

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20, 1952

Commendable Decision

Mayor Stewart is to be warmly commended on his announcement that a strict limit will be placed on so-called caucus meetings of the City Council, and that in future there will be a return to the old-time practice of free and open discussion of civic business.

As has been pointed out in these columns on many occasions, there is really no place for caucus meetings in a non-political organization. Committee meetings may take place in private, but all full Council meetings require to be held in public if any business is to be done; and the practice in recent years of simply registering votes on certain issues at open meetings, after they had been threshed out behind closed doors, is open to very grave objection.

Civic business is public business and should be dealt with in the same manner as the business of the Province is dealt with in the Legislature, which except on very rare occasions indeed always meets in public. Our provincial legislators have a brief moment of privacy when the minutes of the previous day's meeting are read by the clerk, and of course they meet in party caucus frequently during every session for political reasons; but they are expected to do their debating on the floor of the House, in the hearing of all persons who care to listen to them. That has been democratic procedure for the past two hundred years, ever since the British press won a hard-fought victory for the freedom of parliamentary reporting.

We have a capable and conscientious civic government, and they stand to gain as well as the public does in letting as much daylight as possible into civic affairs.

Immigration

Canada has long been used to two-way migration with almost as many of our people leaving for the United States as we have immigrants coming from other countries. In this Province the situation has been even worse than the national average. The movement of population has been predominantly away from the Island.

There are great advantages to be gained by encouraging suitable groups of people to make their homes here. There is no likelihood of their numbers being such as to create a serious problem of assimilation but they will aid in making the Island more productive and also increase its importance as a market for both consumer and capital goods.

As we devote considerable sums to educating young people to build up other localities, it is only a partial reimbursement that we should receive the advantages of bringing in new settlers who have received their education and training elsewhere.

Farouk Faces Facts

Egypt's portly King Farouk is known in diplomatic circles to be more than ordinarily susceptible to feminine charms. More than one tense international incident concerning Egypt has been known to vanish into nothingness overnight merely because some worldlywise diplomat has offered useful suggestions in court circles regarding some desirable acquisition to the royal harem.

Gambling losses at Monte Carlo and elsewhere have also made Farouk quite susceptible to the implications of hard facts. The hard facts of a British fleet maneuvering off Alexandria last week and the week before made Farouk move in a hurry. A British march on Cairo could easily have cost him his throne.

It would be unrealistic, however, to assume that Farouk's decision to fire the troublesome Wafdist premier Nahas Pasha means the end of trouble in the Suez Canal zone. The critical issue at stake is whether Egypt's army remains loyal to Farouk and supports the new premier Maher Pasha. If not, mob violence might once again speedily become the order of the day.

What is most urgently needed right now is a political and military formula that will ensure the adequate defence of the Suez Canal and at the same time allow Farouk to save face with his anti-British subjects. On the defence issue London and Washington are adamant. They are no less adamant on the necessity for preventing the Sudan from becoming an Egyptian colony. Sanction of such a move could stir up a bloody religious war with the Ethiopians

that could throw all Africa into a turmoil. Eating humble pie is never agreeable. King Farouk, however, has already manifested that if the alternative to so doing may be the loss of his throne, humble pie doesn't really taste too bad.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Road traffic at a minimum these days.

Taxis in the city were at a premium yesterday.

Ploughs are now the height of fashion, but snow shovelling is what counts for most.

The City Council will have eight deputy mayors for the next two years, one for each month three times.

The new city streets committee made a good start, it having the ploughs out early yesterday morning.

It's all good fellowship and good curling at the Sixth Confederation Bonspiel. Despite the storm, mainland rinks made it, others closer at hand didn't.

An astronomer who is working with radio telescopes reports that the stars produce a "frying sound." Surely there has not been a long-held misconception about the celestial and the nether regions.

The business ladies of Charlottetown, at least the organized ones, had a splendid get-together Monday night. It was a shrewd suggestion of the Mayor that they should attend City Council meetings and see how business is done there.

At the request of the Fisheries Council of Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics is making a special survey to ascertain the total domestic sales of fish and shellfish made in 1951 by firms belonging to member associations of the Council.

The National Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, now meeting in Ottawa, should be able to propose a definite programme for aiding disabled persons to become self-supporting. The committee has had a year to work on the problem since it was set up.

The 26 cents a pound support price for pork announced by Ottawa Saturday is as much to the advantage of the consumer as of the producer. Any serious danger of a disastrous drop in price would at once curtail production and the consumer would be the ultimate loser.

\$2,000,000 is willed for teaching of Bible. An El Paso, Texas, woman who died last September left \$2,000,000 "for the teaching of the Bible." Mrs. Lee Moor's hand-written will left half of her estate, after deducting \$150,000 for specific bequests to the American Bible Society and the American Board of Mission to the Jews.

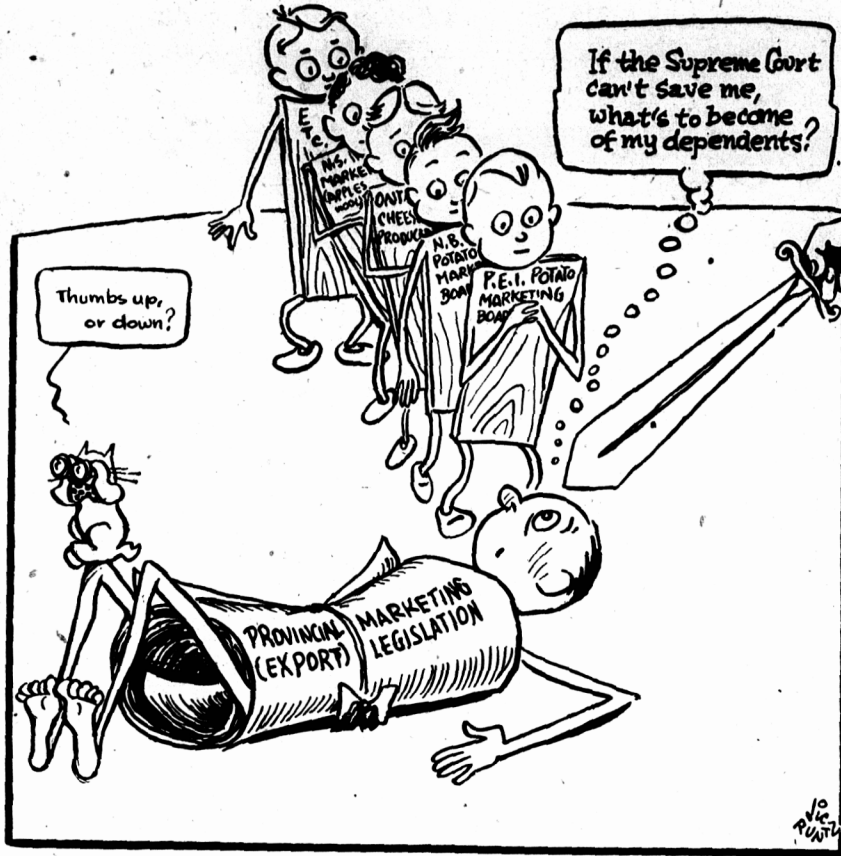
Another Canadian community, Brantford, has revealed a most satisfactory experience in adding sodium fluoride to the city's water supply since June, 1945. The cost has been 13.2 cents per person per year. The result is three times as many children with perfect teeth as before the experiment began. There has been a 36 per cent reduction in tooth decay.

Adam Black, Scottish politician and publisher, was born in Edinburgh this date 1784. The firm he founded acquired the copyrights of the "Encyclopedia Britannica" and of Scott's Waverly Novels. Twice elected Lord Provost of Edinburgh and a member of Parliament for that city, Black was an uncompromising advocate of municipal and political reform.

It is in keeping with the times and with good sense that the Queen should have made the period of court mourning relatively brief and also that public functions connected with government, trade, charity and arts should not be curtailed. There is no longer in Britain and never was in the nations of the Commonwealth, a closely knit class who alone are directly affected by such restrictions.

Mr. Hugh F. Gibson has been appointed (says The Gazette) a Federal commissioner to investigate charges of "political partisanship" made against Robert S. Wise, postmaster at Cloyne, Ont. The Postmaster General's Department reported that such complaints against local postmasters had become fairly rare. The average was about one per year. The appointment was made by Chief Justice Rinfret in his capacity as "administrator of the Government of Canada." It was one of his first acts after taking over as caretaker governor during the period between the departure of Viscount Alexander and the arrival of the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey.

Predicament



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.

POTATO MARKETING

Sir,—The leaders of the Potato Dealers' Association in their last public statement have sought to give the impression that they too are concerned about economic freedom for the farmer. It is just too bad that their words cannot be substantiated by their actions during the past several years.

Rank But The Guinea Stamp

The title to the Crown derives from the Act of Settlement, 1701 which prescribed that "the Crown shall remain and continue to the said most Excellent Princess Sophia and the heirs of her body being Protestants" (Sophia was Electress of Hanover and granddaughter of James I. Subsequent Succession to the Crown Acts have confirmed this declaration and, although the succession is not bound to continue in its present line, the preamble to the Statute of Westminster 1931 provides that it cannot now be altered except by common consent of the member nations of the Commonwealth which owe allegiance to the Crown.

Rank But The Guinea Stamp

It is an accepted doctrine that, while a woman can receive an honour from her husband, marriage with a woman confers no honour or rank upon a man. Thus the consort of a King takes the rank and style of her husband, but the converse does not apply. In conformance with this doctrine, the Constitution has never attached any special rank or privileges to the husband of a Queen Regnant. There have only been three constitutional issues of this kind in English history, of which the last is found in the marriage of Queen Victoria with Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who was accorded the style of Prince Consort by Letters Patent seventeen years after their marriage.

Rank But The Guinea Stamp

Formerly the death of a sovereign involved the dissolution of Parliament and the termination of all offices under the Crown, since Parliament meets on the personal summons of the Monarch and all offices are in theory held at his or her will and pleasure. Since 1861, however — when the Representation of the People Act of that year made the duration of Parliament independent of the demise of the Crown — both Houses stand adjourned only until their members have taken the Oath of Allegiance to the new Sovereign, which occurs immediately after the Accession Council has made the order for the proclamation of the new Monarch. In 1901, the Demise of the Crown Act provided that the holding of any office should not be affected by the demise of the Crown and that no fresh appointment should be necessary.

Rank But The Guinea Stamp

Prince Charles is now heir to the throne. Under a Charter of 1397, he becomes Duke of Cornwall in the peerage of England as the first-born son of the Sovereign, but will not become Prince of Wales until his mother decides to invest him with that title. The last Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII and now Duke of Windsor, was given the title on his 16th birthday. Five other titles devolve on Prince Charles by reason of his mother's accession; he becomes Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick and Baron of Renfrew in the peerage of Scotland and Lord of the Isles and Great Steward of Scotland. Princess Anne is second in succession to the Throne and Princess Margaret, younger daughter of King George VI, is third in succession.

The Poet's Corner

MIDWINTER WARBLERS

Above, the mountain solemn with the snow; And in the valley, ceaseless drip of rain. But where the live-oaks lift green heads below, Small warblers entertain.

The Age-Old Story

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness and honor.

Old Charlottetown

"The passing of the Railway Bill in the Legislature (by a vote of 18-10) was the occasion of a stirring demonstration on Friday evening last. At about eight o'clock, a torchlight procession, composed mainly of the City Fire Companies, dressed in their appropriate costume, and all bearing torches, was organized in front of the Steam Engine House, Grafton Street. The procession was under the leadership of Dr. Strickland, to whose indefatigable exertions several of our Fire Companies are mainly indebted for the good discipline and high state of efficiency to which they have attained.

Old Charlottetown

"This procession, if not the largest, was certainly the prettiest thing of the kind ever seen in this City, and was universally admired for the unexpected and brilliant effect produced by it, and the excellent order maintained by the young men of which it was chiefly composed. Guns were occasionally discharged and sky-rockets were sent whizzing through the air. The fine three-story brick building facing Queen Square, occupied by the Christian Brothers, was very tastefully and brilliantly illuminated. Several buildings on both sides of Queen Street, and in other parts of the City, were also tastefully illuminated, the windows, in several cases, being graced with the names of the leading advocates of the Railway Bill; appropriate mottoes, devices, etc.

Old Charlottetown

"The procession being ended, the Hon. James Pope addressed the assembled multitude from the balcony in front of the Colonial Building. He was followed by Messrs. Howland, Brecken, Strong, Dingwell, Howland, A. A. MacDonald, Cameron, Bell, Richards, Perry, J. Longworth, Carvell, and A. MacNeill, all of whose speeches elicited loud and enthusiastic cheers.

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"Similar demonstrations, though on a somewhat smaller scale, have taken place in Summerside, Souris, Alberton, &c., &c., showing conclusively that the people of those places are fully alive to the vast importance of the immediate construction of a Grand Trunk Line of Railway in Prince Edward Island."

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Notes By The Way

The sophisticates used to laugh at Dorothy Dix and her advice to the love-lorn. But she left an estate of \$2,316,398, including stocks and bonds worth almost \$2,000,000. This shows again that gold is where you find it. —Hamilton Spectator.

Not everyone knows that the flag should be lowered only its own width from the top of its mast. The term "half-mast" is in a way a misnomer. The flag mourning practice arose in the custom of flying a black flag at the top of the mast, with the usual flag directly beneath it. As time went on the practice of actually flying the black flag was abandoned, but the customary flag was hoisted not literally to half-mast but only low enough as to leave space for the symbol of mourning which at one time flew above it. If the mast is short the flag may be at the half-way mark. If it is above the half-way mark, but always only the flag-width from the top, the flag properly flies well top. —Montreal Star.

India is now the principal supplier of black pepper, and a lucrative trade it is. In a recent six-month period that country exported 118,500,000 rupees worth of the commodity, up from 67,500,000 rupees in the equivalent period of the year previous. Pure black pepper, of course, is very expensive. Some of what is now sold for pepper isn't even really black in appearance, let alone its taste. Once when one bought black pepper, that's what one got. Such has been the deterioration of pepper, as sold for ordinary consumption, some people are grinding their own. Nifty little pepper grinders can be purchased along with pepper in that manner, each can grind his own, in the required amount, on his own food. —Windsor Daily Star.

A red squirrel took up his abode in one of the granaries. Live as one might say, in the food store, he was deprived of his normal Autumn's work, which in more needy circumstances would have occupied most of his waking hours. Accordingly, he looked around for something to do and although he was a bachelor took up interior decorating. He located some of them at a considerable distance, and gathered and carried home an astonishing number of twigs; these he arranged (at a precise distance apart and so as to present the best possible view of each) on the board which goes around horizontally at the top of a wall. They were not edible varieties; it was not his plan to eat them. No, they were his goods and chattels, his bric-a-brac, his curios. As they dried they took on a most authentic appearance, and long after he had vacated the premises, they remained as proof that a squirrel will work; if not at one thing then at another. —Edmonton Journal.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Grid of professional cards including Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister, Solicitor, Notary), J. S. Taylor (Optometrist), A. Walthein Gaudet (Barrister, Solicitor), Dr. W. R. Carson (Chiropractor), J. A. McGuigan (Barrister, Solicitor, Notary), M. Alban Farmer (B.A., LL.B., Money to Loan), Frederic A. Large, Q.C. (Barrister, Solicitor, Notary), Matheson, Peake & Nicholson (A.W. Matheson, Q.C., A.H. Peake, B.A., LL.B., John P. Nicholson, LL.B.), Dr. John E. Sterns (Veterinary Surgeon), Bell, Mathieson & Foster (Barristers, Solicitors), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), Byron J. Grant O.D. (Optometrist), Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. (Barrister, Solicitor), William A. Reddin (B.A., B.Sc., LL.B., Barrister, Solicitor), H. R. Doane and Company (Chartered Accountants), and McDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).