

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink." CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1953

Unfortunate Lobstermen

Last year lobster fishermen considered themselves unlucky because a series of storms destroyed the greater part of their gear in the course of the spring season. Sunday night, however, saw far greater destruction along the Island's North Shore than resulted from all of last year's storms. As far as could be ascertained destruction of gear in most localities was complete.

It is most unfortunate, not only that there should be such devastation, but that it should have occurred when fishermen were anticipating the relative security which the insurance scheme proposed by the Federal Government would have brought to fishermen and small boat owners. Also particularly unfortunate is the fact that the losses have been incurred so early in the season, before the heavy investment has been paid for in many cases and certainly before the year's work could begin to show a profit. Now they are without gear and without the prospect of being able to obtain any.

The proposed insurance scheme would have been at least a partial solution but as things stand the fishing communities are in dire need of direct assistance. Another year it might be a good investment for the Government to purchase and store a reserve of traps and other gear so that a whole season of fishing would not be lost because of such a widespread destruction of equipment. After the event it is too late to begin appropriate measures to relieve the situation, although something might be done in the way of acquiring traps from the South Shore where the season is now closed.

New Provincial Government

As indicated in yesterday's issue, the major change in the new Provincial Cabinet setup under Premier Matheson is in connection with Mr. Matheson's former portfolio of Health and Welfare. This important department has been placed under the Hon. B. Earle MacDonald, and it is a matter of satisfaction that the constituency of Fifth Queen's, embracing Charlottetown and Royalty, is once more represented in the Government. Mr. MacDonald's long experience as Mayor of the City, and wide contacts with the public, should serve him in good stead in grappling with his new and responsible duties.

Another change brings the Hon. William Hughes, Fifth King's, again into the Cabinet as Provincial Secretary, a post he formerly held in connection with the dual portfolio of Secretary-Treasurer, and which he is well qualified by experience to fill.

The Premier takes over the portfolio of Education and the office of President of the Executive Council, formerly held by Premier Jones. Hon. Messrs. Darby, MacKinnon, Baker and Cullen remained in their respective departments of Attorney General and Provincial Treasurer, Public Works and Highways, Agriculture, and Industry and Natural Resources, the non-portfolio posts being filled by Hon. Wilfred Arsenault, former Provincial Secretary, and Hon. Keir Clark.

It is evident that Premier Matheson has sought to keep about him as many experienced men as possible, and to provide a fair and equitable balance of representation as between the different sections of the Province. Important projects such as expansion of rural electrification, continuation of the Trans-Canada highway scheme, offshore fisheries development and changes in educational curricula are in the offing, as indicated in discussions in the Legislature last March. The new cabinet should benefit by having a strong addition to our Ottawa representation in the person of Senator Jones, and this is particularly important in view of the wide field of activities now covered jointly under federal-provincial arrangements.

Apart from the by-election required for the filling of Senator Jones' seat in the Belfast District the new Government will have no political problem to worry about for some time, and will have every opportunity to show its ability and conscientiousness in the public interest. It cannot expect to escape criticism, but it is entitled to a full measure of co-operation in the performance of its onerous responsibilities. We are all vitally concerned in the safe navigation of our ship of state, and a few words of cheer for the new captain and crew (mostly old hands, but freshly signed on) are surely in order at this time.

Older Worker Problem

"The Problem of the Older Worker" is the subject of a valuable study issued by the Department of Labor at Ottawa. It is one, suggests the Globe and Mail, which ought to be widely read, if only for the basic facts it brings out. Those facts may be simply stated. In 1881, one Canadian in five was over forty; today, the proportion is one in three. In 1881, one adult in sixteen was over sixty-five. Today, the proportion is one in eight, and by 1971 will be one in six.

The study properly remarks: "The question arises whether or not it is economically possible to maintain a high standard of living in the face of trends which see increasing numbers of older people rejected or withdrawing from the productive section of society, reducing their ability to consume goods and services, while the burden of production, taxation, etc., must be borne by a decreasing percentage of the population."

With the proportion of older people in our society steadily increasing, and with their prospects of employment steadily diminishing, there is, as the study says, great danger in "the possible growth of the idea of a Utopian old age based on state assistance." Such a state of affairs, if it came about, would crush younger workers almost out of existence through the sheer weight of taxes necessary to finance it. If, as some politicians actually suggest, universal pensions of \$60 a month were given at sixty, the nation would find itself paying taxes of \$1.2 billion on this score alone. By 1971, it would be close to the \$2 billion mark. Old age pensions would then cost Canadians \$100 per head per year, or \$400 for the average household.

In the industrial Provinces at least, younger men and women have no difficulty getting employment. There is, in fact, a pronounced dearth of them, which is one of the reasons why we need large-scale immigration. But there are (or at any rate were, when Ottawa's study was made) some 30,000 men and women unsuccessfully seeking work between the ages of forty-five and sixty-four, plus some 16,000 over sixty-five. Many of these people have urgently needed skills; at one time last year, several of the National Employment Service offices had sufficient middle-aged applicants to fill every position in a small plant. But because of the present-day "accent on youth"—at a time when youth is scarce, and growing scarcer—nobody wanted them.

The Department of Labor's study goes at length into the factors which have brought about this absurd situation, and the ways in which it might be remedied. They deserve careful study by business, by unions and not least by the Government itself, which should be setting an example in the hiring of older workers. To the mass of Canadians, it need only be pointed out that their whole standard of living depends on national production, which in turn depends on the number of people working. When we deny work to any sizable group, such as those over forty, all of us are that much poorer than we need to be.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Salvation Army canvassers have a special project to work for in the extension of Sunset Lodge in addition to the familiar day to day activity of the "Army".

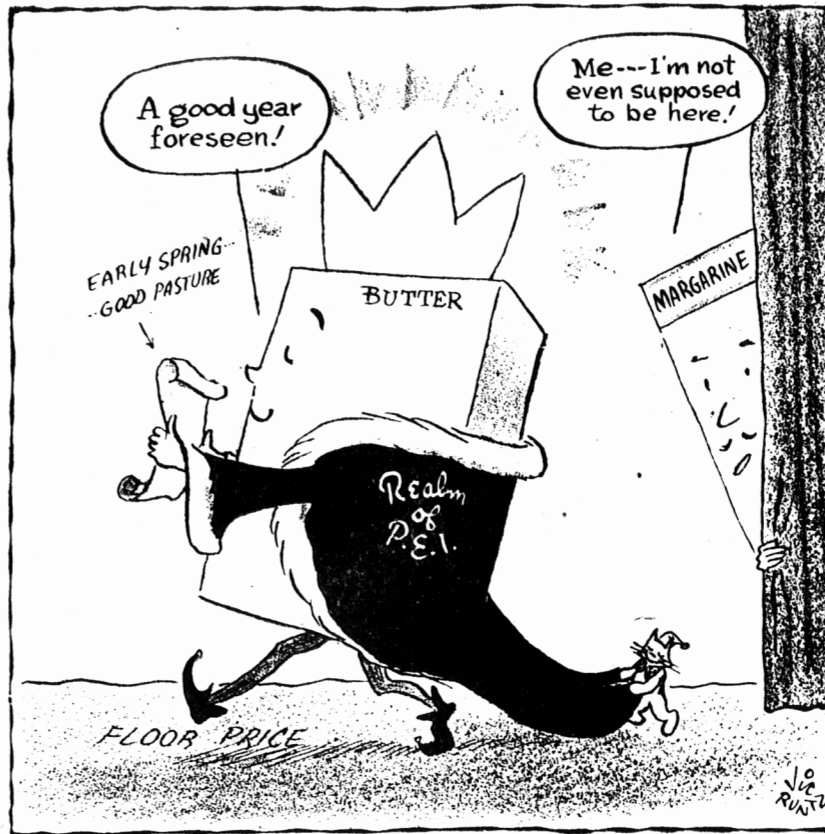
Nova Scotians go to the polls today. The main issue in the campaign has been the advance, or lack of advance, made by that Province in industry and communications under 20 years of Liberal administration.

The new Matheson Government is not very unlike the preceding Jones Government except for the loss of Senator Jones' colourful figure. Perhaps, however, Hon. B. Earle MacDonald will help to supply the colour.

The Coronation is a week away. Probably no ceremony in history has attracted such interest or will be so closely followed by peoples throughout the world, friends as well as members of the Commonwealth.

The British-Soviet Treaty was signed in London this date 1942. Prepared for by visits of Vyacheslav and Molotov to London and Washington, it pledged the two countries to work for the defeat of Nazi Germany, to prevent repetition of aggression by her after the war, and to shape the peace as partners. Also recognized was the full understanding of the urgent task of creating a second front. The signatories were to work together in close and friendly co-operation for the establishment of security and recognized the principles of not seeking territorial aggrandizements and non-interference with the internal affairs of other states.

Royalty And Rogue



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.

ESTO PERPETUA!

Sir.—Mr. James Pendergast's praise of education and the press and of The Guardian's high standard in this respect is deserved and will be heartily seconded by The Guardian's many readers. Mr. Pendergast himself adds no small share to the development of a well-rounded personality which after all is one of the first aims of education. If personal magnetism is a gift of sustained good-will, it is a quality that enriches his talents, consummate judgment, tolerance and sympathy. You can always learn something from him, gentleman and true sport that he is, and we sincerely hope Mr. Pendergast will be long spared to wield his facile pen.

I am, Sir, etc. J. P. McCLOSKEY Cornwall, P. E. I.

LAW AND LIQUOR

Sir.—Liquor must be hedged about with laws. It is like a cross dog, and must be tied up or muzzled. The new Temperance Act I have counted 125 restrictions that limit drinking. The framers of this law were so very much in earnest in their endeavour to make drinking safe that they well-nigh ruled out drink altogether. Why all these restrictions? Because liquor is a dangerous drink. Go into a munition factory and if you are allowed to go in, at all you will have to pass an examination. No sparklers in your boots will be allowed. The greatest precautions will be taken because of the danger of explosion. Our legislators know that alcoholic liquor is explosive and must be very carefully hedged out.

It is a fact that not one restriction set forth in the new Temperance Act but has been broken over and over again. In spite of all the laws ever made and all the constables ever appointed, every law in the book will be broken because liquor from its very nature is a lawbreaker. When a man takes liquor it goes to his head, destroys his judgment, robs him of his common sense and makes him reckless. An East Indian boy whom I knew well quarrelled with a neighbour woman, went to the rum-shop, drank enough liquor to make him reckless, took down his gun, and from behind a bush shot and killed the poor middle-aged woman who was a witness when that boy suffered the extreme penalty. John was not a bad boy but liquor robbed him of his common sense and made him a criminal.

Under the prolonged influence Stanley Bridge.

The Poet's Corner

BIRTHRIGHT

Lord Ramesses of Egypt sighed Because a summer evening passed; And little Ariadne cried That summer fancy fell at last To dust; and young Verona died When beauty's hour was overcast.

There's was the bitterness we know Because the clouds of hawthorn keep So short a state, and kisses go To tombs unfaithfully deep, While Ramesses and Romeo And little Ariadne sleep.

—John Drinkwater.

The Age Old Story

Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. . . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send hereafter be confined to Georgetown and Cardigan Bridge. His labors in that parish, during the short space of three years, have been fraught with remarkable success. He carries with him the undying esteem and veneration of that congregation, the prosperity of which has greatly increased under his faithful ministrations. That parish along with Morell will be the mission of his successor, Rev. M. MacMillan, of Grand River, Lot 14, whose place will be filled by the Rev. Angus MacDonald.

What is so magnificent as a great character? A man trustworthy and honorable in all respects. I have in mind the marble mansion of a millionaire. It looks out over a five hundred acre Savannah to a circuit of wooded hills beyond. A magnificent structure and furnished as a palace should be, with the finest that money can buy, but what is that palace compared to a Christ-like character? Many a fine man has been destroyed by liquor. George Adam Smith who lived during the last century was one of the great men that Scotland produced, professor in Glasgow University, a writer of books, and one of the best Bible commentators in the English language, took to drink when he was past middle age which greatly spoiled the last years of his life; and often like that of best of men have been spoiled by drink because "wine is a mocker."

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

NEWSPAPER ITEMS

From the King's County Advertiser, Sept. 26, 1878: Angus McPhail, Georgetown, proprietor of the Steam Block Factory, advertises for a journeyman blockmaker and cabinet maker also an apprentice to learn the business.

Tenders are solicited from "any party or parties willing to finish the inside of the Souris Grammar School (formerly Souris Hall) according to plan and specification to be seen at the office of Ronald McDonald, merchant, Souris."

"It is gratifying to know that no seining can be carried on with success between East Point and the entrance to St. Peter's Bay. The inshore is found to be embedded with rocks extending a long distance off, which prevent the working of seines on the bottom. The effects of this have been felt to a satisfactory extent, as hook-fishing was more remunerative along that shore this summer than in any other place around the Island."

"We learn that the Rev. J. C. MacDonald preached a short farewell sermon at Upper Cardigan on Sunday last. His mission will hereafter be confined to Georgetown and Cardigan Bridge. His labors in that parish, during the short space of three years, have been fraught with remarkable success. He carries with him the undying esteem and veneration of that congregation, the prosperity of which has greatly increased under his faithful ministrations. That parish along with Morell will be the mission of his successor, Rev. M. MacMillan, of Grand River, Lot 14, whose place will be filled by the Rev. Angus MacDonald."

"The new ferry steamer was launched from the shipyard of McDonald & Westaway on Tuesday last. She was towed to Pictou by the steam tug 'Lion', to receive her steam apparatus."

"The schooner 'Gazelle', owned by Mr. Duncan Kennedy, of Mont-

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

CONCERNING PROVINCIAL MATTERS

When the Liberal members of the Legislature met in solemn caucus (I presume it was solemnly appointed to the Senate there was a lot of loose talk about their having met "to choose the new Premier." I believe the rumour even found its way into some newspapers.

For the record it needs to be said that it is not the function of a caucus, under any circumstances, to choose a Premier. He is not even elected by the people at the time of an election. He is named by the Queen's representative, the Lieutenant-Governor or someone acting in his behalf provided he himself is absent from the Province or is otherwise unable to act.

When a government is defeated in an election the outgoing Premier naturally recommends to the Lieutenant-Governor the leader of the party that has returned a majority of candidates, and the man so recommended is named Premier and sets about to form a cabinet, usually, though not necessarily, from the elected members.

In the present case the outgoing Premier, whose party still commands a working majority in the Legislature, would naturally be expected to recommend his successor (the members in caucus) to be the new Premier. But he would be under no compulsion to do so. He might even have recommended me, and it's a pity he didn't! Should the Premier designate be an outsider, an election would, of course, be necessary.

As it is, Mr. Matheson, being sure of the confidence of the majority party, can simply carry on where Mr. Jones left off, or call an election, just as he sees fit. The point is that it is the responsibility of the outgoing Premier to recommend his successor in the Premier's office, as distinct from his successor in the party leadership.

To a lot of people this may seem like a difference between Tweed, dum and tweed-de. It is, nevertheless, important. Incidentally when a Premier resigns, for any reason whatsoever, his cabinet also resigns. In the interim between the resignation of one Premier and the coming of another, there are no such things as the department heads remain, but only as "caretakers." They all may be asked by the new Premier to re-assume their portfolios, or they may not. In any case, a new Government has to be sworn in. It is an outsider, a great many exhibiting a "don't care" attitude with respect to responsibility in Provincial affairs. There are any number of voters who take great interest in a Federal election but who think nothing of staying away from the polls when the Provincial Legislature is being elected.

This may be due to a quite common psychological viewpoint that sees glory only in those things that are big and impressive. But, whatever it is, it is not conducive to a proper evaluation of the democratic idea. Democracy is never so strong as when it is brought to bear on municipal and provincial issues. This is not to suggest that the parochial viewpoint, per se, is to be preferred above the national interest. It is to suggest that the essential strength of any nation must come upwards from the municipality and province to the broad areas of Federal interests, not downwards from the Federal sphere to the places of local autonomy.

The citizens of Charlottetown (if I may be permitted to call them by way of illustration) have a definite interest in a stable and stable government in Ottawa. But I should say that their first interest is in the kind of government that happens to be established in their own City Hall.

OLD MYSTERY

acue Bridge, was run down by an unknown vessel on Sunday night, the entrance to Georgetown harbor, and lost her main boom, besides having her stern badly damaged. The captain was obliged to beach the vessel at Panmure Island to save her from sinking. She was laden with salt."

much better title for it helps to remind him that he is a minister that is to say a servant, of the Crown and of the people.

Mr. Matheson, now that he has taken the oath of office, is just as much a Prime Minister, as Mr. St. Laurent in Ottawa or Sir Winston Churchill in London. All are ministers of the Crown, as well as holding the state, with exactly similar responsibilities and prerogatives. The fact that one is the head of a Provincial Government, and the other two of National Governments makes no difference at all.

This brings me to another point which is, I think, worth mentioning. The day Mr. Matheson was elected leader of the Liberal members of the Legislature (the party leadership is something else and presumably will be decided by a general convention), I happened to remark to a friend that no doubt Mr. Matheson would be the next Premier. "O well," my friend replied, "that doesn't mean very much." The implication was that the Provincial Premiership is of little consequence.

This feeling, that only the Federal Government and Parliament really matter, is, I suspect, more general than it ought to be. And it is one of the reasons, perhaps the chief reason, why centralization of political power is increasing over more and more. While most people are in theory, jealous of what they call "Provincial rights," a great many exhibiting a "don't care" attitude with respect to responsibility in Provincial affairs. There are any number of voters who take great interest in a Federal election but who think nothing of staying away from the polls when the Provincial Legislature is being elected.

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OLD MYSTERY

STRATFORD, England CP—A bulldozer unearthed the complete skeleton of a man near a Warwickshire highway and police started investigating. They stopped when experts figured the skeleton was 1,900 years old.

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