
ees were paid \$9,887.08 last financial year.

The Public Works Department spent
\$821,545 on highways, bridges, ferries, etc.,
in 1948-9.

In 25 years the public debt of the Prov-
ince has increased from \$2,500,000 to \$13,-
500,000.

It is gratifying to learn that the Prov-
ince holds the record of advantage being
taken of the Federal Government grants
under the Public Health allotments—56 per
cent having been taken up, according to the
Hon. Mr. Matheson in the Legislature.

The Toronto Globe and Mail prints
without comment a letter taunting General
MacArthur with having "left the Philippines
before the Japs got to where he was." It
would have been only justice to a gallant
soldier to have noted that MacArthur's
orders left him no discretion in the matter.

The unofficial report by the Canadian
Press that the U. S. is to permit Canada to
share in further Marshall Plan wheat sales,
goes on to say that the proposal is opposed
by Britain. But while the immediate re-
sult is to make less wheat available to the
United Kingdom, Canada's improved dollar
position should make it easier for Britain
to buy in this country.

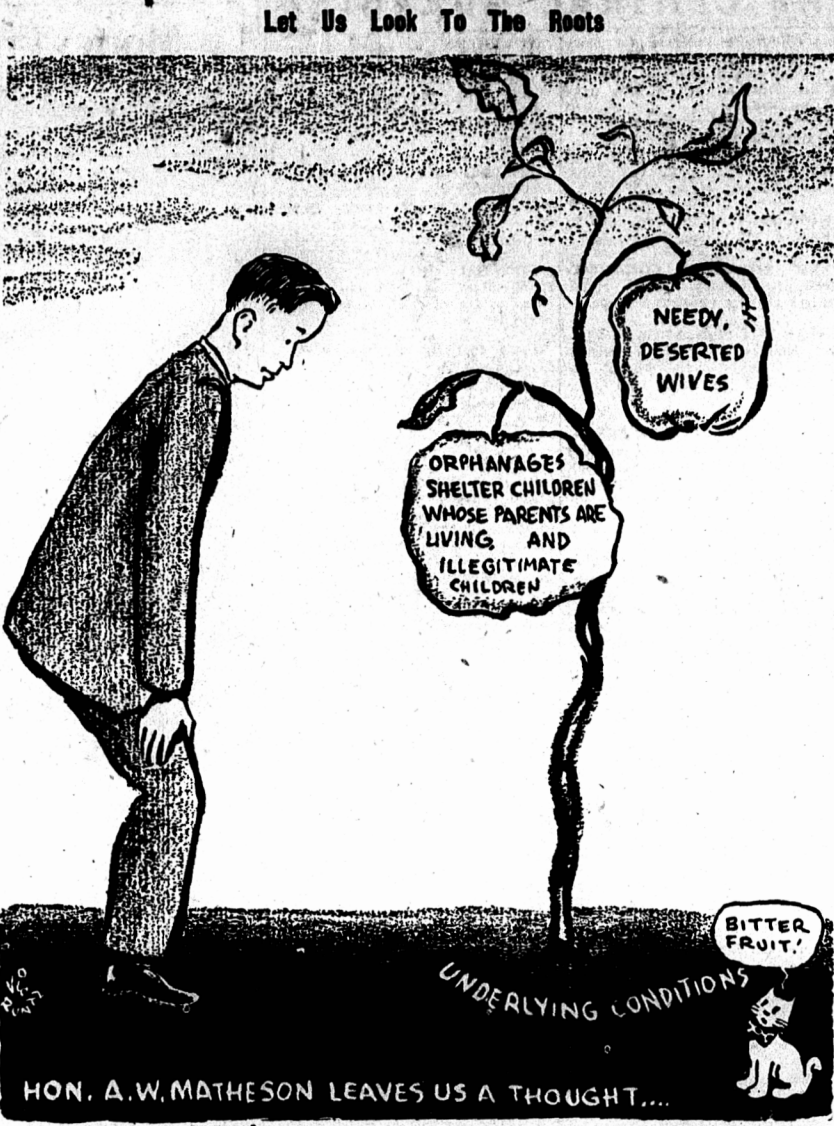
The gavel, as an aid to the Speaker or
Chairman in maintaining order has been
almost unique to Prince Edward Island
amongst parliaments, although the usage is
well established in the United States houses
of Congress. With the presentation of a
gift gavel to the Legislative Assembly of
Newfoundland, Islanders may see their inno-
vation on the way to become accepted prac-
tice.

It has been pointed out to us that the
increased liability of the Province as shown
in the Public Accounts as \$914,185.92 is
wrong; it should be \$1,303,188.92, as after
crediting the Sinking Fund with \$389,008,
it is brought back leaving no corresponding
entry. Last year, we are told the Federal
auditors made the necessary correction, but
notwithstanding the error is repeated in the
current issue of Public Accounts.

There has been much speculation that
one result of the recent British election will
be to slow down nationalization. It would
seem that even before the election the La-
bour Government had given up the idea of
nationalizing the land. The enormous pro-
ject of making a complete survey of "pub-
lic ways" (footpaths, lovers' lanes, kissing
gates and so forth) so that they may be per-
manently marked on maps and prevented
from lapsing, indicates that the powers-
that-be expect land to remain private prop-
erty for a long time to come.

The late Mr. John A. MacLaren has not
been prominent in local affairs for some
years now, but in his hey-day, he was prob-
ably one of the best known public men in
the City. He was a keen politician, and at
elections was almost indispensable. At that
time the Board of Trade and other organ-
izations were not much concerned about get-
ting out the vote, and it was to organizers
like Mr. MacLaren fell the lot of locating
and contacting electors and seeing that they
duly exercised their franchise. As a Scots-
man he was in the forefront of the Caledo-
nian Club, ever conspicuous at its annual
picnics, dinners and Burns concerts.

William III of Orange, King of Great
Britain and Ireland, son of William II of
Orange and Mary, daughter of Charles I
of England, died this date 1702. Invited
to deliver Britain from the Stewarts, he
landed at Torbay in 1688; after James' flight
in 1689 he was proclaimed King, and ap-
proved of a number of acts which had pre-
viously been passed but failed to get en-
dorsement from his predecessor, including
Acts of Toleration and Indemnity. He
landed a force in Ireland which won the
battle of the Boyne in 1690; and later under
him England joined the League of Augs-
burg, and agreed to the Peace of Ryswick.
He became involved in the Spanish Suce-
ssion questions but died before the subse-
quent outbreak of war.



PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the
discussion by correspondents
of questions of interest. The
Guardian does not neces-
sarily endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

SUPPORT THE FEDERATION

Sir, — A report published on the
front page of your paper date
March 2nd, 1950 tells of a potato-
growing Senator from New Brun-
swick cracking back at unwarrant-
ed and exaggerated stories of ship-
ment of Canadian potatoes to the
U.S.A. Senator F. W. Pirie states
"one-sided stories have been get-
ting a lot of publicity in the U.
S.A." In the writer's opinion here
is a story that should get Domi-
nion-wide publicity.

"A low paid Senator has to grow
potatoes to make a living." It is
about time we farmers cracked down
hard on senators, politicians, doc-
tors, lawyers, etc. to name only a
few who are robbing us farmers by
entering into competition with us.
It would be far better if the politi-
cians left farming to farmers, and
employed their time in searching
for new and better markets than
by creating a surplus.

I wonder how long Senator Pirie
would live on a farm if he cannot
live on the salary he now gets? It
is about time a halt was called.
This sort of thing is going on in
every province of Canada. The
Federation of Agriculture, which is
made up of farmers only, pledges
to allow only farmers to farm.
There is an opportunity for us
farmers to do something about it.
So as one farmer to another, sup-
port your Federation of Agricul-
ture to the fullest extent.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A FARMER

POTATO CULTIVATION

Sir,—For once I agree with Dr.
MacMillan on what he had to say
about the potato industry of Prince
Edward Island. The Prince Edward
Island potato industry, once world
famous, is now merely "a racket".
Well-to-do doctors and lawyers will
pick up some cheap land in the
country and proceed to grow thirty
or forty acres of potatoes. When
shipping time comes around the
market is glutted and the price is
well down. The small farmer, who
gets his bread and butter from the
land, is forced to "give away" his
potatoes for a trifle.

To what is the world coming?
Is it any wonder, then, that we
read in the paper and hear on the
radio about the thousands unem-
ployed and, "Don't leave it till
May, do it right away."

I say that there should be a
law, and it would be a good ques-
tion to put before the Legislature,
that only a limited acreage be al-
lowed, say five acres per farmer.
Then anyone raising more than
this amount could take his punish-
ment. In this way the market
wouldn't become glutted and, as a
result, the price would remain
high. You all know how much doc-
tors and lawyers charge when
their assistance is required, so
why should they be allowed to
ruin the small farmer? (As Pre-
mier Jones said in reply to Dr.
MacMillan's speech, "the highest
paid officials of all are those in the
field of medicine.")

Another thing tending to ruin
the potato industry is the potato
support price. Big gamblers again,
ship what they wish at the high-
est price and keep the rest until
spring and so "ring in" on the
support price. On the other hand
the small or average farmer, ship-
ping early to meet his fertilizer
bill, is forced to take "what's go-
ing."
The Government would be far

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)
ARISAIG MILL DESTROYED

"On the night of Saturday last,
Arisaig Mill, about nine miles
from Charlottetown, on the St.
Peter's Road, the property of
Donald Macdonald, Esq., of Glen-
aladele, was consumed by fire,
no part having been saved but
the water-wheel. There is but too
much reason to suppose that it
was the work of an incendiary.
There had been no fire in the
woods, nor was it in the vicinity
of a dwelling house, and the only
building within which it was at
all likely that fire could have
originated was the kiln, which
was left untouched. The morning
after, a quantity of timber, and
other combustible materials, were
found near the place, together
with a file, which appeared to
have been used in striking a
flint. His Excellency Lieutenant
Governor Young has issued a pro-
clamation, offering a reward of
two hundred pounds for the dis-
covery of the miscreants who per-
petrated this cowardly and atroc-
ious act."
—Royal Gazette, July 2, 1833.

DIES OF EXPOSURE

TORONTO, March 7 — (CP) —
Police said today that Norman
Carver, about 60, apparently died
of exposure at nearby Unionville
after digging his own grave. The
man's body was found Sunday in
the shallow grave near Carver's
home.

CONTINUES TOUR

FORT WORTH, Tex., March 7
— (CP) — Prince Bernhard of
the Netherlands and his party
leave for Washington today, con-
tinuing a tour of the United
States and Canada. The Prince
will visit Ottawa March 10-13 as
guest of the Canadian Govern-
ment.

wiser to use that extra money for
some better cause, such as road
construction, of which they never
do enough for the common good.
I am, Sir, etc.
A DISGUSTED FARMER.

The Poet's Corner

ART AND LIFE

There is so much to catch
As the days go by,
The line of some queer old thatch
Against wintry sky.

The huge red sun of November
Threatening snow,
Dark woods that seem to remem-
ber
Ages ago.

Gold king-cups crowning the
ditches,
Windwags agleam,
Old willows standing like witches
Haunting a stream.

Far mountains lit with a glow
That is tremulous
With something we only know
Is never for us,

All shapes of rocks and of trees
That a rune has enchanted,
All sounds that sigh upon seas
Of lands that are haunted,

So much there is to catch,
And the years so short,
That there is scarce time to catch
Pen, palette, or ought,

And to seize some shape we can see,
That others may keep
Its moment of mystery,
Then go to our sleep.

—Lord Dunsany.

The Age-Old Story

All thy children shall be taught
of the Lord, and great shall be the
peace of thy children.

Electrical Contractor
WIRING AND REPAIRING
ERNEST R. RAMSAY,
159 Elm Ave. Phone 1963J

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!
W.K. Rogers Agencies Limited
GENERAL INSURANCE AGENTS
CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
DUNSMUIR BUILDING

Old P. E. Island Coins
(Edward Bayfield, Esq., in The Prince Edward Island Magazine,
Vol. 1, 1899-1900)
Long ago in the days when I tion in any other country,
was young, no matter when that stay for use in the community.
was Charlottetown was one of the
best places in the world in which
to make a collection of coins.
Everything in the shape of a coin,
irrespective to which country it
belonged, passed for some value,
and the way that value seemed to
be ascertained, was by size.
For instance,—a silver coin
about the size of a shilling, passed,
as did the shilling for eighteen
pence. Another, nearly of the same
size as an English six pence, for
nine pence, and so on—the same
rule being applied to the copper
coinage. Had anyone been far-
seeing enough in those days to
diligently collect all the unusual
coins that he or she could, a
small fortune might be realized
upon their sale at the present
time, for many of them would be
quite valuable; and even now, it is
quite worth while to examine
carefully any old coppers that are
sometimes found amongst the cents
that we use every day.
As an example,—a copper half
penny, with a "ship" on one side,
and "Ships, Colonies and Com-
merce" on the reverse. But look
closely. If the flag flying at the
stern of the ship shows the crosses
of the Union Jack, your hopes will
be doomed to disappointment, and
your penny worth only a cent or
two. On the other hand, if the
flag is perfectly plain, then you
may obtain as much as \$20 to \$30,
if it is listed in the catalogues
at that price. Then, too, the old
P. E. I. half penny, with a sheaf
of wheat on one side and a plow
on the other, is worth from five
to twenty-five dollars, according to
the perfection of the coin.
The history of the last mention-
ed coin is worth knowing. At
the time when they were coined
it seems to have been no offence
for anyone to provide himself
with change, all that was needed
being some sheets of copper and a
suitable press. So a Mr. Milner,
(I have not got his Christian
name, but he was a brother, I
believe, of the late G. W. Milner
of this city), obtained a press with
half pennies as they are called,
and had struck off about forty or
fifty of them when a fire destroy-
ed the press and the hopes of the
amateur coiner, for history says
nothing further with regard to
him in that capacity. Hence the
rarity of the coin, and collectors
should not forget that it is the
rarity and perfection of the coin
that makes its value, not age alone,
though of course age and scarcen-
ess very often go together.
Another coin of interest, in that
it possesses a local history of its
own, is the "Ring Dollar". This is
a Spanish silver dollar, out of
which a round centre piece has
been punched.
In the old days of the history of
the Island, when Governor Smith
held his autocratic sway, there was
a great scarcity of small change
and of coins of all kinds. There
were no banks and bills of ex-
change, and bank drafts being un-
obtainable, the merchants had to
send cash for the goods purchased
by them in Halifax and elsewhere.
The consequence was the silver
dollars were found to leave the
Island almost as fast as they came
to it. The happy thought occur-
red to Governor Smith that if a
centre piece was punched from
each dollar, then worth six shill-
ings of our currency, the number
of coins represented by the Span-
ish silver dollars would be doubled.
The ring after punching passing
for five shillings, and the centre
piece for a few minutes until the
being rendered unfit for circula-

EDMONTON — (CP) — The
city's telephone service experienced
its heaviest traffic in history recent-
ly. With the peak flow, a fuse
at the main exchange blew out
and downtown telephones went
dead for a few minutes until the
fuse was replaced.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Bell & Mathieson
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, E.C.
D. L. MATHIESON, M.L.L., E.C.
Attorneys at Law
LOANS ON CITY AND FARM
PROPERTIES
156 Richmond St.
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Dr. A. L. MacIsaac
DENTIST
Dental X-Ray
GLORIA BUILDING
179 Grafton St.
Phone 191

Gaudet & Hazard
Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries, Etc.
Canadian Bank of Commerce Bldg.
MONEY TO LOAN
GILBERT A. GAUDET, B.A., LL.B.
Canadian Bank of Commerce Bldg.

J. A. McGuigan
NOTARY, ETC.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR,
CURRIE BUILDING

Palmer & Haslam
A. J. HASLAM, B.A., LL.B.
Barrister, Etc.
Bank of Nova Scotia Chambers
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
MONEY TO LOAN

Dr. W. R. Carson
Chiropractor
Palmer Graduate
CHARLOTTETOWN
101 Prince St. Phone 1978

H. R. DOANE and COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
OFFICES: Charlottetown, Halifax, Moncton, Amherst, New
Glasgow, Truro, Kentville.
IN CHARLOTTETOWN: Randolph W. Manning, C.A., Breinck
M. Sears, C.A., Lorne E. Ives, C.A., W. Grant Thompson, C.A.
Phones: 1969 - 1947 Box 247

NEIL W. HIGGINS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
CURRIE BUILDING
TEL 1986 CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I. Box 488