

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1950

Our Efficient Fire Brigade

The Charlottetown Fire Department is planning what promises to be the season's biggest skating event, a masquerade at the Forum March 29th. Members of the Fire Department are all volunteers who give their services without charge to the citizens, and take a personal pride in the efficiency of the department.

Water Found On Bermuda

Prince Edward Islanders are so accustomed to a plentiful supply of water that any other condition is almost unthinkable. Fresh water springs and streams abound here and a well sunk almost anywhere is likely to tap an abundant supply at no great depth.

A Virile People

In proportion to population, says the Windsor Star, the Scots probably are the world's most ubiquitous people. They have spread themselves over the face of the earth, and usually attain positions where they are noticed.

Recently the Scottish Historical Review published some facts on this subject. It showed that, out of a total population of less than 5,000,000, Scotland emigrated 840,000 people between 1901 and 1931.

"To appreciate how high this emigration was it is well to compare it with that of other countries. Scotland had an emigration rate of eight per cent of population, compared to 0.5 for England and Wales, or 16 times as high.

"This 'bleeding' process has diminished neither Scotland's population nor the characteristic gifts of the Scots, their industry and thrift; their love of education and of finance.

"And it isn't true that other parts of the United Kingdom have siphoned off the manpower strength of Scotland. It only seems to be true because there are so many Scots in high positions in England.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Seventeen more days till Easter,

This is the time of running waters, but car drivers would take thought there

would be less running down the necks of pedestrians.

Who would have dreamed we had so much valuable property hidden in the vicinity of the Jail Square? Charlottetown is being discovered, as a veritable gold mine so far as real estate is concerned.

The deletion of the "Financial Responsibility" sections or compulsory insurance from the Highway Traffic Act without their having been proclaimed in force is an example of profiting by the hard experience of other Provinces and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The sustained ruling of Mr. Speaker indicates that the delegation from the Federation of Agriculture did not present their case to the House in committee of the whole. Just who they did petition, if anyone, is far from clear.

There has been more free and independent discussion in the Legislature this session than for many a year. It is no doubt the force of example. The Premier is ever ready to speak his mind, and evidently does not object to others enjoying a like privilege.

If the average individual spent as much effort in learning how to prevent disease as he does in trying to get better when illness does strike, he would be better off physically, mentally and financially. We can't improve on that old saying—"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

It is seldom we have to record the passing of two distinguished business men in the same issue, but it happens to be the case today when we lament the passing of Mr. J. D. Jenkins and Lieut. Colonel C. C. Thompson. Both were "top notchers" so far as enterprise and initiative are concerned, and both will be greatly missed in the social and military affairs of the community.

George Frederick Handel, Anglo-German composer, born this date 1685. He was a man of independent upright character and artistic temperament, loving pictures as well as music; a good friend, although possessed of a violent temper. He was one of the finest organ and harpsichord players of his time.

The Province may only constitutionally impose direct taxation, so that Provincial Secretary Arsenault's comment during the Highway Traffic Bill's passage that no direct taxes are being levied by the Province would mean that the Provincial Government has no legal source of tax revenue.

Noting Prime Minister St. Laurent's refusal to grant members a half holiday on St. Patrick's Day, the Ottawa Journal nevertheless suggests that St. Andrew's Day be recognized by calling the estimates then and applying the thrifty principles of the Scots. There is some point to the suggestion, but St. Andrew happens to be also the patron saint of Russia, and current Russian ideas of political economy might not be so welcome.

Gracie Fields, Lancashire singer, and the late lamented Sir Harry Lauder's only competitor on the music hall stage, reports she is going to make an entertainment tour across Canada, starting May 1 in Victoria. It will be the first tour through the Dominion for the popular comedienne since 1943.

The amendment to the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund provisions of the Highway Traffic Act will extend the grounds on which an injured innocent party may be compensated notwithstanding the poverty of the judgment debtor. He will now be able to collect for damage to his car as well as for personal injuries.

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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.

LIQUOR REVENUE AND THE CONSEQUENCES

Sir, — One of the surprising things of this age is the amount of money spent in drink. Here in this Province, too poor to pay its teachers a decent salary, \$22 for drink was spent in 1949 for every man, woman and child, and throughout Canada the average was \$48.

This insane waste of money, so needed for better roads, is nothing compared to the waste of human life. War doesn't begin to waste as much. War does stop. The wastage from drink robs on and on. An anonymous "friend" of education a while ago advocated the building of county high schools out of surplus booze money.

P. E. Island is the soberest Province in the Dominion, but the booze barons are behind us and we are being educated. Liquor stores are becoming too small and patrons are complaining at having to stand out in bad weather. Monday mornings the police court dockets are crowded. Fifty years ago liquor served at weddings was almost unheard of, but today it is the smart thing to do and the minister is invited to drink.

I am, Sir, etc., W.I. GREEN Murray Harbour.

REEFER CAR SHORTAGE

Sir,—Many readers of the editorial page of last Friday's issue of your evening contemporary will be rightly angered by the uninformed and narrow political stand taken on the reefer shortage. It is too bad that the writer, obviously not acquainted with farmers' problems and the potato situation, had not consulted some of the many hundreds who are feeling the pinch.

The writer reveals his lack of grasp of the problem by making comparisons with last year. On inquiry he could have found out that last year's American seed shipments were handled very differently. Cars were shipped only on permits under a plan as required by the American government whereby seed was moved into the different producing areas only just previous to their planting season.

In his editorial he admits that the "car estimate was considerably short of the actual needs" and cites unforeseen circumstances as being to blame. One of these he mentions as "the decrease in production of potato stocks available in Ontario and Quebec and the consequent increased market demand for Prince Edward Island potatoes."

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Emphasizing The Point



The Poet's Corner

THE BURIED CHILD

He is not dead nor liveth The little child in the grave, The little child has known Grever That he walketh again; They hear him November evenings, When acorns fall with the rain.

Teach me then the heart of the dead child, Who, holding tulip, goeth Up the stairs in his little grave-shift.

Sitting down in his little chair By his biscuit and orange, In the nursery he kneeth.

Teach me all that the child who knew life And the quiet of death, To the croon, of the cradle-song By his brother's crib In the depths of the nursery dusk To his mother's sigh.

—Dorothy Wellesley

Powdered Potatoes

(Saint John Telegraph-Journal) A new product from Great Britain has just hit the market in the United States and Canada—potato powder. It comes in convenient packages and if you want mashed potatoes for dinner all you do is stir a bit of it into boiling water, add milk and butter, and whip. It can also be used in other dishes suggested by the makers.

Apparently this product is just potatoes which have been cooked, dehydrated and ground up by a special process. The British are able to ship it across the Atlantic and sell it on this side, because, first, it saves the housewife work and speeds the preparation of a meal, and, second, dehydrated reduces the weight and bulk of raw potatoes by ninety per cent, with a comparable reduction in transportation costs.

The surprising part of it is that we haven't developed something of this kind here. By and large, the potato industry has ignored the obvious trend in consumer demand, which is for foods put up in cans or packages—foods that only have to be heated to be ready for the table, and that are in a form compact enough for the limited cupboard space of the modern apartment or pint-sized bungalow.

say anything about the backlog of orders which are reported to be about 500. And why was a baggage car bringing in 100 extra heaters as he states? Sounds like some one slipped up badly. On the whole I think we have good railway officials on the island but they need more proper consideration at the higher levels. Lack of competition has left us at the mercy of a Government owned and operated system. But if we take these things lying down and don't prod the Government and refute vigorously false reports by Ministers of the Crown then we may as well throw in the sponge.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

THE RETORT COURTEOUS

"The Colonial Secretary has, in the last 'Islander', made a sorry attempt to be facetious on the subject of the public meeting lately held at Battery Point. He remarks that Messrs. Coles and Whelan went there with a keg of whiskey and four resolutions. Mr. W. was not in company with Mr. Coles on the occasion referred to, in going to Battery Point, and arrived there only after the resolutions had been passed, a line of which was never written by him. Whether Mr. Coles took a keg of whiskey for the occasion, is a fact upon which we have not been informed; but if he did, we are sure that everybody would praise him for the generous act; and if the editor and publisher of the 'Islander' were in the vicinity of the keg, we have no doubt they would be among the last to leave it."

—From an editorial by the Hon. Edward Whelan in The Examiner, Feb. 14, 1950.

The Other Side

(Kitchener-Waterloo Record.)

Every once in a while one hears the remark that newspapers make too many mistakes. Well, don't we all?

Consider for a moment if you will... did you ever hear of the woman who forgot to put the tea in the teapot of hot water; the woman who forgot to salt the potatoes or meat; the lawyer who never lost a case because he made some mistake; the clerk who never made an error putting up an order; the doctor who never made a wrong diagnosis; a postal employee who never put mail in the wrong box; a carpenter who never sawed a valuable board off at the wrong place; or the druggist who never... Oh, well, why bother? That's the ideal. Why bother to print the entire list? But it would be enlightening if some of the critics who make the most of petty mistakes in newspapers had opportunity to know about the hundreds of mistakes newspaper people correct for other persons every year.

A Tax On News

(New York Times)

Freedom of the press no less than any other sort of freedom is indivisible. Thus discrimination against the press gives cause for concern even when it takes place in the freest and most democratic of countries. These thoughts prompt us to comment on an odd situation existing north of the border in a land bound to our own by the closest ties of sentiment and outlook.

For years an 8 per cent sales tax has been imposed by Canada on goods manufactured and used in Canada, including newspaper. This levy were applied to all Canadian users of printing paper without exception it would certainly apply to a purely internal question not subject to comment by outsiders. However, the tax applied neither to newspaper exported to the United States nor to newspaper (and ink) used in Canada for publications that appear regularly but do not contain up-to-the-minute news. Comic and fiction magazines and feature weeklies printed in Canada are exempt, while paper used for Canadian newspapers and weeklies containing spot news is taxable. The purpose of the exemption is to place Canadian magazines in a more competitive position vis-a-vis American magazines. But the unfortunate effect is that dispensers

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Notes By The Way —

In Oshawa a man from Whitby township was fined \$200 and costs because he had his farmhouse basement lined with kegs of hard cider — 480 gallons of it. Instead of a fine, why did not some purchasing agent for the Liquor Commission rush down to the farm and buy up the whole stock? Any person these days who devotes the time and effort required to make cider is, in our opinion, worthy of better treatment than a court fine. We note, however, that the magistrate took his court down to the farmhouse to inspect the kegs. Perhaps it was the quality of the stuff, rather than the quantity, which drew the court's penalty.—Peterborough Examiner.

"It has sunk," the chief scientific officer of the Overseas Food Corporation recently bewailed, "to the level of a music-hall joke." He was referring to the groundnuts scheme. One sees exactly what he means; but he cannot be held to have expressed himself with felicity. He said "sunk" when he meant "risen". No topic which becomes a music-hall joke can by any stretch of the imagination be said to have come down in the world. It has, rather, reached the very pinnacle of earthly fame so far as this country is concerned. To get into the headlines, to appear in a news-reel, to be the subject of a discussion on the BBC or a question in the House—these paltry ex-

prisons of the nation are being filled, crammed and jammed with kids, who usually got their criminal ideas by listening to those half-witted crimebusting programs.

The article said that teen-agers listen mostly to these "how-to-do-it crime programs." "I get trigger finger jerks spasmodically every time I think of how the radio crime presentation industry operates its debasing crime schools, teaching our teen-agers the latest methods on how to get rich quick. I indict the whole filthy, stinking, degenerating racket, the radio crime presentation industry."

"It undermines your homes and our nation," the writer said. "Why do you allow them to commit more than 15,000 false and criminally degenerating murders a year of the air for your kids to imitate?" "There are tens of thousands of persons behind bars in this country who developed their criminal ideas after listening to, and being instructed by, these socially septic how-to-do-it programs," he wrote.

Prisoner Lashes Radio

(New York Times Service) An inmate of Connecticut State Prison, in an article in the prison's publication, the "Monthly Record," assailed radio and television crime programs as "the most blatantly debasing and the most crime-inducing factor with which the American listening public has to contend."

"If there is anything on the air that is a worse insult to American democratic intelligence I fall to find it," the article said. Crime programs, the anonymous inmate wrote, "are making the public so crime conscious that the

The Age-Old Story

O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayst be saved.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Advertisement for professional services including: M. Alban Farmer (Money to Loan), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), J. S. Taylor (Optometrist), Palmer & Haslam (Money to Loan), Bell & Mathieson (Barristers, Solicitors), Frederic A. Large, K.C. (Barrister, Solicitor), Matheson & Peake (Barristers, Solicitors), MacPhee & Trainor (Barristers, Solicitors), H. E. Doane & Co. (Chartered Accountants), Neil W. Higgins (Chartered Accountant).