

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1953

A Worthy Knight Indeed

Prime Minister Churchill has joined the distinguished order of Knights of the Garter, the highest honour he could accept at the hands of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth without giving up his seat in the House of Commons. Here indeed is an example of "honour seeking the man", for no title can outshine the lustre of Churchill's name as Britain's great war leader, the man who personified the refusal of his people to admit defeat and led them to triumphant victory. Now again at the helm in peacetime, after a temporary defeat of his Party, he shows the same outstanding ability and genius for leadership. He is indeed a great world figure. Perhaps of no other living man can it be more safely predicted that his name and fame will survive, an inspiration to future generations as it has been to his contemporaries throughout the Commonwealth and among free peoples everywhere.

He is now Sir Winston. Nothing added to his stature thereby, it may be said; but it is highly fitting that in the honours being bestowed by Her Majesty at the outset of her reign, the name of this great patriot, soldier, statesman and historian should lead all the rest. It is an auspicious omen, and will be hailed with pleasure and satisfaction by his millions of admirers and well-wishers on both sides of the Atlantic.

New Era In Movies

It seems that we are in for a revolution in the motion picture theatres comparable to that of 25 years ago with the change over from silent to sound films. This change is coming through the introduction of three-dimensional movies. Canadian theatre managers, back from a continent-wide conference at Hollywood on the new development, report that 3-D is about to sweep the country. Theatres are being re-equipped for the flood of 3-D films releases next autumn. Some of the big studios have made their last two-dimensional films and are now concentrating on 3-D. Other studios have slowed up production on their 2-D commitments.

The 3-D picture is now being produced and projected by several differing and competing processes. Some employ the stereoscopic principle which requires the audience to wear goggles. Others attain the illusion of depth by arrangement of an extra-large curved screen and by using stereophonic sound, consisting of 5 to 19 loudspeakers arranged behind the screen and around the theatre so the sound seems to come from where the corresponding action takes place. One uses three projectors using films shot from three angles to give the illusion of depth.

The methods being used to gain the effect of three dimensions on the screen today vary as did the methods used for the reproduction of sound when "talkies" were first out. The best practical 3-D method for general use will be arrived at only after months of trial, as was the case with sound methods. Already, however, it is being heralded as the movie theatre's reply to television which has been credited with holding people at home and away from the theatres.

Canada's Natural Bastion

Since the Russian armed forces became a menace to the Western world there have been whispers that in the event of war Canada might suffer a mass invasion from the Arctic. The sharp military commonsense of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery has silenced these whispers, notes the Hamilton Spectator. He places the North Pole in a low category as a danger area and thinks a major assault from the Arctic most unlikely.

Time and space are the foundations of military strategy; in war each has an intimate effect on the other. Both are Canada's best military allies. It is doubtful whether any country in the world, even India with her Himalayas, has a better natural bastion than Canada's northland.

The cost of moving a mass of men and material thousands of miles through this vast, inhospitable wilderness to the targets and population centres of Canada staggers the imagination. The Spectator recalls that in the first seven weeks of the Normandy assault, the proportion of stores landed was one ton per man and one vehicle per five men. The distance between British bases

and the Continent was infinitesimal compared with the distance between Russian territory and the settled parts of Canada. Until cargo-carrying planes the size of an ocean liner are built, the problem of supplying a vast fighting force thousands of miles from its home bases will not be solved. The key word in the Field Marshal's statement was "major." It does not preclude isolated landings of guerillas or saboteurs by parachute, or from the sea, nor, as the Field Marshal said, a plane getting through and dropping "the odd bomb." The Spectator adds:

"Forgetting the old atlases, with their flat and deceptive maps, and looking at the globe, Canada's 'soft under-belly', from the Russian point of view, could be the north Pacific coast. This might invite landing on a limited scale, but the hazards of supply would increase with every day as opposition grew on land, on sea and air. A beach head might become a death trap. "It is a military axiom that no barrier is impregnable. Those who forget this suffer the fate of the French behind the Maginot Line, the British in Singapore and the Germans, who were promised by Goering that not a single enemy plane would penetrate the Reich's defences.

"The Canadian northland, vast as it is, should still have its defences. They need not be great, but sufficient to add to the problems of space and the elements and make the boldest strategist quail at the thought."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Festival of St. Mark: 3rd Sunday after Easter.

Birthday of H. R. H. the Princess Royal, Col.-in-Chief Royal Canadian Signals.

Fish and pork scraps used to get along very well together but now alas it seems that fish and pork scrap.

Usually it is American authorities who express doubt about the sufficiency of British security measures but the shoe is on the other foot in the questioning of released Prisoners of War.

The season in Charlottetown harbour has certainly opened with a wave of port activity. Soon all Island harbours will be busy. Georgetown, of course, does not admit to having been closed.

Today good roads are vital to any community. When they are temporarily impassable that fact is brought home to all. This year we have been most fortunate in having such conditions for a very brief time indeed.

Coronation celebration plans are gathering momentum in the Province. The commemorative medallions which all Canadian school children will receive, will make an excellent souvenir of the occasion but local plans for celebrations will require a lot of work in order to mark the great occasion suitably.

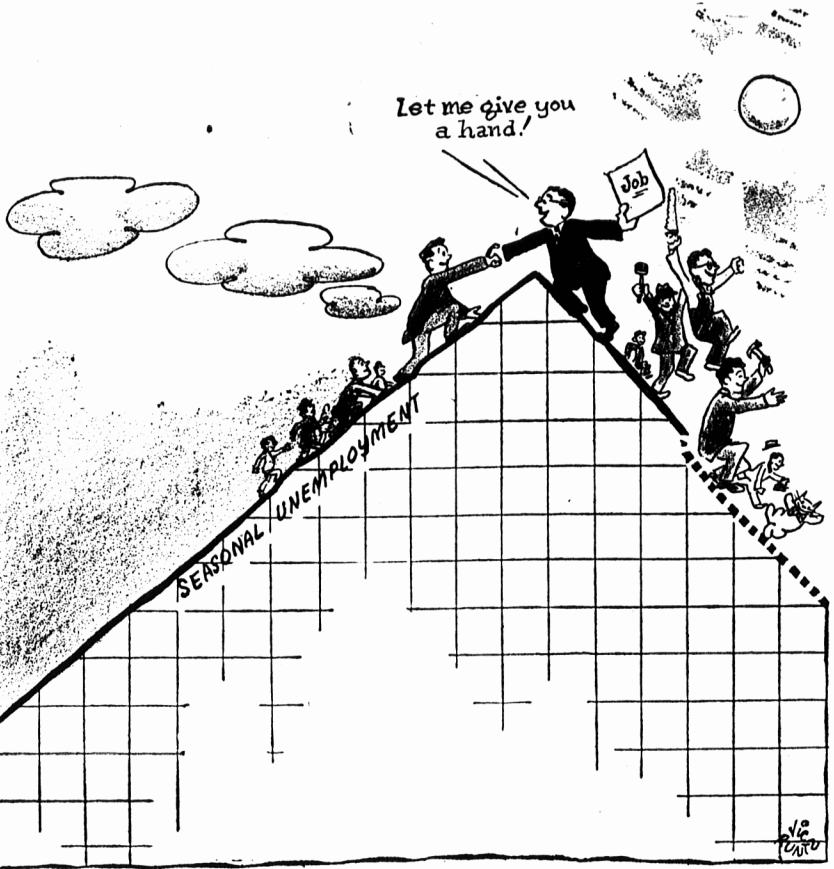
Another Prince Edward Islander has distinguished himself, this time in the specialized field of speed photography as applied to the race track. He is Mr. W. Rupert Godfrey, of Marshfield, and his achievement is recounted fully in today's "Down the Back Stretch" notes.

Anzac Day. The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps in the First World War rendered most conspicuous service in the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign. The Corps effected a heroic landing this date 1915 under intense difficulties at Gaba Tepe, later known as Anzac Cove. After the evacuation they fought in Macedonia, Salonika, Egypt and France.

School accommodation in Charlottetown, already strained beyond capacity, will be in even greater demand for the next school year. A recent report indicates that the schools are now 700 pupils over capacity and that next term eight additional classrooms will be required. The City Council some time ago requested the School Board to make immediate plans to remedy the situation.

Canada had five per cent fewer hogs on December 1, 1952, than the year previous. The total of 5,237,000 hogs represented an increase of seven per cent in western Canada and a twelve per cent decrease in eastern Canada. Only Saskatchewan and Alberta showed increases. By provinces Ontario had 1.8 million hogs, Alberta 1.26 million, Manitoba 1.07 million, Quebec 1.04 million, Saskatchewan 560,000, P. E. Island 72,000, New Brunswick 71,000, British Columbia 54,000, and Nova Scotia 53,000. There were 22 per cent fewer sows expected to farrow between December 1 and May 31, than last year, a decline of nine per cent in the West and thirty per cent in the East.

Over The Top



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.

COIN OR TOKEN?

Sir,—I wonder if any of your readers could give me any information on a coin with "Prince Edward Island 1857" on one side and "Self Government and Free Trade" on the other. Is it a penny? If so, of what value is it today if any? I am, Sir, etc. MRS. JAMES S. MACLEOD Bayfield, P.O.

THE LIQUOR PROBLEM

Sir,—We have now been living under the new Temperance Act for five years and every man who cares for this Island that is his home must be asking himself this question: "What damage will drink do to this Province in the next five years?" This is a land to love with its shining homesteads, its rich fields and no devastating storms or floods. A splendid place to live; but in these past five years we have sustained serious damage through drink, and with new outlets and an increasing flow we must expect an increase in broken homes, more people maimed and more tragic signs along our roads. This increase is as inevitable as the going down of the sun tonight. From the beginning of human history, drink and sin have gone together as inseparably related as the moon and the tides. The Government is doing the right thing in putting on stricter road supervision, but that will not lessen the drinking nor stop the flow. As long as drink is available and the drinking habit spreading as it is today, drivers will drink and accidents will occur, in spite of all precautions. Let us look at the record. Between the years 1945 and 1952, just before the new Temperance Act, the increase in liquor sales was 34 per cent. But between 1945 and 1952 the increase is 262 per cent. This increase is largely in the four years in which the new Temperance Act was in operation. You see what a tremendous boost this Act has given to the sale of liquor in this Province. In these last two or three years there has been a great increase in the number of men drinking in Charlottetown, Summerside and on the roads one sees more drink stores, leading to the liquor stores, are crowded. Empty bottles everywhere along the roadsides. Yesterday morning I saw three. And with this increase in drinking has gone an increase in fatal road accidents. In the last two years the record has been truly alarming. In 1951-20, in 1952-25, and at least there were four fatalities not included in the above list. We are getting a name for ourselves. The Government is beginning at the wrong end of this problem. Reduce the sale, instead of boosting it. Put a fence around the cliff instead of a hospital at the foot. A pound of prevention is worth a ton of cure. If something is not done to stop this increasing flood of liquor flowing over our Province then in the next five years, at this rate, life and limb on our roads will not be safe. I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

Whale Meat

(Hamilton Spectator)

Whale meat may soon appear in greater quantities in British shops. Whale food owners are being urged by government to bring back the three and four-ton filets from the carcass so that they can be cut up and sold in the shops instead of being ground into meat meal. The prospect will bring grim smiles to the faces of some Britons who are still mourning the juicy beef steaks of times past. The belief that the whale is a fish and not a mammal is a hard one to remove from the public mind. The meat is dark and grained and with a little imagination may be said to resemble beef. Liberally decorated (some cynics say "camouflaged") with fried onions, whale steak is said to be remarkably like beef at first taste, but with a fishy flavour in the after-taste. As the population of the world increases and the pressure on the world food supply grows, these experiments must be expected. Sourced with suitable propaganda whale meat may become popular with the public. Newfoundlanders have enjoyed it for centuries and now sell it in cans as "polar steaks". Since the war, Canadians have seen housewives join hamburgers on lunch counters. If the taste for whale meat travels westward, whaleburgers may join them. Sicily, the Mediterranean Island where the invasion of Italy started, has an area of 10,000 square miles.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

COLONIAL BLDG. CONTRACTS

"Contracts have been entered into for erecting the Colonial Building. It has been taken in eight separate and distinct contracts. No. 1, Nova Scotia stone; 2, Carpenters' work and materials, with exception of Nova Scotia stone; 3, Carpenters' and joiners' work and materials; 4, Plasterers' work and materials; 5, Slaters' and glazing, and materials; 6, Plumbers' work and materials; 7, Excavating for foundation, etc. "The whole of this work has been taken by inhabitants of the Island, with the exception of the Nova Scotia stone. No small praise is due to the Commissioners for the judicious mode they have adopted in letting the work by separate contracts, thereby not only affording an opportunity to the different tradesmen of offering for the work peculiar to their individual trades, but of effecting a saving to the Government upwards of \$300,—that being the difference between separate tenders and the whole thing taken by one person." —Royal Gazette, Oct. 21, 1942.

THE OIL-SKIN FLEET

(Dedicated to our Fishermen)

Down to the seas in sails and gas before the rising sun, As dawn breaks o'er the rolling waves, the work has long begun— When plows plow through the white-caps foam and tides are running high Where stern-faced men in salty spray work 'neath a lowering sky. The traps are stacked in heightened piles along with nets and bait, From stern to stern athwart the beam with gear and lobster crates; As outward bound they rise and drop on waves that crest and fall, On moving tides that ebb and flow in sea troughs that appal. These seamen of the Strait and Gulf with hearts as true as steel, With muscles hardened by their toil and spirits filled with song, They meet the duty of their call upon the breaking wave,— These he-men of the bounding sea, so rugged, kind and brave. Far out from land in ocean lanes with windward tides and lees,— They chug and sail off Princy's coast in squall, or calm, or breeze; To fish beds on the ocean's floor beyond the Island's shore,— Sail men of noble heritage, born of the Viking's lore, Whose forbears came from countries old beyond the distant sea; Who left their home to Westward roam, in search of liberty,— Across the wide and bounding main to countries that beguile; Some to the places they called New and some to P. E. Isle So, here's a toast we give to you, men of the oil-skin fleet— The friends and neighbors whom we know and those we hope to meet, As homeward bound we come to you, upon vacation's call— In Springtime, or in Summer's heat, or harvesting of Fall. Boston, Mass. —Peter A. Reilly

PORTSMOUTH, England, (CP)—

The death-watch beetles that have been eating into the wood of Nelson's famous flagship Victory, long docked here, will be destroyed by radioactive pellets.

The Poet's Corner

In assessing the blame for these conditions (excluding, of course, those that are attributable to nature or our stars) the obvious thing is to think of the government. Actually, governments have very little to do with them, and members of government share with everybody else the inconveniences which, for the most part, are inherent in our geographical situation. The smaller and the more scattered the population, the more difficult the process of administration becomes. This is a fundamental law and governments can do little to change it. It could be wonderful if the governments, in some miraculous way, could put electric lights in front of every door. But so long as provincial revenues remain as they are there is not much sense in expecting such a miracle to take place. No doubt the conditions I have mentioned and others of like pattern are mainly responsible for whatever sense of inferiority we exhibit as a community. It may be natural enough, but a natural emotion or impulse is not necessarily wise. In this case I think it is downright foolish. I am not quite sure about this, but I believe it was Mr. Saville who in one of his many speeches in the Legislature said: "Let us go out from this House and help our young people to have a faith in the future of this Province", or words to that effect. It was, indeed, a sensible thing to say. I devoutly hope the admonition will be heeded. There is no finer thing that any person in a position of influence and responsibility can do than to encourage the younger generation to have faith not only in the future of their native land but as well in its present. We are what we are and the sensible thing is to make the best of the situation. That must apply to a community as well as to an individual. Wishing for the impossible is futile; planning ways and means to erect a stronger structure on the foundation we have can be profitable. In all my travels I have not found a community—large or small—whose cultural foundation is essentially any better than our own. All Island communities are noted for a certain kind of insularity and a peculiar form of provincialism. Usually, it is an insularity and a provincialism which can be turned to good account to the enrichment of life in all its fundamental aspects. This is certainly true of this Island if we could only bring the majority of our people—including our politicians—to see things in that light. Discovery of oil wells, mineral deposits, and the like, which have added to the material wealth of other parts of Canada, are not likely to come our way. It seems accurate to assume that our economy must continue to centre around agricultural activities of one kind and another. There is nothing more sound than that, really, in view of the fact that more than half of the world's population must exist in a state of insufficiency with respect to basic foods. How our productivity can be tied up with the needs of less favoured peoples in various parts of the world is, of course, a matter for the economic engineers to think about. But, all that aside, it is no place in the world where a man can find it easier to live a full, satisfying life. And isn't that, after all, the chief goal of every normal human being? Geographical isolation, when there is of it, can be annoying at times, but I would say that the compensations more than make up for it. In such simple things as climate, fertility of the land, almost complete absence of such dangers as floods, hurricanes, drought, etc., we are much better off than some other regions in our country, to say nothing of far off places. Taking one thing with another, and comparing our lot with that of much larger communities, I see no reason at all why we should belittle our possessions or our inheritance. I see plenty of reason why we should stand up and proclaim to all the world that our Island is a good place to live. We may not have some things which others have; on the other hand we have a few things which others lack. On balance the sum-total shows up very well. It is true that we do not have great influence on the economy of Canada and, apparently, our political pressure is slight. It is also true, however, that our forefathers had a great deal to do with the architecture of our country's history. Here I recall some lines from the pen of Edgar Guest. While they were written in an entirely different connection perhaps they might not be altogether out of place here. "Should you this walk come wealth, or smiling fame, Some little treasure might be added here, But life itself would still remain the same. Love is no sweeter in a larger sphere, This little world of ours wherein we live Holds now the richest joys which life can give".

The Passing Scene

By Observer NO NEED TO FEEL INFERIOR

"There's nothing wrong with this Island," a friend remarked the other day, "that's a shot of self-confidence couldn't cure." The idea he had in mind was that as a community living in more or less geographical isolation we are inclined to exhibit a trace of inferiority. In a way this is natural enough. Prince Edward Island is a small Province and its economy is built around small resources, or at least limited resources. We have no large centres of population and only a very few small towns. Our per capita wealth is not impressive and there are practically no heavy industries, due largely to the lack of basic materials. It is unfortunately true that many of our young people who go on to advanced training in the arts and sciences must go outside the Province to find suitable opportunities for their talents and skills. Many a young man who would like nothing better than to own a farm and work it productively simply cannot realize his ambition. Neither money nor credit is available for the purpose. While I have no actual figures on the subject, I would judge that at least half the rural population is without electricity. Good transportation is much limited and notwithstanding the acceleration of road building operations in recent years, there are still scores of districts where good or even passable roads are unknown. Not only are we remote from the larger mainland centres; in many instances, at certain times of the year, there is a feeling of isolation among residents of adjoining school districts. Often it takes a letter three or four days to go from our post office to another only a few miles away. In assessing the blame for these conditions (excluding, of course, those that are attributable to nature or our stars) the obvious thing is to think of the government. Actually, governments have very little to do with them, and members of government share with everybody else the inconveniences which, for the most part, are inherent in our geographical situation. The smaller and the more scattered the population, the more difficult the process of administration becomes. This is a fundamental law and governments can do little to change it. It could be wonderful if the governments, in some miraculous way, could put electric lights in front of every door. But so long as provincial revenues remain as they are there is not much sense in expecting such a miracle to take place. No doubt the conditions I have mentioned and others of like pattern are mainly responsible for whatever sense of inferiority we exhibit as a community. It may be natural enough, but a natural emotion or impulse is not necessarily wise. In this case I think it is downright foolish. 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The Age Old Story

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

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