

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1953

Seemingly Triumphant

Good Friday and the events leading up to it are, indeed a striking picture of the triumph of the forces of evil. The power of an autocratic government was enlisted to bolster unscrupulous religious leaders. The populace was swung to condemn Jesus whom a short time before it had recognized as a champion. The disciples had shown lamentable weakness, going so far as to betray their Lord.

To all intents and purposes it seemed that faith and truth and love were defeated. It has seemed so many a time before and since. Evil, injustice, oppression, falsehood seem to ride high while the forces of truth seem to be weak and lacking in courage. That is not the end of the story, however. Out of defeat came victory. Out of death, life.

It is not easy to avoid discouragement when wrongs are perpetrated and there seems no possibility of their being righted. There is the temptation to throw in with the triumphant forces of evil, the temptation to at least give in when the struggle seems lost.

One message to be learned from this season is that the struggle is never lost. When things look blackest, when nothing, seemingly, can overcome the forces of darkness, then comes the Lord's greatest triumph.

Prorogation

A month and two days after the session commenced the Legislature is being prorogued. The speed with which it has transacted business, for there was a good deal of business gone through, is commendable up to a point. The time of Members, at any rate, was not wasted. The House, however, decided against hearing Mr. Speaker "for greater certainty" re-read the Speech from the Throne and it seems possible that Members were not sufficiently certain of Government policy to discuss it at great length.

Important reports of committees were received dealing with the Parkdale water supply, C. N. R. bus proposals, and electoral reform as well as briefs from the City, the Town of Summerside, the Federation of Agriculture and the Agricultural Council of Prince Edward Island. It is a pity that time or inclination did not permit a fuller consideration of the matters brought up. Rural electrification, in particular, is considered a pressing matter in large sections of the Province. The Government has been given ample authority to deal with it, but has not indicated what policy will be pursued.

The death of Her Majesty Queen Mary cast a shadow on the session, as on every part of the Commonwealth. The House paid fitting tribute to her memory.

Several of the annual reports of the various Government Departments were brought up to date for the legislators, rather than ending with the financial year a year ago, enabling discussion to be on the basis of up-to-date information. This was also true of the budget. The Provincial Treasurer, the Hon. W. E. Darby presented an outstanding account of his stewardship.

Both revenue and expenditure continue to go up and it is notable that in the past year the Provincial debt showed a reduction for the first time in many years.

Problem In South Africa

Reports from South Africa are that Dr. Malan may be expected to win another victory in the general elections on April 15. He would thus be fortified by a popular mandate to carry through his policy of race segregation and to clothe the government with emergency powers that would enable it to rule by decree if racial troubles increased. It is being described as not only the most crucial election in South Africa's history but as an event second only in importance to the South African War in the settlement's 300-year history. It is being called "the election where there is no second chance." Dr. Malan's prospects of victory have been enhanced, it appears, by the Mau Mau outbreaks in another part of Africa as well as by the civil disobedience campaigns organized by native African and Indian leaders against the segregation laws. These incidents have served to consolidate white opinion.

White Africa is afraid, as Eric Robins cabled the Christian Science Monitor, and fear chains together many English and Afrikaans-speaking South Africans who otherwise would be at odds. White Africa also is very largely agreed, according to Mr. Robins, that it is quite out of the question to give the native African the vote; that such an action taken now would mean the quick reversion of much of the continent to barbarism and would spell the end of European civilization in all Africa. In addition, there is much agreement that granting political rights even at its best would do little if anything to help the African. He needs economic help. He needs land. He needs knowledge. He needs training.

Many South Africans, even those whose policies are least criticized abroad, genuinely believe that segregation is necessary and humane. They see two South Africa's emerging, one white and one dark, later joined perhaps in a type of federal union. And they see segregation, carried out in this way, as the only policy that will give the African a fair chance to get the economic help and the education he so urgently needs.

The policy of the United Party, which is the opposition to Dr. Malan's nationalists, is less clear than that of the Nationalists, but is now not far away from it on the race question. The main issue between the two is whether or not Dr. Malan is using the racial issue to establish a type of dictatorship. He has been involved in a constitutional battle with the South Africa supreme court and seeks in this election to obtain a mandate to establish "the sovereignty of Parliament."

That might lead to setting up a republic, if necessary outside the British Commonwealth. Most British settlers feel strong ties with Britain and look to further immigration to redress the imbalance between the blacks and whites.

But behind every issue that the million voters have to decide, there stands the foreboding figure of the eight million natives who have no vote to cast.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Maundy Thursday. Royal Maundy will be distributed in London today in a ceremony of great antiquity. Not since James II has a sovereign personally performed the rite of washing the feet of pilgrims and the dole was replaced in 1838 by a money payment. Specially minted silver coins introduced by Charles II are distributed. In Roman Catholic churches holy oils are consecrated on this day.

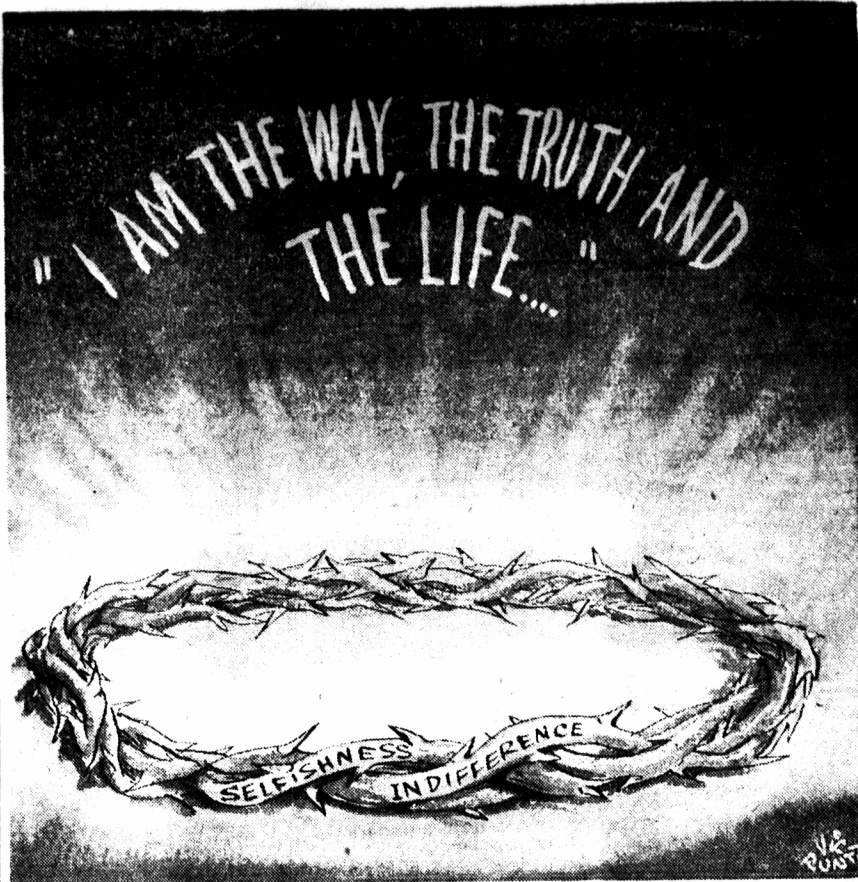
The question of Hawaii's qualifications for statehood has required an on-the-spot survey by a Senate sub-committee. We can expect that the question of admitting Bermuda and the West Indies to Confederation will take on new interest to Members of Parliament willing to make similar sacrifices of time to that of U.S. Senators inspecting the beach at Waikiki.

The importance of developing the airport at Charlottetown has been emphasized by the resolution of the Legislature urging the Department of Transport to proceed with runway extension. The needs of modern aircraft make present facilities obsolete. Both for the proper development of the Province's transportation and as an almost fog-free emergency field the runways should be extended without delay.

A new memorial shrine is to be unveiled by the Queen on October 17 on the banks of the Thames above Runnymede, where Britain's charter of rights, the Magna Carta, was granted by King John in 1215. It is being erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission in tribute to the 20,000 Commonwealth airmen who died in the Second World War without a known grave, and next-of-kin from all parts, including some 3,000 Canadians, will be invited to attend the dedication. The invitation does not provide for any financial assistance towards travelling costs although reduced fares will be available on British railways.

British aircraft set up two flight records on March 19. A Vickers Viscount turbo-prop passenger plane flew from Zurich, Switzerland, to London (490 miles), in 107 minutes at an average speed of 273 miles an hour, cutting nearly an hour off piston-engine time. (Trans-Canada Airlines has on order 15 Viscounts for use on its domestic runs, particularly in the Maritimes, and a prototype is currently undergoing flight and weather tests in Canada). The other speed demonstration was given by Canberra bombers in a "bombing raid" that took them from their English base to Furstenfeldbruck, near Munich, and back again in two hours and 50 minutes—latest type piston-engine bombers make the trip in 8 hours.

Crown Of Thorns



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.

CITY TAXES

Sir, — This is my second and final letter on this subject as I don't wish to carry the controversy any further. In support of my contention that City taxes are too high and in turn are causing rents to be too high also, which makes it very hard for the common people to make ends meet, a great many are forced to let a room or two at a great inconvenience to themselves in order to meet taxes. Look at all the rooms and apartments that are offered in the papers every day, and look at all the houses that have been built outside the City limits. Was that not done on account of high taxes in the City? And look at all the properties that are for sale in the City. Almost every day there are some offering for sale through our local papers. Do not these conditions all point to high taxes in the City? I think they do.

There is only one proper way to manage the taxes and that is to budget according to the income: that is to have a reasonable and just tax on all the property holders and if that amounts to say 200,000 let the expenditure be budgeted to that amount, "and no more". If they are going to follow the customary way of most municipalities, provinces, and even nations, then let there be a deficit. I'm sure most taxpayers would not be as indignant over a deficit as they would over increased taxes.

It doesn't seem a very wise way to me to draw up a budget which is simply an estimate of the expenditure and what they would like to spend and then say to the taxpayers, "We want so much money and are going to tax you accordingly regardless of how much would be spent extravagantly or otherwise." If our Provincial government would budget all the expenditure for the coming year and then say to the people, "We are going to increase your taxes to raise that amount," how long would they stay in power? But that seems to be the Hon. Johnston's way. I call that putting the cart before the horse. He must have more expenditures in mind above the revenue for 1954 when he says it is painfully evident that more revenue will be required. I venture to say if that method is followed, the population of the City will decrease rather than increase. If they want the City to enlarge and increase, the Council had better be a little more considerate of the taxpayers who are the back-bone of any municipality.

I am, Sir, etc., UNFORTUNATE TAX-PAYER

The Poet's Corner

DON QUIXOTE

Thou wert a figure strange enough, good lack! To make wisecracked, both high and low, Rub purblind eyes, and (having watched thee go), Dispatch its Dogberrys upon thy track! Alas poor Knight! Alas poor soul possessed! Yet would to-day, when Courtesy grows chill, And life's fine loyalties are turned to jest, Some fire of thine might burn within us still! Ah! would but one might lay his lance in rest, And charge in earnest — were it but a mill.

—Austin Dobson.

Notes By The Ways

Stalin's real name was Dzugashvili; Lenin's real name was Ulyanov; Trotsky was really Bronstein; Molotov was born Scriabin. But Malenkov, astounding to relate, was born Malenkov, and let us hope this marks the beginning of a new era of straightforwardness in Russian dealings. — Peterborough Examiner.

Communists must find it not easy to explain to anybody's satisfaction how it comes about that hundreds of thousands of Germans living under beneficent Red rule in East Germany are eager to give up all that, to abandon jobs and property and friends, to sneak across the border (at the risk of being shot by Russian guards) to find refuge and security outside the Iron Curtain. — Ottawa Journal.

Old Charlottetown

Five professors have arrived in Bombay, India, to find out if it is true that elephants never forget. They will spend three months in the Himalayas and Central and Southern India studying the blood groups, brains and intelligence of both working and wild animals. Just what good will come of what they discover is hard to estimate. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who is a sailor, had to master the army style of saluting before putting on his field marshal's uniform for the first time. When he has worn his new uniform long enough he will find that when a man's a field marshal, he doesn't have to know how to salute. A genial wave of the arm will do. — Ottawa Citizen.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

APRIL

And so we have come to the month that "opens wide the portals of the Spring to welcome the procession of the flowers, and the birds that sing their song of songs from their aerial towers." Neither procession has started in earnest as yet but April says that both are getting ready. Any day now the tiny crocus, that most impatient of flowers, will be rising from its winter sleep and the golden daffodils will spread themselves out in hosts on the hills and in the dales.

It will soon be time, too, for the robins to come back to the place where they belong after having idled away the winter in far off lands. We may be sure they are already on their journey, planning en route new songs to sing and new adventures to undertake. Some, not as strong and vigorous as the others, will not reach our shores, their work having been done. Nature will give them proper and becoming obsequies and consign their gay spirits to Him Who knows all secrets who even a sparrow falls to the ground.

To many people, myself included, the arrival of the first Spring flowers is sufficient testimony that life, not death, is the great law of the Universe. It also testifies to the fact that, while the longest life is short when counted in days and months and years, very life can be full of enchantment. The hyacinth does not stay long in bloom, but who can gauge the wonder and usefulness of its mission to the world? There comes to my mind here a passage in the Koran: "If I had but two loaves of bread, I would sell one and buy hyacinths, for they would feed my soul".

It may be that our minds are too heavily occupied with the big history making events that we hear about from time to time. Perhaps we should be better off if we could bring ourselves to see that the whole mystery of life is somewhat involved in the faith by which a tender Spring plant confronts the world and a little fresher sets out to find the sea.

The martial-minded men who built the calendar substantially the same pattern we have today had other things on their hearts besides the intent to conquer and rule and the desire to honour emperors and to propitiate the ancient gods. This, at any rate, must be counted to them for good. It would be interesting to know just what it was that persuaded them to give this month the very appropriate name of April. Since the word is in the Latin meaning "to open", it is obvious that they could not have made a better choice.

Everything in Nature's kingdom is opening now. The earth itself opens to receive the gentle rains, and soon the last remnant of frost will have been scattered before the warm winds. The drooping tree "though stricken to the heart with winter's cold" prepares to dress itself in beauty, again at peace with the world. The forests open their doors to the "winged choirs" that soon will be shouting solemn and glad Te Deums, for the sheer joy of living, without much thought of what tomorrow may bring.

The lakes and ponds, having gone through their sabbath of rest, will now be opened to receive the reflection of the stars in the sky. They will once again give the "fair trees" a chance to "look over and see themselves in the mirror below". Deep within unexplored places wild flowers, some without a name, will now be pre-

The Age-Old Story

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of things, can never be perfect. They offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou hast not, but a body hast thou prepared me: Then said he, Lo I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. For our offences, he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

New York City has almost 600 miles of waterfront in its intricate harbor.

Ouro Preto in Brazil, centre of a 1750 gold rush, since has dwindled from 200,000 to 9,000 population.

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