

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. CIRCULATION Total City Zone 3,464 Retail Trading Zone 8,420 All Others 861 Total Net Paid 12,743

President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. "The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink". CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, FEB. 5, 1952

No Mystery in P.E.I.

Certain groups in Ontario and elsewhere have been endeavouring of late to make an issue of farm incomes. It has been suggested in more than one quarter that farmers in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec are paying less than their fair share of the income tax burden.

If revenue from income tax paid by farmers is low in the Maritime Provinces as compared with the prairies the cause is not far to seek. On the basis of Department of National Revenue statistics alone, it is a matter of record that while the average farm income in Saskatchewan in 1949 (the latest year for which records are available) was \$3,700 and for Alberta in the same year \$4,266, farm incomes in the Maritime Provinces averaged only \$2,832.

So far as Prince Edward Island is concerned, farm incomes present no mystery at all. The high cost of farm equipment and supplies, the diversified character of the farming itself, and the fact that Island farmers seldom find themselves the beneficiaries of such political munificence as last year's \$65 million wheat "bonus", constitute pretty clear evidence that the relatively low "take" of Ottawa's tax collectors in this Province is not attributable to tax evasion.

It is bad enough for the farmers of P. E. I. to have to cope with indifference at Ottawa with regard to marketing and other problems, without having to endure insult heaped upon injury because of the political manoeuvring of pressure groups elsewhere in the country.

Unintentional Libel

English publishers have at last received protection against heavy damages for unintentional libel. In that respect most Canadian Provinces, including the Island, were well ahead, having for some years legislation which enables publishers to publish apologies where the original libel was unintended, and thus avoid paying crippling awards.

The older law was, as a Labour M. P. put it, "a playground for rogues" and did much more harm than good in suppressing news which was actually in the public interest. The new act, like our own, provides adequate protection against any deliberate campaign of vilification while saving the conscientious publisher from many premature grey hairs.

By Another Name

Noting a marked dropping off in charges of drunken driving, both in Ottawa and other Ontario centres, the Ottawa Journal remarks that during the same period there were many convictions under the new section of the Criminal Code which makes it an offence to drive a motor vehicle while one's ability is impaired by alcohol or drugs.

"Drunken driving," says the Journal, "is often hard to prove, in the lack of some fixed legal standard and definition of drunkenness—the police may be quite certain that a driver was so far under the influence of liquor as to be a menace to public safety, but to prove it to the satisfaction of the court is another matter. It is true also that cases do arise in this category which arouse the sympathy of police and courts—a week in the county jail is not a nice thing to have on the family escutcheon—and it would not be surprising if there were a tendency, where no accident has occurred, to give offenders the benefit of the doubt.

On the other hand it is much easier to prove the charge of driving while one's ability to drive is impaired, and conviction carries less social ignominy since a fine satisfies the law on a first conviction. Thus we are seeing the 'impaired' clause used in

the ordinary run of cases, and we do not say the trend is unfortunate. A stiff fine is at least some punishment for the driver who drinks (or the drinker who drives); on the old clause he might and often did escape entirely."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Summerside civic elections.

This province has obtained Canada-wide publicity through its Supreme Court judgment in the Potato Marketing Board litigation.

Students and others interested in music will have a unique entertainment offered them tonight by the P. W. C. Girls Ensemble.

The Health League of Canada should have little difficulty in convincing farmers of the importance of proper diet. They would soon be out of stock-breeding if they were still following unplanned feeding practices.

Sir Robert Peel, second baronet, English statesman, was born this date 1788. His valuable reforms included the reduction in the number of capital crimes, prison amelioration, and the foundation of the Metropolitan Police, the "Peelers" or "Bobbies."

Argentina evidently assumes the seller's market in beef is to continue, proposing to boost the price to Britain to £250 a ton after an increase to £150 a ton from £90. Firing at British seamen in the Antarctic is hardly an indication either of any desire to please the customer.

Ships arriving at Atlantic Provinces ports in winter are frequently laden with an impressive coating of ice built up from freezing spray. What few sailors bother to explain to sympathetic landsmen, however, is that most of such a coating is picked up within a few miles of land.

The rumour of by-elections in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick has merely a passing interest, as the overwhelming Government majority is not likely to be affected. There are three Liberal seats vacant and one Progressive Conservative, Victoria-Carleton, N.B.

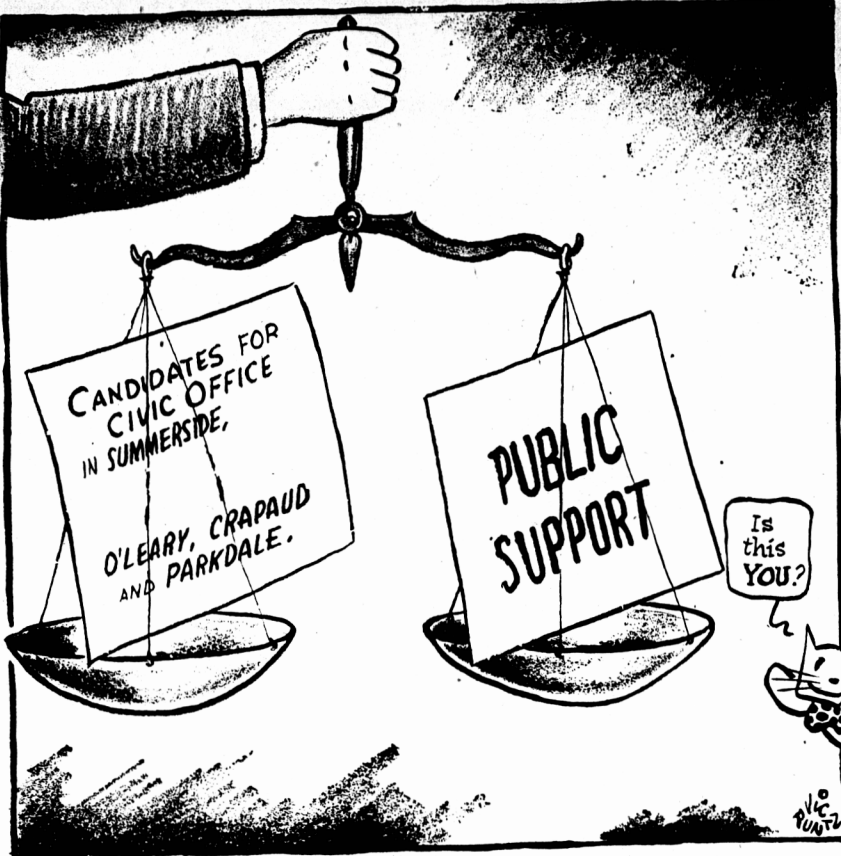
There are now only 9 Progressive Conservatives and 78 Liberals in the Senate, with 15 vacancies, including one in Queen's. But the Prime Minister seems in no hurry to make new appointees—and why should he with an overwhelming majority in the Upper Chamber, as well as "saving" some \$60,000 per annum in subsidies?

Mr. J. D. Innes, president of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada, told a meeting of the association that a dairy farmer earns less for an hour's labor than does an industrial worker. "The greatest obstacle a farmer has today is the lack of men with ability to handle animals. Until the price of a farmer's production an hour is more in line with the price of industrial production, this condition will not be improved. Many urban people are of the opinion that farmers are a group of profiteers, and that producing milk is extremely profitable." He hoped that figures would soon be available to show that farmers were not making exorbitant profits.

The Massachusetts system of retiring judges at age 70 with full pay and having them on call for part-time duty is being studied in legal circles at Ottawa. It is felt the huge backlog of untried cases could be whittled down quickly if the plan were adopted. Massachusetts has found it brings younger and more active men to the Bench and it has not been necessary to increase the number of judges. Under Canada's pension system many judges who would like to retire at 70 feel they cannot because their income would be cut. The Massachusetts plan is said to induce judges to retire because their income stays the same, and the public continues to benefit from their mature knowledge.

Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey's most recent public service (says Time) was as chairman of the Royal Commission which last year gave Canada a master plan for cultural development (Time, June 18). "We are the more Canadian for being British," Massey once wrote. At times, his icy dignity and faultless manners have amazed even the English. Lord Cranborne, now the Marquess of Salisbury and Winston Churchill's Lord Privy Seal, once observed "Fine chap, Vincent, but he does make one feel a bit of a savage." Massey unbends rarely, although close friends who have seen him at charades rate him a better natural actor than his younger brother Raymond, long a U. S. stage and screen star (and now a U. S. citizen).

In The Balances Today



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

ISLAND FOUNDATION STONE

Nothing remains now of the old Falconwood Asylum built in 1878, but the following excerpts from a letter published on March 27 of that year by the architects, Messrs. Sterling and Harris, in defense of the quality of the Island material used as foundation-stone, may still be read with interest:

"Now that talk about the Asylum walls has become general throughout the town, and noticing that some ambitious polytechnists has rushed into print, we think it well to explain matters. The stone in the wall is of very good quality and is rapidly hardening in the exposed parts of the building. The bed from which it was quarried was a solid table of freestone rock, having a layer of earth and strata of hardened clay thirteen feet in thickness upon it. The surface of this layer of earth is about fifty feet above the sea level. The tool marks show as sharp and clear on the window quoins stones as they did the day on which they were cut. This is a safe and sure criterion for the durability of any stone.

"In scowling the stone from Rocky Point to Falconwood the greatest care was taken to keep the material free from salt water, for one dash of this upon any specimen of freestone, red or grey, destroys it for building purposes. None of the stone was landed on the Asylum grounds during stormy weather.

"In this piece of foundation wall, 1200 feet long and 9 feet high which has stood the test of a severe winter, having been exposed to the weather on the inside and outside faces, there are only four window piers and about two dozen stones throughout the whole structure that show any sign of defects, and the Commissioner of Public Works has the copy of our notice to the contractors (Messrs. Mcintosh and Dewar) on the 13th January last, ordering the removal of this stone and rebuilding of it early in the spring before any brickwork is commenced.

"As regards the workmanship of the wall, with the exception of the four piers above mentioned it is of the very best description, and we have never before seen a firmer piece of foundation, perhaps excepting that of the Wellington Barracks in Halifax, having superintended the construction of such buildings as the new Post Office and Club House of Halifax and the majority of the most extensive stone buildings in that city.

"One hon.—gentleman, by the name of Hatchet, a rather sharp individual, no doubt, expressed his idea that none of the Island stone was fit for a foundation for the Asylum. Now, this is all abominable nonsense. A parallel case of this kind happened in Halifax some sixty years ago, when the Parliament Buildings were to be erected. The late Mr. Archibald Scott, the architect, who came from Edinburgh, strongly advocated the using of native freestone for the building material. A great agitation was raised against the idea of such a thing, and it was with difficulty that Mr. Scott gained his point. This led to the opening of the Wallace Free Stone Quarries.

"It is not generally known that one of the most expensive building stones used in Boston, and quarried at Springfield, is almost the exact formation of our Island freestone, both in colour, grit, and the amount of silica and mica points contained. The price of the stone in Boston is \$15 per ton in the year of the American Centennial, the Hon. James Pope, we believe, tried to persuade Mr. Woolrich of the Mount Edward Quarry to trim some specimens of his stone, and send them to Philadelphia; but this was never done.

"As a good building material, the red stone facings on St. James' Church are hardening very quickly. The stone has been cut into mouldings and ornaments, and yet there

Complaint is heard from Ottawa

that they have had quite enough snow for this Winter. It is not at all consoling to know that snow is beautiful, and every crystal which falls is different from another. — St. Catharines Standard.

While newspapers in succeeding editions tell the stories of crime and corruption, from the local break-in to the major U. S. political scandals, it is interesting to note the remarks of Inspector Henry A. Larsen of the R.C.M.P. in New York to address the Explorers' Club, the top man of one of the world's largest police districts reported little crime in the territory under his jurisdiction, an Arctic precinct covering 3,000,000 square miles. Why is there little crime there? Inspector Larsen has a brief reply. Most of the inhabitants of the region he polices are

Indians and Eskimos. The Eskimos are still largely untouched by civilization and are therefore "naturally honest." — Victoria Times.

People prof (mainly in mid-Summer) admiration for the old-fashioned Winters, but in the midst of such a Winter there seems a general feeling that we could do better with something else.—Ottawa Journal.

A playwright decided to leave Hollywood, and gave notice to that effect to his employer. The producer sent for him to try to dissuade him from the radical step. "You can't make any money writing for the stage," the producer said. "Take your last play—'Seventy-five thousand dollars,' the playwright said, with some pride. "See?" said the producer.—Vancouver Province.

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.

GREAT CRISES

Sir, I had a pleasant evening with a long time "shut in" and was impressed by his cheerful outlook on life, kindly interest in others and his reward in family relationships. In the way of talk, he questioned me as follows: "Does it say somewhere that Joshua stilled the waves?" Without much thought, I replied, "Joshua bade the sun stand still." Nothing more being said on that subject, I next day referred the question to another and was reminded that Joshua divided the waters of Jordan to allow the hosts of Israel to enter the Promised Land, as told in Joshua 3rd chap. He was the successor of Moses who raised his rod at the Red Sea, the waters raised up in a heap, allowing the Hebrew people to cross over "dryshod". Exodus, 14th chap. Moses at this time was about 80 years old.

Let's go back to his infancy when he survived the danger of death at the hands of Pharaoh, being placed in a basket of bulrushes and carried ashore by the princess. How reasonable it would have been to throw the boy further out as the king would command. These three Old Testament stories show that God had a plan for the Jewish Church and watched over it, as He now has a plan for Christ's Church and is watching over it in this twentieth century.

More crises are recorded in the "New," such as when the Master slept on a pillow in the ship and the disciples feared that He and they would be engulfed. And when they sailed alone and being at their wits end, He came to them in the night, walking on the waves. So much like our lives now. We look for Him to come when we have nowhere else to look. Or we imagine He is asleep and does not care.

But now as well as then He comes to the rescue with "Peace: be still, where is your faith? Is He still afraid?" He rebukes the sea and there is "a great calm."

On these two occasions the infant church was on trial. But we can say, to their credit, that they rowed hard both times. May we row the boat to the limit of our power. We failed to row when we should have. We should have been across to land before this century began and the waves of Communism would not as now be tossing us on the deep.

I am, Sir, etc. ARCH. MacKENZIE, Kensington.

Notes By The Way

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This great agricultural country recently has witnessed some curious goings-on. We have imported butter, eggs, pork and latterly some beef. To cap the climax we now are importing potatoes. Purchasers at some Windsor groceries will have noted potatoes from the United States. One paper bag of potatoes purchased was from Batavia, New York, and marked U.S. No. 1 grade. They don't compare with Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick, or even with some Ontario potatoes. But, due to scarcity of Canadian potatoes this year, some of us will have to eat imported spuds. Another angle to this importation is the higher value of our dollar in terms of United States currency. They can be imported and sold in competition with prices of Canadian potatoes.—Windsor Star.

The Poet's Corner

NICHOLAS NYE

Nicholas Nye was lean and gray, Lame of a leg and old, More than a score of donkeys' years Had seen since he was foaled; He munched the thistles, purple and spiked, Would sometimes stoop and sigh, And turn to his head, as if he said, "Poor Nicholas Nye!"

Alone with his shadow he'd drowse, In the meadow Lazily swinging his tail, At break of day he used to Bray— Not much too hearty and hale; But wonderful gumption was under his skin, And a calm clear light in his eye, And once in a while, he'd smile— Would Nicholas Nye.

Seem to be smiling at me, he would From his bush in the corner, of 'may'— Bony and ownerless, widowed and worn, Knobby-kneed, lonely and gray; And over the grass would seem to pass 'Neath the deep dark blue of the sky, Something much better than words between me And Nicholas Nye.

But dusk would come in the apple boughs, And green of the glow-worm shine, And birds, in nest would crouch to rest, And home I'd trudge to mine; And there in the moonlight, dark with dew, Asking not wherefore nor why, Would brood like a ghost, and as still as a post, Old Nicholas Nye.

—Walter de la Mare.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

A political paradox of our day is that, while internationalism is being held out as the last best hope of mankind, the spirit of nationalism is stronger than it has been for many, many years. Anyone who reads the newspapers or listens to the radio knows this to be true. Colonial peoples wherever you look, and regardless of whether or not they are well cared for, are striving, and in some cases rioting, for nationhood. Small nations are clamouring for more voice in big affairs.

In this country which is neither a small nation nor a big one, but one somewhere in between, this nationalistic spirit is by no means dormant, although we are committed to international co-operation in a big way.

The action of the Federal Government in advising the King to name a Canadian as his personal representative here is a symptom of the nationalistic urge. There are other symptoms, too, and more will probably be evident as time goes on.

Whether the departure from custom will turn out to be wise or foolish is a question that will have to be judged by future historians. Perhaps the verdict will never be unanimous, for even historians differ in their opinions, judgments, and conclusions. But at this historical moment in our development towards national maturity the question is of considerable importance, and there is no way to keep it from being widely discussed.

Perhaps it is a pity that the step, if it had to be considered at all, was not postponed to some time in the future when Canadian unity might not be quite as essential as it is now. Unity will always, of course, be desirable, but today, as we prepare to share in the gigantic task of keeping aggression from despoiling the earth, it is absolutely vital. Anything likely to disturb it unnecessarily should be avoided.

If Mr. St. Laurent feels that our "rights" as an independent nation necessitate the naming of a native-born Governor-General, no one will quarrel with him seriously for stating his opinion, although many people will dispute his premise. Many, too, will question the timing of the innovation as well as the almost clandestine manner in which it was brought about.

The practice in vogue since Confederation up to now has apparently worked out well. It has taken on the aura of tradition. There is, of course, no reason to treat all traditions as being sacrosanct. In the development of communities as of individuals, traditions and customs must sometimes be replaced by measures which in course of time will themselves become traditions, and this replacing does not necessarily indicate outrage by any means. Still when the breaking of a honoured political tradition appears likely to give rise to sharp controversy, as was the case here, it would seem that the people themselves should be given plenty of opportunity beforehand to express their will in the matter.

Our present Prime Minister is by all accounts an honourable man and a dedicated statesman. It is safe to say that no one, not even his most bitter political opponent, would say one word against him. Besides that, he is scarcely a party politician in the ordinary sense of the term, a fact which I believe has already been mentioned in the editorial column of this paper. Canadian unity is obviously, very much on Mr. St. Laurent's heart and mind.

At the same time there is no evidence that he had any sort of mandate from the Canadian people as a whole, or even from any considerable segment of the population, to introduce a new vogue, as it were, in our relationship with the Crown. True, there are people, perhaps editorial groups of people, who would like to see the office of Governor-General abolished altogether, but, at the moment at any rate, it is safe to say they do not represent any appreciable weight of public opinion.

Had the people been consulted in the regular process of referendum it is not at all certain that a majority would have supported the innovation at this time. If newspaper editorial opinion means anything, and it usually does, the action would more likely have been in the other direction. The fact that, the deed having been done, a near ideal selection has been made in the person of Mr. Massey, has really no bearing on the issue. Nor does the assurance of the Prime Minister—a

cannot help thinking—that the action does not necessarily establish a precedent to be followed for evermore. This may be Mr. St. Laurent's honest personal opinion. It may even be his hope. The fact remains that from now on there will always be a possibility of the Vice Regal office becoming a prize in political preferment. It is not so now in the case of Mr. Massey, but the future is another story. Such a possibility, however remote, some may take it to be, is abhorrent to all people who revere the Crown.

As time goes on it will be virtually impossible to find any man in Canada suitable for the office who has not had at some time or other direct affiliation with one of the political parties. This means, too, that, almost inevitably, there will be lobbying for the signal honour which, of course, will make matters worse and worse.

The breaking of one good tradition usually leads to the breaking of another. Mr. St. Laurent had no such intention in mind, but if the door has now been opened wide for still more radical change, it is at least ajar. A few more years of growing pains may do the trick, and we may yet see the office of Governor-General changed from an appointive to an elective position. What a field that would be for the ambitious politician! How it would eclipse the present run for senatorships, judgeships, and the like!

There is still another eventuality that might possibly come out of this. What will it be to keep the experimental philosophers in politics from asking: "Why have a Governor-General at all? Could not his parliamentary duties be carried out by the Chief Justice permanently as they are sometimes now temporarily?" What answer would there be to such a question? None at all, except that constitutionally there is provision for having a personal representative of the King at Ottawa. But, presumably, it would be easy for any Canadian Government, if it were so disposed, to advise the King to name no representative, and that would be that.

In his Ottawa speech Mr. Churchill said: "Besides the Crown, there is the King! The Crown is a symbol of supreme law, justice, and authority. The King is a person. The Governor-General keeps the symbol of the Crown before the people at all times. In addition to that, he represents the person of the King. Indeed, for all practical purposes, he is the King in Canada." Seen in this light, the importance of keeping the Vice-Regal office safe from the exigencies and turmoils of party politics cannot be exaggerated.

Some people are asking: "Why not make the appointment of the Governor-General in any and all of the Dominions the responsibility of the King himself, without official advice from anybody? That would be an official act, at least the King could very well do on his own, without fear of the modern British Sovereigns do not live in ivory towers or in political or social vacuums. It is certain that the present Sovereign knows a good deal about practically every distinguished statesman in the Commonwealth and more than most Prime Ministers about men in private life who would be likely to make good Viceroy's.

Who would be more capable of choosing the right person to represent himself in Canada or any other Dominion?

The Age-Old Story

All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord, when they hear the words of thy mouth. . . . Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever; forsake not the works of thine own hands.

VICE-PRESIDENT ILL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Vice-president Alben Barkley will enter the navy medical centre Wednesday for treatment of an eye disorder. The 74-year-old Vice-President said he expects to be in the hospital, at nearby Bethesda Md., a week or 10 days.

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