

THE GUARDIAN
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 CIRCULATION
 "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"
 "The strongest memory is weaker than
 the weakest ink".
 CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, FEB. 11, 1954

Civic Elections

Mayor Stewart has received another mandate from the citizens of Charlottetown, and both he and all the members of the new City Council and Water Commission are to be congratulated upon their successful candidacy in yesterday's election. The defeated candidates also are to be commended, in contributing to make the contest a lively and interesting one.

The incoming members include a number of new men, as well as others who have had previous experience in civic administration. It will be their duty to work harmoniously and efficiently in the public interest, and they will have a right to expect support and appreciation of their efforts from our citizens generally. They will have important problems to deal with during the next two years, including the financing of the new high school which is the major one from a monetary standpoint.

While the city had a satisfactory surplus on current account last year, the debt continues to increase, with little prospect of reducing it substantially without a more generous distribution of tax revenues from Ottawa. This is the story all across Canada, so far as municipalities are concerned. There is every reason to expect that our claims in this respect, as in others, will be pressed vigorously, and that economies will be practiced wherever possible without detriment to the maintenance of existing services and the progress and development of the city.

Next year we shall be observing our centennial anniversary and the eyes of all Canada will be on Charlottetown at that time. The preparations will involve a great deal of work, and the Mayor and Council will be responsible in large part for ensuring the success of the celebration.

Soviet Farm Policy

According to an Associated Press story from New York, more than a million technically-trained Soviet farmers have been transferred in the last few months from collective farm membership rolls to the staffs of state-owned agricultural machinery and tractor stations. There are 9,000 such stations, each serving about ten collective farms. The station does part of the work for the farms in plowing, sowing, harvesting and hauling under contract. In return it takes a sizeable part of the crop, and also acts as collector for the government's share. That requires more than half the crop. Not even the remainder is shared by the farmers, for the farm administration must provide seed for the next year and certain other allocations out of this.

This move towards greater industrialization of Soviet farming means tighter state control. The machinery and tractor stations are the arms of state power in the country. Whatever little independence Soviet collective farms and farmers had in the past is obviously gone now. The farms used to select their own heads; now the government appoints them.

Trans-Canada Highway

One effect of the investigation into charges of swindling in the Fort William division of the Ontario department of highways, notes the Ottawa Citizen, is the calling of a temporary halt to federal contributions toward construction of the Trans-Canada highway, until the probe is completed. From the national standpoint the scandal—if it turns out to be that—is one more example of the difficulties that have been encountered in building a modern all-weather, hard-surfaced road from coast to coast.

The incident in Ontario, adds the Ottawa paper, may prove less of an obstacle to progress than trouble of an entirely different kind that appears to be developing in British Columbia. There, the roadblock is imposed by nature and by a prospective power development scheme. The route preferred by the B. C. government at the time federal-provincial agreements for the Trans-Canada were drawn up follows a southerly route through the Kicking Horse Pass. The prairie provinces are planning their own construction accordingly. Part of the highway will follow the Big Bend of the Columbia River; because, while 100 miles longer, it seems to offer fewer engineering difficulties than if a short cut were attempted. But there is now active talk of a huge water storage reservoir for power purposes on the Colum-

bia, and this would wash out much of the proposed route.
 Advocates of a northerly route for the Trans-Canada through Edmonton and the Yellowhead Pass are urging the difficulties on the Big Bend dictate abandonment of the route through Kicking Horse Pass. But a considerable amount of work has already been done in that section, and also along the prairie approaches. The B. C. government is planning a survey to see whether there is a practicable alternative to the Big Bend swing. A radical change in the route of the entire western section of the Trans-Canada seems hardly likely at this fairly advanced stage, but formidable engineering problems in B. C. could add substantially to the bill, which the federal government must help pay.

February's Discipline

No one would say that February is the nicest month of the year in this part of the world. When winter behaves as it should this is the month of the deep snows, the chilling winds, and the hard frosts, all of which bring inconveniences and a certain amount of discomfort. Nevertheless there is a clean wholesomeness about February which atones, at least in part, for its angry manner. Every month has its special contribution to make to the soil; February's share seems to be that of discipline without which nothing in Nature can do its best work or fulfill its mission of beauty. The whiteness of the land now will mean more sustenance for it later on when the days are longer and the sun more gracious.

A walk in the woods in mid-winter, for those who have the heart for it, is not of course the same kind of experience as a stroll in mid-summer. It may, however, be just as profitable, for there are sights and sounds which come and go with February. The few birds—crow, blue-jay, woodpecker, chickadee—which are still around are not numbered among the more glamorous citizens of the air; but that does not mean they are of no account. Their refusal to retreat under the pressure of violence which, however troublesome, cannot last for ever, and their determination to make the best possible use of what they have, instead of allowing temporary circumstances to drive them into a state of debility, are two lessons in living which cannot fail to impress anyone who is humble enough and wise enough to "go forth under the open sky and list to Nature's teaching."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The completion of the new bridge at Montague marks another milestone in the march of progress of the town. Its opening for service will be eagerly awaited.

That our public officials are kept up to date in the matter of civil defence is important. Preparedness, as was aptly demonstrated during the last war, is essential.

Our hog producers will take encouragement and satisfaction in the remarkable achievement of Island bred Yorkshires as announced by Mr. H. W. Clay, senior livestock field man. Stressing quality has brought results to this branch of our Island industry and long may it continue.

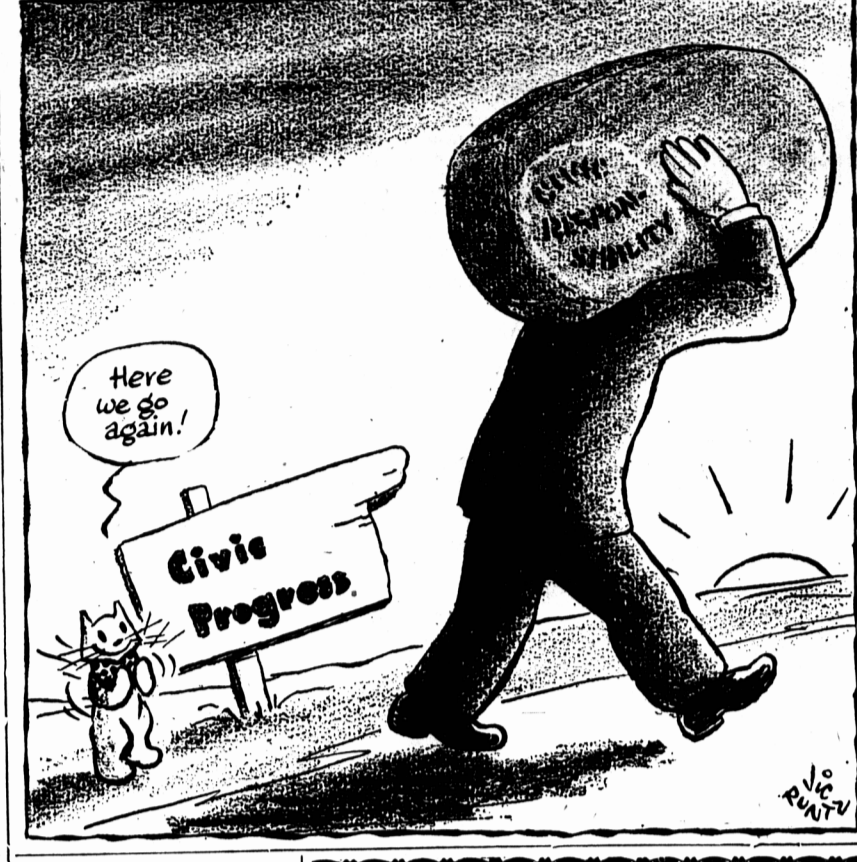
The need for improved naval training facilities here has been recognized for some time. That this will have the strong backing of Commodore Kenneth F. Adams, C.D., R.C.N., Commanding Officer Naval Divisions, is heartening and should lend added incentive to local effort to achieve long-sought results.

A game-rifle factory near Kiel, Germany, is the only one in the world which mass-produces three-barrelled rifles in three working shifts. The monthly production is about 600 three-barrelled rifles. 30 per cent of the production goes to export to Europe and overseas. Recently 300 specialised long-barrelled rifles were delivered to Afghanistan.

John Buchan, first Baron Tweedsmuir, British author and parliamentarian, Governor-General of Canada, died this date 1940. He led an active life in public service, literature, publishing and church. He was raised to the peerage in 1935 to succeed Lord Bessborough as Governor-General. His numerous publications include "The Thirty-Nine Steps", "Montrose" and "Memory Hold The Door".

The additional one cent increase enables post office employees to work 40 hours per week instead of 44. Thus, the one cent rise means a four-hour reduction in work. This, says "Industry", is known as the doughnut theory (pronounced donought) in which the whole is equal to the part or even more, or less. Clear? In other words, a six cent stamp would mean only 36 hours, seven cents a 32-hour week.

Congratulations, Mr. Stewart, Councillors And Commissioners!



The Poet's Corner

BOY AND SNOW
 Red cheeks flaming, eyes aglow,
 A boy comes in, all white with snow,
 White on his back, his legs, his hair,
 White powdered thickly everywhere.
 I take the broom, we go outside;
 I brush and brush from side to side
 Until the boy is swept and clean;
 Only some random flakes are seen.
 Red cheeks flaming, eyes so bright,
 A boy sits in the firelight,
 Munching on the apples, crunching
 corn.
 Today white winter he has worn,
 —Louise Darcy in the New York Herald-Tribune.

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

EARLY SETTLEMENT DAYS
 From "A Handbill of Farms to be let on advantageous terms," issued by John Cambridge, Esq., at Charlottetown, Feb. 12, 1794:
 "Murray Harbour... An agreeable settlement is already formed, which is greatly increasing... among the settlers is a Smith, several Coopers, Carpenters and other Mechanics.
 "There is a road from Charlottetown through Vernon River Settlement to the Head of Murray River, which is in distance 23 miles, and from thence down to the Harbour nine Miles and a Half... the whole opened, except five Miles, to be completed next Spring.
 "The Subscriber intends to procure a School-Master for the Education of Children, and to erect a Meeting-House for Religious Worship, with a view to promote the True Principles of Christianity, without regarding the Peculiarities of the various Denominations of Christians."

Indemnities
(Winnipeg Free Press)

A certain embarrassment on the boosting their indemnities from part of Members of Parliament to \$6,000 to \$10,000 is being understandable. For the contention that the indemnity as now fixed fails to draw into public life, the men of all Parties best qualified to write the laws of the land amounts, if pressed too far, to something like a slur on the present membership.
 Historically, an indemnity has never been regarded as a monetary reward in the sense that a salary or profit is the reward of labor and enterprise. It was originally intended to make occasionally possible the participation of relatively poor men in legislative processes. But for members, whether rich or poor, the satisfactions of Parliamentary service were deemed to be of a quite different order.
 In this historic perspective an increase of half the amount proposed might well have satisfied any real need which presently exists. Certainly the argument that M. P.'s must not have occasion to worry about debts or other embarrassments lest they lose their objective approach carries much too far. For the citizenry affected by legislation worry much about debts and other embarrassments and a complete detachment from such cares on the part of those who legislate might therefore constitute the very reverse of objectivity.

Another argument has been offered in the United States to sustain increases of much greater magnitude. The Senator or Re-

Notes By The Way

A scientist says the earth has a vibration all its own, as we who live by railway tracks had already noted.—Brandon Sun.
 British scholars don't like the atomic adjective "fissionable" and prefer "fissile." If the shelter is deep enough in the earth we'll settle for either.—Hamilton Spectator.
 "The Canadian trucking industry had the best year in its history in 1953, a record which it enjoyed in common with many other businesses. Even so, human demands for goods and services are far from satisfied, and in fact many families in Canada still live a marginal existence. There is need for more production records to be broken."—Ottawa Citizen.

Doctors and insurance companies look askance at fat men and urge strongly that their waist line be kept down, to lessen the possibility of heart trouble. Now a professor of a leading American college deplores the "bean pole" children from "bean pole" parents. What is the average person who wants to do the proper thing going to do? It seems one is between the devil and the deep blue sea, so the happy middle course, if that is possible, and not worry too much about it.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.
 People who have long been convinced that the traffic bully—the impatient horn-blower, the intersection smart-aleck, the highway weaver—is a mental case get some satisfaction from a report made to the National Safety Council of the United States by Dr. Alan Cauty, psychiatrist of Detroit that of 10,000 problem drivers referred to the clinic by the courts, 100 were found to be crazy enough to be committed to an asylum, 850 were feeble-minded and 1,000 were former inmates of mental hospitals. Most of the remainder, apparently, were "emotionally unstable." Now all that's needed is some way of spotting these people before they get licences to drive.—Saturday Night.
 The North's Eskimos could easily become the next generation's wealthy cattle ranchers. All that's needed to transform them from wards of the government to a well-to-do people is proper establishment of the reindeer industry. Opposition members at Ottawa have urged the government to increase reindeer herds on the reserve near Aklavik. Resources Minister Lesage said there are now only 7,771 reindeer in Canada's Northland. Vancouver's Howard Green quoted from an article stating the area could support 40,000,000. Forty million of 'em is a lot of meat, and there'd surely be some for export from the North to Canadian cities. Then there might be two snowmobiles in every Eskimo igloo, and a gold-plated radar to match it.—Vancouver Sun.

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The Passing Scene
By Observer

Are there any boundaries beyond which social hysteria, once it has been set in motion, will not go? It will be remembered that a few months ago a heated controversy took place among members of the school board in a certain American city over whether or not the story of Robin Hood should be allowed to remain in the libraries of the public schools. The question came up when a lady member of the board stated, quite seriously, that the notorious Robin must have had Communist leanings, since he had advocated robbing the rich and giving to the poor.
 At the same time some of the old nursery rhymes also were subjected to investigation on similar grounds. Even little Jack Horner who sat in a corner was summoned before a committee. I do not recall just what it was that the little fellow was supposed to have done to put his name on the naughty list; anyway, it doesn't matter now for I understand he was acquitted after a lengthy investigation. The case of Robin Hood is still pending, but his acquittal, too, seems assured, thanks chiefly to the severe protests which came from all parts of the free world.

The news that a play written by the Athenian Aristophanes in or about the year 400 B. C. has been censored and indeed mutilated by a committee of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, because of its alleged "Communist sympathy," tells a story just as ludicrous as the Robin Hood episode. In fact, it is even more so, while the notorious Robin did have certain radical and unsocial tendencies, old Aristophanes, for his day, the personification of the spirit of the status quo. This, anyone must believe, unless it can be shown that all of Aristophanes' biographers lied flagrantly in their appraisals of his life and work. It is a libel on his memory to suggest that he was anything but an incorrigible and unrepentant conservative in his politics and in his social manners.
 In a time when the old gods were losing favour among the intellectuals Aristophanes held firm in his beliefs and ways of worship. In the field of education he detested every new method, for no other reason than that he was not he did not believe even to look into its claims. (The John Deweys of his day must have had a grueling time at his hands.) No one ever used the tool of ridicule with more glee or with more devastating effect. As one of his biographers puts it, "his love was for the traditional glories of Athens, however dim the past to which he ever longed; his abhorrence was for the innovations and pretensions of the present."
 It is important to remember that Aristophanes was neither a politician nor a philosopher who dabbled in politics; he was a poet, a comic poet to be exact. That is to say his poetry was written under the guise of comedy, not that he was a funny man who wrote poetry. The comedy, however, was not intended merely to amuse; its chief purpose was to preserve the so-called pure democ-

cracy, the name given by historians to the system of government which ruled Athens at that time.
 The comic poets exercised a great deal of influence. Their chief weapons were ridicule, satire, denunciation, and burlesque, all of which could be and were used extravagantly and without fear of libel laws which, in fact, did not exist. Nothing escaped the thrusts of Aristophanes and his kind; morality, religion, statesmanship, education, literature, social custom, all were fair game. Naturally, this sort of license in the hands of radical reformers could be dangerous and very disturbing. In the hands of Aristophanes it was used not to disturb the status quo but rather to keep it from harm. He believed in freedom of speech for the very practical reason that only in such freedom could the democracy he knew and loved retain its strength and popularity.
 Unlike many modern admirers of democracy, Aristophanes did not believe that anything could be gained by forceful suppression of any essential freedom. His method was to ridicule all radical ideas and to mock them with such vehemence that they would not hold on the people's affections. Perhaps there was not much reason to this, but there was a tremendous amount of feeling to it which served the purpose just as well. The London Punch is about the only modern literary medium, in English, that shows any real resemblance to the comedy of the comic poets.
 The news report does not say just what it was in Aristophanes' "Women in Politics" that offended the sensibilities of the Manhattan censors. Probably it was nothing more exciting than a humorous dig at some particular shams, which in translation has been torn from its original meaning; because it didn't seem to make sense, somebody got the notion that it must be subversive. Whatever it was it wasn't Communist and there would be nothing in it to threaten the security of the United States or of Democracy. No wonder the London Daily Mail is "shocked and saddened." It will be interesting to see what Punch has to say about it.

The Age Old Story
 The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious; and his righteousness endureth for ever... The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.
CLIMBERS' FAVORITE
 The 14,775-foot Matterhorn peak in the Alps was first climbed in 1865.

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