

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1857)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office
Department, Ottawa.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, FEB. 27, 1950

Airing Grievances Properly

The Nova Scotia Supreme Court has
ruled that the election of Angus Elderkin
(Liberal) to the House of Commons for the
Annapolis-Kings seat is void. The evidence
was that the number of unqualified voters
in the service poll exceeded Mr. Elderkin's
majority. What is important about the mat-
ter, however, is not the opportunity which
the former member, George Nolan (P.C.),
has of again contesting the seat. It is,
rather, that Mr. Nolan took the proper
course when aggrieved by the conduct of the
polling. It is far too common for candi-
dates and their friends to cast aspersions on
their opponents for alleged improper prac-
tices but fail to substantiate the charges
publicly. The tone of our political life would
be raised if candidates would follow Mr.
Nolan's course and contest any election in
which the law has been violated and speak
no evil of opponents if not prepared to take
that step.

Parliamentary Committees

Now is the time for the House of Com-
mons to insist on organizing itself properly
for the business it has in hand. Members of
all parties should join in demanding that the
necessary committees be set up and put to
work immediately. Full use of the commit-
tee system, which has fallen into lamentable
decay in recent years, is the only method
by which Parliament can do its job.

It is almost unbelievable, but true, that
at the last session the Public Accounts Com-
mittee never met at all, notes the Globe and
Mail. This is the committee which sup-
posedly checks departmental expenses and
looks for chances to economize. At least
that was the practice in the days when a
million dollars of public money was treated
with some respect.

Even though the politicians have got
used to dealing in billions, they still owe a
duty to the citizens, who provide the dollars
by their sweat, toil and tears, to scrutinize
the estimates in as detailed a fashion as
their energies permit. It can even be said
that the main obligation of elected persons
in a democracy is to see that tax revenues
are not squandered, but wisely used. Yet
the Canadian Parliament can let a whole
session go by without even starting to per-
form that task in the only way it can be
performed effectively—in committee.

The House of Commons as a whole, with
its 262 members, is not a suitable body for
such chores. It cannot, or at any rate by
tradition it does not, call expert witnesses to
supply missing information. It is also un-
wieldy. Speech-making and debate on gen-
eral issues are its functions and very neces-
sary ones they are. But when it comes to
close study of a specific problem, ten or
twenty members sitting around a table, with
the right to summon any one they would
like to question, are far more efficient than
the whole House. This is so obvious and
well recognized that it should not need to
be argued.

Tatooning Whales

The royal research ship William Scores-
by is on her way to the west coast of Aus-
tralia. The humpbacked whales which
move north and south off this coast will
be marked with a special tatooning harpoon
so that their seasonal migrations may be
studied. British scientists have invented a
radio which will send out the position while
the chaser goes after others.

The Australian whaling commission
hopes that Australia may go into whaling
again in June, 1950. This will be off shore
whaling from coastal stations—mostly for
humpbacks, which are a poor kind of whale.
The Sydney Morning Herald points out that
the richest whaling area in the world is the
Antarctic and that Australia, the leading
Antarctic landholder, is right out of it. The
Japanese are there with two floating fac-
tories and plan to have three shortly.

The Antarctic whaling season opened at
midnight on December 31, 1949. The sea-
son's allowance is 16,000 blue whale units.
In this scale a blue whale equals two fin
whales, 2 1-2 humpbacks and six sei whales.
There is a touching belief, apparently, that
the Japanese will cease catching when they
are told.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Legislature opens today.
Amendments extending the operation of
the Unemployment Insurance Act have met
with the approval of all parties. The pro-
position that society owes its members the

"Right to Work" seems to have universal
acceptance in Parliament.

50th anniversary of the battle of Paarde-
berg.

The Victoria Times, doubtless all too
familiar with the Western personality, com-
ments wryly that nature could have improv-
ed on human beings by equipping mankind
with a safety valve.

Perhaps the farmers are not going to set
the heather afire tomorrow evening, but
gatherings all over the Island will look as
if the Fiery Cross had made the rounds.

The "Provide a Job" campaign, so far as
it applies here, is really a reminder to get
"that job" done before it becomes impos-
sible to find men to do it.

Nearly 79 per cent of the convicts in
Federal prisons have served previous jail
sentences. In other words, if the newly
adopted policy of aiming at rehabilitation
is completely successful we may expect the
future prison population to be only 21 per
cent of its present size.

The newly reconstructed Commons
chamber at Westminster, like its predeces-
sor does not provide seating for anything
like all of the 625 members. The small ma-
jority of the Labour Government means
that attendance will be extraordinarily high
with resulting chronic overcrowding.

What it might have come to here. Des-
perate appeals from expectant mothers have
forced Sydney's (Australia) leading matern-
ity hospital to limit the stay in hospital to
48 hours. The hospital has been crowded—
beds in corridors, doctors and nurses work-
ing overtime. When the mothers return
home after the second day a team of district
nurses organized by the hospital will visit
daily for 14 days.

Canada imported 117 pedigree dogs from
Britain in 1949 and was the fourth largest
importer. Britain's export of pedigree dogs
continues to rise. In 1947 under 600 went
overseas, in 1948 1,280 and in 1949 1,546.
These figures were revealed at Cruft's dog
show which closed at Olympia, London, last
Saturday. This year's show saw a world
record of 12,319 dogs. Again chosen sup-
reme champion of the show was Mr. H. S.
Lloyd's cocker spaniel bitch, Tracey Witch
of Ware. (She was also champion in 1948).

The Bank of England has released the
sterling equivalent of \$250 so that the Dud-
ley (Midlands), Zoo can pay freightage
costs on a shipment of four pairs of timber-
wolves, 12 chipmunks and 12 marmots—the
gift of the Canadian Government. The mar-
mots will be new additions to the collection
of smaller animals at the Zoo. In the past
four years, the Canadian Government has
sent bison, bears, beavers and raccoons to
Dudley from the national parks.

Eight years ago, on February 27, 1942,
British Commandos raided German installa-
tions at Bruneval and an important radio
detector station there was destroyed. . . .
Five years ago this week, on February 21,
British troops in the First Canadian Army
captured Goch, near Cleve, and on Febru-
ary 22, the greatest simultaneous air assault
in history took place. Before dusk had fal-
len more than 10,000 Allied sorties had
been flown. On February 26, Sgt. A. Cosens
of Porquis Junction, Ont., won the Victoria
Cross for an action which cost his life in the
fighting around Mooshof, Holland.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American
poet, born this date 1807. Was professor
of modern languages at Harvard, and travel-
led to Europe several times, being particu-
larly popular in England. After his death
a bust was placed in the Poet's Corner of
Westminster Abbey. His earlier poems are
natural and fresh; all through his works the
religious element bulks largely, but deep
psychology is lacking. His chief works:
"Voices Of The Night", "The Spanish Stu-
dent", "Evangeline", "The Golden Legend",
"Tales of a Wayside Inn".

The cares that infest the day
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away.

In the 14 years it has been in existence,
England's Luton Girls' Choir has spread its
fame from the local Baptist Church in Bed-
fordshire—town from which it takes its
name—to the whole world. It has just been
announced that the choir is to make a tour
of Canada and the United States. The choir
will sing in Quebec on April 18th; Ottawa,
April 19th; Montreal, April 20th; King-
ston, April 21st; Toronto, April 22nd and
Hamilton on April 24th. The choir was
formed in 1936 with 35 members and was
organized by Mr. Arthur E. Davies who is
their musical director, out of a mixed choir
attached to a local Baptist Church. The
choir usually sings 60-65 members but on
special occasions sings up to 80 members.

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.

FIRE DEPT. SERVICES

Sir.—Would you be kind enough
to publish, in your Forum, a be-
lated note of thanks to our Char-
lottetown Fire Brigade.

In recent months they have re-
sponded to two reasonably bad
fires in our neighborhood, and
on both occasions their conduct
was exemplary to any volunteer
organization of this kind.

I was struck with their courage
in fighting the Canadian Oil fire
when, with an inadequate supply
of water, they quelled the blaze,
and controlled the temperature
of a large tank of gasoline di-
rectly in the path of the flames.

My thanks to them again at the
Lavit warehouse fire for their
solicitude about my property; and
to Mr. Andrew Bagnall of the
Canadian National Railways; and
the telephone operator, whose ef-
ficiency had me at the fire short-
ly after the alarm was rung in.

I am, Sir, etc.,
H. B. WEEKS.
Charlottetown.

The Poet's Corner

AND/OR

The Government gave Simeon Clay
Terrific headaches by the way
It made him fill out numerous
blanks

Without a single word of thanks.
It even threatened, stern and grim.
To fine and/or imprison him
If he omitted to compile
The schedules which it loved to
file.

Clay looked around, saw it was
worse

And ever harder on the purse
In England, Finland, Yap, Siam,
The Argentine, and parts of Guam.
So off he went, a week ago,
To turn into an Eskimo,
Far in the North where cross of-
ficials

Will shriek in vain for his initials,
And where he will ignore their
wishes
And live on ice and little fishes.

—Clarence Day.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

THE PRESS GALLERY

The House of Assembly met for
the first time in the present Pro-
vincial Building in 1847, and one
of the first items of business at
that session had to do with ac-
commodation for the Press. The
journal of the House records that
on Saturday, Jan. 30, Mr. Speaker
communicated to the House the
following letter, by him received
from the different publishers of
Charlottetown:

"To the Honourable the Speak-
er of the House of Assembly.
"The Proprietors of The Royal
Gazette, of The Islander, and of
The Morning News, forming the
whole Press of the Colony, res-
pectfully request, that the hon.
the House of Assembly will af-
ford them such accommodation as
may be deemed necessary, for a
Reporter, or Reporters, in order
that the proceedings and debates
in the House of Assembly may be
conveniently reported, and given
to the public in their respective
Journals. They deem it quite un-
necessary to make any comment
upon the importance of this pub-
lic duty being discharged with
convenience to the parties per-
forming it, or refer to the in-
variable attention shown to the
matter in the neighboring Colon-
ies.

"The House of Assembly of this
Island having hitherto always
evinced an anxious desire to ac-
commodate the Press, they trust
that the usual courtesy will, this
Session, be extended. They also
respectfully request the Honour-
able the Speaker to lay this com-
munication before the House."

(Signed) "James D. Hazard,
John Ings, S. R. Moody."

And the said letter being read:
it was ordered: "That it be in-
timated to the different Printers
that suitable accommodation will
be provided for them."

The Age-Old Story

A bruised reed He shall not
break, and the smoking flax shall
He not quench; He shall bring
forth judgment unto truth.

COLDWELL PLEASED

OTTAWA, Feb. 21 —(CP)—M.
J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, today
expressed satisfaction that Prime
Minister Atlee's Labor Govern-
ment had obtained a majority in
the United Kingdom election. He
said in an interview that he had
had a "great fear" that the Labor
Party would suffer defeat at the
hands of the Conservatives. "While
he was glad to see the return of
Labor, he did not believe the de-
cision of the British people would
have any immediate effect on Cana-
dian thinking."

BRITISH AIR RESEARCH

Britain's National Air Research
Scheme was initiated in 1947 at a
cost of \$30,000,000 by the ministry
of supply.

Opportunity Knocks



Purge In Soviet Zone

By W. N. EWER

The past few weeks have seen the
rapid development of a "purge" in
the Soviet zone of Germany. But
this is in no way related to any
recent events. It is an operation
planned months ago, when the
decision was taken to establish a
"peoples' republic" in the eastern
zone. It follows a text book pat-
tern for the evolution of a "peoples'
democracy".

The pattern itself derives from
the Yalta Conference and from the
days when the Soviet Government
still found it available to profess
a belief in democracy and to re-
pudiate a desire for revolution.

At Yalta, Stalin pledged him-
self to the principle of enabling the
countries of eastern Europe to
"create democratic institutions of
their own choice" and, as a pre-
liminary to this, to the formation
of "interim governments broadly
representative of all democratic
elements in the population".

How, under democratic and
"broadly representative" institu-
tions, was power to be concentrated
in the hands of a small communist
group staunchly subservient to
Moscow? The Soviet political fac-
ticians have certainly been success-
ful in devising an answer which
averts any need for violent revolu-
tion or open use of Russian armed
force.

The first step in any given
country was the formation of a
broad democratic coalition with a
broad democratic programme. All
appearance of communist control
would be avoided. There could be,
as in Hungary or Rumania, a non-
communist Premier, or, as in
Czechoslovakia, a non-communist
president. But all the key posts in-
volving control of the police and
armed forces would be carefully
vested in the hands of communist
or "trusties".

As soon as the police apparatus
was properly organized the opera-
tion would commence. It is curi-
ous to notice how little variation
there has been. First, the leaders
of the non-communist parties
would be criticized as "reactionary"
or "anti-Soviet" while others of
their colleagues would be induced,
by skillful appeals to their patriot-
ism, to their ambition or to their
fears, to continue collaboration. So
the non-communist parties would
be divided, or merged with the
communists, or forced into opposi-
tion and then accused of treason,
and suppressed.

The next stage is the purging of
communist parties themselves, the
liquidation of the Rajks the Kos-
toves the Gromikas so that all
power is closely in the hands of
devoted servants of the Kremlin.
By then, the apparatus of dicta-
torship is complete. All pretence
of democracy can be abandoned
and all opposition of any kind can
be ruthlessly suppressed. The

The purge has begun and will
spread on "textbook" lines. All the
preparations are there. The po-
litical police has been organized
and well screened. A record is being
made of the past political history
of every German in the
zone. It can be the basis
for any desired accusation.
Reorts are being spread of wide-
spread sabotage and of the machi-
nations of "spies" and agents of
western imperialism. It is all en-
tirely to pattern. Elections have
been promised for next October.
By then it may be expected that

"broadly representative" institu-
tions have been converted, with-
out any armed revolution, into
dictatorship of a purged and obedi-
ent communist oligarchy. And the
effective force behind the whole
operation—the implicit menace of
the Soviet army—has never had to
appear openly.

How complete the evolution is
can be seen from an article writ-
ten a few days ago by Mr. Chern-
kov, the new Bulgarian premier. He
explicitly denies all real authority
either to Parliament or even to the
Cabinet. The supreme authority is
the central committee of the Com-
munist party. "Not a single impor-
tant decision must be adopted with-
out the agreement and confirma-
tion of the committee. This must be-
come the iron rule for everyone".

It should be noted that the central
committee in east European coun-
tries are not elected but nominated
bodies, chosen not by party con-
ferences, but by the party leader-
ship—and ultimately by the Polit-
ical Bureau of the central committee
of the Communist Party of the
Soviet Union. The master party
has not even troubled to hold a
party conference for over twelve
years.

This is the process which is now
beginning in the eastern zone of
Germany. When the peoples' re-
public was set up last autumn, the
Christian Democratic Union and
Liberal Democratic parties were
allowed seats in the Assembly,
posts in the Cabinet and in the
provincial governments. A month
later, attacks began on selected
leaders of each party. Now the
ODU is purging itself. The purge
is being carried out by Dr. Der-
tinger, Secretary-General of the
party and Foreign Minister of the
puppet government.

By what means he has been per-
suaded to this fully we cannot know.
For one thing is certain, Dr. Der-
tinger, when he has purged his
colleagues and destroyed his party,
will himself be purged. Stalin be-
lieves in liquidating any agent—or
for that matter any comrade who
has ceased to be useful to him. Al-
ready Otto Grotewohl who engi-
neered the split of the Social Dem-
ocratic party and was rewarded
with the titular premiership has
faded obscurely into Russia. Herr
Ulbricht, communist Deputy Premi-
er, fills his place.

SOMETHING TO GROW ABOUT

SWIFT'S Husky, Healthy, Hardy CHICKS

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Notes By The Way

A new U. S. magazine has come
out with a large hole in its cover.
This is probably preferable to
the more common defect of a
gaping vacuum in the contents.—
Edmonton Journal.

Among the contributions to the
United Nations Fund for starving
children in Europe was \$10.15
from the Children's Shelter of
Fort William. These homeless
little Canadians have set a mov-
ing example for their older and
more fortunate compatriots.—
Hamilton Spectator.

"Though I don't want to deter
you from the art of entertaining
at home, I cannot forbear telling
you this little rhyme:
The food at home is cheaper far,
And often more delicious,
But when you leave the restaur-
ant
You also leave the dishes."

Few things look worse to the
observer — or to the tourist —
than dirty, ragged flags or slip-
shod arrangement. Flags flown
on city schools should be a cred-
it to all concerned. As symbols
of the sort of citizenship we try
to teach our children they should
be immaculate. — London Free
Press.

Fifty years ago this month
there was a smallpox epidemic in
Toronto Junction, now part of
Ward Seven in Toronto. Canada's
complete vital statistics for 1948
show not one death from small-
pox in the whole Dominion. This
is one disease that medical sci-
ence seems to have conquered.
—Toronto Star.

Canada sent a fine group of
young men and young women to
the British Empire Games. Some
of them proved themselves the
best in the Commonwealth in
their special fields. But if the
entire group was able to demon-
strate to the New Zealanders, and
others attending and participat-
ing in the events, that the Cana-
dians knew the meaning of sports-
manship and that they possessed
a genius for making friends, the
Dominion delegation has done its
job.—Victoria Times.

The production of electric pow-
er in Canada has almost trebled
in the last 21 years. This is a
remarkable growth when one re-
members that, during the most
of one decade, this country suf-
fered a severe economic crisis. In
1928, central electric stations in
Canada sold about 18,000,000 kilowatt
hours of electricity. By 1948, production
had grown to nearly 47,000,000. The war
stimulated production since it
was necessary for maximum ef-
ficiency to make use of all the
power we could find. During
these years construction was
forced to help industry. For
a few months after the war pro-
duction fell off as industries
closed down to re-equip them-
selves for peacetime occupations.
Since 1946 the industry has boom-
ed again.—Saskatoon Star-Phoenix

It is possible to date with fair
accuracy various stages in the de-
velopment of new and the intro-
duction of old ones. Shakespeare
rhymed would with cold, indicat-
ing that the l of would was then
pronounced. He also rhymed swan
and can, though never with words
like on; water with flatter, but
never with daughter, suggesting
that the short a was used at that
time. Further information can
be found in books by grammarians
and scholars of the period, books
showing that words such as brew
and you were pronounced as the
Spanish word cludad, stressing
two vowels and not one as now.
—B.B.C. Bulletin.

There is a direct and in the
long run most dangerous, con-
nection between the present glut
of food and luxury goods of every
description in German shops and
the large and growing number of
unemployed workers. The great-
er part of this food is not grown
in Germany but imported from
abroad, especially from the dollar
area. The "liberalization" of
Germany's economy has led to a
situation in which most Marshall
Aid dollars have been used to
import food for the rich, while lit-
tle or nothing has been done to
import those essential raw mate-
rials without which Germany can
improve neither her internal em-
ployment position nor her ex-
ternal trade balance. At present
she pays with her exports only for
about half of her imports. The
rest is provided by America, but,
as the Mission in Germany com-
plained, there are few signs that
Germany makes a serious attempt
to reduce her dependence on Amer-
ican aid. — The Tribune (Lon-
don).

ISLAND WELFARE

CORNER BROOK, Nfld. —(CP)—
A regional welfare centre is to
be established in this west-coast
Newfoundland lumbering town.
The centre will be operated by the
provincial health department.

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