

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office... Total City Zone 3,765... Total Net Paid 13,942

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1951

Safeguarding Our Position

Prince Edward Island has been guaranteed a minimum of \$2,911,000 annually, with additional payments geared to the Gross National Product over the base year 1948...

Certainly the estimates for the next fiscal year suggest that in order to maintain a healthy state of our finances, more revenue will have to be found. It would be unfortunate, however, if that revenue were to be sought through the imposition of a Provincial tax on retail sales...

The Provincial Government's bargaining position vis-a-vis Ottawa would be enhanced, however, if instead of acquiescing in the proposed amendment to the Constitution, they actively opposed it. It would take the dissent of but a single Province to render the whole scheme a dead issue...

It would be unfortunate were our representatives at the Dominion-Provincial Conference unwittingly to prejudice this Province's future financial position by approving a scheme for constitutional amendment designed to favor the Central Provinces and to relieve Ottawa of its responsibilities to the people of Prince Edward Island.

Citizenship

Under the Canadian Citizenship Act and similar legislation in other Commonwealth countries every person who is a citizen of this country or of Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, India, Pakistan, Southern Rhodesia, Ceylon or of the United Kingdom and Colonies has by virtue of that citizenship the status of being known as a British subject or, if preferred, as a common citizen of the Commonwealth.

Women no longer lose their citizenship by marriage to an alien, nor do they automatically acquire it by marrying a Canadian although they may claim it as of right.

The status, rights, privileges and duties of citizenship are apt to be taken rather casually by those who have always possessed them but it is otherwise with those new Canadians who by choice have elected to share in the privileges and responsibilities of being citizens of Canada and of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The tradition of freedom and fair play, of willingness to make democratic institutions work, whether in public meetings, clubs, municipalities, provinces or the nation, is one to be carried on as a trust which we hold for those who come after. Today we must be especially vigilant that claims of seeming efficiency, individual lust for power, or sheer neglect by individuals does not impair that heritage.

Mr. Garson's Argument

Most people believe that the less said about a discreditable episode the better. Not so Justice Minister Garson, who has been touring the West openly boasting about the prosperity that the \$65 million wheat bonus has brought to the Prairies. Canadians in the past had come to expect something more than politics from the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Garson says, "This payment of \$65 millions is the equivalent of the money left of the \$1 1/4 billion loan made to the British in 1946. It is the money already planned to be spent by Parliament, and the release of this sum will not involve the nation at this critical time in any greater financial commitment than that envisaged in our post-war planning."

What Mr. Garson chooses to forget is

that if the \$65 million had gone to Britain it would have been a loan which sooner or later would have been repaid. Britain has a tradition of paying her debts. Repayment of the loan would have meant that it cost the Canadian taxpayer nothing. But the \$65 million which has gone to the Western wheat growers is not a loan. It is not payment in settlement of any legal or moral obligation. It is an outright gift. Worse, it is a political gift, sanctioned by a shamed Parliament in which the party in power submitted to the influence of the party whip.

In the eyes of the Canadian people the wheat bonus is not just. It will become the Minister of Justice to argue that it is.

EDITORIAL NOTES

One of seven distinguished men to receive honorary degrees at the Birmingham University Degree Day ceremony, on June 30th, is Dr. Cyril James, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, McGill University.

Now that hockey is over, the Stone of Scone returned, MacArthur recalled, the budget revealed, and April showers clearing, we can devote a week to the General Election.

A bill before the Philippines Congress would re-name Corregidor as MacArthur Island. The British would do the thing rather differently. The general would have become MacArthur of Corregidor.

There may be a Provincial election looming in Quebec as Premier Duplessis announces \$1,500,000,000 will be spent in development of Quebec's vast natural resources between 1951 and 1953. The Premier's figure includes expenditures by the Government in connection with hydro-electric power developments and private enterprise in the hydro-electric and mining fields.

This country's proposal to give technical education to 100 students from India, Pakistan and other Asiatic countries should be wholly beneficial. The immediate benefits are obvious. In addition the students should prove goodwill ambassadors and incidentally their training may impress them with the advantages of Canadian methods and equipment.

Benjamin Franklin, American statesman and philosopher, died this date 1790 at the age of 84. A printer by trade, he established a literary reputation by publishing "Poor Richard's Almanac" and devoted time to scientific investigation, particularly electricity. He tried to avert the revolution but when it came he brought France to the colonists' aid, thus assuring their success.

The uncertain health of Quebec's Archbishop Maurice Roy is causing concern in some circles (says The Gazette) and is seen as one reason precluding his elevation to the rank of cardinal when the Vatican decides to name a successor to the late Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve. It is felt he may in the not too distant future resume the post of chaplain in chief, Roman Catholic, to Canada's armed forces, and active direction of his Quebec see will be placed in other hands.

Warmest congratulations are due to the Rev. Canon Malone and Hon. George D. DeBlois, who are to be the recipients of honorary degrees from the University of King's College, Halifax, on May 10. The degree of Doctor of Divinity is being conferred upon Canon Malone, and that of Doctor of Canon Law upon Mr. DeBlois. It will be recalled that the latter, during his term as Lieutenant Governor of the Province, was honoured with a knighthood in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

A straw deflector, which is simple to operate and enables the combine operator to put two swathes of straw into one, is being marketed by the Harvest Saver and Implement Co., Ltd., Kirbymoorside, Yorks. In the first place it was designed for the smaller type of combine, but the modified deflector has been specially designed to work on self-propelled machines which require the straw to be thrown a greater distance to the near side and a lesser distance to the off side, so as to form a double windrow ready for picking up with a pick-up baler.

Most journalists incline to the theory that Life is the great school of journalism, says the Journal of the Institute of Journalists. That is true enough, but the young woman who can get experience on a local newspaper where every branch of production is covered is starting on the right lines. The small office gives incomparably the best opportunity of all-round training and variety of work. One of the most encouraging signs of the progress being made by women is the marked increase in the number who have had such a training in, say, the last ten years or so.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MAPLE LIQUEUR

"Before the snow has left our Island woods, the sap of the rock or sugar maple is an object of some interest in districts where they have been spared in sufficient numbers to furnish the requisite quantity for sugar making. The trees are tapped about two feet from the ground, by cutting a V-shaped notch in the bark and driving a gouge-shaped notch below it to conduct the liquid into pans or trough, or what are called 'dishtes' made out of birch bark. When the sap begins to run several iron pots are suspended over a fire and filled, which are afterwards filled up from each other, as the sap boils away; one being kept for putting in the cold sap and another for the most concentrated, filled up from the intermediate. When the sap is in the molasses state, and carefully strained, mixed with an equal quantity of pure cognac, it makes one of the finest liqueurs imaginable."

—From "The Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island", etc., 1861, by C. Birch Bagster.

(NOTE: An interesting souvenir of the visit of General Tom Thumb and party to Charlottetown in 1868, referred to in yesterday's issue, is in the possession of Mr. Victor Purdie, city. It is a photograph of the diminutive visitors, autographed: "Compliments of Charles Stratton, Lavina Warren Stratton, G. W. M. Nutt, Minnie Warren." The picture was presented by the "General" himself to Mr. Purdie's mother, Mrs. James T. Purdie, and was taken, according to the inscription, "in the identical costumes worn before Emperor Louis Napoleon and the Empress Eugenie, at the Palace of the Tuilleries, Nov. 29, 1864."

The Poet's Corner

PIONEER TOWN

An old man prowling down an empty lane, Picking up bits of wood and odds and ends, Stopping to lean across a fence and talk To one or other of his old-time friends, Savoring a bit of gossip that he hears By hanging 'round and pricking up his ears. He makes a little purchase here and there, Badgers the butcher in a playful way, Goes to the office for his bit of mail, And stops to watch some children at their play, Patting a head, kissing a little hurt, Brushing some old leaves from a tiny skirt. He's "Dad" to half the settlement, It seems, This rather smallish man with clear blue eyes, His sons are middle-aged and yet they come To listen to his counsel calm and wise; And children slide up with bashful airs, Sensing that they are his—and he is theirs. The church, the school, the very town itself Are part of all he planned and hoped would be, When life was young and eager in his veins, And now his old heart beats with pride to see The rich fulfilment of his dreams all here, His children's children doubly sweet and dear. And yet a stranger in the town might stare And only see an old man walking there. —Edna Jaques.

The Age-Old Story

The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

QUEBEC, April 13 —(CP)—George H. Bernier, Quebec forestry engineer, has been named a member of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Word of his appointment was received here today from Washington. Mr. Bernier will be head of the personnel which will take an inventory of the forests in Mexico.

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Breakfast Scene: Tignish As In Charlottetown



King's English

(Manchester Guardian) In death as in life Shaw continues to puzzle us. In his will he says that a phonetics expert is to translate "Androcles and the Lion" into his proposed new alphabet of 40 letters, "assuming the pronunciation to resemble that recorded of His Majesty, our late King George V, and sometimes described as Northern English." Here is the bluntest of contradictions, for experts are agreed that George V's pronunciation was unmistakably Southern—an admirably clear and vigorous version of "received standard English" and with nothing in the least "Northern" about it. Shaw's idea of a "simplified" spelling (involving a much more complicated alphabet) arose from his obsession—with time-saving on the writer's part. He did not spare much thought for the confusion it might bring about among some readers. Dr. Daniel Jones, who was Professor of Phonetics at University College, London, until 1949, thinks that Shaw's alphabet would be impracticable. His own idea of reform is much simpler—one new vowel, a short "u" for the vowel sound in "cup" and symbols for the combinations sh, zh, th, dh, and ng. Anyhow, it is clear that Shaw's plan is going to have a great deal of money behind it once the Public Trustee has satisfied the legatees and annuitants. It will be enough to keep quite a large staff of phoneticians battling away for ever.

Making Of A K. C.

(Regina Leader-Post)

In a recent issue of the Manitoba Bar News, a Winnipeg lawyer, Roy St. George Stubbs, questions the manner in which he says King's Counsel are appointed in that province. Pointing out that of 568 practising barristers in Manitoba, 143 are K.C.s, Mr. Stubbs claims that the practice of appointing K.C.s has long since ceased to bear any relation to the theory that the rank of K.C. is an honor bestowed on a barrister for outstanding merit in his profession. Mr. Stubbs wrote: "The test for appointment today is not a man's standing at the bar, but whether or not he is acceptable to the reigning house in politics. Thus in every New Year's list, barristers who have not even a nodding acquaintance with the geography of a courtroom are appointed King's Counsel. Politicians innocent of the history and tradition of the profession of law, have come to regard the appointment as a reward for political services rendered, either by the recipient personally, or by some friend of his on whose good side the government wishes to keep." This situation probably applies to most Canadian provinces. Here in Saskatchewan out of 399 practising members of the law society, 127, or almost one-third, are King's Counsel.

PORTSMOUTH, England —(CP)—Visitors to Horatio Nelson's historic flagship, The Victory, in future will be personally escorted to and from the vessel to prevent anyone gaining illegal entry to the rest of the dockyard.

LONDON —(CP)—Because of the wool stock-piling project house-to-house dealers buying old woollen clothing or exchanging soap coupons for it are said to be making upwards of £40 (\$120) a week.

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Notes By The Way

THEir FOUR conference in P.E.I. seems a classic example of time-wasting—a debate on what to debate. —Edmonton Journal.

We have had about enough of those blood-and-thunder labels, "Operation Killer," "meat-grinder tactics," and such, used in connection with United Nations military action in Korea. Judging by letters we see to this and other newspapers, our feelings are shared. In fact, if Americans did not react in this fashion they would not be the essentially decent and peace-loving people that they are. —Christian Science Monitor.

It is not pretty to watch Congress dawdle while the specter of famine hovers over India. Even if legislators act with all possible speed to approve the bill giving India two million tons of grain, it will be a close race. The grain must be sent to ports, and ships must be broken out of storage; it has been impossible to keep them ready on a standby basis. Yet unless grain is in Indian hands by June a bus is already in the rationing system is likely; already the people are on a 6-ounce minimum ration, and even this is not available in some areas. —The Washington Post.

In Buenos Aires, a dutiful peronista Congress has confirmed the peronista Government's expropriation of La Prensa, so all is now "legal" in the process by which the greatest newspaper on the continent of South America is first silenced and then pocketed by an upstart dictatorship. Apparently, since its name has been expropriated along with its tangible properties, La Prensa will continue to be published in some form. The chances are excellent that it will have no future controversies with the Government. —New York Times.

In Cape Breton the burgeoning of Spring is associated with the sea, strongly so, as well as with glad signs on land and in the sky and in the hurry of the streams. So it is that there is something wholesome and encouraging in the reports of fishermen getting their craft ready for the new season which gets underway earlier than usual this year. Craft that were tied up during the Winter months, soon will be pointing out toward the wider horizons of salt water. True, steam and other powered craft have come and gone

during the Winter. Yet there was something extra, something traditional, and filled with pictorial power, when the largest two-masted schooner in the fishing trade on this side of the Atlantic, came into port bearing a cargo of fresh fish from Newfoundland. Her coming, a proud sight as she sailed up the harbour, followed the arrival of a motor vessel which unloaded salt-barreled herring and turbot.

Controller Charlotte Whitton single-handed has secured a reduction of \$16,450 in the estimates of the Ottawa Recreation Commission. The O.R.C. which last year spent \$58,000, this year spent \$91,186. Miss Whitton, who sits on the Commission, as representative of Board of Control and its vice chairman, was convinced that amount could be reduced without any impairment of the service the O.R.C. is designed to render the public. She felt strongly, moreover, that there should be closer co-operation between O.R.C. and the city's Playgrounds Committee that O.R.C. should operate more as a civic department and less as an independent body to the end that control by City Council would be simplified and facilitated. Miss Whitton persuaded the Commission to accept her recommendations, and then persuaded Board of Control to approve her amended estimates under which the Commission will have a budget of \$74,736 with \$200 of this sum being paid by the province and \$7,536 by the Ottawa taxpayers. This is good, and there is the possibility that the closer relationship of the Commission and the Playgrounds Committee—broadly in the same line of work—may lead to the eventual merger and the saving in overhead that should come of it. Miss Whitton's energy, intelligence and determination are proving of solid advantage to the community. —Ottawa Journal.

ROMAN RETREAT The last Roman garrison was withdrawn from England in A.D. 442 before the Saxons conquered the southeast portion.

LONDON —(CP)—A special paint has been perfected here which will crack in places where great strain is shown. Gun manufacturers are using it to test guns which when fired will produce a crack in the paint at the point of greatest strain.

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