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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, DEC. 2, 1950

Always The Unexpected

There has been a good deal of pessimism expressed since Chinese Communist forces made their spectacular entry into the Korean war and also a regrettable tendency to look for a scapegoat to blame for the resulting reverses.

On the brighter side is the fact that Communist China has not dared to officially commit itself to attacking the U. N. forces but maintains the fiction that it is independent volunteers who are flinging themselves into the battle.

The retreat of U. N. forces in the face of the sudden onslaught should have surprised no one. Modern war always consists of one side or the other being at the receiving end of powerful blows, and the answer is not to stand up to them whenever and wherever they may fall, but to survive and in turn strike with similar surprise and greater power.

In addition, the retreat from the Manchurian border gives the U. N. air arm a field for operations which it was earlier denied because of lack of authority to carry on operations in Chinese territory.

The Constitutional Conference

At the close of the second plenary session of the Constitutional Conference in Ottawa, Prime Minister St. Laurent, sensing a feeling of frustration on the part of newsmen with the press release issued when the session concluded, remarked whimsically that, had there been a press release following the deliberations at Runnymede that led to Magna Carta, it would have said merely that the Bishops and King John had had a full and frank discussion of the proper relations between the Crown and his subjects and had arrived at conclusions that, it was felt, would be beneficial.

The deliberations at Runnymede turned out to be distinctly beneficial. The question that arises, however, is whether Mr. St. Laurent's parallel is entirely sound. For the deliberations at Ottawa are not, unless the Prime Minister is under a serious misapprehension, discussions between the Crown and his subjects. Rather, they are deliberations between representatives of the Government of Canada which is sovereign in some matters, and representatives of the Governments of the Provinces, which are sovereign in other matters.

Nor was the Press the only disappointed party because of the extreme secrecy of the proceedings. Premier Angus L. Macdonald of Nova Scotia was disappointed too. Disappointed because, as he said to the Press afterwards, he made proposals which he believed would offer a solution to the thorny problem of Dominion-Provincial relations, only to have them "tabled for consideration."

The people of Canada were surely entitled to know what these proposals were, and why the Federal representatives found them unacceptable. By the same token they were entitled to know how the proposals made by Premier Jones were received, particularly in connection with his demand for a restatement of the provisions contained in the Constitution and carried on by the Gaelic Foundation of Nova Scotia at St. Ann's, Cape Breton. The Chief Justice suggested the establishment of a similar institution for this Province. If a summer school could not be established here, some consideration might be given to an extension of the Nova Scotia Gaelic School by having the instructors from Cape Breton come to the Island and conduct classes.

A group of 10 of our MP's who planned a flying trip to the Orient to examine "trade possibilities" have had their notion quashed by General MacArthur, says the Ottawa Journal. The General let it be known that with a war on his hands he didn't have time for non-official missions. Good for MacArthur! A group of MP's on a trade mission to the Orient at this time would mean about as much for Canadian trade as a similar mission to Mars. And, anyway, many must be beginning to believe that one thing wrong with the world today is that there are too many "missions"; too many quasi-official bodies busy themselves all over the earth with things about which they know little.

Tribute To Islander

The following editorial tribute to a distinguished Prince Edward Islander, the late Mr. James Ewen Matthews, M.P. for Brandon, Manitoba, appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press:

"Such was Mr. Matthews' character that although he never aspired to or attained any political advancement, he wielded great influence for good in the councils of the Liberal party. While on occasion Mr. Matthews could be sincerely outspoken, as in recent budget debates, he was in the

main a good party man. He understood the party system and never looked for perfection. His own influence was always against party patronage and unwarranted party advantage.

"Understanding the party system, Mr. Matthews' chief activity was in the caucus and among his colleagues — the private members. It is well known that he carried more weight with the party caucus than almost any other private member. His judgment was sound and his motive always was to serve the public rather than any private interest. Mr. Matthews never hesitated, within the party, to oppose the Government. On the notable occasion in the fall of 1945 when the Manitoba Liberal members successfully resisted their own Government in the matter of increasing the tariff on pipes and tubes, Mr. Matthews, along with Mr. Ralph Maybank, provided the leadership. In making representation to the Cabinet, Mr. Maybank led off and Mr. Matthews summed up."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, first Sunday in Advent.

With today's meat and cattle prices the Shorthorn Breeders who meet this evening are generally regarded as the plutocrats among farmers.

Summerside is rather unsympathetically twitting the City Council here for its late beginning in seeking to sponsor a Provincial Museum movement. It is saying: "What monkey see monkey do."

The famous phrase of the late Premier Mackenzie King with reference to Conscriptation may be altered to suit President Truman: "Atomic bombs if necessary, but not necessarily atomic bombing."

Circumstances alter cases. Districts where much road work had been done were not quite so pleased when the recent wet weather played havoc with the relatively soft roadbed.

Now that a Liberal candidate is in the field, the Opposition can make their own choice with a knowledge of who they are up against, and the Liberals have a week or so of grace to patch up their machine before general campaigning begins.

The Spanish salt for potatoes proposal is far from being wholly desirable. Although removing some 30,000 bags of potatoes from the market would be a distinct advantage, barter deals are transactions with very strong strings attached.

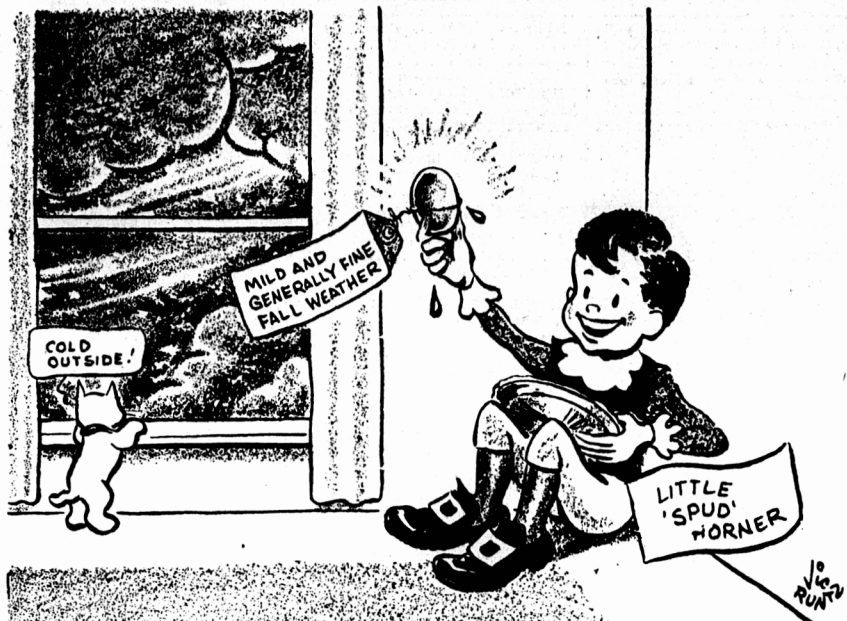
They are taking war prospects seriously in Britain. Recruits to the British Armed Forces (all services) numbered 15,000 for the quarter ended September 30th—an increase of nearly 5,000 over the previous quarter. In September, R. A. F. and Army recruiting figures almost doubled those for August.

Hernando Cortes, Spanish soldier of fortune, died this date 1547. He assisted in the conquest of Cuba, the colonizing of Mexico, and founding of Vera Cruz; was for a time worshipped as a god by subjects of Montezuma, Emperor of Mexico; he developed mining and agricultural interests, in course of which he discovered Lower California in 1536. He was grasping and cruel, but with military genius and initiative Cortes proved an important builder of Spain's colonial empire, since fallen to the ground.

Well worth consideration was the emphasis placed by Chief Justice Campbell at the St. Andrew's Day dinner on the cultural value of Gaelic, and the success of the Gaelic Summer School and Mod' carried on by the Gaelic Foundation of Nova Scotia at St. Ann's, Cape Breton. The Chief Justice suggested the establishment of a similar institution for this Province. If a summer school could not be established here, some consideration might be given to an extension of the Nova Scotia Gaelic School by having the instructors from Cape Breton come to the Island and conduct classes.

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"What A Lucky Bay Am I!"



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.

NATIONALIZATION OF LIQUOR

Sir. — It seems to be agreed that our new Temperance Act needs to be re-examined. In 15 (2) (d) the Act states: "A special permit on the prescribed form may be granted when authorized by the regulations, entitling the applicant to purchase liquor for the purpose of the permit and in accordance with the terms and provisions of the permit and of this Act and the regulations." This special permit is very indefinite. We judge, purposely so, and its resulting excesses tend to destroy the Act.

In the last twenty-five years our population has increased 37 per cent. Drinking has increased 350 per cent. and P. E. Island in these last years is drinking its share of this excess. I never go to town but I see men staggering and gibbering about the streets. One day last week I saw as many as six men who needed some one to take care of them.

Government control does not solve the problem. In our Federation meeting recently, there was some discussion of the "nationalization of the liquor traffic". This question has been discussed in temperance federations and church courts for several years. There are two sides to the question and we find good and gifted men on both sides. In any case, "nationalization" would be only a temporary measure but it could not be worse than the present laws unless, indeed, its financial advantages made it a permanent fixture in our political and economic system.

It might be a dangerous experiment. It has been stated that the profits would be used as social benefits of one type or another; but who could be sure but that if a lot of money flowed in from the liquor traffic general revenue would not get the major portion?

This is an evil traffic. Alcohol is a poison. It is immoral to have it sold as a beverage. There is only one way in which to deal with this problem. Will liquor be allowed to continue until conditions become so bad, accidents increasing to such an extent, drunkenness and disorderly conduct becoming such a menace and a nuisance in the community that people will revolt and a plebiscite will bring back Prohibition? If it comes again it will come to stay.

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

The Poet's Corner

FIRST SNOW The far-off leafless forests slowly yield To the thick-driving snow. A little while And night shall darken down. In shouting fall The woodsmen's carts go by me homeward-wheeled Past the thin fading stubbles, half concealed, Now golden-gray, sowed softly through with snow. Where the last ploughman follows still his row, Turning black furrows through the whitening field. Far off the village lamps begin to gleam, Fast drives the snow, and no man comes this way: The hills grow wintry white, and bleak winds moan About the naked uplands, I alone Am neither sad, nor shelterless, nor gray, Wrapped round with thought, content to watch and dream. —Archibald Lampman.

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Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) MICMAC TEXTBOOK

Among the petitions presented to the Legislative Assembly in 1943 was one from Mr. Thomas Irwin, praying for a grant "sufficient to pay for the publication of such a primary book as may enable him to convey the elementary principles of education to the Aborigines of this Colony in their native language."

This petition was referred to a special committee which reported that "they had examined the work prepared by Mr. Irwin, upon which, in the opinion of your committee, he must have bestowed considerable mental labour; but, from their ignorance of the language in which it is written, they are incompetent to judge of its merits."

The report added that the members of the Board of Education were in a similar quandary, but that the Rt. Rev. B. D. MacDonald, Bishop of Charlottetown, in a certificate accompanying Mr. Irwin's petition, had endorsed the work as being serviceable "as an elementary book to instruct and convey sound and moral education to the hitherto too-much neglected Micmac Tribe."

The report quoted Mr. Irwin as stating "that if his manuscripts were printed, he would willingly devote twelve months gratis to the instruction of the Indians; and that he feels convinced, from his experience of their aptitude to learn, that in the course of that period he would be enabled to convey such instruction to some of them as to render them competent to teach others."

Mr. Irwin's estimate of the cost of publishing the manuscripts was about \$100. The committee, "from the uncertainty they labour under as to the merits of the work in question, and also from the limited number of Indians that usually reside on this Island," deemed it inexpedient to recommend this expenditure, "particularly as it has been intimated that books of a similar nature have been printed in the neighbouring Provinces."

The committee confessed to having "no means at present of ascertaining the truth of such statements; but should such prove to be the case, then books of the nature required might be obtained at a much less expense than the publishing of Mr. Irwin's work would cost the Colony." However, "as the said work might be of service to the Indians of Nova Scotia, where they are much more numerous than in this Island," the committee felt free to recommend "that Mr. Irwin submit his manuscripts to the examination of the Commissioner on Indian Affairs in that Province." As a rider the report added that a grant might be made to defray his expenses to Halifax, "for the purpose of enabling him to submit his work, if he should be so inclined, to the said Commissioner." No grant for this purpose, however, appears to have been made.

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Parking Meters

(Montreal Gazette) The phone rang recently while an article of this series was being written, and a man who has devoted some time to research on the project asked "What about parking meters?"

Well what about them? They must be used only where necessary, they must be well publicized, they must be carefully purchased, they must be kept in operation, the parking regulations must be rigidly enforced, and the collections must be carefully controlled.

In the United States, where parking meters are used in well over 500 cities, motorists like meters because they find it is easier to get a parking space in crowded areas. They feel that with meters the available space is equally distributed. They do not have to compete with all-day parkers for space.

Merchants like meters because their customers like them, and because they get increased carry-home trade which reduces delivery costs.

Taxpayers like meters because they contribute to the city coffers and help to keep the tax-rate down.

Properly installed and maintained meters have demonstrated an ability to: (a) Make enforcement of parking regulations easier. (b) Aid in the allocation of limited parking space. (c) Provide revenue.

To get results from meters they must be considered and treated as devices for regulating the use of parking space. Meters installed solely to produce revenue have not been successful.

As far back as 1936 the question of parking meters was brought to the notice of the City of Montreal. In that year, in answer to a questionnaire from Toronto, as to what Montreal thought of parking meters, the following answer was sent to the Queen City:

"We received from the makers of Park-O-Meters printed literature about this innovation, which was fairly heralded by the local newspapers, but the matter was not given further consideration, and not a single request was received from the public to the effect that it should be adopted in our City."

The parking meter is not a solution to the traffic problem. This has been demonstrated in cities where it has been established over a long-term period.

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Notes By The Way

The Hydro management at St. Thomas has finally reached the conclusion that Canadian squirrels are just as tough as Indian fakirs. For the second time this year a squirrel jumped from a nearby building to a high tension power line, causing an industrial shutdown, despite an "anti-squirrel" carrier of spike-studded planks.

Are you among the light-fingered patients of dental and medical offices, or of beauty parlors and barber shops, who lift and depart with magazines? If you are, then you are the person for whom the general public has been looking. You're the reason why the medical doctors, the dentists, the beauticians and tonsorial parlor operators seldom produce a piece of reading matter until it is a month old. They discovered a long way back that a current magazine, or one containing long stories, has a way of disappearing. The month-old reading matter lasts much longer. As for comic books, they have to be really old to last long. The current comics walk out in short order. They may help to keep the attention of the young folks from what is to come while they await their turn, but they are not diverted from the comics no matter what happens and the comic book leaves with them. — Prince Albert Herald.

Henry George Barnett, who died in St. Thomas on Sunday, aged eighty-four, was one of the few men who can be said to have pulled the King's leg. The royal personage was not king at that time, but Duke of York who became King George V later. Seaman Barnett was in H.M.S. Thrush more than sixty years ago and one of the crew was Midshipman Duke of York, then making his first voyage after graduating from Dartmouth College for training naval officers. On such occasions it is usual to have a bit of fun with the greenhorns and in the melee several ordinary seamen upended the Duke and carried him around the ship by the arms and legs. Seaman Barnett had hold of one of his legs. The Duke took the frolic in good part, and as he afterwards told Mr. Barnett in Buckingham Palace, it was "a happy ship", a naval expression for a ship where there was a fine camaraderie. About twenty years ago Mr. Barnett visited his relatives in England, and as one old shipmate to another, wrote to King George V, said he would like to meet him. The King invited Barnett to come to the palace at a certain time and day, and as he subsequently told a Times-Journal representative, King George and he had a jolly time talking over their happy days together in H.M.S. Thrush.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

In one Ontario town recently the writer stopped in a metered parking area and went to put a coin in the meter. The meter was broken. A constable who happened to be passing was apprised of the situation. "The meter is broken," he was told. "Many of them are," was his cryptic rejoinder.

And one more parking meter story. The writer happened into a small town in Northern Quebec recently. The town is very small. The number of cars in it is very limited. But its streets (both of them) are dotted with parking meters. The revenue, well warrant, isn't great. The only two cars parked on the main street were carefully parked in non-metered zones.

The only car using a meter one from Montreal. Yes, parking meters have their good points, if properly installed and maintained and if the regulations are rigidly enforced. Otherwise, they aren't worth the bother.

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