

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Manager, Ian A. Burnett. Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1954

Speech From The Throne

The proposal for an Economic Development Council is, perhaps, the most distinctive feature of the Speech from the Throne delivered in the Legislature yesterday, although salary increases for teachers, the establishment of rural high schools, the establishment of rights under the geological survey and the provision of pensions for the disabled are of material interest to the large numbers of people directly affected.

It is to be hoped that the co-operation with the other Atlantic Provinces produces real fruit in the form of complementary industrial development and a unified voice at Ottawa in stating the requirements of these Provinces. The tourist industry receives more attention than any other in the Speech, markedly so if the references to highway construction are attributed even in part to the desire to benefit that trade. The references to education, however, and particularly to the suggestion that special measures will be taken to study aspects of the educational system and compare them with those evolved in other Provinces seem to reflect the wave of public interest in the schools which has been so notable a national and Provincial phenomenon during the past half-year.

Just what the reference to a Plebiscite Act means is not clear. In this Province we are all too prone to take plebiscites although the procedure has little to commend it. They result in a very rough approximation of the popular choice between arbitrary alternatives. It is to be hoped that the Legislature will not be asked to make further use of a clumsy instrument.

It Cannot Be Long

Although the traditional January thaw was delayed until February, there is no question about its thoroughness when it did come. The whims of the ground-hog, notwithstanding, it looks now as if the worst of the winter is left behind. There are unmistakable signs of Spring in the air, in the fields which are rapidly throwing off their winter garments, and along the streams which are gurgling louder and louder every day. It is a bit early, however, to say "good-bye and good riddance" to Winter. March is yet to be accounted for and there is no telling what it will do or how it will behave; it is notorious for meteorological vagaries. It likes nothing better than to confuse the prophets.

Conceivably, March could brush aside all portents of an early Spring and re-instate bluff King Winter for another fling at sovereignty. But not for long can it retard the hopes which are born anew every year nor hinder the miracle which Nature is impatient to reveal. One by one the cold, forbidding ramparts will be broken down; the sun will renew his strength and the moon her warm brightness as they have been doing for countless eons of time; the earth will drink in the life giving draughts of rain; birds and animals and men will rejoice in their good portion in the land of the living. It cannot be long now, be March as wild as a lion or as gentle as a lambkin. Meanwhile, to be on the safe side, it may be just as well to keep the overcoat and galoshes within reach; after all, Spring is not supposed to come until the 21st.

The Case of Colonel Schwable

How much torture can a man reasonably be expected to stand before capitulating to captors who have no sense of decency or honour to govern their conduct? Is there a limit to human endurance? Should a military officer in every conceivable circumstance be prepared to die or go insane rather than sign a confession which he knows to be utterly untrue. These and many related questions are involved in the current military trial of Colonel Frank Schwable of the United States Marines on charges of giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

Captured by the Chinese Communists in July 1952, Colonel Schwable spent more than a year undergoing incredible mental and physical torture at the hands of his captors who day in and day out insisted that he sign a statement that he had participated in germ warfare in Korea. He was made to live in filth; "the life of a beast in a cage", as he described it. He was denied food, drink, and sleep for long periods of time. He was subjected to unmentionable indignities and humiliations until, in his own words, "my moral and spir-

itual outlook was contaminated and it became habitual and easy to lie." Finally, he gave in and signed the dictated "confession", only to repudiate it as soon as he was released from prison.

Colonel Schwable has a long and brilliant record to his credit; he has been decorated for valour many times. His trial before competent military authorities was inevitable, since discipline is essential to military service on all levels. His judges have no small matter to decide; it can be assumed that they will attempt to arrive at a judgment which will be fair and just to all concerned. All legal aspects of the case aside, all those who care for the elemental decencies of life will echo the sentiments of President Eisenhower who in a press conference expressed the hope that "the services will show real sympathy in their investigation of germ warfare cases."

That any soldier of Colonel Schwable's reputation should find himself in such an unpleasant situation is one more proof that the Communist apparatus is among the most diabolical systems ever invented by the human mind.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ash Wednesday.

Tradition counts for a great deal in Bermuda and so does the spending of visitors. On both counts the tiny colony welcomes back the British garrison whose withdrawal last year brought protests from the Bermudian legislature.

It is not often that the Senate is in advance of the Commons and of the Government. The Upper House has lost no time, however, after the Privy Council decision on highway transportation, to recommend a national remedy for the high rate of traffic fatalities.

No one seems to deplore the shooting incident in the United States House of Representatives more than the great majority of the Puerto Ricans themselves. They seem to be as shocked as the Maritimes would be if fanatics for Maritimes' rights were to take similar action at Ottawa.

All traffic within the Atlantic Provinces is exempted from freight rate equalization under the new scale which is to go into effect March 1, 1955. This protects internal traffic from the resultant increases but apparently rates will go up on that portion of the haul between the New Brunswick border and Montreal or Toronto.

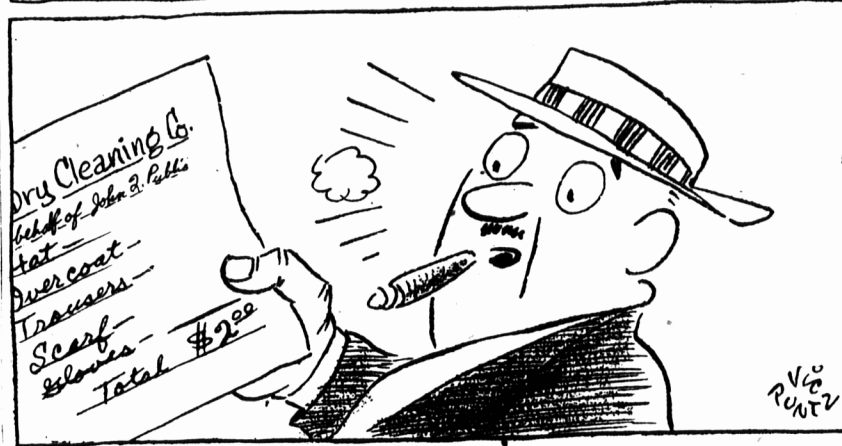
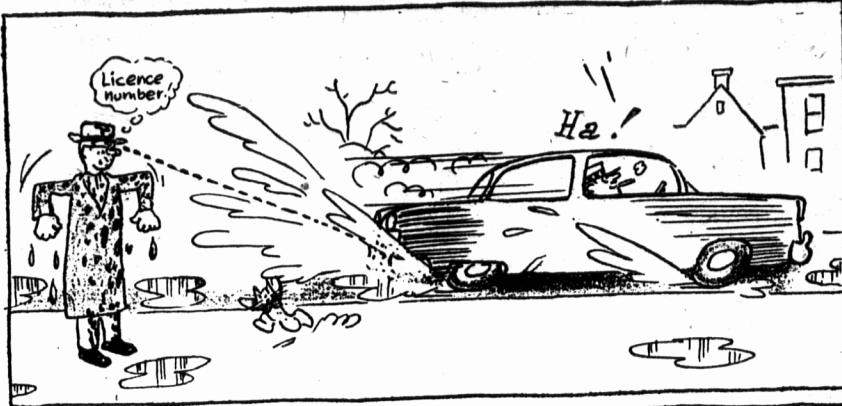
The Island is a single zone for potato freight rates as a result of agreement between the C. N. R. and the Marketing Board. The decision is a welcome one, not less for the railway than for the potato industry. This Province is too small to have a difference in rates between one station and another.

The Fisheries Council of Canada's bulletin points out that the apparent reduction in Fisheries estimates really represents a substantial increase in almost every service. What makes the seeming reduction is the fact that \$1,250,000 was included last year to cover the transfer of the Newfoundland bait service but neither spent nor included in the new estimates.

Sir Henry Wood, English musician and conductor, was born this date 1869. At ten he was already an assistant church organist and while studying at the Royal Academy of Music acted as accompanist to the operatic class. He conducted for various opera and concert organizations and conducted festivals. He made three visits to America. Between 1895 and 1919 he produced over two hundred English works in addition to popularizing modern Russian, German and French music. His memoirs were published in 1938.

Forecasting that the Federal Government will have a deficit of \$24 million this year instead of the budgeted \$11 million surplus, the Canadian Tax Foundation sees little hope of tax reduction. A recent release gives the following pertinent information: By way of demonstrating that major tax revisions would seem to have no place in the next budget the following are the costs of an assortment of undoubtedly popular tax changes. (1) Based on the present level of incomes and numbers of taxpayers the revenue loss from increasing personal exemption to \$1,500 for single persons and \$3,000 for the married status would exceed \$400 million; (2) reduction from 15 per cent to 10 per cent in the excise tax on automobiles would cost about \$30 million and on radio and television sets approximately \$8 million; (3) a decrease to 10 per cent in all the 15 per cent excise taxes would cost almost \$65 million; (4) a reduction by 5 per cent of the tax rates on corporation profits, at the present level of profits, would cost \$135 million; and (5) 1 per cent of the sales tax (now 10 per cent in all) would cost \$75 million.

Possible Unforeseen Developments



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,—If "Willie Green" of student days would revise his recollections appearing in your Forum Column of the 2nd inst., I think he would discover that the writer attended college in 1896-99 and the old buildings were replaced before the turn of the century. Mr. Green overlooked relating the fact that Prof. Caven also taught School Management and I am sure he cannot forget the teaching of chemistry by the then Prof. H. H. Shaw in a make-shift lab in a classroom in the old Normal School Building. I am, Sir, etc. W. C. LAWSON Alberton, P. E. I.

HIGHWAY CONDITIONS

Sir,—Having just arrived on P. E. I. by car on what was to be a business trip, before I return to the mainland tomorrow I feel I must protest the disgraceful condition of your so-called main highway. It is apparently impossible to proceed very far either east or west from the ferry at Bolden without the risk of considerable damage to one's automobile and one must even pay the tractor operator for the dubious privilege of having one's car damaged.

Upon making enquiries as to the reason for the existence of such appalling conditions, I am told several conflicting stories. One is, according to some, the composition and texture of the Island soil is such that it is not possible to grade and pave a section of highway in the same year. However, it would appear that one of the better stretches of your highway was graded and paved in one year and has lasted well.

Secondly, by the time the section known as Green's Hill dries out this summer, it will have been scraped down to the old road. Apparently it will then be graded again and paved. If this is the case, what was to stop it being completed last year? Surely the net result would be the same and at least one road would be open for automobile traffic.

Because of the existing conditions, many commercial men such as myself will be omitting the Island from our itineraries until spring which is neither to the advantage of ourselves or the Islanders. I am, Sir, etc. J. P. MALLETT Summerside.

The Poet's Corner

PRINTS IN SNOW

The field from road to wood was white as chalk. Untouched by anything but sun and wind, But beside the wood something had gone to walk. You could see from a distance where the foot went in. A mystery like this could not be borne. So I crossed over through the gleaming snow Seeing ahead where somebody had worn A path through the wood an hour or so ago. And there they lay, two sets of footprints drawn As perfectly as if they had been cast In some white metal or some frost-glass. Two lanes of footprints telling who had gone To the edge of the wood; a field mouse and a deer Had walked in peace beside each other here.

—Elizabeth Jane Astley in the Christian Science Monitor.

Food And Magic

By Rev. J. E. Heathwood, M.A., Edin. St. John's Presbyterian Church, Belfast.

In a short while, we shall witness once more the miracle of Spring, when Mother Earth casts aside her mantle of white, and the fresh green roots of summer appear. Soon our farmers will be busy in the fields from dawn to dusk, preparing for another season's yield. Every year, the age old story of cultivation is told, but from place to place and time to time, techniques and methods have altered, and it is interesting to note the differences throughout the world. For example, the natives of the Torbiand Islands in the South Pacific have a most interesting custom, for not only do they follow the customary methods of preparing and growing crops, they also employ magic! However, in order to avoid confusion, it is perhaps as well to state at the outset that this magic contributes little or nothing to the final result, so far as we can tell, for they are just as liable to have their failures in crops. But the natives firmly believe that although magic does not take the place of hard work, it plays an important part in cultivating and harvesting. To the Torbiander, a good harvest means a condition of plenty, but a bad harvest means shortage, possibly even starvation. In a bad year, not only is hunger involved, but also their self respect, which is very important in primitive societies, for the native gardeners have obligations to present their chief and kinsfolk with gifts of food, unless they can do this, they lose valuable prestige.

Yams and taro are grown in Torbiand as the main crops, and two types of magic are used, one relating to the protection of crops from insects, disease and the supernatural, and the other for production, an increase and blessing of the crops. Among the Torbianders, there are no specialists in magic, unlike some other primitive societies, such as the American Indians, who had a "shaman" or "medicine-man". All able bodied persons are called upon to work in the plots, including the chief of the tribe. Any member who is acquainted with the incantations can perform the sacred rites of inducing magic to aid the crops. The first step is to clear the ground, and immediately this is done, the magician recites his spell upon the soil, and after the spell further incantations are given. Sometimes the magician may use a stick and mark the ground symbolically, but mainly the natives of this Pacific Island rely upon the words of the spell itself rather than upon material tokens or symbols. A fence is next erected upon the plot, and bad spirits, then the magicians continue with the form of magic relating to production. This magical spell has been partly translated, and runs as follows: "The belly of my garden grows like an ant hill, The belly of my garden rises and is bowed down, The belly of my garden rises like the iron wood palm, The belly of my garden lies down..."

During the growing of the crop, the magician wears further spells, both in the protective and productive senses, and again at harvest time he engages in further magic. It is the time-honoured custom that the chief must receive the first-fruit of the new crop, and in common with many other peoples, harvest time concludes in the form of a festival. Like the majority of island races, the Torbianders combine agriculture and fishing, and magic is used widely in both forms. It might be wondered why the natives bother to use magic in their attempts at gaining food, but even in our own civilized society there are many superstitions and customs still lingering. There are many factors which man cannot control; he may sow, plant and tend, but it is to Nature that he must look for the increase. As farmers and fishermen well know, Nature is a dame of many moods, with many mysterious elements that cannot be fully understood, so the natives of Torbiand are firmly convinced that the spirits must be propitiated, in order that blessings may abound. Similarly, when things go wrong for them, they have a convenient explanation by blaming evil spirits. For instance during the fishing season, there may be abnormal calms or storms, gluts or scarcities and during a calm, fish are easily caught. With such a glut, the native tends to over-eat, with the result that he becomes sick. Thus without any hesitation, and at the same time exonerating himself from greed, he conveniently blames such misfortunes on the evil spirits. As in agriculture, magic is used on the canoes, that the fishers might be protected and rewarded with large catches. The native of the Torbianders, like many in our own culture, is never too eager for work for his own sake, but high social values are placed upon toil, acting as incentives to the natives. If he can give large offerings of food to his chief and kinsfolk, then he gains the respect of the whole tribe. Even aesthetic enjoyment is brought into the effort to make work attractive, for many of the artifacts are decorated. All the beauty of his island home of shining white beaches, green waving palms, sapphire blue seas satisfy his "stomach" as the Torbiander native would say, for he attributes to it the seat of emotion and understanding as we account the heart. The abundance of food gives him a feeling of security and satisfaction, permitting him to relax in the knowledge that the spirits are good to him. We do not know how these people of the Torbianders arrived at such beliefs or practices, nor any other primitive people for that matter. All we can do is to observe them as they actually exist. Fortunately or unfortunately, the boundaries of the world are shrinking fast, and many of these primitive peoples are being civilized. Some of the Pacific Islands were occupied during the recent war in the East and it is peculiarly said that they are now more famous for large numbers of empty oil drums and fair-haired children rather than for their primitive culture. Thus within a short space of time, many of their age-old customs have been shattered and lost forever, and the task of the anthropologist is now more urgent than ever, lest these cultures of the remaining primitive tribes of the world be lost forever in the veil of history.

The Age Old Story

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations... Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto thine children.

COASTAL ISLAND

Lulu Island at the mouth of the Fraser river in British Columbia is 13 miles long, with a maximum width of six miles.

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION AND ANALYSIS G. F. HUTCHESON & SON Optometrists 53 Grafton Street

Notes By The Ways

Statistics show that truck drivers who have quarrelled with their wives before leaving home in the morning are more likely to have accidents. Make that "one for the road" a good-bye kiss. — Winnipeg Tribune.

Some one in Hollywood has invented an automatic key case; when a button is pressed, the right key pops out. This is not expected to help the man fumbling for the keyhole at 3 a. m. or the woman scrambling through an overstuffed bag for her key-case. — Kingston Whig Standard.

The average Canadian industrial employee, a statistical source reports, works 9.3 minutes to earn a quart of milk. If he could be persuaded to stick to it, say, 18.6 minutes, the dairy industry would have nothing to worry about. — Toronto Telegram.

Just as we think we have all the world's problems lined up mentally we come across one we hadn't even known about — the Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia is complaining because the pockets on their Summer shirts haven't flaps. — Hamilton Spectator.

British Empire Games officials, who are having some difficulty convincing Ottawa that the big sports meet here this summer should have a special postage stamp issued for the event. Some post office officials are reported lukewarm toward the idea because of policy against issuing special stamps on a regional basis. But surely the Games are more than a local affair. Canada's host for the Games is not Vancouver and the participation includes practically all parts of the Commonwealth — Vancouver Province.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

STEAM MILL PROSPECTUS

From an announcement in the Royal Gazette, Nov. 15, 1896:

"It has long been the subject of regret, that the metropolis of a country stocked with timber of every description, and whose soil has deservedly been famed for the production of grain, should be without a steady supply of the manufactured article, either for the purpose of home consumption or for foreign exportation. The difficulties of making remittances to other countries, in payment of British or West India goods, have been long and deservedly felt; and the adoption of any measure for converting the natural or artificial production of the soil into a more portable and consequently a more profitable article of exportation, will, in a great measure, have the effect of removing this serious and increasing difficulty.

"In this view, therefore, the attention of the public is called to the formation of a Joint Stock Company for the erection of a Steam Mill for the purpose of converting wheat, oats, barley and timber into a state fit either for domestic use, or a more profitable article of export. The superior advantages of Steam, as a propelling power, have been too long tested to require even the shadow of a doubt. High-pressure Steam Engines, of five horse-power each, have been recently imported, and are now ready to be put up, when a competent place for their erection is provided. The cost of erecting a building of this description has been carefully estimated to be \$440,000. This estimate is rather over than under the work. An eligible site for the Mill, with a water front on the Hillsborough, can be had in fee simple for the price of \$100 currency. The cost of the machine is \$450, thus making the net cost \$440,000. It was agreed, however, at a meeting of the friends of the in-

stitution, which took place a short time since, to make the whole stock \$1,550, to be divided into shares of \$10 each, thus giving a fund of \$560 for the purchase of raw material, to be expended in keeping the Mill at work during such time as it might otherwise be idle, for want of either grain or timber. The quantity of toll that might be expected, and the annual expense, may be estimated as follows: Annual expenditure including salaries, fuel, insurance, interest, wear and tear of machinery, \$700, probable amount of credit, \$1,312 10c., leaving a profit of 40 per cent upon the capital invested. "To prevent the possibility of shareholders being exposed to any definite loss, if the directors should declare a dividend, the amount of one-third of the capital, the Company shall be, ipso facto, dissolved, and the stock, machinery, etc., disposed of, for the benefit of all concerned. "A Committee having been formed for the purpose of investigating the merits of the project, and the institution, as well as to the shareholders as to the community at large, considerable pains have been taken to make the necessary calculations, which, although extensive and diffuse for insertion here, may be inspected, on application. The Committee are Mr. Lawson, Mr. Isaac Smith, and Mr. Gainsford."

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