

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN Saturday, June 24, 1950

Newfoundland Day

This day 1497 John Cabot out of Bristol, England, discovered Newfoundland, which he named "Prima Vista" and claimed it for King Henry VII. For long the Island was regarded as an English ship moored near the Grand Banks for the convenience of fishermen.

Today Canadians from sea to sea join in celebrating this feast of St. John as Newfoundland Day. No longer simply a fishing station, no longer a colony, Newfoundland is Canada's Atlantic Province and has a great future for her courageous people and developing resources of forest and mine as well as the fisheries which are even today the prime source of the livelihood of great numbers of her people.

Ministers, officials, representatives of the services from all the Provinces are helping to make the celebrations in St. John's today memorable and gay.

Canada salutes her newest Province, the Ancient Colony.

Canal Issue Sidestepped

The Dominion Government has passed on to the Royal Commission on Transportation the onus of advising upon the feasibility of the Chignecto Canal scheme. It is important to keep in mind that the Commission can advise only, and that the additional delay in presenting the matter before the Commission will be time wasted unless the Government is prepared to take action.

One of the strong points made in the admirable brief presented by the Canal delegation to the Cabinet on Thursday was that this project was promised to the Maritimes at Confederation. It is in the same category as our special Island claims for adequate transportation to and from the mainland. The failure to implement the agreement has been of incalculable loss to these Provinces, and on equitable grounds we are today not only entitled to the Canal but to compensation for the years and generations that have passed since the undertaking was guaranteed.

Rural School Meetings

On Tuesday, June 27, the annual school meetings are to be held in the districts throughout the rural communities. As pointed out in a circular addressed by the Department of Education to the clergy of the Province, these meetings are extremely important, for upon them and the action taken at them depends, to a great extent, the school service that will be provided the children. Among the several duties of the voters at an annual school meeting, three are of outstanding significance.

Emphasis is placed by the Department in a communication to trustees and secretaries on the fact that payment of teachers' supplements should be promptly made, even if the money has to be borrowed, as the Government salary cannot be paid in full until the returns show the amounts have been paid by the districts.

Under the School Act, in addition to previous legislation with respect to women voting at school meetings, wives of rate-payers may now vote, and it is hoped that on this occasion there will be a large turnout of women voters at all the meetings.

The more people who participate actively in this important duty, the more adequately will the educational needs of the districts for the coming year be met.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Today, St. John the Baptist.

Tomorrow, 3rd Sunday after Trinity.

Rain is a welcome relief to farmer and gardener, but for the latter it also means more work behind the lawn mower.

This is the last week of the present lobster season, ending on the 30th. There will be the usual tantalizing wait until fishermen along the western part of the Strait have their innings beginning the 10th of August.

Welcome to the Assistant Trade Commissioners from Germany, Holland, the United States and Caribbean area. May they learn, teach as well as enjoy their visit here.

It was appropriate that both the Maritime Press and the Maritime Librarians should meet in their respective annual meetings at Dalvay yesterday.

A visitor who had been surveying the Island by airplane remarked yesterday that its beauty was excelled only by the hospitality and bonhomie of its inhabitants.

General regret was expressed yesterday at the Canadian Press gathering at Dalvay that Newfoundland Government should have called away Premier Jones before he had an opportunity to address them as promised.

Farmers are fully realizing the value of the publicity they are receiving in connection with their various organizations. "Let the people know" is about the best maxim any organization can fly at its masthead.

New Brunswick farmers are this week holding a three-day seed convention at Harland in the interest of disease free production. The next project is to grow registered barley seed.

To an Albertan, Mr. E. R. McFarlane of Lethbridge goes the credit for inspiring Canada-Newfoundland Day, and also for fathering the Newfoundland Flying Club, affiliated with the Royal Canadian Flying Clubs Association, which marks its establishment today.

We are waiting now more or less patiently for our new Federal building, and our proposed modern bus service for which the Government is supposed to be negotiating. One proposal under discussion is that the C. N. R. should monopolize the bus service and sublet it to the Irving Company for operation.

Subject to a means test, New Brunswick Barrister Society has decided to provide legal service free to the poor of that province. Organization of such a system is already well underway in Saint John, and Moncton and Fredericton barristers have had the matter under consideration, it is reported. Under the scheme proposed, a panel of barristers would be named by local groups. Cases where assistance is needed and deserved will be referred to the panel by welfare and other groups and free legal aid will be provided on the recommendation of the panel.

Hopeful. From Montreal Gazette. "Money For Let: A Canadian bank, acting as agent for U. S. interests, is looking around for a spot or spots to invest \$10 millions in going concerns. Particularly sought is a silk processing business. A recent offer for one was turned down. The fact Canada has no capital gains tax, the exchange differential, and the ease with which profits may be sent to the U. S. are chief reasons for a steady, and at this moment heavy influx of U. S. capital into the Canadian business picture." After this, who would doubt Canada is moving ahead by leaps and bounds?

Mr. J. G. L. Langlois (L-Gaspe) is trying to convince the administration that it should see what can be done to prevent erosion of the shores of the St. Lawrence "particularly in the Gaspé peninsula," says an Ottawa correspondent. "Perhaps 25 per cent of all private legislation is placed on the order paper with no intention of allowing it to reach the debating stage. There is an excellent reason why the diffident minority of independent legislators becomes draftsmen. Even though their pride and joy is left high and dry when the session ends, they have the considerable consolation of knowing that their views are in black and white on the official record. And when the sessional battle is over, to the immense relief of all who have participated, they can point out this product of their industry and ingenuity to the interested folks back home."

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.

ART CRITICISM ENJOYED

Sir.—The criticism in last Wednesday's paper of the annual exhibition of the P. E. I. Art Society was delightful. It was like a fresh breeze blowing on a sultry sea of apathy. It was delivered with punch and enthusiasm—and best of all—it was constructive.

I can understand the shock the writer felt if he or she has recently returned from an up-to-date Art School where high, if narrow standards must be maintained; but the beauty of our show is that we have no standards.

Everyone who sends in pictures has at least one of them hung. There are so many we have them crowded on the wall three tier deep, and when the wall is full we place the over flow along the floor.

To fit the pieces of that mosaic takes patience and genius. It's a mighty work of art in itself.

I agree with our critic that there was a lot of bad painting but I can not agree that it was uninteresting. It was more than interesting—it was fun and I hope that all the amateurs who ever contributed will continue to paint and will send in more pictures than ever.

I also hope our critic will become a member of the P. E. I. Art Society.

I am, Sir, etc. FRIDIA I. CREELMAN President of the P. E. I. Art Association.

ART SOCIETY EXHIBIT

Sir.—I was very interested in the article on the recent exhibition of the P. E. I. Art Society which was presented by L. G. M. M. in your issue of June 21st.

The Art Society has been doing a quiet and unobtrusive work for some fifteen years or longer in Charlottetown.

L. G. M. M. is evidently quite unfamiliar with the efforts which have been made during these years, otherwise instead of criticism there would be a measure of appreciation for the recent exhibition, as compared with earlier shows a marked improvement would be seen from year to year.

L. G. M. M. thinks there is a lack of inspiration as quite possibly there is, there was quite a bit of good drawing and respectable coloring, which after all is of more real value and more likely to help the public along the road of art appreciation than 'tonal qualities and types of design' which at best appeal only to the few, and those not always the leaders to be admired.

Tom Thomson and his Group cared little enough for theories, but went and painted nature as God showed it to them, whether we approve or not we can see the very evident sincerity of purpose, which after all is the beginning of genius.

What the Art Society needs is not a slap, but a little judicious praise and appreciation of the efforts it has made in the passage of time. Believe me there were some faithful workers who often labored into the night arranging and hanging pictures of the various exhibitions shown, as well as working with brush and canvas in leisure moments, which were all too few.

As regards the gallery the writer has seen a great many galleries in the more wealthy centres and very few, if any, better lighted or ventilated than our own.

Of course with a few thousand dollars much might be done to improve it and if there were means of having a regular attendant it would help.

Let us be thankful at least Charlottetown has a picture gallery where pictures can be hung in safety from fires which few of the Maritimes are in a position to so boast.

Given the right support the Art Society and the Gallery might go far to spur along the use of art in Prince Edward Island.

Of course there are no Michael Angeles and no Titians here at present in P. E. I. to our knowledge, but no one can tell where genius may break out if given the opportunity, which is what we are trying to provide for.

I am, Sir, etc. JAMES E. HARRIS

CRAPAUD PLEBISCITE

Sir.—Two recent letters in The Guardian regarding the Crapaud plebiscite on the matter of incorporation under the Village Service Act, and the announcement that the Government had received a petition requesting a recount, have left erroneous impressions in the minds of many persons outside of this village, and if an explanation of this particular situation were not made it might be a factor that would discourage other villages from taking advantage of the benefits of the Village Service Act.

I suppose that from a civic point of view, all villages might be compared with the communal life of the hive to this extent that they have both workers and drones.

There are those who have worked unceasingly and unselfishly to build and better this community through our various organizations and as individuals, and needless to say, citizens truly interested in our community, will continue to do so, because it is only through the principle of co-operation and willingness of each to do his part that any community can give of its best.

On the other hand, are those who take no active interest in community affairs, who remain fenced off by themselves, and whose criticism and efforts in community affairs are more destructive than constructive.



as can be borne out by the minutes of the meeting, the unanimous decision by individual vote of those including John Simmons, Jack Leard, Robert Dawson, Lloyd Rogerson, Brent Wood, Park Canfield, Clayton Crosby, Art Simmons, William Waddell, Jack Nicholson, and myself. All these, to the best of my knowledge, still are in active support of the application of this Act to this village.

We have three purposes for which we seek incorporation: (1) Organization of a trained volunteer fire-fighting force responsible for the maintenance, repair, and operation of the equipment already owned by the community; and the gradual replacing of a few lengths of heavier long-lasting fire hose each year, until the present inferior and damaged hose is completely replaced.

(2) The installation of street lights. (3) The improvement of the parking problem that exists in the village, especially on Saturday nights.

No one is in opposition to incorporation who has witnessed our fire-fighting equipment in action at fires not only in Crapaud, but in Victoria and Tryon, and realized the inestimable value of this equipment in times of an emergency that always comes unexpectedly.

In the last three fires in this village one home was lost, due to defective hose in the line; two other buildings were saved, in which had the fire not been extinguished, doubtlessly would have wiped out a large part of the village.

Until recently the maintenance, storage, and operation of the equipment has been the responsibility and personal expense of two or three persons, who have very generously provided that service for this community.

At the present moment, because of the efforts of Mr. Lord and his opposition, no organization whatsoever exists, and we know whether or not the engine will start and only one or two would know where to find and how to get the engine, hose, and couplings, which are at present stored in three widely scattered buildings that are locked each night.

Since those in the village who do the actual work of fire fighting and maintenance of equipment are in unanimous desire to incorporate, those of us in support of incorporation wonder who will assume responsibility of our fire fighting equipment if the act is not proclaimed to apply to Crapaud.

Three years ago there was a great desire among residents to have street lighting installed in this village. A plan was prepared by which each home would contribute an equal amount each month to pay the cost of this service. Every home in the village was interviewed and the plan explained, and with one exception every single home gave its unqualified approval. Maritime Electric Co., however, insist on a five year contract before installing street lights and the automatic control system; and because we had no community organization with authority to make this collection, and with whom the Electric Co. could sign a contract, the plan had to be abandoned.

Being incorporated under the Village Service Act, we have the organization with the necessary authority to make collection for this service which would now be paid for on the basis of the value of property as determined by values set by the Government appointed Land Valuation Board, which recently made a scientific up-to-date valuation of property in this district.

This, in effect, will mean a great deal less cost for those few that I know to be in opposition to incorporation, than the original plan of payment agreed to three years ago.

The parking problem which we hope to improve would be solved by seeking the co-operation of motorists in parking only on one side of each street, and by the use of one or two free parking lots which we understand will be made available at no cost to the village upon incorporation.

These, Sir, are our reasons for seeking incorporation under the Village Service Act, and could not possibly be to any degree unreasonable in the eyes of anyone even slightly interested in the community in which he or she resides.

Under the Act these affairs would be administered by three commissioners duly elected at an annual public meeting, and no action can be taken, no taxes levied, and no expenditure made only as approved by majority vote of all the voters at this meeting at a public meeting called for and paid for by the village.

method, as is comparable to the method by which the business of public schools is managed, with the majority of electors at all times in control of the organization and its expenditures.

Another assisting factor in favor of incorporation is the grant of fifty cents per person per year which will be paid by the Government to the village after incorporation, for every man, woman, and child within the area. This, in our particular case, would amount to an income of upwards of one hundred dollars each year, which would greatly assist in the fulfilling of the three objectives for which we seek incorporation.

It would appear that those who are opposed to incorporation have largely been misled or influenced by the totally false rumors that have been spread in connection with incorporation and the plebiscite.

Some of these are: (1) That every resident would have to pay fifty cents each year to the Government after the village became incorporated.

(2) That it would be necessary for every home in the village to install modern plumbing and water systems.

(3) That the commissioners would compel every home to remove snow from their properties.

(4) That the taxes would be from eighty to one-hundred dollars per home per year.

(5) That the village would have to buy road maintenance machinery and be responsible for maintenance and repair of all roads within the area.

(6) That the village would be compelled to build concrete sidewalks.

(7) That the Village Service Act and the Town Act were one and the same thing.

(8) That our expenditure would be as great as larger places like Borden and Kensington, that are under the Town Act.

(9) That all villages are compelled by the Government to maintain fire fighting equipment whether incorporated or not, thus implying that the few will have to continue to personally assume the expense and responsibility for all.

(10) That the opposition was denied the privilege of having a scrutineer present at the counting of the ballots after the plebiscite.

(11) That the scrutineers present were responsible for alleged irregularities in the conduct of the poll, and at the counting of the votes.

(12) That a Tryon woman who was a former resident of Crapaud voted on the plebiscite; and that a ballot was taken out of the booth to a man who was actually paralyzed and unconscious at home in bed.

These and many other false rumors quite as ridiculous, are, in the main, the impressions on which the opposition to incorporation is based.

We leave it to the fair-mindedness of any intelligent person to judge the responsibility of persons who would believe and be influenced by such nonsense as the false rumors mentioned above.

The Village Service Act fills a long felt need for villages such as ours, in that it permits us the authoritative organization through which we can supply ourselves with certain services consistent with our desires and ability to meet the cost.

Of the three purposes for which Crapaud seeks incorporation, street-lighting is the only one which would be a recurring expenditure; a dozen street lights would cost the great majority of homes in the incorporated area less than one cent per day, and in the case of many of the smaller homes it would be a small fraction of one cent per day.

If this is the "excessive" tax which Mr. Lord and his mysterious opposition fear, then we leave it to the opinion of those who are familiar with the situation to decide how seriously the economic security of the residents of Crapaud will be threatened by incorporation.

All Join In

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) POOR RATES
"The Parishioners of Charlotte Parish are hereby required to pay their Poor Rates for the present year to either of the Subscribers, without delay, in order to avoid trouble and expense; and those who are in arrears for the past year are requested to come forward immediately and pay in their arrears, otherwise they will be sued without distinction Robert Hodgson, Charles Desbrisay, Church Warden."

The Age-Old Story
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