

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, DAY, APRIL 11, 1950

Wildlife Week

This being National Wildlife Week, Hunter's Corner on Saturday reviewed the work of Canada's greatest conservationist, Jack Miner. His memorial is the continued existence of game birds, particularly the Canada Goose, and of many other forms of wild life.

Man has taken upon himself to alter the environment in which birds and animals must live and he cannot evade the responsibility for their welfare which his interference implies. It is his decision whether they live or die and if we are to hand on to our children a world as well stocked with every kind of valuable bird, beast and also fish as was left to us, then active conservation practices are essential.

Old Age Pensions

April 30 is the deadline set for submission of briefs, by Provinces and others interested, to the Commons-Senate committee on old age pensions. The committee, and later the Government and Parliament, will be called upon to consider all the diverse proposals, and it is hoped that from them will be drawn up legislation embodying the most humane approach to the problem which the revenues of the country will permit.

The foremost consideration with regard to any improvement in the present system, of course, must be its economic and administrative feasibility. This would seem to rule out such proposals as that made in Parliament the other day by Mr. J. H. Rooney, Liberal M. P. for Toronto-St. Paul's, who urged old age pensions of \$60 payable to everyone at age sixty without a means test.

Under the present plan the Provinces must contribute 25 per cent of pensions payments and herein lies another obstacle to financing the scheme on as generous a scale as everyone would like to see. In this Province, the estimate for old age pensions for the current fiscal year is \$1,240,000. The number of persons receiving pensions has doubled in the past ten years, and so also has the maximum amount payable, from \$20 to \$40 monthly.

The original purpose in providing that a portion of old age pensions payments be made by the Provinces was to conform to the provisions of the B. N. A. Act. This requirement could be met equally well by reducing the 25 per cent provincial contribution to 10 per cent. Some such readjustment will have to be made in any scheme involving heavier overall payments.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Easter Tuesday.

The American Medical Association said a survey showed there is one doctor for every 870 persons in Canada. In the United States there is one for every 750.

Cigarette consumption for January and February increased by 422,000,000 over the first two months of last year. On the other hand cigar sales showed a decrease of

6,600,000. There are still snuff addicts in Canada, but evidently they are dying out, the sales for the first two months dropping from 78,000 lbs. to 73,000.

Georgetown has always prided itself on being a winter port but it looks as if Charlottetown harbour has the edge just now.

London's big new concert hall now being built on the banks of the Thames will be called "The Royal Festival Hall", a name chosen by His Majesty the King.

The Government closed the highways only to heavy trucks but the weatherman extended that ban to all traffic over the week-end.

Venus is at greatest elongation this date, and is a brilliant morning star in the east. In a small telescope at this time, the planet looks like a miniature moon at last quarter.

Senator Howard of Sherbrooke has been elected Mayor, succeeding Alphonse Trudeau. His election maintained Sherbrooke's 70 year tradition of alternating English and French speaking mayors every two years.

The Red Cross has increased the number of blood donors it is asking for. The increase represents the larger number of Islanders who have benefited by volunteers' blood being available in their time of need.

The proposed extra trips of the Wood Islands Ferry, to be made possible by the provision of navigation lights, should end one of the principal deterrents to use of that route, the possibility of not finding room on the last boat.

The Ottawa Journal, referring to the budget brought down sometime ago, declares that reducing the tax on ice cream did not make it a children's budget. Those who so view it overlook entirely that it also reduces the tax on soap.

All politicians do not die unduly rich. Take for instance T. L. Church, veteran Progressive Conservative member and former Mayor of Toronto; he died worth exactly \$34,300, of which \$27,000 was insurance, and \$7,300 in cash—probably his year's indemnity plus.

Should sovereignty extend over persons or over territory, is an ancient constitutional problem. Ontario is adopting the principle of territoriality in legislating to prevent American courts from requiring parties before them to produce on subpoena, records located in that Province.

More tourists than ever this year means that it is more than necessary to take full advantage of the Island's feature attractions. Seafoods, safe warm salt water bathing, warm days and cool nights, modern conveniences and an atmosphere of calm should combine to bring the majority of our visitors back again and again.

The American Civil War began this date 1861. This resulted in a breach of the friendly relations with the British Empire; the tendency today is to re-consolidate the English speaking nations together with the other liberty loving nations of Western Europe which refuse to bow the knee to Stalin.

The chief scientific officer of the British Government's Overseas Food Corporation has estimated the world population as being 2,264,000,000 and predicts that it will reach 3,000,000,000 within 50 years, declaring that present farmlands cannot supply so many with food. It is hardly necessary to remark that the Island will continue to strive to fill any such growing demand.

Radiotelegraph communication between Britain and ships at sea is maintained through fourteen Post Office radio stations situated at convenient points round the coasts. Through these stations messages can be sent to or received from ships in any part of the world. During 1949 the Post Office coast stations handled 790,700 radiotelegrams to and from ships, containing more than 12,520,000 words.

A new step towards the elimination of dazzle in night driving has been taken by a London inventor who has just produced a prototype anti-dazzle lamp. Upward rays of light from the lower half of the lamp are almost entirely eliminated by an unconventional reflector, which has its lower half constructed in the form of steps which deflect light down to the road. The treads of the steps are inclined downwards towards their forward edges while the risers are inclined from their upper edges to their lower edges in a rearward direction. The effect of this is to cause any rays of light, either from the bulb itself or from the upper and normal half of the reflector to "bounce off" towards the road surface.

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 BRIGHTON BRIDGE

Sir.—In view of the forthcoming agreement to be signed between the Dominion and Provincial Governments I would like to make a few comments on the route of the Trans-Canada Highway, in particular the position of the bridge across North River.

Considerable agitation and argument, and even a canvas and subscription of money toward the building of a bridge at Brighton, has taken place in past years.

It seems strange that there is such an apparent apathy and lack of interest at this vital time. Are we becoming degenerate? Are the welfare state cradle-to-grave pensions, etc., having their inevitable effect and do we meekly accept from an all-powerful Government what they are pleased to hand out?

Governments can only apportion what we have given them. Let us then take an intelligent interest in the spending of our own money.

A very sensible ruling of the Dominion is that the route follow the shortest practical course. The Brighton site is the shortest. The question then is, is it practical?

Perhaps at first glance it seems quite a bit wider than either Beach Grove or Lewis Point, two other frequently mentioned sites; but much of this extra width is flats easily filled with modern machinery. The actual width of the channel does not vary greatly and the Brighton site does not present any insurmountable engineering problem.

We come then to the vital matter of cost. This seems to be the great obstacle in the minds of the local Government and we can commend them for their economy of public funds. Let us, however, examine this matter of cost a little more closely. Supposing we accept the arguments of the opponents of the site that it would cost half a million dollars more. One half of this would be borne by the Dominion, leaving \$250,000 to be paid by the Province. Recent Provincial bond issues have borne interest at a little over 3% which would mean between 6 and 7% to refund in 20 years. Subtracting the saving in the construction of the extra miles of pavement we find that it would amount to about \$15,000 extra for 20 years to place a bridge at Brighton—not a staggering sum in a six million dollar budget.

It can therefore be seen that the extra cost of a bridge at Brighton is not the great obstacle we are sometimes led to believe. It will not cost as much to maintain the extra length of bridge as it would to maintain the extra length of pavement so that we have a saving there which will continue long after the bridge is paid for.

Merchants, produce dealers, truck owners—what penalty will they pay if the bridge is placed up the river, requiring an extra 4 or 5 miles per round trip? An average of 5 trips weekly means 1000 miles a year, which at the low rate of 5 cents per mile means \$50 a year. What then of the man who operates several trucks or who makes more than 5 trips per week? From the viewpoint of those most concerned, the people who will use this road, the question is not can we afford to build the bridge at Brighton, but can we afford to build it elsewhere?

This is an important matter affecting not only the present but future generations. We have been penalized for years in having to travel the present circuitous route. So let us unite in demanding that the new bridge be placed on a logical, most direct course. A route running north and by-passing the City is not needed here where there is little or no through traffic.

We cannot blame the Government if we sit idly by and do not make our wishes known. I am, Sir, etc. MOTORIST. Cornwall, P.E.I.

FARM INTERESTS NEGLECTED

Sir.—If you will permit me some space in your valuable and interesting Forum column I wish to make a reply to a letter of this column in the April 5th issue of The Guardian.

I shall endeavour to satisfy Mr. "Enthusied's" curiosity. He says I am a Tory. He will be more enthused to note that I have great admiration for Dr. MacMillan as a medical man and as a private citizen. I believe he is a true gentleman but, as a politician he is indifferent. I would say he is one category above Premier Jones, in that he does recognize there is something wrong. He too apparently has no solution to right that wrong.

"Mr. Enthusied" tells us all is well in the potato industry. We have been given a two dollar reduction on the price of fertilizer. The potato growers accept this reduction with thanks. I wonder if "Mr. Enthusied" is aware of the fact that during the war there were two large nitrogen plants built in Upper Canada to manufacture ammonium nitrate for war purposes. Those plants were owned and operated by the Canadian Government; they manufactured ammonium nitrate at about one-third of what it is costing us today. Those plants were built out of public funds and provided cheap nitrogen for war purposes and could have done the same job for agriculture, but this was not Liberal policy. They well knew when election time rolled around they would have to call on their old friends, namely the combine, to replenish their campaign treasury. Those plants were sacrificed at a fraction of their cost to capitalist monopoly and if "Mr. Enthusied" believes his Government fosters free enterprise

No School For Some



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

ACADIANS ON LOT 15

From an address to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, prepared by a committee of the House of Assembly, March 14, 1850:

"Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to direct the Lieutenant Governor to reduce the up-set prices heretofore demanded for Crown lands in this Island, to the sum of 25 cents for every 100 acres. The House of Assembly beg to bring under your Majesty's consideration that, in 1763, the year when this Island, together with the Provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia were ceded by France to Great Britain, it was stipulated by Treaty, dated 10th Feb. 1763, that the French, the then inhabitants of those Provinces, should not be disturbed in their possessions. The House of Assembly beg to remark that the French inhabiting this Island have been the only exception to the stipulation thus made, and while the French people inhabiting the Province of Canada obtained the full benefits of the foregoing stipulation, the French inhabiting this Island were altogether deprived of the arrangement thus entered into, and so wisely carried out in the former Province.

"That in the year 1769 the whole of this Island was granted away by Lots of 20,000 acres, on certain conditions, to private individuals, without any reservation in favour of the French inhabiting the Island at that time, and that in the year 1817, His Excellency the then Lieutenant Governor Smith of this Island, got escheated two Lots, viz. Nos. 15 and 55, and that at that time, when a number of the French inhabitants were deprived of their possessions by the grant and their assigns, a deputation of the said French waited upon His Excellency, praying his protection, when His Excellency was pleased to declare unto them, that they might settle on Lot No. 15, and need not fear thereafter disturbed in their possession; for that said Lot reverted to the Crown, and that the whole of it would be granted to them in fee simple, for the sum of 24 10s. currency for every 100 acres.

"That notwithstanding the assurance thus given, after his Excellency's departure from the Island, the price of the said lands was raised to the sum of 2100 currency for every 100 acres, a sum far beyond the valuation of the land, and higher than said French were able to pay; and now that your Majesty has been graciously pleased to order the reduction of the price of the Crown lands in this Island, the House of Assembly beg to submit, that said French inhabitants are so reduced in circumstances, that they are not even able to comply with the modified order thus made, and the House of Assembly conceiving that that measure of justice has not been extended to them which was stipulated by the Treaty of 1763, when the North American Provinces were ceded to Great Britain, and that even the assurance made to them by his Excellency Lieutenant Governor Smith has not been faithfully carried out, humbly submit that the French located on Lot 15 have a claim upon your Majesty's Government, and pray that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to take the treatment they have received into consideration, and cause orders to be given to the Lieutenant Governor of this Island that it is your Majesty's Royal pleasure that the assurance made to them by his Excellency the late Lieutenant Governor Smith, of this Island, shall be faithfully adhered to."

On another occasion when there was a by-election coming up in Fourth District, about ten days before this election was to take place, nearly all the available parking spaces were taken up with some kind of road equipment which resembled the Army getting ready for an invasion. At that time I happened to be chatting with one of the Liberal agents and drew his attention to the large display of equipment. His comment was, "If we had more was freezing at night and very unusable for road construction. Regardless of those facts it served the purpose it was intended for."

In closing I would suggest if my critic is just a little bashful about signing his name, it is quite excusable, as many Liberals do not care to be publicly identified. I would appreciate his name by private letter or sometime in the future I might happen to be attending the C.C.F. National Council in Ottawa and could look him up in the Senate. I am, Sir, etc. CLAYTON SMITH. Freetown, P.E.I.

CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY

DUBLIN, April 10 — (AP) — The Irish celebrated today the first anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Ireland. A crowd of 100,000 cheered as President Sean T. O'Kelly reviewed army infantry and mechanized units in front of the general post office, where the first shot was fired in the Easter Monday insurrection of 1916. Fighter planes of the Irish Air Force flew low over the route of march along Dublin's flag-festooned O'Connell Street.

SHAKESPEARIAN BOARD

The Folger Shakespeare Library, in Washington, D. C., is the largest and richest Shakespearean library ever assembled.

Notes By The Way

Is it too much to ask that people with no knowledge of native life in South Africa should be very wary of rushing into controversy. We who know South Africa well and its native life know the aversion which most natives have to mixed marriages. The Basuto, for instance, hate them; they like blood to be pure, whether white or black. It is no question of morality—presumably an Englishman can morally marry an Eskimo or a Hottentot—but it is very decidedly a question of wisdom. All I have seen of "colored" people in South Africa makes me perfectly clear that it is a terrible mistake. The colored hate their strain of black blood, and the natives despise them. That is just sheer fact, and has to be faced. — Bishop Carey in London Times.

though they were saying something new as they grin with relief at having the glittering "bon mot" ready at this time of year, however men begin to find themselves meeting people and bracing themselves for a few words of conversation, and not having a glove to try getting off and therefore not being able to apologize about it. When men became tongue-tied in the Spring it used to be thought that it was love, but now it is thought that they just haven't anything to say when caught without gloves. The Printed Word.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "HUDBRAS" Our pains are real things, and our pleasures but fantasies. Diseases of their own accord, But cures come difficult and hard. Our noblest piles and stateliest rooms Are but outhouses to our tombs; Cities though never so great and brave But mere warehouses to the grave. Our bravery's but a vain disguise To hide us from the world's dull eyes. The remedy of a defect is decked, Yet makes us smile with pride and boast. As if we had gained by being lost. — Samuel Butler (1612-80)

If you ever meet a woman and get into a situation where the two of you are shaking hands, you will find that she may say all sorts of peculiar things, but one thing she will not say is, "Please excuse my glove". This phrase is used by men only. Women never apologize for wearing a glove. If they have gloves on, they seldom try to bare their right hand for a shake. Men make a great job of trying to get the glove off their handshaking hand. They usually don't quite get the glove off. So then they say, "Please excuse my glove". It gives them something to say, something definite and socially safe. The phrase is much safer, for instance than, "How are you?" when a further glance may show that the person at the other end of the handshake is in a bad way indeed. Some men put real emotion into "Please excuse my glove", sounding almost as

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