

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1951

The Legislature Opens

As no Government since Confederation has held office in this Province for more than four regular sessions of the Legislature without appealing to the country, it is likely that the present Government will follow suit and that the session which opens today will be the last of the present General Assembly, which convened for the first time in February, 1948, following the general election of the preceding November.

There is nothing wrong in this, provided such political zeal is kept within bounds. What members on both sides should remember is that we are living in very serious times, and that parochial partisanship is something about which comparatively few persons are interested in. Political speeches should be made short and snappy, and as much time as possible devoted to the more important business of legislation.

Last year the Provincial Treasurer, Mr. Darby, budgeted for a further increase in liabilities this year of \$1,138,821, bringing the Province's total net debt to \$16,290,386 by March 31. On ordinary account, his estimate was for a surplus of \$45,434. Our tax agreement payments from Ottawa are supplemented by payments based on gross national production which may bring in even more this year than the estimated \$694,750.

Our citizens generally will extend a cordial welcome to the out-of-town members, who of course constitute the bulk of our representatives and who, we trust, will find the time pass pleasantly as well as profitably during the session.

External Affairs Report

The main function of the Department of External Affairs, as set out in the Hon. L. B. Pearson's foreword to the Department's annual report, is the protection and advancement of Canadian interests abroad. As all other considerations are necessarily secondary to the prevention of a world holocaust, the activities of the Department during the past year were very largely governed by the paramount needs of security.

An outstanding feature was this country's undertaking under the Colombo plan to provide up to \$8 million over a three-year period for technical assistance to underdeveloped countries in South and South-East Asia.

Canadians, who may be inclined to regard such a report as being in the dry-as-dust category, would do well to reflect that their personal lives may well be affected for many years by the situations dealt with by Mr. Pearson's Department, and to take a look into what he, his 131 officers in Ottawa and 128 abroad have been doing about

The Ancient Mariner

Writing in John O'London's Weekly, Gilbert Thomas, an authority on Eighteenth Century literature, maintains that Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner" was a living person and not just a figment of the poet's imagination. The original was, according to Mr. Thomas, a remarkable man—John Newton, by name. Born in 1725, he was, himself, for a time a slave. He escaped, however, and became first a member of the crew of a slave ship, then the master of a slaver trading in black men from Africa to the American colonies. He gave up the sea to become a tide surveyor and customs official at Liverpool.

Then he became converted and took holy orders. He was the curate at Olney (Cowper's home town) for many years. Here Coleridge came to know him as the author of two beautiful hymns—"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" and "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The House is in session, but what is a house without a woman?

Lancashire is celebrating the 600th anniversary of its erection into a County Palatine, a miniature buffer state designed to hem in the turbulent Welshmen.

Of all the new states which became independent after the First World War, Finland alone is still free and is governed by the constitution of 1919.

Without considering rental changes since October, the cost of living index is up 2.7 points to a high of 175.2. The housewife's answer, in part at least, is more fish and potatoes.

An earnings base being established for the Maritime Electric Company its future earnings will be fixed accordingly at a rate yet to be determined. Then the company will only be able to increase profits by expanding its permanent installations.

The last one-day sitting of the Legislature made out a case for continuous communication with the rest of Canada. It is to be hoped that Premier Jones will be able to tell the House that Ottawa has recognized the obligation and is facing the problem.

Borden, quite understandably and in fact necessarily, has decided against sending equipment to fires outside its town limits. Until the Counties have equipment of their own to lepd the towns in case of need, mayors will find it difficult to justify using equipment against out of town fires.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning was born, it is now settled, this date 1806 at Coxhoe, County of Durham. From an early age an invalid, she was married to Robert Browning against her father's wish and after the birth of a son she gained a new lease of life. She died in Florence, her most beloved city, although she had spent much time both in Rome and London. Her most popular work at the time was a novel in verse, "Aurora Leigh", although her "Sonnets of the Portuguese" is outstandingly superior and has retained popularity. These poems, together with one or two other poems and lyrics, "Dead Pan" and "The Cry of the Children" are the enduring and classic part of her works.

Seven years ago, in March 1944, Canadian troops fighting with the British 8th Army in Italy helped clear, with a few exceptions, all German troops out of the town of Cassino. The exceptions were isolated enemy pockets on the outskirts of the town and a handful of troops strongly entrenched atop Mount Cassino. The town fell about six weeks later during the "big push" in May after being softened by an Allied bombardment rated one of the heaviest bombardments ever concentrated on a single target. The fall of this much battered Italian town helped clear the advance of the cosmopolitan 8th Army to Rome.

The National Liberal Federation was told by Dr. J. A. Corry, professor of political science at Queen's University, that the Opposition in Parliament could not be expected to criticize Government policy and administration effectively without expert assistance such as was available to the Government through the Civil Service. "We should consider," he said, "whether the position and prestige of parliament can be maintained unless each political party is equipped with a secretariat which can then give it an independent and informed view." Such a step, comments the Ottawa Journal, "would but carry to its logical conclusion that democratic glory which sees British countries valuing criticism so highly that they pay an Opposition Leader to voice it." What the delegates to the National Liberal Federation meeting thought of Dr. Corry's idea is not recorded.

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.

WARBLE FLY CONTROL

Sir.—There are several conditions affecting livestock which cause our farmers a very large economic loss. One of these—the Warble Fly—costs Canadian cattlemen over \$30,000,000 a year. Here on the Island this loss runs into the thousands of dollars. This loss is felt through lowered milk production, a loss of meat and damaged hides.

The Warble Fly strikes chiefly in June and July. They are most active on warm days when they attack cattle to lay their eggs. The flies are very persistent in attacking the animals and one female may lay one hundred or more eggs on one individual.

The Warble Fly can be controlled by killing the grubs before they mature into flies. It is only by the co-operation of all the breeders that this great economic loss can be controlled.

The Federation of Agriculture and breeders of this Province have my full support in this Warble Fly control programme. I am, Sir, etc.

GEORGE C. FISHER, D.V.M., V.S. Provincial Animal Pathologist

APPALLING AFTERMATH

Sir.—In July, 1920, when, after the First World War, and the American people had seen the marvelous effect of wartime prohibition, the Volstead Act came into force, the effect was amazing. The law was accepted without question. The press was in hearty support. The coming of the Act seemed like a great ship, all sails set, coming into harbour laden with health and happiness for the nation. And then, as the years passed, the trade interests went to work to break the law and bring it into disrepute. Millions were put into the assault from the wine-producing countries of Europe, until rum-running became a racket on land and sea.

In 1932 the Volstead Act was repealed. The trade breathed a deep sigh of relief and everyone said: "The saloon will never return. There will be less drinking and less crime as the result of drink."

What is the record? The following is from the report of Charles M. Crowe, recently published in the United States. The record is taken from police courts, homes, hospitals, and industries. There are 42,000 legal retail outlets for liquor in the United States. 50 million people are drinking and 10 million drinking heavily. They spend 9 billions a year in alcohol beverages, compared with 2 billions in 1932. Add to this for police costs, jails, courts and asylums, at least, 10 billions more annually. Arrests for drinking have increased 179 per cent. Arrests for drunken driving 122 per cent. Arrests for women drunkness are five-fold what they were in 1932.

Bootlegging was supposed to have passed out of the picture; but it still thrives. In Chicago 68 per cent of all complaints the court received concerned illegal conditions in places selling liquor. In California the report states: "On jail overcrowding, courts and police organizations are burdened; problems are seriously aggravated because of the licensed liquor traffic, and similar reports come from every section of the country. Liquor has hit the home hardest of all. 75 per cent of divorce cases are traceable to drink and the majority of sex crimes are committed under the influence of liquor. One leading psychologist said: 'I have before me on my desk 271 case records of male alcoholics from every walk of life and about half of them were one-time big business men.'"

For every dollar spent on education in the United States \$6.00 are spent for liquor. For every dollar spent by the Church \$4.00 are spent for drink. The courts are not yet ready for Prohibition, but the idea is in the back of the mind of every temperance worker and every lover of his country's welfare. The trade interests are becoming alarmed at the dangerous proportions of the problem. Strangely enough, it is not the churches, nor the long-haired reformers, nor the little old ladies who are most outspoken on the matter of drink, but the judges, the police-courts, the doctors, the social workers and the directors of industrial personnel. They demand that some answer be found to check the devastating results of drink on human health and personality, on the home, on business, on the cost of government and on the quality of American culture.

I am, Sir, etc. W. F. GREEN, Stanley Bridge, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CHIGNECTO CANAL

Legislative Assembly, Friday, March 13, 1920: The following resolution, moved by the Attorney General, was agreed to in committee of the whole House: "That it is the opinion of this Committee that a humble Address be presented to the Lieutenant Governor, thanking him for his communication on the subject of the contemplated Canal between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy, and to assure His Excellency that this House will most cheerfully contribute on the part of this Island, so far as its means will permit, towards that most important object, when the progress thereof shall be in such a state of forwardness as to require its aid; that it feels the full force of all the views that are detailed in the documents received from

The Focus Of Conflicting Views



Notes By The Way

Correspondent, possibly a shade morbid, wonders if it is a sign-of-the-times note that this month and next bring three mysteries entitled, respectively, "Corpse Diplomatie," by Delano Ames; "Diplomatic Corpse," by Phoebe Atwood Taylor "The Right Honorable Corpse," by Max Murray—John Huthens in New York Herald Tribune.

Crippled at the age of six, when he fell off a seeding machine, Bruce MacGregor now nine and a Wolf Cub at Castleton, Ontario, had his greatest wish fulfilled recently—Wolf Cubs at Belleville, Trenton, Coburg, Stirling and Batavia earned \$138 and bought him a pony and cart.—Scout News.

Salaried employees who bear the brunt of income tax payments are not likely to look with favor on an Ottawa report that the Government may return to "one dollar a year" declarations, under which a man in an administrative position was allowed perhaps \$50 a day, or more, in non-taxable "expenses." If a man possesses the executive ability required by the Government then his services should be obtained on a straight salary basis, subject to the same income tax provisions as any other employe.—Sudbury Star.

The cigarette is getting a lot of publicity these days. Besides the inquiry resolution by Rev. Dan Melvor, M.P., of Fort William, which drew an unexpected total of 48 votes with 91 against in the House of Commons there has been published a summary of furniture fires in Toronto, charged to smoking while in bed or resting on chesterfields. It would appear that what is needed is more fire proof furniture. Incidentally, the habit contributes \$100,000,000 in tax revenue to the Dominion Government yearly. Non-smokers escape this and some may wonder why they should want to assume a share.—Port Arthur News Chronicle.

Canadian Education Week was started in 1936 to stimulate public interest in education and now is sponsored by a number of national organizations. These sponsors, including associations of teachers, businessmen, school trustees and veterans, evidently have come to the conclusion it is desirable to set aside one week each year (starting March 4 this year) when the community will turn its thoughts towards the schools and their objectives. The theme is "Education—Everybody's Business." Education of course should be a year-round interest for all who live in a progressive nation, but the attempt to focus some special attention for a brief period should have value. Education has many critics and few investigators. Parents who complain about what the methods and results of instruction might well, in the construction week, take advantage of the invitation to learn more of the organization and objectives of the modern educational system. The old-time dominie, waving his cane, may in some ways have been admirable and effective, but few would say he could do much.

His Excellency Sir Howard Douglas, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, on the subject, and is fully aware that the completion of that great national undertaking would be highly advantageous to this Island.

The Age-Old Story

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made safe.

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Memoirs Of The Hon. A. E. Arsenault

Former Premier and Retired Justice Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island

I Visit Europe

In 1924, I was fortunate enough to re-visit Europe. I left Quebec by the old Empress of Britain, a most comfortable ship. One day, I was standing on the rear deck when a clergyman came and stood by me. We got into conversation and I learned that he came from Liverpool, England. He told me that he had been visiting on the Pacific Coast and that he had been so impressed by Canada that he intended upon his return to England to ask his Ordinary to give him permission to come and settle in Canada. He was Irish and when the sun was over the main brace and asked if I would be offending him in asking him to join me in an appetit. "Shure," he replied, "and would a duck swim."

We retired to the smoking room where I asked him what he would have. He countered by asking me if I had ever tried Canadian rye with Italian vermouth. "Well," I said, "that is the best of a Man's Italian cocktail, and am sure it would go very nicely." So we had Canadian rye and vermouth.

That was the year of the Wembley Exhibition. It was certainly a grand Exhibition. I was told that there were over 350,000 people on the grounds that day, and although there were many places where intoxicants were sold, I only saw one man the worse for liquor. I was told he was an American.

The Hyde Park Hotel is frequented by foreigners from all the important nations of the world. There I saw French, Germans, Russians, Hollanders, Indians, Chinese, and men from many other races. At the time there was a conference of nations going on at London. Among those representatives was Edouard Herriot. One day as I was coming down the elevator, three men got in. The face of one of them somehow appeared familiar to me but I could not place him. Next year I saw his picture in the paper. I suddenly realized that one of the three men who had got in the elevator with me was Herriot.

He was then Premier of France and I was at the St. Lazare station the day he arrived in Paris from England. There was an immense crowd to meet him. They kept yelling, "Herriot! Herriot!"

One night I was in the bathroom at the Hyde Park. There was a more or less of a picture which I took from the bathroom to an adjoining room. From the bath tub I could hear a man, evidently a newspaperman, dictating in French to his secretary a dispatch to his newspaper. The gist of his dictation was that he had learned since coming to London that there was a prisoner of state who was being held in London for some years. The prisoner was evidently a man of some importance and was an Egyptian. There was a mystery about his incarceration which the newspaperman had not as yet solved.

I thought no more of the incident but, six months later, upon my return to Canada, I saw that the papers were full of a story about an Egyptian Prince who had killed a person of prominence in Cairo. The Prince had then been smuggled into England where he had been kept as a prisoner of state for his own protection. But it seems he had escaped and was now being chased over Europe.

Another interesting castle is Chillon. It was in the Grand Logis of this castle that Joan of Arc recognized King Charles VII from among his courtiers. It is now partly in ruins, and when I asked our young guide why the castle had been partly wrecked he replied, "Le Roy n'aimait pas les marteaux forts". The King did not like fortified castles.

The last I visited was Chenonceaux. It was owned by Meunier, the chocolate king of France who at one time owned the Island of Anticosti in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Chenonceaux is one of the most beautiful castles on the Loire. It was the residence of the King of France who on his deathbed gave it to his mistress, Anne de Poitiers, on his death. Anne de Poitiers, his queen, took it from Anne de Poitiers and gave her another residence.

During our second day of castle visiting, we became acquainted with a very nice couple, a Belgian doctor and his wife. In the evening we said goodbye to them not expecting, of course, that we should ever see them again. But a week afterwards when my young friends and I were attending the Grand Opera in Paris we noticed a doctor across from us the Belgian doctor and his wife. They were glad to see us and we were glad to see the other again.

(To be continued)

The Poets Corner

DAY THAT I HAVE LOVED

Tenderly, day that I have loved I close your eyes. And smooth your quiet brow, and fold your thin dead hands. The grey veils of the half-light deepen, color dies. I bear you, a light burden, to the shrouded sands. Where lies your waiting boat, wreaths of the sea's making. Mist-garlanded, with all grey weeds of the water crowned. Close in the nest is folded every weary wing. Eased all the joyful voices; and ye, who held you dear, Eastward we turn, and homeward alone, remembering. Day that I loved, day that I loved the Night is here! —Rupert Brooke

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