

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1952

Civic Affairs

Tuesday night's meeting of the new City Council was an unusually long and arduous one, and it is evident on all counts that the members are devoting themselves conscientiously to their public duties. In estimating for a surplus of \$9,178 for the present year, Finance Chairman Johnstone pointed out that this is exclusive of the \$11,000 increase in teachers' salaries granted by the School Board, which the City will have to make good and which will change the picture from the credit to the debit side.

The new assessment rate of 2.35 per cent doubtless represents the best compromise that could be made. A 2.25 rate was held to be inadequate, and it is doubtful whether an increase to 2.50, which was reportedly given consideration, would have found many supporters. The old rate was 3.00 but the valuation has been increased. A study of the estimates, published yesterday in summary form, shows pretty clearly that any further reduction would involve drastic curtailment in some of the departments.

Apart from the teachers' salary increase there will be considerable extra expenditure this year on street repairs. It is proposed to obtain the services of a consultant engineer from Ontario in advising on the streets programme. \$600 for such services might be a very profitable investment indeed. If the right man is obtained he should be the means of saving our taxpayers many thousands of dollars over a period of years. With the heavy increase in motor traffic, and modern winter clearance requirements, street maintenance has become a problem of major importance. It is to a certain extent a provincial as well as civic problem and should be treated as such.

A highly encouraging report was given by His Worship Mayor Stewart with regard to the prospects of the Federal Government undertaking the extension of the main runway at the City airport. This will depend on the City taking action to acquire the necessary extra land. The first step, logically, is a survey of the situation. The Council has undertaken to negotiate with the Federal Department in this matter and will, it is to be hoped, do so at once so that the survey can be made this Spring.

Education Requirements

In his address before the Teachers' Federation yesterday, Dr. L. W. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Education, cited a biblical cloud of witnesses in support of his main contention that the establishment of larger educational units in our rural communities is a matter of urgent necessity, and that this movement should be accompanied by continued improvement in teacher training, both academically and professionally.

As Dr. Shaw points out, the grouping of a dozen or more districts into one administrative unit does not mean the closing of all schools in the area and the transporting of all children to a central school. The one room schools in the districts would remain for elementary work, enabling a central high school to be maintained for pupils from Grade 8 and upwards. Dr. Shaw goes back to the report of Superintendent R. H. Campbell in 1912 to show that there is nothing new in this idea, and that it has been consistently urged by our educationists as the only practical solution to our rural education problem.

In the absence of such an arrangement, Dr. Shaw points out, the only hope for better service is through the employment of more capable teachers. "It is," he says, "unreasonable to expect that teachers who are only one grade in advance of their best pupils can cope with difficulties that arise in instruction or discipline, and no teacher should be licensed who has not had at least two years study in advance of the classes he must teach. This is a minimum requirement in the other Canadian Provinces and permanent licenses in several are only granted after a year or more of successful teaching."

Strong corroboration of Dr. Shaw's statements came from Dr. C. E. Phillips, supervisor of graduate students for the Ontario College of Education, University of Toronto, whose address on high schools embodying courses in economics, agriculture, commerce and technical skills as well as academic studies was one of the highlights of the convention. In general, all

the discussions at the meetings tended to emphasize the importance of this subject, as well as that of maintaining teacher training standards at the highest practical level.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Though the taxation percentage of Charlottetown has been reduced, the revenue to be derived will be increased.

The City Council transacted a lot of important constructive business on Monday—a progressive body of representative citizens.

Cleaning up seems to be the order of the day. The mass left behind by winter snow makes it difficult to enjoy the advance of spring until all is again ship shape.

As pointed out in this paper by Mr. F. H. MacArthur the first submarine telegraph in America was laid across Northumberland Strait and opened November 22, 1852. The centenary should certainly be celebrated fittingly.

A good deal of effort is devoted to making closing times uniform for business and communities. There is something to be said for staggered half-days so that those who have the free time do not find that there is nothing much they can do with it.

The City School Board though a separate body is to all intents and purposes a committee of the City Council with powers. The control the Council has is in the approval or otherwise of the Board's financial requirements. The Council cannot insist upon the Board collecting its own revenue.

According to reports the Province is going to have a busy, prosperous summer ahead of it. It is true not a few younger citizens are emigrating to pastures new, but that happens everywhere. The new blood coming in helps not only to replace that which is lost, but provides new energy and, we hope, enterprise.

Mayor Stewart had a very fine and comprehensive report on the delegation he and Premier Jones formed on their recent visit to Ottawa. The City and Province are indebted to them for stirring up renewed interest in the Province, and especially its capital, which will undoubtedly be productive of good in the long run.

Premier Jones had a very cordial reception from the teacher body when he met them Tuesday. Closer acquaintance between him and them is all for the good; they realize that he has their welfare at heart, though at times he is inclined to be a little blunt in expressing his views.

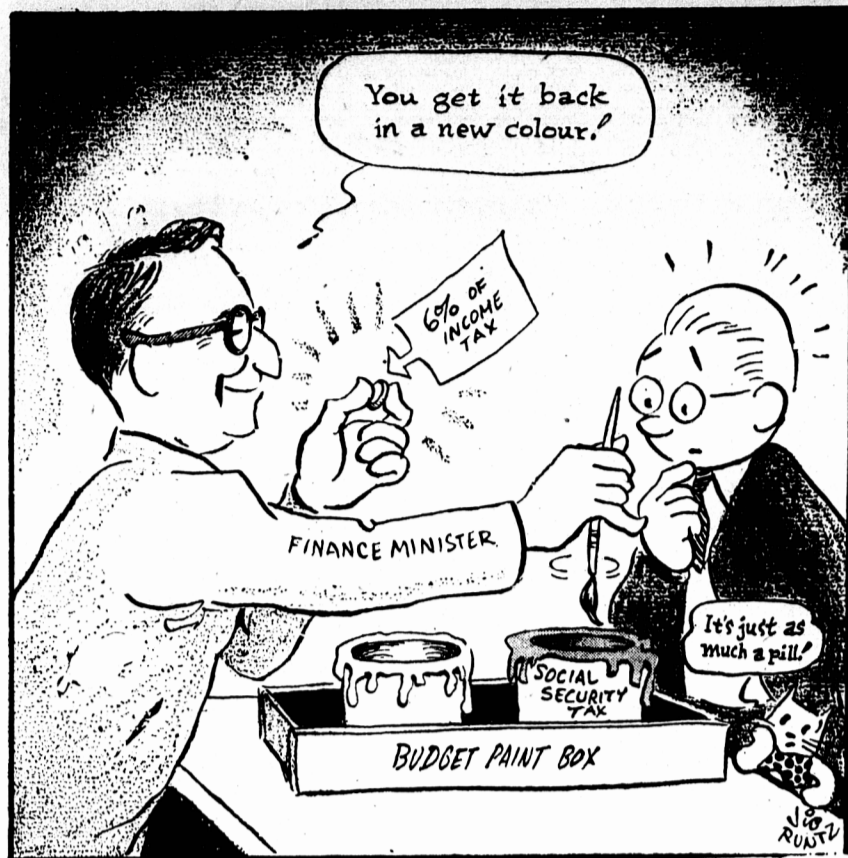
"Rebekah of Sunnybrook Farm" has proven to be a perennial favourite, both in fiction and in dramatic form. Its presentation tonight by the Young People's Union of Trinity Church is under the experienced and capable direction of Mrs. Ruby Houle, C.D.A., and this alone insures an evening of first-rate entertainment for young and old.

Benjamin Franklin, American statesman, died this date 1790. He became a printer, newspaper editor and for twenty-five years turned out "Poor Richard's Almanac" full of pithy maxims on thrift and hard work. He did much research on scientific subjects but was diverted from his experiments by political developments. He was in England in 1771 to protest against the Stamp Act but returned to America in 1775 and helped to draw up the Declaration of Independence.

The teachers conference has attracted a great deal of attention, and the questions at issue have been handled in a masterly manner. Without a doubt there is much ability and latent power contained in the teaching body of this Province, worthy of all the increased salaries they earn and more. The question is, where is the revenue to come from to provide the remuneration? There is only one source within sight, and that is the tax arrangement with Ottawa, which must be made to include due appreciation of our vital fiscal need.

Great interest is being taken in the visit here of the St. Francis Xavier Choral and Dramatic Society and in their presentation of the famous operetta, "Naughty Marietta", which takes place this evening and tomorrow evening in the Holy Redeemer Community Centre. One usually has to travel to large metropolitan centres for the privilege of seeing and hearing a production of this kind, which includes a cast of eighty highly trained players and singers. The production will not only afford delightful entertainment locally, but should help in stimulating further interest in choral singing in this Province, already undergoing a heartening revival through the efforts of the Music Festival Association.

A Different Touch



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.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Sir.—There seems to be widespread misunderstanding regarding the recent amendment to the Teachers' Superannuation Act. Contrary to current opinion teachers will not retire on a full pension at 55 but only on a partial one.

It might also be of interest to many to know that for the past five years, only the teachers have contributed to the fund since the Government prefers to guarantee the fund instead of making annual contributions to it.

Thus it can be seen that the Government's action in passing this amendment was only just and reasonable concerning as it does, for the most part, money accumulated by the teachers themselves.

I am, Sir, etc., TEACHER

MR. HOLMAN'S RECENT LETTER

Sir.—I am not controversial by nature, nor do I in the least desire publicity, but I am a Prince Edward Islander, first last and always.

It was with keen regret that I read the recent letter by Mr. Holman and the supporting letter in Monday's issue over the signature of Isabel Cunningham at the roads of Prince Edward Island and their effect on our tourist traffic.

We have our spring and fall seasons here as they have in every other country. The present spring is a bit unusual; there was no frost in the ground last winter and the large amount of snow we had during the winter is all going into the ground. This on our porous soil cannot do otherwise than give us soft roads for a few weeks.

I will admit that we have not got what might be called good roads in this Province, but there are some other things that we have not got either. For instance, we have no floods, no cyclones, no hurricanes, and no earthquakes.

I noticed in Tuesday's Guardian that there were a million and a half acres of good farm lands under water in the western U. S. I imagine if Mr. Holman were motoring in that area that he might have to slow up a bit.

Mrs. Cunningham's tourist did not stay here long enough to see the beauty of our countryside and to partake of the hospitality of our citizens. He seems to have been one of those restless souls who can find no earthly paradise and will never be satisfied till he enters the Pearly Gates leading to the streets of gold and then, if there are no automobiles in Heaven, how grouchy he will be when he finds out he has to walk!

It is only a comparatively short time in this Province since we emerged from the horse and buggy stage and adopted motor transportation. This required an entirely new set up in the method of road construction and in my opinion a reasonable amount of progress has been made. It is true that pavements that were laid down fifteen or eighteen years ago when the knowledge of construction was much less than it is now, are breaking up. These are being replaced and in much better form than when first laid.

I hold no brief for the present Administration. I do not support them, but I feel sure that the present Minister of Public Works is doing all he possibly can with the material he has to work with and the amount of money at his disposal, to improve our road system.

The Age-Old Story

As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is buckler to all those that trust in him. It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

I have no doubt it is on sale in the news stands of Boston and New York.

In conclusion, if it would not appear presumptuous on my part I might be permitted to remind Mr. Holman that the major portion of the wealth of the great mercantile firm of which he is the head came in over the muddy roads he now deplores.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead Who never to himself has said This is my own, my native land."

I am, Sir, etc., JOHN H. MYERS, Hampton, April 16, 1952.

THE DUST NUISANCE

Sir.—There is no doubt much truth in the recent statements in the Press by Mr. Holman, and Mrs. Cunningham re our roads, and the tourist industry. However they have well repaired by the time the tourist in any number hits our roads, and being people of leisure they should not be in a great hurry, and not mind a few jolts. However being choked to death by dust is another and much more infuriating bugbear.

Last summer after a harrowing experience, I took the liberty to write a needling letter to the Press on the subject, which I feel would bear repetition at this time, and so Mr. Editor, I would beg you to again be kind enough to publish this letter in hope that something may be done for our defenceless tourists, who even if they must be numbered among those who expect little in the way of highways, would none the less be blessed by the beauty of our scenery, and the quiet of our shores.

I am, Sir, etc., L. G. DEWAR O'Leary, P.E.I.

A DEBACLE OF DUST

Sir.—I attended a very creditable racing meet at Covehead yesterday, sponsored by Mr. Willis who did everything he could to make his customers comfortable, and give them an enjoyable afternoon by sprinkling the track to keep down dust, etc.

These races should be a valuable attraction for would-be tourists, etc., but I am sure that any who were so unwise as to travel the highways in the immediate vicinity of Covehead and the National Park and endure the purgatorial agonies of stifling clouds of dust, will never again return either unless they are the most ardent race fans.

This is very unfair to Mr. Willis and the horsemen who go to much trouble and expense to provide our visitors with the entertainment of the Sport of Kings. Can nothing be done to remedy this deplorable condition? Are there not a few bags of calcium chloride available for our Island roads? Is there no one in our Public Works Department gifted with the least scintilla of initiative who could have seen that the approaches to Covehead were prevented from being obliterated by an impenetrable smog and dust?

Is our Tourist Bureau in the doldrums of inaction and despair to allow such an outrage against our summer visitors? Are our National Park authorities merely sunning themselves on the beautiful north side beaches, when they would permit travellers in this area to be practically choked to death by swirling clouds of sand? Are the R.C.M.P. incapable of making some plea for highway

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

COAL DEPOSITS

From the report of a lecture by Mr. Francis Bain in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Feb. 27, 1952.

"That part of the lecture speaking of coal under the Island, was of particular interest. In his diagrams, Mr. Bain showed the upper and lower coal seams which come to the surface at New Glasgow, N. S. The great coal seam, which is 30 to 40 feet thick at New Glasgow, passes under the Gulf right under our Island. It is 3,000 feet under Governor's Island; but the upper coal formations come up within 1,000 to 500 feet of the surface of Governor's Island; and the greatest thickness of this deposit is not more than three feet."

The lecturer showed that the coal formation lie within 500 to 400 feet of the surface in the extreme western part of the Island, and advised borings to test the matter, as the expense could not be great."

Yes, we cannot afford paved roads, and furthermore we don't need them, but surely somewhere is a still small voice which can ask fervently and receive a few paltry bags of calcium chloride which would have prevented this iniquitous injustice perpetrated against those who ventured into the Covehead area on Wednesday.

Let us wake up, let us demand action from our humble servants in executive positions, before the P. E. Island tourist is as extinct a species as the classical dodo or passenger pigeon, and every race track operator outside of Charlottetown is in the throes of bankruptcy.

There can be nothing but sympathy for Mr. Willis; there can be nothing but shame felt to think we would subject visitors to such an ordeal; there can be nothing but indignation against our administrative bodies.

I am, Sir, etc., A LOYAL PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDER

July 19, 1951.

The Poet's Corner

Pipers of the chilly pools Pipe the April in. Summon all the singing hosts, All the wilding kin.

Through the cool and teeming damp Of the twilight air Call till all the April children Answer everywhere...

Then the hiding things shall hear you And the sleeping stir, And the far-off troops of exile Gather to confer;

Thap the rain shall kiss the bud And the sun the bee, Till they all, the painted children, Flower and wing get free;

And amid the shining grass Ephemera arise; And the windflowers in the hollow Open starry eyes;

And delight comes in to whisper— "Soon, soon, soon Earth shall be but one wild blossom Breathing to the moon!"

—Sir Chas. G. D. Roberts.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

A NEW DEAL FOR TROUT FISHERMEN

I am writing this article on the eve of "Opening Day" and my thoughts are on a mill dam down Annandale way which I very much fear I will not reach. For this I blame the Honourable Dougald MacKinnon. Apparently it has never occurred to him or his predecessors that roads leading to mill dams should have top priority in the matter of paving. What is more important to our welfare than the ability to get where we want to go on April 15? If I were Minister of Highways I would pay no attention whatever to any other roads until all the dams in the Province were linked up in a network of concrete. And when I become Premier after leading the Grand New Party to glorious victory these are the things I will do before bothering about anything else:

1. Make every dam, pond, and stream, where a trout has been known to lurk, easily reached by the very best of highways. Four lane ones, if finances permit. 2. Make Opening Day a statutory holiday and compel every man, woman, and child in the Province to observe it. Movie houses, sports, barber shops, and the like, will be closed all day by Order-in-Council. 3. Abolish all residential fishing licenses. It's a shame to tax a man even one dollar for indulging in spiritual exercise, which trout fishing certainly is.

4. Put ceiling prices on all fishing equipment, viz: (a) Rods, regardless of make, \$1.00. (b) Files, 1 cent each. (c) Creels, a quarter. (d) Lines, regardless of quality, same as for creels. (e) Fly oil, free. No rent will be allowed for boats.

5. Discourage the tourist traffic by every legitimate means, since, of course, the fewer the foreigners that come to our shores, the more fish will be left for the natives. Probably, the surest way of doing this will be to put up a sign at Aulac, N.E., indicating the actual condition of the road from Borden to Charlottetown. 12. Reduce the legal limit for trout from 6 inches to 5. This will merely give legal sanction to what is already a quite common practice.

While these will be the main points of policy, others will no doubt be thought up from time to time. Every winter the Legislature will review the situation, and it goes without saying that amendments and amendments to the amendments will be brought forward regularly. Fish and Game Associations will, of course, contribute more than their quota of recommendations. As is customary, these will be put off from year to year, without hard feelings on the part of anyone.

I did forget, however, to mention one very important matter, namely, the creation of a new department of Government. This will be called simply "The Department of Trout." I will probably take over the new portfolio along with the Premiership, but of course I will not accept any additional salary. The honour attached to the post will be quite enough by way of emolument.

In view of the fact that no licenses will be required, there will be very little for anyone to do in the way of inspection. This little could easily be done by the Council in each electoral district. It is evident that this will serve a dual purpose. It will give these gentlemen a sense of importance, which they do not appear to experience at present, and there would be no fish warden to pay. The \$500.00 indemnity already added to their cheques would satisfy the Councilors. I am sure. Every dollar saved would be that much more for highways leading to the fishing places, which under a progressive administration such as mine will be, would outrank at other considerations.

Later It doesn't look much like fly casting weather, so I must go out now and dig worms.

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