

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, MAY 29, 1952

Why No Welcome Mat?

No organization appears to exist at present for the purpose of keeping track of our returning Island veterans from Korea and Europe, and of welcoming them properly on their arrival.

Much of the trouble is due to the fact that the Defence Department insists on tying us up with Halifax. We have no military discharge depot in this Province, and veterans returning either on leave or for discharge must check in at the Nova Scotia capital.

Surely this situation could be remedied. Our Canadian Legion and military authorities here should be in constant touch with Halifax, and should insist on being supplied with full details as to the prospective plans of all our homecoming veterans.

It is things like this that count.

Fighting T.B.

The reduction in the death rate from tuberculosis in this Province from 117 per thousand in 1930 to 20 in 1951 is certainly a matter for congratulation to the medical profession, the Department of Health and Welfare and Islanders in general who have learned to play their own part in remaining healthy.

As pointed out recently by Dr. P. A. Creelman, however, the control problem remains difficult. A promising added safeguard against spread of the disease is B.C.G. vaccination which has already been done with nursing personnel in the general hospitals and in some two hundred homes in the Province.

The Department is anxious to extend the protection to other sections of the population and the offer to the town of Borden will probably be repeated to communities in the three counties when the Department is in a position to undertake the very considerable amount of work involved. It is certainly to be hoped that a marked further reduction in the toll of the once-dread disease will be an early result.

Privy Council Appeal

One of the last judgments that will ever be handed down by the Privy Council in London on a Canadian case was made public last week. It concerned a dispute over settlement for 40,000 bushels of Western barley. The Canadian courts had held that the Federal Government had exceeded the authority granted to it by Parliament under the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act of 1945.

"It may seem ironic," says the Ottawa Citizen, "that this same government argued through the same minister of justice that Canada had grown up and no longer needed to refer legal cases to London. Most Canadians agreed with the decision to abolish appeals to the Privy Council. But they

can still retain full confidence in their own Supreme Court to be the final arbiter, and if any doubts are aroused as a result of this fortunate decision for the government, it might be pointed out that no court, including the Privy Council, is infallible."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Oak Apple Day.

The only two NATO countries lacking any form of conscription are Canada and Iceland.

Two Charlottetown projects have received an impetus this week—the airport extension and the children's wading pool.

The growing civil service. It takes 80 ordinary taxpayers to support 20 Federal and Provincial civil servants, no fewer than 20% of Canada's population being employed by the respective governments.

Even the U. N. must bow before the vastness of an American presidential campaign. The Seventh General Assembly will open its sessions in New York a month late to avoid any involvement in the election.

Wharves at Halifax and Quebec City are being renovated at a cost of \$250,000, Transport Minister Chevrier said during discussion of his annual estimates. Repairs to the agency wharf at Halifax will cost \$180,000. At Quebec \$70,000 will be spent by the Transport Department.

Owing no doubt to the reduction of the purchasing power of the dollar, farm loans from the Loan Board may be doubled. That is, the limit on mortgages has been extended to \$10,000 on a first mortgage and to \$12,000 on a first and second mortgage. Not many farmers here could successfully float such loans, but elsewhere it is quite practicable.

The free sodium fluoride treatment offered throughout the summer by the Division of Dental Public Health is limited to children of three or four years of age. In the course of time, however, practically the whole of the rising generation should thus receive the benefit of the treatment in reducing tooth decay.

This is a correction. "The cost of contagion. Deputy M. Chatelain demanded in Berne, Switzerland, Parliament that the Swiss Government compensate 31 school children who, he said, contracted tuberculosis from their teacher. Chatelain contended a teacher in the village of Movelier transmitted the disease to all but three of his pupils within two months."

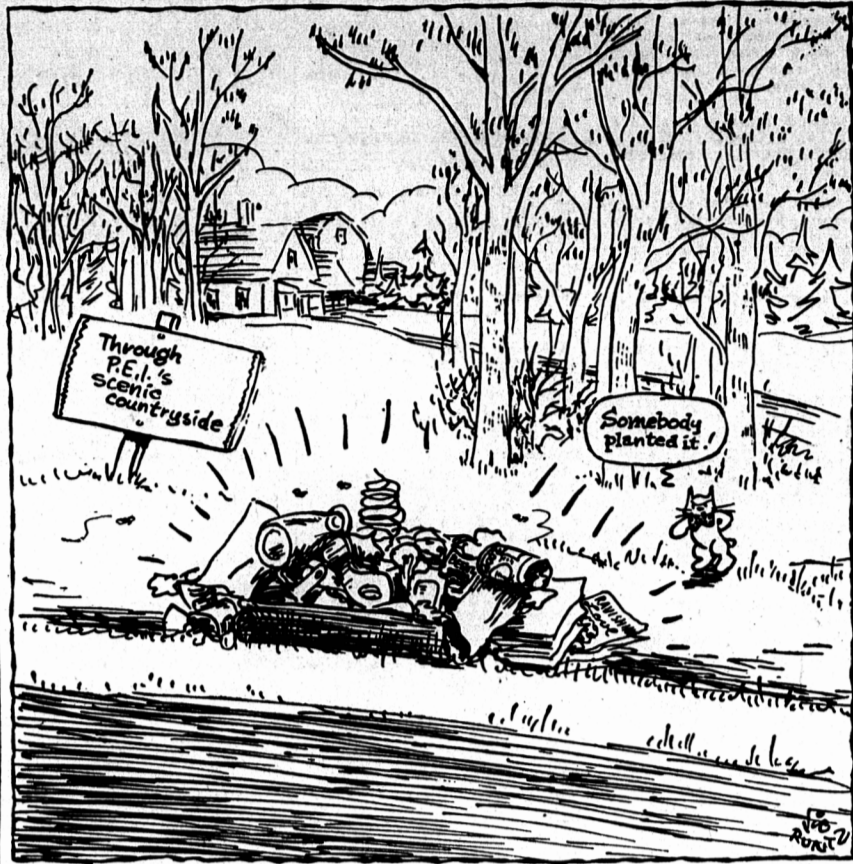
Sir William S. Gilbert, English humorist and playwright, died this date 1911. He had a wide range of literary and other activities. His songs and comic verse are full of splendid nonsense and graceful whimsicalities. From 1871 dates his famous partnership with Sir Arthur Sullivan with whom he produced a succession of delightful operas, including "H.M.S. Pinafore", "The Pirates of Penzance" and "The Mikado."

Constituencies in the by-elections weren't faring badly as far as defence orders are concerned. During the last two weeks in April a \$32,690 order for face cloths, for use by service personnel, was awarded to a concern in Farnham, in the heart of Bromelmissisquoi. And during the same period two orders for neckties to be used by members of the armed forces—one amounting to \$30,623 and the other to \$33,852—went to Kitchener firms.

Gold mining is restricted because a statutory rate of \$35 per ounce is fixed by the Government on the output. Some of the technical members of the House of Commons suggest that there should be a free market for gold and let it find its own price, instead of subsidizing the industry to the extent of an average of \$2.50 per oz. It was the abolition of the gold standard due to World War I that brought the crisis to gold mining, not only here but throughout the world, from which it has never recovered.

Ottawa is now ready to grant most of its 150,000 civil servants a five-day work week. But three iron-clad conditions laid down by the Treasury Board are going to make it difficult to implement. They are: (1) Public service must remain unimpaired; (2) skeleton staffs must be provided at no extra cost and (3) five-day week arrangements must involve hiring of no extra staff or expenditure of a penny more than existing appropriations. Subject to these provisos, Federal departments and agencies for which the short work week is practical, may now have one. But it isn't quite what civil service organizations backing the drive for the shorter week had in mind.

Unwelcome Roadside Blossomings



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.

ELECTRIC RATES AGAIN

Sir,—I noticed when the Federal Budget for this year was brought down that a very considerable reduction was made in the rate of income tax payable by electric light and power companies.

But I have not noticed in the local press any report of reduction in rates charged in Prince Edward Island by the Maritime Electric Company as a consequence.

This should be an opportunity to at least bring about a reduction in the rural minimum rate. Is our Public Utilities Commission acting in the matter? Or are its members waiting for a formal application from some governing body or consumer?

I am, Sir, etc.

SUFFERER.

OBSERVER'S CONCLUSIONS

Sir,—Most of "Observer's" remarks in his article of the 19th are very pertinent. If drama were encouraged here in Canada, we might expect some brilliant productions. We have poetry that compares favorably with the best. But it's a startling fact that many of the world's finest poets and dramatists have been neglected while they lived.

Some of our world's literature was produced in an attic and sold for a pittance.

It is to Canada's discredit that the directors of our Drama Festival have been compelled, as likely they were, to accept financial help from a brewer. Why could not some wealthy Canadian, and a lover of drama, come forward with some help? Or, of course, it would be better if gifts came from a large number, as it does for a great monument. But the best way of all, as Observer suggests is "that the Government support this most worthy cause." Surely no church, no party, no tax payer, would object, and many would be pleased.

In regard to the motives of the brewer in offering his support to the drama I differ with Observer. Quite possibly there was some impulse of generosity; but as a class those people are so obsessed only with making huge amounts of easy money, like some that play the horses, and here was a golden chance. The brewers spend annually over 150 millions in advertising; and this drama one is one of the cheapest and best, and that is saying a good deal, for the brewers have put on many brilliant adds as one will see in Life and the other magazines.

Observer has this to say about the brewers: "A distillery is a legitimate business." Quite true in the strict sense; it is a legitimate business. Our laws not only permit the business but protect it as it does any honest man's property. But all our laws are not just and good. Respectable? Yes, in the eyes of some people, but who will say that a business that is the direct cause of so much sin and shame and loss is respectable in the eyes of Him who is our Judge?

I was in Toronto in 1929 for a few weeks where I heard that a man high up in his church and who later was called to one of the highest public positions in Canada, had his money invested in brewery stock. I went to the editor of The Star and asked him if he knew that Mr. So and So had money so invested; but he added, "If we had proof of that it would make front page news." Indeed it would, but it would not have enhanced the reputation of this scholarly and cultured gentleman. Respect! A business that destroys more people, body and soul, than war does, is not respectable. The

Notes By The Way

Last year the Canadian Government spent \$14,000,000 to send delegates to international conferences. Some of the senators in Ottawa are sore about it. So are we. This is a fantastic expense account for junketing Government officials, M.P.'s and military officers. The Canadian taxpayers foot this bill and we doubt that they are getting anywhere near full value out of the cash they're shelling out for these "swans" to practically every capital in the world.—(Vancouver Province).

Everywhere you look, education is causing increases in tax rates. Some of these increases are imposing a severe strain on the taxpayers. Why should education costs be so terrific? Why, also, have we lagged so far behind that it is necessary to spend huge chunks of the tax receipts to catch up? It strikes us that education costs are getting out-of-all-proportion. This is especially true in fast-growing townships which are finding the problem of educating their many children a real headache.—(North Bay Nugget).

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is now working on setting up television broadcasting facilities in Toronto and Montreal. And this week the chairman announced that Ottawa and Quebec would be next. Why these two cities? Winnipeg and Vancouver are much bigger than Ottawa and Quebec. Why aren't they next? Why not Edmonton or even Calgary? Why two in Ontario and two in Quebec before any other province has any? Why, in fact, should it be left to any government board to decide where they should go and in what order and what cities should not have them? Government regulation of television broadcasting is admittedly necessary, but beyond that it has no business.—Calgary Albertan.

Sea lampreys, the eel-like creatures which prey on commercial fish in the Great Lakes, are coming to be recognized as a delicacy. Ontario fishermen, who regard them as a menace, in the future may be seeking them on a commercial basis. A processor of smoked-herring products in Toronto already has marketed about 9,000

cured and smoked lampreys on that market alone. Now he is hoping to export them as well if he can obtain a sufficient amount. Two years ago the Toronto man obtained lampreys from the department, which operates special weirs on streams of the North Channel, Lake Huron and Lake Superior, where the lampreys are caught while on their way upstream to spawn. Encouraged to continue, he prepared and marketed a number of the lampreys. They are considered a delicacy by residents of European descent, especially those from the Baltic States.—(Port Arthur News-Chronicle).

In October, 1943, when the Nazi occupation forces began the persecution of Danish Jews, an unknown high school teacher who lived in a terraced house in Lynge, a suburb of Copenhagen, renounced his peaceful occupations. His name was Aage Bertelsen. He had never held a pistol in his hand but within a short time he was the leader of an illegal group organized on real gangster lines but with a purpose quite different from robbery. In spite of the Germans' watchfulness the group succeeded in bringing 1,200 Danish Jews safely across the little belt to neutral Sweden. Aage Bertelsen commanded a fleet of high-powered cars and a number of boats. His assistants were civil servants, businessmen, professors and lorry drivers, people who did not know one another until they were brought together on this dangerous rescue mission. At last the Nazis offered a reward of 10,000 kroner (\$200) for Bertelsen's capture but they never found him.—(News From Copenhagen).

The Poet's Corner

FROM WOODNOTES

And such I know, a forest seer, A minstrel of the natural year, Foreteller of the vernal ices, Wise harbinger of spheres and tides, A lover true, who knew by heart Each joy the mountain dales impart; It seemed that Nature could not raise A plant in any secret place, In quaking bog, or snowy hill, Beneath the grass that shades the rill, Under the snow, between the rocks, In damp fields known to bird and fox, But he would come in the very hour It opened in its virgin bower, As if a sunbeam showed the place, And tell its long-descended race.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The Age-Old Story

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yes, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eye, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

SHAKESPEARE IN COMMON TALK

During conversation with a neighbour he happened to remark that a certain person "took to his heels". He was probably quite unaware of the origin of the phrase but, actually, he was quoting Shakespeare. It appears in "The Comedy of Errors". A servant by the name of Dromio is being beaten by his master. He says: "What mean you, sir? Hold your hands; nay, if you do not, I'll take my heels".

The fact is that Shakespeare is often quoted in common talk. A great many of the sayings which have become vernacular usage can be traced to one or other of his works. A few authorities claim that these sayings were current at the time when Shakespeare wrote and all that the great man did was to make good use of them. Most authorities, however, believe that he was their originator.

We are all familiar with the old saw "Love is blind". It means, of course, that a person in love is incapable of seeing any flaws or imperfections either in himself or in the object of his affection. It was spoken in the Epilogue of "The Merchant of Venice". "Love is blind and lovers cannot see the pretty follies that themselves commit".

"As white (or pure) as the driven snow" appears in "The Winter Row". A roguish peddler sings about his wares: "Lawn as white as driven snow; cyprus black as e'er was crow; Gloves as white as damask roses, masks for faces and for noses".

When a man takes off his working clothes and dons his best suit we say he is dressed in his "Sunday best". It originated in "Trollus and Cressida". Pandarus (Cressida's uncle) assures Trollus who is in love with the young lady: "Even if she were nothing to me, she should be as fair on Friday as Helen is on Sunday".

"We speak of 'fools and ends'." So did the scheming Gloucester in "King Richard Third". He is plotting the murder of his brother, the Duke of Clarence.

"The secret mischiefs that I set abroad

I lay into the grievous charge of others; Thee I sigh, and with a piece of Scripture; Tell them that God bids us do good for evil, And thus I clothe my naked villainy

With odd old ends stolen forth of Holy Writ, And seem a saint when more I play the devil!"

When a man imbibes a little too much he is sometimes said to be "drowning his cares". It doesn't work out that way but it is quite a common expression. A little song in "Antony and Cleopatra" started it going, so perhaps Shakespeare is to blame. "Come thou monarch of the vine, plumply Bacchus with pink eye; in thy fete our cares be drowned, with thy grapes our hairs be crowned".

We all know people who have seen better days. They are usually treated with sympathy and pity. In "Timon of Athens" Flavius, his steward, is consoling the other servants of the household over Timon's loss of wealth and influence: "Whenever we shall meet, for Timon sake, let's yet be fellows; let's shake our heads and say, As 'twere a knell unto our master's fortune, We have seen better days". There are always people who appear to "live by their wits".

There seems to be something perverse in human nature that oftentimes makes us unappreciative of a good possession until we have lost it. You don't know a good thing when you have it, we say. In "Much ado about nothing" says the same thing in more elegant, if more involved, language: "For it falls out that what we have we prize not to the worth whilst we enjoy it; But being lacked and lost, why, then we rack the value; Then we find the virtue that possession would not show us whilst it was ours".

"Hoist with his own petard" is not an everyday expression but one comes across it occasionally. The general idea is that of a man being the victim of his own inclination to mischief. In trying to injure someone else he injures himself. Hamlet, not as mad as he was reputed to be, or even as he pretended to be, uses the phrase in talking with his mother. "For 'tis the sport to have the engineer hoist with his own petard".

As for "playing the fool" it is described as a fine art in "Twelfth Night": "This fellow's wise enough to play the fool; And to do that, craves a kind of wit: He must observe their mood on whom he jests, the quality of persons and the time; And, like the haggard, check at every fencer that comes before his eye. This is a practice as full of labor as a wise man's art".

There are a lot of people who profess no liking for Shakespeare, but there are few who do not quote him from time to time in common talk.

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