

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1954

A New Danger

The post-war Japanese took to the form of democratic government that was imposed upon them with such apparent enthusiasm that a great many outsiders were of the opinion that it was "too good to be true." It has not been all plain sailing, of course. As in other countries that had been liberated from Fascism, the Communist conspiracy has hindered seriously whatever attempts have been made to lead the nation along the road to full democratic maturity.

Already, according to authenticated reports, violent anti-American and pro-nationalist demonstrations have occurred in various parts of the country. It would be unfortunate, to put it mildly, if Japan were obliged to enter an era of internal conflicts between Communist and Fascist terrorists; it would be a tragedy if the antagonists should come to eventual coalition on the basis of mutual anti-foreign sentiment.

Municipalities in Newfoundland

Local government in Canada is, by and large, a fairly well-established political institution. The incorporation of a new municipal unit no longer evokes widespread interest. An exception to this general statement is provided by the comparatively recent and rapid development of local government units in the Province of Newfoundland, exceeding the rate of a similar development in Prince Edward Island.

Until 1938 the only incorporated municipality in the Province, reports The Listening Post, was the capital city of St. John's. In that year the second municipality was incorporated, the third in 1942, the fourth in 1943. From 1945 to 1952 over thirty additional municipalities were established. In the absence of organized municipalities the provision of municipal services had largely become the responsibility of the Provincial Government.

The impetus for the expansion and development of municipal government in recent years has been provided partly by the shift in the character of settlement brought about by changing economic conditions, i.e., population growth in some areas. As a result it has become increasingly difficult for the Provincial Government to administer municipal services directly to larger population centres.

The recent and rapid organization of municipal government in Newfoundland has been accomplished in the face of not a few difficulties. In many cases newly elected councils, facing the responsibilities of civic office for the first time, have had to meet urgent demands for basic municipal services with the limited finances provided by new and relatively undeveloped tax sources.

Despite these obstacles, residents of the newly incorporated municipalities have responded to the challenges presented by the establishment of municipal institutions. Ordinary citizens have come forward in sufficient numbers to assume the responsibilities of civic office for the first time. They have accepted the obligations imposed by local self-government with enthusiasm and a willingness to face problems realistically. In their efforts to discharge these new responsibilities they can be assured of the support and continuing interest of the whole of municipal Canada.

Half A Book

In all the public libraries of Canada there are only 6.8 million books or less than half a book per head of population, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics as quoted by Industry. The conclusion generally drawn is that of a national disinclination towards reading.

This is not, of course, necessarily the case. For every person in the land to be reading a library book at the same time the minimum requirement would be one book per head of population; but the reading index of any nation would certainly not be desplicable where every person read a book as often, say, as once a month. If that were done, a correspondingly smaller number of books would be required.

Reading habits comprise much more than a mere number of books. Take for instance the man who, in the course of years, has amassed the comparatively modest library of two hundred books. With these old favourites around him, he might be an avid reader and still not use the services of a public library more than twice in a year. On the opposite side of the page, we have the "skimmer" who will borrow five books every two weeks and, a matter of hours after perusing them, be unable to tell the title, the author or the contents of any of them.

The chances are that the newspapers are right in their contention that, in comparison with some other nations of the world, the reading of books in Canada is at a low degree. But a survey on the numbers of people who visit cinemas, who spend their evenings listening to the radio or watching television, would give better evidence of it. The rising circulation figures of pulp and slick magazines and, incidentally, the newspaper weekly supplements, would also tell a tale.

The attack should really be upon the quality of the reading material that is selected rather than on the quantity. In that respect, the number of books in the public libraries make some effort to select for their shelves books having some literary or factual value. It follows then, that if they require only half a book per head of population, the reading tastes of the mass of our population are flowing in other directions.

It would be interesting to pursue the survey one step further and discover what percentage of this very small number of books is in the hands of readers at any one time. There always seems to be an enormous number still remaining on the shelves.

EDITORIAL NOTES

World Day of Prayer.

Aberdonians are jubilant about a recent increase in bus and tram fares in the Granite City. By walking they now save an additional ha'pence.

If the U. S. Army finds a new moon or moons in addition to the lone one with which mankind has been familiar it had better keep its discovery top secret. Claim-jumping is an earth-bound habit but it could spread into space.

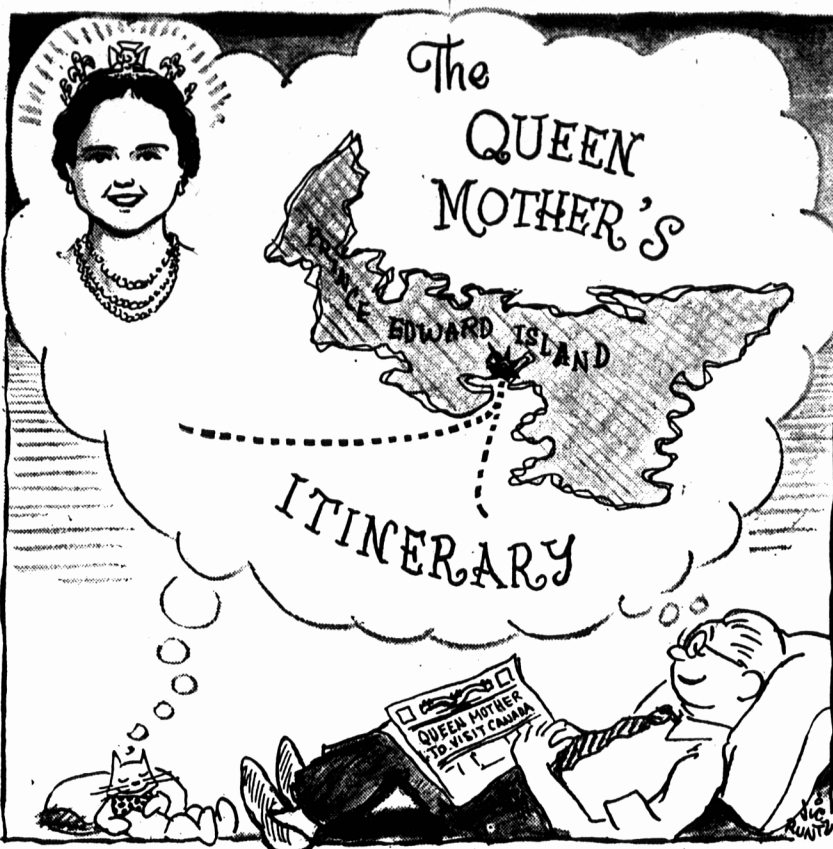
Montague residents and others will soon have use of the new bridge until the approaches of the temporary structure are again passable. It is to be hoped, however, that traffic can soon again be diverted in order to allow completion of the permanent bridge.

Whatever else Sir Winston Churchill's Government has done since taking office in November, 1951, it has been consistently successful in improving the foreign exchange situation of the United Kingdom. After an initial drop shown in the first quarter of 1952 there has been a steady increase in reserves shown to the end of January, 1954, without a single quarterly falling off.

Educationalists must bear in mind the children they have to deal with and their general experience as well as the official curriculum. The Associated Press, for instance, tells of a Sunday School teacher who asked the class to draw a picture representing a Bible story. One effort showed three faces in a long sports car, representing "the Lord driving Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden."

Pierre Simon, Marquis de Laplace, French mathematician and astronomer, died this date 1827. An obscure teacher of mathematics, he won renown in his profession and recognition as a scientific thinker at least on a par with Newton. He worked on problems of the solar system and the new science of heat, carrying out experiments still described in text books. His equation of the potential function is the most important single equation in the whole of modern physics, applying particularly to heat, electricity and magnetism. He also made important discoveries on surface tension and the velocity of sound.

Dream



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.

TROUT FISHING SEASON

Sir.—As all signs point to an early spring I feel that the powers-that-be should bestir themselves to have Ottawa change the opening of our trout fishing season, from April 15th to April 1st.

Unfortunately our trout have not heard of the so-called "Progressive Education" with the result that they are still doing their own thinking (page Mr. Dewey) so that, guided by their natural instinct, they complete the "cycle" of returning to the sea, the instant that the "icy chill" leaves the fresh water. Their return to health-giving salt water is very necessary, as it repairs the damage done by their being in fresh water all winter, thus enabling them to rebuild strong vigorous bodies, so necessary, when the trout returns to the head water, there to again begin the cycle of propagating their kind.

My many years of observation have caused me to fix the date of the return of the trout to the head waters as, at the first full moon tide in July. I am advised that the Fish and Game Association are calling a meeting for next week. Members should come in large numbers to this meeting and make known their wishes. I am, Sir, etc. JOSEPH FRANCIS, Charlottetown.

RURAL MAIL CARRIERS

Sir.—As a reader of The Guardian for many years I recall a lot of letters drawing the attention of our members of Parliament to the elected servants of the people. Now our Parliamentarians have dipped into the treasury chest and helped themselves with beautiful raises in salary. Electors all over the Dominion contributed to pay them this increase. The Government has also raised postage rates on first class mail, and slipped an extra cent on post cards which will take a lot of licking.

Last year, just before the election, they passed on some bait to the rural mail carriers, telling them that beginning with a certain month their raise would come into effect; then after the election was over they started notifying the majority of them that they were receiving sufficient, and could not get a raise. Maybe five per cent got it, but it was all left to the Postmaster General. Why was this not brought to a vote and decided by a majority for or against it, instead of being left to one man in the Government?

Our Island members should all get together and see what can be done in the way of getting a raise for our rural mail carriers in this Province. I would like very much to draw this matter to the attention of our members.

I am, Sir, etc. A. H. J. LOVINK, Netherlands Ambassador, Ottawa.

WEATHER PROJECTS

Sir.—Why is it we rheumatics have a chronic anxiety about the weather? Always before it happens its advance agent has already invaded our bones. You don't have to be rheumatic, however, or neurotic either to be a weather prophet. Weather prophets evidently "are sown by nature."

Walt Mason tells us that even "The statesman throws his shoulders back and straightens out his tie; and says, 'My friends, unless it rains, the weather will be dry.'"

Madox Ford (Ah, there's a true prophet) of handily says: "Sometimes wind and sometimes rain, Then the sun comes back again; Sometimes rain and sometimes snow. Goodness, how we'd like to know why the weather alters so."

If Mr. Ford speaks offhandedly

I am, Sir, etc. MINOR SAXON, Cornwall, P. E. I.

The Poet's Corner

ETERNAL BEAUTY

My windows open to the autumn night, In vain I watch'd for sleep to visit me: How should sleep dull mine ears, and dim my sight, Who saw the stars, and listen'd to the sea?

Ah, how the City of our God is fair! If, without sea, and starless though it be, For joy of the majestic beauty there, Men shall not miss the stars, nor mourn the sea.

—Lionel Johnson (1867-1902.)

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) EARLY THRESHING MILL

From a report of the annual meeting of the Central Agricultural Society, held at Charlottetown January 4, 1837:

"Agreeably to a special order of the last general meeting, your committee have imported from Scotland a Threshing Mill, adapted to go either with one or two horses. It cost £22 14s. 6d. sterling, and is now being erected in Mr. William Dockendorff's barn, and is expected to be in active operation in a few days. Whenever its capabilities are fully ascertained, it will be sold by public auction, subject to the inspection of persons who may be desirous of making models of the machine."

The secretary (Mr. Peter Macgowan) said he had hoped to have been able to make a favorable report on the Threshing Mill, but the state of the ice and winter roads prevented it being got over to Mr. Dockendorff's until a few days ago. He felt assured that the meeting would approve of having the Mill set agoing before being sold. Every information will be given to the public respecting it, and the terms on which it will be disposed of. He felt under many obligations to Mr. Dockendorff for the assistance he had rendered in the matter, and for the time and trouble he had devoted to it. He hoped it would make amends in some degree, by throwing out all his grain before the machine is disposed of."

we find Mark Twain so precise in his figures that it's hard to believe him. Mark says that he "counted" one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of New England weather-inside of twenty-four hours."

What wonderful drops of wisdom have fallen from the lips of these great men! After the which it would seem like invoking the privilege of absurdity to deny the official weatherman the popular belief that he alone knows what he is talking about.

Weather prophets come in many brands: some raise, some suspend, and some lower our spirits. I met one of the suspension type the other day. For weeks before our meeting the sun had remained behind wet clouds, showing itself about once a week for an hour or two.

After a shake-hands and a hearty smile he remarked that sunny days were most hopeful when "mankind was in any kind of dejection."

I didn't know whether to be overjoyed or depressed. My new-fledged unhatched comrade made me so delirious that I easily fell into this doggerel parody or Praed: "Oh, fickle Fortune, gipsy dame, Why tease me with a moment's sunny flame? Then when your glory makes me shout 'How nice', Pshaw! My joys are melted like North River ice."

My practical suggestion is this: If you are in an open field always get behind a heavy wind storm.

I am, Sir, etc. MINOR SAXON, Cornwall, P. E. I.

International Folk Song

(BBC London Letter)

That the folk songs of Scotland are very similar to those of Japan was a surprising discovery recently made by Marie Slocombe of the BBC's recorded programme's library. She recently attended an international conference on folk music held at Biarritz and several of the people she met there came to visit her afterwards in London.

Amongst them were two Japanese delegates who turned up at Broadcasting House one day and asked if she would play them some records of British folk music. Miss Slocombe, who is an expert in this field, searched through the BBC's extensive library, extracted songs from several parts of the United Kingdom and played them for the visitors.

She was not altogether surpris-

The Age Old Story

Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

attention of the Prime Minister, Hon. Louis St. Laurent, and the Opposition Leader, Mr. Drew, as they couriers all over Canada. Just recently I read a lot of debating on the forty-hour week they are putting through for post office clerks. I would like to know how the Postmaster General is trying to save money in this way, and still having to put on extra help.

I am, Sir, etc. ONE WHO HAS DRIVEN RURAL MAIL, Summerside, R. R.

ALLIED WAR GRAVES

Sir.—As you are, no doubt, aware in The Netherlands there are graves of many thousands of Canadian soldiers who gave their lives in 1944 and 1945 for the cause of freedom and for the liberation of my country.

I am taking this opportunity to write to you in order to draw your attention to a misunderstanding in the connection with the caring of Canadian graves in The Netherlands, the building of cemeteries and the erecting of tombstones.

During the war The Netherlands people considered it an honour to look after allied war graves but the liberation of our country, the Imperial War Graves Commission took over this task. Since that time they have exercised the greatest devotion and care in the extensive work of building the cemeteries, of tending the graves and of erecting the tombstones for the 20000 members of the Commonwealth who gave their lives for the liberation of our country.

The contribution of the Imperial War Graves Commission is not, I am afraid, always realized in Canada, and it is to their credit that they have drawn attention. On its side The Netherlands Government, only as a small token of gratitude, has presented in perpetuity the land on which the cemeteries and graves are situated.

The Netherlands people foster the memory of Canadian war dead and, on Remembrance Day, our children often lay flowers on the graves. However, I wish to make it clear that the outstanding work in the maintenance and care of the cemeteries has been performed by the Imperial War Graves Commission. The Commission deserves, in all fairness, the appreciation and gratitude which is so often wrongly withheld from them.

I thought your readers might be interested to know these facts. I am, Sir, etc. A. H. J. LOVINK, Netherlands Ambassador, Ottawa.

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Notes By The Way

"Sleeping outdoors will cure insomnia," says a physician. So will sleeping indoors.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

Ford jokes are much more of a rarity these days than they were when Henry Ford was promoting his model T and that may explain what happened to Elsie Stron, Washington correspondent for the Anti-Comintern of Stockholm, Sweden. She sent off a magazine piece on the Ford Foundation to her publication. In due time back came a cable query from her editor: "Who is Henry Ford second and who is Tin Lizzie?" — Washington Letter.

Every snowflake differs in shape from all others, scientists assure us. But they all feel the same when sliding down the back of the neck.—Edmonton Journal.

It seems to be an established custom that the guard of honor at the opening of the P. E. I. Legislature is drawn from the reserve army units in Charlottetown. The only time that the other services have served in this capacity, as far as we are aware, was during the war when we believe that on one occasion a naval party carried out this duty. We note that in other provinces this honor is distributed among the three services and we pass on the suggestion to the responsible authorities here that there is a permanent Air Force unit at Summerside it would be a nice gesture to invite the air force to carry out this duty occasionally. While we know that no one at R. C. A. F. Station Summerside is looking for an excuse to have more ceremonial parades and the preparatory drills that go with them, we do think that the honor would be appreciated. In any event, it would be a friendly gesture on the part of the government to a unit of the junior service which is located within the province.—Summerside Journal-Pioneer.

JENNIE LEE ACCEPTS

LONDON. (CP)—Jennie Lee, British member of Parliament and wife of Labor member of Parliament Aneurin Bevan, said today she is writing to CCF officials in Toronto to say she will be able to go to Canada May 3. Miss Lee said her visit would be a "thing one" to address a CCF meeting in Toronto.

Marie Slocombe was intensely interested in their comments because, it was strange that songs from the North-West of Scotland should have anything in common with those from a country as far East as Formosa. She is looking forward to receiving some records of Formosan songs which she can compare closely with her Hebridean records.

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