

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MAR. 17, 1953

St. Patrick's Day

There is inevitably something light-hearted about the celebration of St. Patrick's Day in this Province as throughout the world, wherever the sons and daughters of Ireland honour their patron saint and show a becoming pride in their ancestry.

The members of the Benevolent Irish Society, holding their traditional parade today, may take pride in the spirit and activities of their organization which seemingly does not weary of well-doing and which responded so vigorously to what might have been a set-back—the destruction of its premises by fire—that today the Society is stronger than ever and has constructed a fine new building to house the clubrooms.

This faculty of stiffening in the face of adversity has been characteristic of the Irish in this Province as elsewhere. Hard times and pioneer difficulties only strengthened the determination of the early Irish settlers here to make good and leave for their children a land as green and fertile as the old sod.

The gaiety of the occasion, however, is best shown by the annual St. Patrick's play. This year "An Irish Honey-moon" is being produced and will no doubt go far to substantiate the claim that "It's the funniest show in years." Director and cast deserve every support but certainly need none other than the popularity of their production.

What The Rates Boost Means

The cumulative effect of freight rate increases may be illustrated by the following table, taking 1948 as the base year. The table, quoted from the Winnipeg Free Press, shows how each increase, imposed on those granted before it, inflates the swollen rate structure:

Table with 2 columns: Rate base 1948, 21% increase in 1948, 121, 20% increase 1950, 24.2, 12% increase 1951, 17.4, 162.6, 4.5% increase 1952, 7.2, 169.8, 9% increase 1952, 15.2, 185.0, 7% increase, 1953, 12.9, 197.9

It will be seen that freight rate increases since the spring of 1948, when the first post-war rate award was made, have totalled almost 98 per cent, and that the latest judgment represents an increase of almost 13 per cent on the 1948 rate level.

In spite of this enormous volume and of these substantial rate increases, it is undeniable that railway operating costs have mounted to unprecedented heights. No one has questioned the vast expenditures listed by the railways in each rate case. But the rate increases awarded to meet these costs have gone under the misleading term of "general" or "horizontal" increases.

It is from this vicious circle that the protesting Provinces are seeking to escape by an appeal from the Board ruling to the Federal Cabinet. The issue has been sidestepped at Ottawa so far, and it is snowballing into one of very serious consequences

indeed. If it goes on at the present accelerated rate it may result in wrecking Confederation altogether. Whatever the difficulties in the way of a solution, the problem must be faced.

Suez Situation

Within a month of the Anglo-Egyptian settlement on the Sudan, Prime Minister Naguib is charging Britain with violations of the agreement. It seems a fair inference, says the Ottawa Citizen, that General Naguib is using the Sudan as a bargaining counter in formal negotiations, still to come, concerning British evacuation of the Suez Canal Zone.

The Egyptian position is quite simple. Egypt wants Britain to evacuate, and to leave Canal Zone defence to Egyptian military forces. By any test of sovereignty, Egypt has a strong case; Britain conceded it in principle in 1946, in the Bevin-Sidky agreement, signed by Ernest Bevin, then Britain's foreign minister, and by Ismail Sidky Pasha, Egypt's premier.

The Canal Zone military installations, with headquarters at Fayid, are intended for more than protection of the canal itself. The base has the inestimable advantage of being served by ports facing both the Mediterranean and Indian seas. It is the keystone in the military defence of large areas east and west, and north and south of the canal.

Britain's 50,000 troops in the zone constitute a serious drain on manpower and treasure. But as long as the risk of a general war remains, the United Kingdom could not turn the defence of this area over to Egypt alone without seriously weakening the West's global defence system, of which Suez is such an important link.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"Employment Conditions" notes that although it was thought that ship repair work at Charlottetown would wind up this Spring, it now seems assured that this type of work will continue throughout the year.

Parliament is expected to step up its tempo after a brief Easter recess. The Provincial Legislature, on the other hand, shows every sign of being ready to prorogue well before the Easter week-end.

In Britain they call the new three-dimensional films the "deepies" and the correspondent of The Times points out: "Surely we are forgetting the time taken to view them—are they not really four-dimensional, and is not a three-dimensional film rather old fashioned."

An additional element of stability will be given to the Island dairy industry with the opening of milk drying plants. Knowing that peak production can always be marketed, producers should be able to profitably supply the demand during the periods of relative scarcity.

Highly satisfactory is the record of this Province on school attendance, as reported by the Bureau of Statistics. Only Nova Scotia with 58.2 per cent of the age group of five to 24 attending school has a better showing than the Island with 56.8 per cent at school.

The shooting down of non-Communist aircraft in Europe is nothing less than murder and was called by its right name in a British protest. It is an indication, however, of the severe measures which the Communist countries must take to seal their borders, not so much against invasion as against the escape of their own nationals.

Edmund Kean, Shakespearian actor, was born this date 1789. At the age of twelve he played Prince Arthur in "King John" with Kemble and Mrs. Siddons. His reputation was made by magnificently playing Shylock at Drury Lane in 1814 and further enhanced by his Richard III and Hamlet. He is recognized as the outstanding English player of tragic roles. His own life ended in misery as a result of drunkenness and extravagance.

Remembering St. Patrick



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.

GRASS SILAGE

Sir, — Last week I was at the Farmers Institute meeting in Charlottetown and I have a few words to say to those farmers on the Island who may have in mind the idea of putting up grass silage.

I have been putting up grass silage for a year longer than the government farms on the Island and the first year I tried it I was told that I must use a preservative and that the grass must contain a certain moisture content.

As for tramping the silage, this is not an important factor (still speaking of chopped grass). In an upright silo the silage will pack itself and therefore the bottom three-quarters will take care of itself and the only part that requires a bit of tramping is the top quarter where there is not much weight on itself.

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

700 pounds will eat over 50 pounds of this silage a day. They will gain over a pound a day on silage alone. They will nibble at hay but eat very little of it if they can get all the silage they want.

Notes By The Way

The Alberta dairy commissioner estimates that his province is losing about \$9,200,000 a year on account of margarine sales, and he wants a complete ban against the butter substitute.

We learn from the Government of India Information Services that one, Narain Singh, a healthy 176-year-old, expects to live 26 years more.

The Poet's Corner

BACK TO IRELAND

Oh tell me, will I ever win to Ireland again, Astore! from the far North-West? Have we given all the rainbows, an' green woods an' rain, For the suns and snows o' the West?

The Age-Old Story

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Old Charlottetown

"St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in Georgetown this year with more than ordinary enthusiasm. The day was exceedingly fine, and at 10 o'clock, a. m., St. James Church was thronged with a congregation composed of worshippers of different nationalities from town and outlying parishes.

CELEBRATING THE DAY

"In the evening a grand concert was held in the Town Hall, under the auspices of St. James Total Abstinence Society, which was, in all respects, worthy of the occasion. The performance commenced with the stirring strains of 'St. Patrick's Day' by Miss McEachern, which was followed by a chorus, 'Erin the Tear and the Smile of Thine Eyes,' by the choir.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

In some quarters politicians have the reputation of caring more for their own interests and those of their party than for the public welfare. How far the charge can be sustained, or whether there be a particle of truth in it, I am not competent to say.

It always gives one a comfortable and hopeful feeling inside when some politician comes up with a statement that indicates he is giving serious thought not only to his party's programme but also to the welfare of the people.

The chief fault of governments is not corruption, self-seeking or indifference to the public welfare, but simple conceit. In their own estimation they are always right. They make no mistakes and they waste no money.

As the years pass political labels are becoming less and less meaningful. Soon they will be obsolete. There is not the same fundamental differences in philosophy and outlook that there used to be.

It has been well said that the only man who has never made a mistake is the man who has never attempted to do anything worthwhile. It has also been well said that failure in any direction or in any task is nothing but education for the first step to something better.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Grid of professional advertisements including Palmer & Haslam, J. A. McGuigan, J. S. Taylor, A. Walthen Gaudet, Chas. R. McQuaid, Dr. K. A. MacEachern, Dr. A. L. MacIsaac, Bell, Mathieson & Foster, Dr. W. R. Carson, H. R. DOANE & COMPANY, and McDONALD, CURRIE & CO.