

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1951

"Agricola"

Some men are born to greatness, some attain greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. Blythe Hurst, Sr., known far and wide in scientific and literary circles as "Agricola", belonged to the second class. He was a genius but of the class which provides for the capacity of taking pains. He was endowed with special powers of mind which enabled him, in the Biblical phrase, "to prove all things" he sought after, with the result that he became an acknowledged authority on his favourite hobby of horticulture and kindred subjects. His writings being quoted far and wide, and his opinion sought by and given to innumerable readers and admirers.

Mr. Hurst was a native of Northumberland, England, whence he came by sailing ship to this Province in 1910, taking six weeks for the voyage. It was characteristic of him that in that period he for the first time learned and became a master of trigonometry. He never knew what it was to be idle mentally or physically, he was always finding something useful and profitable to occupy every spare minute. Yet he was never hurried nor allowed himself to be harassed. He took things coolly and calmly, attempting to attain his objective not in the speediest way, but the way that would stand the test of re-examination. Mr. Hurst was great company, and could entertain friends from far and near with his dissertations on things scientific and practical.

As a schoolmaster, before he became a writer, he took a keen interest in training his scholars to think as well as to repeat. He felt that it was better for a boy to realize what he was reciting than to get it off parrot fashion. That was the secret of his own success as a seeker after knowledge—in reading and learning he always stopped to think what impression was being left on his mind and why. In this way Mr. Hurst became an authority on whatever study or hobby he set his mind to. Readers of Agricola's "Newsy Notes" in the Saturday's issue of The Guardian must in actuality have enjoyed a feast of reason and flow of soul, for there was not an issue but his contributions contained something worth while to the literate, in practically every walk of life. He was no pusher or self-seeker, his works spoke for him. He lived a humble farmer's life and was contented to be of assistance to his neighbours, his readers, and to the Province at large in the contributions he made for their scientific, horticultural, agricultural and economic advancement, not to mention their religious and cultural attainments. His works, in a more than usual sense, do follow him.

Keeping The Peace

The line followed by Communists and fellow travellers since the nations of the world showed signs of opposing Russian expansion has been that of crying, "Peace, peace," when, of course, there is no peace and no hope of peace should Russia become sufficiently strong to get her way by force.

That is still the Communist line, but in our determination to resist aggression we should not forget that a true peace is also the object of the United Nations. When the aggressor's hordes were overrunning South Korea it would have been the height of folly to yield to appeals which really meant that the rest of the world should stand idly by.

It was equally unwise in the face of military reverses to attempt to parley with a triumphant enemy. The only result was to raise the confidence of the Reds and strengthen their determination to drive the United Nations forces into the sea.

The situation today, however, is radically different. The U. N. and its defenders can negotiate from strength. The probability of the Chinese being prepared to listen to reason is immeasurably greater than when they were riding high. No opportunity should be neglected of ending the hostilities in Korea on terms which assure that country's independence even should it be necessary to provide some means of reassuring the Chinese that their own security is to be in no way threatened.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Premier evidently thinks a vendor's store covers a multitude of complaints.

In days of old there was safety for an enemy within the precincts of a church or

mosque, but not so today under the Communist standards of morality, hence the shooting of Iran's Premier at a funeral service in Teheran.

The Easter recess of Parliament has been fixed from Wednesday, March 21 to Monday, April 2.

To be, or not to be, a Provincial Sales Tax—that is the question agitating the minds and pockets of legislators, business men, and, most of all, consumers.

The vehemence of Premier Jones' denial of any intention of imposing a sales tax would seem to lend support, if any be needed, to the very general view that an election is close at hand.

The end of Education Week should see more people more interested in the problems facing our schools. That interest is essential if youth is to receive the advantages to which it is entitled.

This Province was one of the five gaining more families than it lost according to a Department of Health and Welfare report. Single men and women may still be seeking greener fields but it seems that families now see the Island as holding out the promise of well-being and security.

Young farmers are returning from the woods of our neighbouring provinces, their winter employment cut short by the mild weather so appreciated by the rest of us. They may find, however, that wood cutting offers opportunities right at home on the family wood-lot.

That of 1814 complaints to the R. C. M. P. no less than 1209 were unfounded shows a very serious situation. While the small force was uselessly investigating those 1209 unfounded complaints the resources available for dealing with the real offences must have been sadly depleted.

Though we had a surplus on current account last year, we still increased our public debt over a million-and-a-quarter dollars. It was Senator MacIntyre, when Minister of Public Works, who exclaimed "What is a million anyway?"—neither here nor there. If it is here all right, but if it is there we are in a hole.

The \$65,000,000 subsidy proposed by the Federal Government for the prairie grain-growers will come from the taxpayers. This enormous subsidy slated to go west, would otherwise have been available for other spending purposes, including defence. Now it will have to be replaced by a similar amount raised by taxation.

A successful Islander abroad, Mr. D. A. Riley, M.P., is receiving unstinted praise in Ottawa and New Brunswick for successfully organizing a delegation of M.P.'s and their friends on a visit to see the possibilities of Saint John as a manufacturing centre. Of the provinces only Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia were unrepresented on the tour. Presumably their M.P.'s did not need to be told of the possibilities of their fellow Maritime Provinces.

Giuseppe Mazzini, Italian patriot, died this date 1872. He was born at Genoa, joined the Carbonari which subsequently was superseded by Mazzini's Young Italy Society. After various failures to provoke a rising in Italy (1831-1834) he lived in Switzerland until he migrated to London in '37. There he founded the journal "Apostolato Popolare" and continued his political propaganda. He was briefly one of the triumvirs at Rome but resigned when his proposals were rejected. His last attempt at rebellion, at Palermo in 1870, failed but two months later he saw the realization of his hopes. As Garibaldi was the soldier and Cavour the statesman of a united Italy, so Mazzini was its idealist and spiritual founder.

The complaint by a speaker in the Legislature that his tributes to former members and leading civil servants who had passed away during the year were not mentioned in the newspaper report of his remarks, raises a point which the public, if not the politicians, will appreciate. That is that the press reporters seek to avoid, as much as possible, repetitious statements. Tributes to deceased noteworthies are paid by every speaker in the Draft Address debate, and they are referred to in general terms in reference to the opening speeches delivered on both sides. Usually they have already been fully covered in press obituaries and in tributes published in the press at the time the obituaries appeared. Readers appreciate the fact that in a half column or column report they are not getting all that a member said in the course of an hour's speech or more. Formerly it was the practice to publish lengthier reports, but it is doubtful if these were read by the public generally and certainly they would get scant attention today.

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.

THE POTATO MARKET

Sir,—The potato market in Canada is at the present time very quiet and without life. New Brunswick is selling table potatoes at about \$100.00 per carload less than the P. E. I. market, and they are moving approximately three cars to our one.

It is fortunate that the stock of potatoes here is decidedly less than a year ago, and our growers are therefore not forcing potatoes on the market, otherwise the situation would be even worse than it is now. There seems to be the idea with some people that the Potato Marketing Board has some connection or activity with the active marketing of our crop—actually the Board, which meets only at odd times, has little to do with the problem of finding the best markets, and but a passing knowledge of the deal problems and marketing demands and prospects.

It is apparent today that the agreement with a similar Board in New Brunswick has not been too beneficial to our growers. Whether the market rises or falls or remains steady at it is not the present inactive state, the situation will be based on the buyers' and sellers' idea of the reserve supply in Canada for the balance of the season; and any action of the local Marketing Board cannot influence it one way or another, unless the Board is prepared to buy, pay for, and dispose of any surplus in markets other than to the normal channels of marketing.

The dealers' note in the press report that all potato growers in the province are to be registered, as a result of a meeting of the Federation of Agriculture and its off-spring, the Potato Marketing Board. It is noted that the people mainly interested in the potato business were not consulted before plans were made for the implementing of an expensive theory.

When you start to register 10,000 farmers, and ask for returns on the acreage, variety, yield, storages and marketing intentions, you immediately employ expensive equipment for tabulation.

If the information is 100 per cent correct, it can be of value for comparing with like information of previous years; but if perchance it is only 90 per cent correct or less, it can be far more dangerous than helpful. Many potato growers and dealers have gone broke holding for higher prices which never came. Basing their information on the best information, statistics and trade reports available over a whole area.

Such ideas are expensive, but more than that, they are really dangerous in the hands of people clothed with autocratic powers. No man or Board can or ever has consistently forecast the potato market with accuracy.

We are, Sir, etc. POTATO DEALERS' ASS'N.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

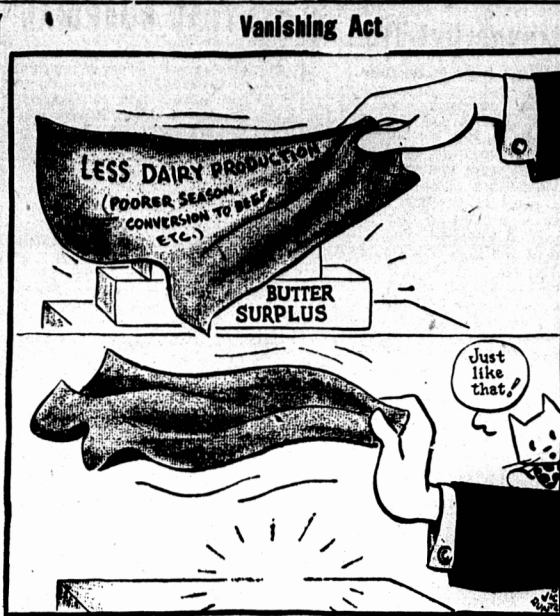
HOUSES AT VARIANCE

Disagreements between the Legislature Council and the House of Assembly were not infrequent in the old days. The following exchange of acrimonious messages occurred during the session of March-April, 1839:

Council Chamber, 11th April. "His Majesty's Council, in giving their assent to the present Appropriation Bill, wish the House of Assembly to understand, that in doing so, they by no means approve of all the items of expenditure therein contained. Although His Majesty's Council are disposed to sanction a reasonable remuneration to the Members of the House of Assembly, for their services in General Assembly, yet they conceive that a sum of £30 to the Speaker, and £25 to each of the members, for their services in the present session, is an exorbitant allowance, wholly unprecedented, and in no manner warranted by the present state of the annual revenue of this Island. But His Majesty's Council, taking into consideration that by rejecting these items, a total loss of the Appropriation Bill would follow, have been induced to give their assent to the present bill, protesting, however, against this grant being drawn into any precedent for the future."

House of Assembly, 11th April: ordered, that the following Message be sent to His Majesty's Council: "The House of Assembly wish to return the Message sent down this day with the Appropriation Bill."

Council Chamber, 11th April: ordered, that a copy of the following resolution be sent down to the House of Assembly: "That it is the undoubted and constitutional right of His Majesty's Council, in giving their assent to a Bill sent down to the House of Assembly, to assign, by Message, their reasons for assenting to such Bill; and that the hasty and intemperate Message sent up to His Majesty's Council by the House of Assembly, returning the Message with accompanying the Appropriation Bill sent down to them, is unprecedented, unparliamentary, and a manifest breach of the



Notes By The Way

The favorite Navy practice of using Biblical quotations to convey a lot in a little by official signals was brought into play on the departure of HMCS Huron from Halifax: Naval Message:—To: Huron From: Canflaglant Unclassified Routine. Goodbye your luck and a safe return to your home port. Ephesians chapter six verses 10, 11 and 12. The quotation reads: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."—The Crownest.

Protocol is a wonderful thing, dear to the heart of the formalist. (How the modern application of the term ever could be tortured from its original meaning is one of those mysteries which baffle the ordinary mind.) But, over on Prince Edward Island, a protocol frequently bows to efficiency and common-sense. After the Speech from the Throne had been read, and the Governor had left the chamber, at the opening of the Island Legislature this week, the Speaker began, according to custom, to re-read the Speech to the members who had just heard it. Whereupon, the Premier moved that the Speech "be taken as read." The House assented, in the laconic language of a press despatch. Additionally, when the Governor entered the chamber for the opening ceremonies, he invited the members to be seated. Another terrific shock to protocol—but another victory for common-sense. The Island has its own ways of doing things, and they are usually practical ways.—Halifax Herald.

If the Very Rev. Hewlett Johnson were to agree to choose between his two apparently conflicting faiths, as he is being pressed to do by a group of British laymen, to forswear Communism or quit his post as Dean of Canterbury, it would not be as hard as it might appear. There can be no great degree of conflict involved any more. His heart is no longer in his cathedral or in what it stands for. Where it lies was shown again at the meeting of the World Peace Council in Berlin, a few days ago. One of the other speakers, as added as himself apparently, spoke a piece about the tortures U. S. soldiers are inflicting on the Koreans. The gamut ran from crucifixion to shrouding in wrick cry around the victim, an increasingly described practice of Indian-fighting days in the West. (Rawhide, now wet leather, was used.) If a Dean of Canterbury could conceivably believe the twaddle Dr. Johnson uttered about the Western countries getting ready for a war against Soviet Russia, the savior of "culture", he could not without betraying one of the elementals he should uphold, truth, sit by without protest while such slanderous nonsense as this torture fabrication is being spoken. Nor, surely, would a Dean of Canterbury with any regard for the significance of his office lend his influence to a cause that has to be propped up with such vicious falsehoods. One good thing that can be said of Dr. Johnson's course is that his sympathies and views are paraded frankly. What harm he does, he does in the open. It would be better, though, if he stepped still further into the open. Canterbury Cathedral is an unsuitable backdrop for the part of his activities

The Poet's Corner

CRUSADE The Kings come riding back from the Crusade, The purple Kings and all their mounted men; They fill the street with clamorous cavalcade. The Kings have broken down the Saracen. Singing a great song of the eastern wars. In crimson ships across the sea they came. With crimson sails and diamonded dark oars. That made the Mediterranean flash with flame. And reading how, in that far month, the ranks Formed on the edge of the desert, armoured all. I wish to God that I had been with them. When the first Norman leapt upon the wall. And Godfrey led the foremost of the Franks, And young lord Raymond stormed Jerusalem. —Hilaire Belloc.

The Age-Old Story

And Job spake, and said, Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, there is a man child conceived.

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Memoirs of The Hon. A. E. Arsenault Former Premier and Retired Justice Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island After Thoughts In my law student days, it seems to me that the young people had more fun than at present. It is true that there were no motor cars in those days, so that our ambit of enjoyment was more limited. The beaches were not patronized as they are today. And yet we enjoyed life. We formed parties and went out rowing in the harbour and singing the old songs and the current ones. On a holiday we chartered a boat and went on an excursion up the East or West River and held a picnic. We had our weekly card parties with supper and dance afterwards. These parties started at eight or half past eight and were over by twelve o'clock. There were balls at Government House and at private houses. At these balls there was always a dance programme and one's ambition was to secure as many dances as possible, and from as many girls as possible. It was not the boy and girl affair of the present day. In Mr. H. P. Duchemin's lifetime I was privileged on several occasions to be his guest at his summer residence at Fortune, near Souris. He owned the cottage originally built by Charles Coughlin and with additions and other alterations had made it a thing of beauty. Mr. Duchemin at Fortune was surrounded by his family, by his sister and friends. He reminded me of the Patriarchs of old, for all activities seemed to revolve around him; he was loved and he was revered. The late Charles Coughlin was one of America's leading actors. He had a sister and a daughter no less distinguished. Through some connection which I do not know, he established a summer residence at Fortune and, through him, several other American actors did likewise, so that Fortune became known as the "Actors' Colony." Coughlin became so fond of Fortune that he expressed the wish that when he died he should be buried there. Ripley ("Believe It Or Not") tells of his wish but says that dying in Galveston, Texas, he was buried in the cemetery there. Then came what is known as the Galveston Flood. The cemetery was partly washed away and—according to Ripley—among the coffins that floated into the Gulf of Mexico was that of Charles Coughlin. The coffin struck the Gulf Stream, was carried along the Atlantic Coast and eventually landed at Fortune, Prince Edward Island, where it was buried and a monument erected there to his memory. Notwithstanding Ripley's "Believe It Or Not," this story is in part pure fiction. It is true that Coughlin was buried in Galveston cemetery, and that at the time of the flood his body was washed into the Gulf of Mexico; but there the story ends. The man buried at Fortune is Flocion, another American actor, and the monument at Abel's Point was erected by Mrs. Leslie Carter and David Balescoe, two celebrated American actors, and is in the form of a sun dial. On the occasion of the visit of the King and Queen to this Province, a luncheon was given them by the Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. George D. DeBlois. At table, the King sat to the right and the Queen to the left of the Governor who in his official position presided at the function. From my place at the table I had a full view of the King and Queen so that I witnessed the human incident I am about to relate. In front of the Queen was a basket of fruit. The basket had originated with the chef of the Charlottetown Hotel and was made of different colored candy ribbons. It looked so natural that I saw the Queen point to it and evidently ask the Governor for the name of the ribbon. On the Governor informing her that it was candy, she rubbed her finger on one of the ribbons, then lifted the finger to her tongue. It was candy! Reporters were here from all over Canada for the event. Two of them, however, missed connection and spent the day in Borden instead of Charlottetown. In a burst of imagination they wired their paper in Toronto a most fantastic report. They said that the City was crowded with farmers who had come with their horses and bullocks, that the harbour was filled with fishermen's boats, that the fishermen were present in their

long rubber boots and oilskins, with other imaginary incidents. I sent the newspaper editor a wire of protest and in reply received a long telegram of apology. In it the editor informed me that the reporters for the paper were on their return from accompanying the Royal party to Newfoundland, that he had wired them and that they would call at Charlottetown on their return. One of them was the photographer of the Dionne quintuplets. I met them on arrival and spent three days motoring through the different parts of the Island. The result was a series of articles on Prince Edward Island illustrated by snapshots taken on the spot. The upshot was that Prince Edward Island received much publicity through a Toronto newspaper whose reporters had been invited to the King's reception in Charlottetown. My acquaintance with Government House really relates back to my college days when Douglas MacDonald, Governor A. A. McDonald's son, was in college with me. It is of the Colonial style of architecture, was built in 1834, and with slight alterations is practically the same as it was in Colonial days. Many Governors have passed through Government House since without making any invidious distinction I can truly say that none have filled the office more acceptably and with greater distinction than the Honourable George DeBlois. He was the only Governor in Prince Edward Island to entertain a King and Queen. At his own expense he embellished the Government House grounds with a flower garden and by the planting of ornamental trees and bushes. He was lavish in his entertainment and yearly spent many times his salary in extending the hospitality of Government House to visitors and to the people of the Province.

I have never regretted the time spent in England as a law student. It is true that it involved me in an expense which I could ill afford, in a debt which it took me some years to liquidate, and yet it was worth while.

Both as a barrister and as a judge the experience which I acquired in the law office of the Honourable Mr. Russell and in attending Court was of great value to me. As a lawyer, I learned how solicitors in England prepared their cases for counsel; how the case was fully set out, how the exhibits were numbered in the order in which they were to be used, indexed and cross-indexed; how the examination in chief was to be carried out even to the questions to be asked by counsel, and the expected answers in reply.

I had the privilege of attending Court at the hearing of cases before eminent judges with leading counsel on either side. I came to know the great judges of England, and the best counsel some of whom afterwards became great judges in their turn. As a Judge I had the opportunity, in the preparation of my judgments, of reading the judgments of these jurists and they were all the more interesting to me from the fact that I had attended their courts and seen them in action. It was an experience the value of which I only fully realized in after years.

It was more. It widened my horizon, broadened my views, and matured my opinion. The visit to Africa was also of value to me. I saw a part of the world that not many young men have the opportunity of visiting. There I saw the natives in their habitat, the Zulus, the Basutos and Matabele. I saw the Boers, the Griquas and Hottentots, besides the British inhabitants, and learned of their habits and customs.

I have since seen a little of this great world. I have revisited England and seen most of France. I have extended to know our neighbours to the South, and have contacted a great many of our Canadian citizens among whom I count many friends.

And now in the sunset of my life I thank God that He has given me so many years and that He has showered on me the many blessings which I hardly deserved. To the readers of The Guardian who may have thought it worth while to read my rambling incursions, I extend my sincere thanks and best wishes. (The End)

WHY YOUNG FATHERS INSURE If they have ever tried to take care of an infant or small child for even one whole day, they are in a position to understand why a widow cannot care for her family and earn a living at the same time. Conserve the Home and Stabilize the Nation. The Great-West Life is the Champion of Thrift and the Guardian of thousands of Canadian Homes. Term, Ordinary Life, Endowment, Pension, Educational, Accident Policies and Annuities. Quotations gladly furnished without obligation. Consult nearest Agent or write or call on