

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1951

Good Friday

Good Friday ranks as the most solemn date in the Christian calendar. Properly regarded, it is less a holiday than a day of meditation, and in many parts of the world it is observed with fasting and prayer.

In the profound symbolism of Good Friday the emphasis is on the triumph of the powers of darkness, but only momentarily. The clouds that veil the light of heaven are black indeed, but they will pass.

This is to approach through nature to the great mystery; but all roads lead to the central theme. The sower goes forth, as he has done immemorially, and sows his seed for the sustenance of the human family.

We perceive that nature does not die, but merely sleeps. No matter how dismal the prospect, it has within it the seeds of a new beginning. And what is true of nature and our personal lives is true of the broader life of our civilization.

As Others Do It

Getting money out of the Federal treasury is one of the chief preoccupations of Provincial Governments in this country. The Maritime Provinces have frequently been subject to something very much like abuse for promoting their various claims to Federal assistance but it now appears that it is Ontario and Quebec which manage to get the best deal in that respect.

The auditor-general's report to Parliament reveals that the two central Provinces continue to receive five per cent of a \$2,678,000 obligation assumed by Ottawa at Confederation. The peculiar thing about the transaction is that the lands for which the sum is compensation, school reserves, never became Federal property but were disposed of by the two Provinces and the proceeds spent by them.

Our delegations to the capital have a thing or two to learn about Dominion-Provincial relations.

Stalemate On The 38th Parallel?

Political factors have once again begun to bedevil the situation in Korea. The question which now confronts the United Nations is whether or not the forces under General Ridgeway's immediate command shall cross the 38th Parallel into North Korea.

Whatever answer circumstances may dictate, it should not be forgotten that the partition of Korea following the defeat of Japan in World War 11 in no way represented the free choice of the people of that unhappy land. Rather, it reflected the determination of the Soviet Union to extend its sphere of influence as far southward as possible, regardless of the political views of the victims of Soviet imperialism.

General MacArthur's utterance on this matter a few days ago is worth recalling. "There should be no illusions," he says, "in this matter. . . . The battle lines cannot fall in time to reach a point of theoretical military stalemate. Thereafter our further advance would militarily benefit the enemy more than it would ourselves. . . . Vital decisions have yet to be made—decisions far beyond the scope of the authority vested in me as the military commander; decisions which are neither solely political nor solely military, but which must provide on the highest international levels an answer to obscurities which now bedevil the unresolved problems raised by Red

China's undeclared war in Korea."

The 38th parallel, according to military experts, is not a military defence in itself. Rather, it is little more than an artificial political boundary. The line that can be held with the greatest economy of military resources lies constantly to the north. To halt at the 38th parallel, it is argued, would settle nothing.

The choice before the United Nations is simple. The consequences of that choice are almost certain to be momentous. Either the United Nations can halt at the parallel and dig in while the western world builds up still further its impressive array of strength against the Communist countries. Or, United Nations forces can drive forward to the borders of Russia and China and run the risk of precipitating World War III.

Chances are that a halt will be made either at or just north of the 38th parallel. Whether such action will be interpreted as "appeasement," or whether the Chinese Reds will attempt to reopen the abortive negotiations of last December, time alone will tell. Ottawa remains strangely silent on the matter.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Pictou Lodge will be open from June 23 to September 4.

July Festive Week preparations here are developing slowly but surely. With the programme outlined and aimed at progress must be slow to be realized satisfactorily.

Halifax has always been a military port, and today is living up to its past reputation by exporting war explosives by the ship load "to protect the western civilized world from Communist aggression."

A further advantage of a central grain warehouse was pointed out in the Legislature by Mr. John R. MacLean. Farmers who stored their grain in such a place would find the warehouse receipts excellent collateral for short term financing.

Our Indians of Lennox Island have "done themselves proud" by winning the Provincial Intermediate "C" hockey title, which must make Father McInnes, their coach, feel like shaking hands with himself.

Runaway husbands, of whom, fortunately, there are comparatively few here, will have henceforth to avoid Nova Scotia and Ontario if they want to escape being called upon even there to meet their just and lawful domestic obligations.

Reuters correspondent at Frankfurt, Germany, Jack Henry declares, under date of March 18 that the state of war between West Germany and the Western Allied Powers is expected to end within the next few weeks, probably before the sixth anniversary of VE-Day May 8.

There is evidently a scarcity of "tall hats" in Toronto, resulting in a number of processionists having to resort to what used to be universally called trilbies, that is the despised Homburg introduced by King Edward VI to replace the hard felt derby. In Charlottetown the paraders were all equipped with toppers.

All too often when property is stolen the owner is more interested in its recovery than in the conviction and punishment of the thieves. It is not only poor citizenship and even a crime to compromise with the wrongdoers, but by making robbery seem safe the victim may well be encouraging further thefts of his own or his neighbour's goods.

Johann Wolfgang Goethe, German poet died this date 1832. From an early period of "storm and stress" Goethe developed in art, literature and life the Greek ideal of the golden mean, subduing all tendencies to excess. "Faust" is undoubtedly his best known work but even in his lifetime a forty-volume collection of his writings had appeared. "Hermann und Dorothea" is regarded as the finest and most perfect work he produced. His life and work were closely linked with those of his friend Schiller whose death in 1805 was a terrible blow.

According to "Industrial Canada" in 1941, only 17 per cent of boys aged 14 and 15 were working as compared with 19 per cent in 1931 and 29 per cent in 1921, while for boys 16 to 19 the proportion decreased to 64 per cent from 67 in 1931 and 76 per cent in 1921. In the case of girls aged 14 and 15, over eight per cent were in the labor force in 1921, four per cent in 1931 and less than four per cent in 1941. For girls 16 to 19 years inclusive, the proportions showed less change, declining from 32 per cent in 1921 to 30 in 1931 and then advancing to 31 per cent in 1941. Nearly one-half of all boys under 20 in the labour force, exclusive of those in the army, navy and air force, were working on farms in 1941.

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.

HOSPITAL VISITORS

Sir.—I wish to express to you my thanks for the editorial and article which appeared in the Guardian of recent date regarding visitors in the Prince Edward Island Hospital.

On Sunday afternoon, there was a noticeable difference in the number of visitors.

I am, Sir, etc., N. D. MACLEAN, Chairman, Prince Edward Island Trustees.

ROAD REPORT

Sir.—Heading this week for Summerside by car I noticed a sign on a telephone post on Elm Ave marked "bumps ahead," and I can truthfully say that the condition of the road to the Prince County capital warrants such a sign on every post.

The road from Hong Kong to Peiping could not possibly be in a worse mess. Possibly we could get a Chaing Kai-Shek bridge to cover the road to Summerside, especially between Kensington and New Annan.

I am, Sir, etc., BADLY BUMPED TRAVELLER

NATIONAL FARM POLICY

Sir.—Premier Jones said in the Legislature the other day, among other things, that we should have a dairy policy for Canada. With that I don't think any person will disagree; and as far as I know Mr. Jones is the first person to bring the idea before the House. I would like to see him go further and say that we should have an agricultural policy for the whole of Canada. No doubt that is what he was thinking about.

If there is any country in the world which needs such a policy it is Canada. But for goodness sake don't turn its operation over to James G. Gardiner to make a mess of, as he has done with wheat and everything else that he had anything to do with.

I am, Sir, etc., W. B. McLELLAN, Aima, P.E.I.

CIVIC SALARY INCREASES

Sir.—In the light of recent tax increases on Charlottetown properties the rumor that some twenty-five city officials were voted increases in salary of \$300 each per year is of more than ordinary interest. This is especially true when in looking over the press reports of Council meetings we find absolutely no mention of it.

I am, Sir, etc., TAX PAYER

(The Press reported salary increases to several City Hall employees within the past two months, as well as to members of the City Police Force. We are informed that increases averaging 10 per cent of salary have been given during the past few months to all permanent civic officials, with the exception of the street department. The recent budget provides for increase in this department amounting to \$2,200, to be divided among the employees according to recommendations which will be made by the Street Committee at a later date.—Ed. G.)

FISH AND GAME ACT

Sir.—I understand the perennial change in the Fish and Game Act is again before the Legislature. I have not had an opportunity of studying the present year's inspired amendments and the public are not receiving very much information regarding the matter. From this morning's issue however, it would seem as if changes were suggested, which would provide a greater measure of freedom to hunters and fishermen to roam at will over private property. Farm people have no objection, I am sure, to fishermen roaming along the banks of any stream and opening the farmers' gates and fields to every hunter who comes along in entirely another question.

Farmers have had some unfortunate experiences in this connection, and their right to prevent any person, hunter, picnicker or

Towering O'er The Wrecks Of Time



anyone else from roaming at will through their fields must be protected. There is no more reason behind the opening up of a farmer's cultivated property, to bands of hunters and strangers, than there would be to the opening of the lawns and gardens of city dwellers to the incursions of any person who might feel like using them for a picnic party, or short cut to some street or residence.

If changes are to be made in fish and game regulations, such change should not be made on the suggestion and recommendations of a few hunters and fishermen from the urban centres, but only after the wishes of the property owners in the rural areas have also been ascertained.

Under the present Act, the consent of the property owner must be secured before any stranger can encroach on enclosed property. This permission has generally been granted. The opening up of private property without such consent will, I feel, be holy resented by rural people. Leave the Act alone!

Also, it is nearly time fish and game people, or at least that section whose minds seem to be on a weather vane, should get down to some constructive thinking on an Act that will not need broad revision every time the Legislature meets.

I am, Sir, etc., PROPERTY RIGHTS

MUSIC FESTIVAL ENTRIES

Sir.—There is one reason, and only one reason, for there being so few entries in the P. E. Island Musical Festival from the rural districts of Prince County, and that is the refusal of the Festival Association to change the date of the competition to one more suitable to rural competitors. Many music students who would like to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the Island Festival are prevented from doing so by the impossibility of travelling during the early spring. The condition of the roads makes the trip by car too hazardous, and even if the railway can be reached, the train schedule is such that contestants are obliged to remain in town over night.

The difficulties encountered by the individual competitor in preparing for, and attending a festival so early in the spring are many, but in the case of a choral group, either of children or adults, they become unsurmountable. For weeks prior to the Festival, the instructor is unable to get to schools because of bad roads. Moreover, most rural schools do not have pianos, and it is impossible for the children to plod through the mud to have the necessary practices with an accompanist. Adult choirs are at an even greater disadvantage for their members usually come from a distance, and they often suspend rehearsals from January until May. Although the test pieces have been learned earlier, anyone knows how necessary it is to rehearse at least a few times near the date of a public performance.

Still other problems confront the school instructor. Some of the children know in advance that their parents will not attempt to take them to Charlottetown over bad roads. This means that perhaps half of the school will not be singing at the Festival, yet, because of the short period allotted to music, it is very important that each child get full value of every minute, and if the Festival test pieces are practiced all the children should be taught the choruses. But if the group is trained as a choir, when a part of it sings in public the attempt is sure to be a fiasco. The same thing happens to the chorus whose members all plan to be at the Festival but some of whom are prevented at the last minute.

All competitors cannot win first place, but each one wants to feel that he or she has given a creditable performance. It is a very good psychology to urge groups or individuals to take part in a competition in which, because of circumstances, they are obviously at a disadvantage.

In the early years of the Island Festival, the parents in our districts, assisted by the Women's Institutes, struggled over roads that broke axes and springs to take our children to Charlottetown. Always here was the uncertainty of the road being passable; always some of the children were prevented from going. Finally the drivers rebelled. "Why is the Festival held so early in the spring?" they asked. The Women's Institutes used the matter, and sent a resolution to the Festival Association asking that the date be changed; but, although it is "our festival," and was originally supported by the Island

Women's Institutes, the date was not changed.

Since, in their communities, many of those who were interested in furthering their musical education were prohibited by circumstances from taking advantage of the greater benefits to be derived from participation in the Island Festival, and because they felt that these should have the experience of a musical competition although a small one, the Women's Institutes along the south shore decided to sponsor a local festival, and so the South Shore Musical Festival came into existence. It was not intended to supplement it until such time that our roads are paved, or he P. E. Island Festival is changed to the first week in June.

Three rural choirs of mixed voices, and three women's choruses competed in the South Shore Musical Festival last fall. All of these choruses would like to benefit by the constructive criticism of such able musicians as the adjudicators of the Island Festival; but not one of them has been able to meet since Christmas because of the roads which have been worse than usual this year. They cannot plan on meeting until early in May.

We know that changing the date of the Festival presents many problems, for the P. E. Island Festival adjudicators have been coming to Charlottetown before, or after, attending at other Maritime festivals. However, this, and every other problem, can be solved if considered with open minds and a whole hearted desire to make it possible for the whole Island to take part in the Festival.

I am, Sir, etc., M. R. GAMBLE, Secretary of the Tryon Women's Institute, Tryon, P.E.I.

IMMORAL LITERATURE

Sir.—Some years ago, a petition signed by eight leading organizations in Charlottetown was presented to the Provincial Government during a session of the Legislature. It dealt with the question of having removed from the book-stores and newsstands of the Province, all publications which have been banned by order of the Federal Government.

In tabling the petition, Hon. Thane A. Campbell, then Premier, said: "I think it is a very timely request, and I can assure the members of the House that the police will be instructed to use every vigilance in the enforcement of the laws which are referred to."

An authorized official check-up was carried out at the time and quite a number of baneful publications removed. Since then, a vigilance committee, with the cooperation of the owners of book-stalls, and the R.C.M.P., has been successful in having thirty-eight publications of an immoral nature removed from sale. The objective is to take out of circulation magazines accepting disreputable advertising, featuring sex and illicit love stories, glorifying crime and carrying improper illustrations.

However, in spite of everything, the traffic in obscene literature still goes on. Inspired primarily by the greed for filthy lucre, the ever-present danger and the not infrequent result is the destruction of faith and morals. Paganism in any form is bad, as present day world conditions prove, but the paganism which comes with the abandonment of morals, is the kind which calls down God's punishment on a land.

Christianity uses, and can only use, moral suasion to enforce her laws. It is the business of the Government to use the powers of censorship to enforce moral law for the common good. One of the basic elements in regard to the moral side of reconstruction is the education of our youth and our people in general as to what constitutes good reading with its influence on character and conduct to the detriment of the nation, and the danger of immoral reading with its consequent demoralizing effects, detrimental to the individual and eventually to the nation.

Dr. Gordon Bates (Health League of Canada), branded a number of recent best sellers as "filthy," saying: "There is a plague of pornographic books by unscrupulous authors, working with ardent publishers, tolerant book-reviewers and book sellers who are willing to sell anything at a profit." Dr. Bates wondered why there has not been a general protest from the public against this moral and social evil coming out of paper and printers' ink. What a pity it is to see the art of printing lowered to serve and propagate immorality! We talk about the "freedom of the press." But, if modern freedom means putting into the hands of our youth immoral reading matter under the pretext of education; if modern freedom means the Red

Notes By The Way

A large hospital in the United States has ordered that the present hard chairs in the waiting room for imminent fathers be removed and that soft, comfortable chairs in which they can sink back and relax be substituted. Of what use are chairs like these to the suffering mortals in the room adjacent to the expectation of the blessed event? The poor wretches can't relax and sit still a minute. They no sooner sit down than they are up again, pacing up and down the floor in a state of the utmost mental agitation, and trying to soothe their frayed nerves by smoking more cigarettes in an hour or two than they ordinarily smoke in a week. The hospital is wasting its money on easy chairs for uneasy fathers.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

As a complementary to its vast modern highway program, Pennsylvania's highway department has made a special endeavor to train the police and other employees coming in contact with the public in the matter of courtesy to motorists—particularly those from out of State. These employees, numbering around 15,000, are grounded in deporting themselves in such a manner that motorists do not only given assistance called for within the scope of their jobs but likewise made to feel he is a valued patron. It's a policy that pays dividends. During the last decade the State's department of commerce estimates travel income from recreational travelers and vacationers has increased from

soap-box orator slandering our Government; the Red professor teaching Communism in our schools, then, every honest citizen should blush to make use of such freedom.

The saddest thing in the world is to be endowed with liberty, to do as we please, and to be pleased to do the wrong thing. We need a stern morality to defend the Christian nation to which we are privileged to belong. If we are to successfully combat the jungle ethics of the new philosophies.

How anxious and eager we are to protect our bodily health! Every precaution is taken and co-operation given the health authorities in modern methods of sanitation, and rightly so. Who would tolerate open sewers or drains poisoning the atmosphere, and eventually the bodily health of our people? No one. But to do so is to prevent spiritual infection which is insidiously creeping into the minds of the readers of immoral literature. Whatever one's faith may be, it is conceded by all that bad morals make for bad citizenship.

A Christian community such as ours should be noted for upholding all that is best in culture and morality. Let us check up on our magazine racks and see what mental company we have been keeping. Why waste a valued period of leisure with reading matter which is a mental shadow when there is available such a wealth of splendid literature, to entertain, enlighten and uplift? Parents and teachers can accomplish much by precept and example, and, with the pressure of public opinion should be most effective in the campaign for clean literature.

I am, Sir, etc., REGINA MURRAY, Chairman, Crusade for Good Reading, C.W.L.

PUBLIC WORKS IN KING'S

Sir.—The Editor of "Current Comments" takes full credit for picking the right man to represent King's County at Ottawa. He cites a vote of \$50,000 for a Public Building at Montague, and even gives Mr. Kieckhafer credit for a proposed new bridge across Montague River to replace the old one, as well as for the Red Head Boat Harbour.

The writer of this letter has in his possession a copy of a letter which Dr. Grant, who was then Member for King's, received in 1949 from the Post Master General, in which it is stated that on his (Dr. Grant's) request the Department had examined the old Public Building at Montague and had condemned it, as well as the site and that an amount of \$50,000 has been recommended for the Estimate, but that the Treasury Board has let it stand until a later date, on account of the large expenditure required for dredging the Montague River, for new boat harbours at Souris, Launching, Little Sands and North Lake, and other more urgent expenditures.

As far as Red Head Boat Harbour is concerned, it will stand as a monument to the memory of Hon. T. V. Grant, and the late Hon. H. Cox, who worked together to have this project undertaken. The job was not completed when Dr. Grant was called to the Senate, but surely the balance of the work will have to be done, no matter who represents King's County now, or in the future.

One would think to read "Current Comments" that King's County never had a representative worthy of the name until he found one, but to those who know differently it sounds ridiculous. Let "Current Comments" wait until the Public Works secured by Dr. Grant in his last session in Parliament are finished and then we shall be glad to hear from him regarding some actual accomplishments of his program.

I am, Sir, etc., ELECTOR OF KING'S

The Age-Old Story

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

around \$400,000,000 annually to \$700,000,000. That can go a long way toward meeting the costs of the State's gigantic super-highway program.—Boston Post.

Once, as old-timers tell it, you could cross Saint John's broad harbor by stepping from the deck of one windjammer to the deck of another. There were so many of them that they literally covered the water. Now, says a dispatch from Belgium, there are only two of them left in service in the whole world. A windjammer, strictly speaking, is any sailing vessel that depends entirely on her canvas and has no other means of propulsion. But the term is generally applied to large ships in the ocean trade, so it can hardly be said to include small fishing schooners of the type still to be found on New Brunswick's eastern and northern shores. Even the schooners grow fewer year after year. In some centres, like the old communities of Rexton, Richibucto and Caraquet, you can see them hauled up on the beach, bleaching in the sun and no longer in use—unable to compete with the engine-driven dragger. With the passing of sail transportation has gained efficiency, but lost a lot of its romance. Bliss Carman, wandering up and down Saint John's wharves, was inspired by the windjammers to write poetry. Had he lived later, and tramped the concrete piers in the shadow of metal transit sheds, would he have been similarly inspired by steamships?—Saint John Journal.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SPRING WATER SUPPLY

From the report of a meeting of the Charlottetown Common Council, Jan. 2, 1950:

"Read, an application from James Hughes for a license to supply the citizens regularly with water from the spring in Spring Park, and proposing to do so on as reasonable terms as any other person would agree to, provided necessary protection be afforded him,—that is, that all other persons shall be prohibited from bringing water into the City for sale."

"Councillor MacNeill said: Patrick Hann had been at his place that day to consult him about making a similar application. He had told him that he could not, of himself, give him any definite answer, and that Hughes was in the field before him. He had advised him to pursue the same course taken by Hughes, and apply to the Mayor and Council for a license. Two such able and competent persons, if duly licensed and put under proper restraint and regulations, would, he thought, be able to supply as many citizens as would require it for the present, with sufficient supply of pure water from the Spring."

"Councillor Laird said it would be absurd to grant anything like a monopoly in the selling of water. The Spring was the property of the citizens, and every citizen ought to be as free to make use of its water as he was to inspire the air. He could not see why, if license were to be granted at all, it should be granted to only two individuals. Competition was the life of trade; and by allowing something like competition in the new trade of water selling, to citizens would be more likely to be well and regularly served than if they were to be made dependent upon two privileged individuals for the supply of that most needful element."

"Councillor Reddin said nothing like a monopoly was contemplated; but it was only fair that the first to embark in the business should, in consequence of the immediate outlay they would have to incur, be afforded a fair chance of reimbursement, and not be left exposed to be driven out of business by a number of others rushing into it on observing that it was a paying speculation to the one or two who had spirit enough to run the risk of making a trial of it."

"After the Board had had the applications for a little time longer under consideration, they were finally disposed of by the adoption of the following resolution, submitted by Councillor MacNeill: "That on James Hughes and Patrick Hann entering into an engagement to supply all citizens who may notify them of their desire to be supplied with pure water from the City Spring, at a price not exceeding One Penny per bucket, a license be granted to each of them, to expire on not later May next; these licenses not to interfere with the citizens in taking from the Spring for their own consumption."

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The Poet's Corner

WATCHERS

My heart grew ice because of that grim head, Red sparkling eyes alert for pounce or flight, Features miscarven by strange appetite, Till kishup with the Elohim was dead, And kestrel, snake and rat were in their stead, Glaring through eyeholes that let in no light, Slinking through corridors made black as night, The paths the heavenly hierarchies should tread.

A company of starry ones without That midnight wait on the lost wanderer, The hero from these demon things immune, The shining ones make answer to my doubt: "Our Lord is buried in this sepulchre, We wait His resurrection. It is sure."

—George Russel.