THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

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

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, JAN. 26, 1952

Civic Affairs

The Civic Accounts show a debt increase last year of some $236,114, bringing the net debt up to $2,390,653. This is the worst side of the picture, for, as the finance chairman, Coun. Prowse, pointed out in his report to the City Council last night, and as the auditors' statement corroborates, this increase was due mainly to capital expenditures and a large part of it represents assets recoverable in street and sidewalk assessments. Moreover—and as evidence that the Council has practiced economy where it was possible—a surplus of some $6,177 is shown on current account.

The full details of civic expenditure are available in the auditors' statements, and these along with other statements are embodied in the annual City Report. Coun. Prowse urged all citizens last night to procure a copy of this report when it is printed, and study the whole picture for themselves. In the meantime, the summaries appearing in today's Guardian should be read carefully.

His Worship Mayor Stewart has given a comprehensive general report on the year's activities, which appears in full in today's issue. He stresses particularly the importance of the work of the Board of Assessors, whose findings will be implemented in a new tax structure which, he predicts, will enable the city to enjoy increased revenue at a lower tax rate.

On the other hand, due to increased operational costs, we may expect an increase in water rates shortly. A considerable factor in this connection is what His Worship terms the enormous increase in electrical energy costs, which the Council views with alarm.

Among other things, His Worship noted the success of the parking meters and traffic lights in solving the traffic problem, and complimented Coun. Cox on his efforts in this matter.

It is evident from all the reports that a great deal of work was done during the year, particularly in the streets department, and that a conscientious effort was made to give sound and stable administration.

Doesn't Want More

An Ottawa columnist in the Vancouver Daily Province points out that at present, with a total population of 3,609,605, British Columbia and the three Prairie Provinces have a total of only 24 Senators—six from each Province. On the other hand, the four Maritime Provinces, with a total population of only 1,606,012, boast a total of 30 Senators, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick each having 10, P. E. I. four and Newfoundland six. The remaining members of the 102 Senate embrace 24 from Ontario and 24 from Quebec. A fairer balance of parliamentary representation would be achieved, he argues, if the Western Provinces had their Senate quota boosted by two from each Province. It would at least be "a graceful gesture" towards correcting the present disproportion, he sapiently remarks.

But The Province, editorially, poohhoos the suggestion. "No doubt," it says, "to have eight more Senators to appoint would be most satisfactory to the party in power. There would be eight more plums to distribute. But what would this do for the country? It would have eight more Senatorial indemnities to discharge. And what would the benefit be? Can anybody name it?

As our Vancouver contemporary points out, the Senate was never intended to represent populations, but Provinces. It was set up to be a protector of minorities. So, the little Provinces were supposed to have, relatively, greater representation than the larger.

"However," it adds, "all the old purposes for which the Senate was created seem to have vanished. It has not only lost prestige; it has virtually lost all reason for its continuance. It is merely a creature of the Government, and not a very useful creature at that. It isn't even decorative. And it knows its deficiencies, for it has discussed them. While the Senate remains a fifth wheel on the Government coach and while the Government continues to treat it with the ill-concealed contempt it has shown for it in recent years, there is no point in giving any Province more Senators. They will be merely a useless expense."

The Province concludes that it will be time enough to consider increasing the chamber's membership when Senate reform becomes a real issue in Canadian politics. It evidently considers this a remote contingency under its present partisan setup.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the third Sunday after Epiphany.

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The mild alarm at reports of Maine potatoes entering the markets of Central Canada is hardly warranted in a year of scarcity. Every bushel so shipped means one bushel less on the American home market.

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About the last public action of the retiring Governor-General was helping to put out a farmhouse fire near Ottawa. May he be equally successful in his new position in extinguishing the many smouldering national conflagrations both in Asia and Africa.

• • •

One thing about our new native-born Governor-General, he knows Canada intimately from Vancouver to the Atlantic and from the forty-eighth parallel to the Arctic, having covered all the territory in connection with the Massey Commission of which he was chairman.

• • •

New Brunswick is getting some encouragement in its proposal to develop electricity from the 450-mile long St. John River. An international study reveals that three projects are feasible. Now it is largely a matter of determining whether it is also feasible to raise the necessary $250,000,000.

• • •

Foundation Day, Australia. This date 1788 the first British settlement in Australia was made at Port Jackson, where Sydney now stands. It had been decided to settle United Empire Loyalists there with convicts to supply the labour. The U.E.L.'s settled elsewhere and the first settlers were chiefly convicts.

• • •

The development of a method of making newsprint from sugar cane by a school operated by the Quebec Government is a very real contribution to world enlightenment. Despite its value, however, Quebec may well regret the assistance if the sugar-growing areas start producing paper on their own.

• • •

We have received a copy of the first issue of the Times Weekly Review, London. This is a publication designed, in the first place, for English readers overseas. It will serve a very real need in giving news of events and opinion and interests in Britain to people in the Dominions and Colonies and to friends in Europe and U. S. A. and elsewhere in the world.

• • •

The electrification programme of this Province is limited, of course, by the factor of cost but it must be kept in mind as a long term goal that all power stations should be able to contribute to the general electrical supply and each community should be able to receive power from alternative sources. Towns on either side of the N.B.-N.S. border are showing the way.

• • •

The newly inaugurated Community Planning Association is a step in the right direction. Had it been in the field earlier it might have tended to prevent the long line of individual homes erected in the vicinity of settled towns and villages, which make it so difficult to provide adequate water and sewage supplies and create community centres. Laying out suitable areas for development is one of the important functions of such an association.

• • •

Quebec has passed a law providing that a city councillor found disqualified by a first court of law must remain out of the council until an appeal decides otherwise. Sauce for the goose being equally sauce for the gander, mustn't those stores convicted of opening on religious holidays be compelled to remain closed on all such holidays until the outcome of the appeals be ascertained? And there is something like a thousand of them in Montreal charged with the offence.

• • •

A movement is on foot in Parliamentary circles in Ottawa to provide two parliamentary sessions per annum. The reason, says the correspondent of The Gazette, is that every time there are two sessions, instead of one, payments to members rise from $6,000 a year to $10,000. It is a substitute for an increase in indemnities to which M. P.'s feel that they are entitled but which might, it is felt, encounter public criticism. Under Prime Minister St. Laurent the two-session-a-year pattern has become fairly well established. To date there have already been five sessions during the 21st Parliament. These opened on: Sept. 15, 1949; Feb. 16, 1950; Aug. 29, 1950; Feb. 14, 1951, and Oct. 9, 1951. A sixth session is due in a month or two. This is one session more than was held during the entire four years of the 20th Parliament.

A Door Opens

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

THE SEAL FISHERY

An important source of income to the Island a century ago was the seal fishery. Some of the difficulties encountered in this industry were outlined in petitions presented to the Legislature in March, 1845 by Messrs. Mackenzie and Mackie, of New London, merchants and ship owners, in which they set forth—

"That encouraged by an Act of the Colonial Legislature 'for the encouragement of the Seal and Cod Fisheries', they were induced, in the month of April last, to fit out a schooner called the 'Caledonia', of the burthen of 36 tons, new measurement, for the purpose of prosecuting the Seal Fishery;

"That the said vessel was properly equipped and manned, according to the requisitions of the said Act, and provided with the necessary supplies of water and provisions for two months;

"That she broke ground on the tenth of April, in the harbour of New London, but owing to the great accumulation of ice which blocked up the said harbour, she was unable to get out until the sixteenth day of the said month;

"That after cruising for eight days among the ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in search of seals, they arrived off Cape North, on the coast of Cape Breton, when all the crew, with the exception of one man, refused to continue the voyage, and demanded to be taken to Charlottetown;

"That the Captain and Mate at first refused to yield to their demands, and continued to cruise for one week longer; but then finding it impracticable longer to manage the said vessel, and the crew still continuing refractory, the said Captain and Mate becoming alarmed for their own safety, as well as that of the vessel, on the first day of May consented to bear up for the Port of Charlottetown, where, after encountering much danger, they arrived on the fourth of that month, having during the said voyage only taken one seal."

The petitioners also set forth—

"That they were in the month of April last, induced to fit out and equip another schooner, called the 'Alpha', of the burthen of forty-seven register tons, new measurement, for the exclusive purpose of prosecuting the Seal Fishery;

"That the said schooner having got out of port, continued at sea in the prosecution of the seal fishery for the space of seven weeks and upwards, and having then on board ninety-six seals, and being driven through stress of weather to the coast of Newfoundland, near the port of St. John's, and the said seals being then in a rapidly decaying state and the master being apprehensive, if he attempted to return to this Island with them, that the said seals, before he could accomplish the voyage hither, would have become altogether valueless, proceeded to the port of St. John's aforesaid, and then and there landed and disposed of the said seals, and shortly thereafter returned to this Island, with the said vessel, which was much injured by the said voyage;

"That the proceeds of the sale of said seals did not realize more than £26 15s. 6d., being a sum barely sufficient to pay the expenses of the vessel while in Newfoundland;

"That the petitioners applied to the Governor-in-Council, in September last, for tonnage and other bounties on said vessel, and obtained the tonnage bounty thereon, but did not succeed in obtaining any bounty on the catch of seals, the same not having been landed on this Island."

BIG STORM

A Puerto Rico hurricane in 1928 registered wind velocity of 160 miles an hour before the measuring device collapsed.

BIGGEST METEORITE

The largest meteorite ever found, weighing over 50 tons, was discovered in southwest Africa some years ago.

The Poet's Corner

WILD DUCK

As the shadow of the earth upon the moon
So is the shadow of the wild duck's wings
Across the rough brown stubble as it clings
To the winter fields of sodden grain. The noon
Is fading thinly into evening rains,
Dragging the webs of cloud across the sky
Until the shadows merge and darkly die—
But still the warmth of breast and wing remains.

While shreds of day are in the ragged sky
The wild duck calls his lonely, broken cry;
Then into wisps of night he dumbly creeps . . .
The dripping marsh in wings of silence sleeps.
Listen! and you shall faintly hear again
The beat of a warm heart in the quiet rain.

—Dorothy Trail.

Newspapers Necessary For Prayer

Rev. J. M. Simpson in The Scotsman

Toward the beginning of last century, there was a minister at Haddington named Chalmers. One Saturday night, when the London coach that brought the mails was late, he sent out his little maid four or five times to see if the newspapers had not yet arrived.

When there was still no word of the coach, and the old minister was anxiously pacing to and fro, one of his daughters said. "I declare, father, a body would think you couldn't preach tomorrow unless you got your newspaper."

"My woman," he replied, "I could preach well enough without the newspaper, but I canna pray."

This is an aspect of prayer that bears thinking of. How vague and woolly and uninformed our prayers often are! How prone we are to regard God as an excuse for thinking! Instead of thinking things out to a logical conclusion, and then asking for further enlightenment and guidance, we make some indefinite petition and leave the rest to Him.

We are passing through difficult times. The world needs the ministry of intercession. But it is well to remember that behind all true prayer there is real, hard thinking.

And so, when we begin to consider the needs of the world, it is wise to dig out as much information about these needs as is possible.

Before asking God to do something about the multitudes who languish in concentration camp and labour colony on the other side of the Iron Curtain, it might be wise to think of the plight of the under-privileged who look to us for protection. By all means pray for the dispossessed, wherever they are, but a little previous thought may suggest immediate action, possible ways of helping practically.

And if behind true prayer there is hard thinking, may we not say that such thinking is akin to prayer. That is why the good minister of Haddington grew restive at the non-appearance of the mail coach on the Saturday evening.

GLOUCESTER, England — (CP) —Leslie James, 60, went to hospital suspecting he had a fracture but x-rays showed no injury. Ten minutes later he was back in hospital with a real injury. On the wayway home he had slipped and broken a leg.

LANGLEY, England — (CP) — Professor C. G. Drew of Bristol University is supplying free drinks to volunteer motorists as part of a test to determine how much alcohol it takes to make a driver dangerous.

The Age-Old Story

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. . . But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus, that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Books Received

WINDS OF MORNING by H. L. Davis (George J. McLeod, Ltd., Toronto rep. 344 pp., $4.25). This is the sort of book about the American northwest that should be, but seldom is, written about Canada. The tale is of life and death in the Middle Columbia River country. It is told through Amos Clark, a human and likeable sheriff's assistant who finds himself the companion and escort of an old herdsman, helping him to move his horses into open country. Old Hendricks, the horse herder remembers the days of early settlement and can recount the trials, successes and failures of them all. He seems to be an ancestor of a goodly number of the present generation and is none too proud of the fact. There is an element of mystery running throughout the adventures of the oddly assorted pair but the real story is of the land and the pioneers and their descendants who peopled it.

CANADA
PROVINCE OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
IN THE PROBATE COURT

The 3rd Day of January A.D. 1952.

In Re Estate of WILLIAM MATHESON, late of Pleasant Grove in Queen's County in the said Province, formerly of Valleyfield in King's County in said Province, Retired farmer, deceased, testate.

To the Sheriff of the County of Queen's County or any Constable or literate person within said County

GREETING:

WHEREAS upon reading the petition on file of Malcolm Ross of Valleyfield aforesaid, Farmer, sole Executor named in the will of the above-named, he praying that a citation may be issued for the purpose hereinafter set forth: You are therefore hereby required to cite all persons interested in the said Estate to be and appear before the Judge present at a Probate Court to be held in the Court House in Charlottetown in Queen's County, in the said Province, on Thursday the 7th day of February next coming, at the hour of eleven o'clock forenoon of the same day to shew cause if any they can why the Accounts of the said Estate should not be passed and the Estate closed as prayed for in said petition and on motion of Malcolm McKinnon, Esquire, Proctor for said Petitioner.

And it is hereby ordered that a true copy hereof be forthwith published in some newspaper in Charlottetown aforesaid once in each week for at least four consecutive weeks from the date hereof and that a true copy hereof be forthwith posted in the following public places respectively, namely, in the hall of the Court House in Charlottetown aforesaid, at or near the store of Clark Bros. in Montague in King's County aforesaid, and at or near Valleyfield East School in Valleyfield in King's County aforesaid, so that all persons interested in the said Estate as aforesaid may have due notice thereof.

WITNESS His Honour Harold Leonard Palmer, Judge of the said Probate Court at Charlottetown aforesaid, the day and year first above written.

By the Court.

(Sgd.) M. ELIZABETH WRIGHT,
L.S. Registrar.

Notes By The Way

Prime Minister Winston Churchill said in Ottawa that the Canadian Army was "rather sulky and upset" because of its enforced stay in Britain. This was true only up to the time the men started to get married and settle down. Learning how to count the change out of a one-pound note also helped. — Ottawa Citizen.

In spite of some claims by the Postmaster-General, Mr. Rinfret, to the effect that the title "Royal Mail", is no longer in use, local mail truck markings provide ample evidence that it is. And Brantford is not the only case in point. Mr. Rinfret and Co. would be better advised to seek improvements in the postal service instead of trying, for quaintly nationalistic reasons (or whatever the reasons are) to disturb a traditional and (to tourists as well as natives) attractive and rather romantic device — Brantford Expositor.

The London Cable which appeared in yesterday's issue of this newspaper says that an English and mathematics professor "forecasts" a machine electronically operated which will create tunes That word "forecasts" puzzles us. After listening to the radio and the juke box it has been our impression that such a machine had long ago been constructed and was in full operation. Are we to believe that someone sits down and deliberately composes those things that come to our ears? Our suspicion that the machine already exists is heightened by the professor's advice that it would make only very bad tunes Our thought had been that the man who operated the thing had just forgotten to oil it. — Wall Street Journal.

If there's a hidden joker in the Criminal Code amendment which is supposed to provide life imprisonment for habitual criminals, it's just about time the Federal Department of Justice yanked it out. The layman assumes that some such joker exists when a burglar with 66 convictions behind him was given only a three-year term by a Vancouver police court the other day. Since 1940, this man has been convicted on 13 housebreaking charges in Winnipeg, five of car theft, 11 burglary and 20 housebreaking and theft charges again in Winnipeg, of shopbreaking in Yorkton, of breaking and entering in Portage la Prairie. Besides these he had six other bouts with the law in Saskatchewan and has served six months in Oakalla. — Vancouver Sun.

Excessive, intensive and destructive fishing methods on the Grand Banks have played havoc with the resources of haddock and the effects are to be plainly seen in the comparison of the output of haddock fillets in Newfoundland in 1950 and 1951. Production in 1950 was more than seven million pounds. Last year it fell, below two million pounds. That is a tremendous and shocking decline and suggests the great and urgent necessity of action designed to preserve these important fisheries. It might almost be imagined that the vast area of the Grand Banks could never be depleted. Certainly there is no evidence of serious depletion of cod. Haddocks are a different matter. There was a time when it was thought that this fish was almost inexhaustible supply in certain areas of the Grand Banks, but that is not borne out by recent experience. — St. John's News.

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