

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, FEB. 22, 1951

A Magnificent Record

The Younker Twins, who casually celebrated their ninety-fifth birthday anniversary on February 10, are both hale and hearty and outstanding examples of the wonder-working virtues of our Island climate.

Our first historian, John Stewart, wrote of the Island in 1806 that "it would be very difficult to mention another spot on the face of the earth where the inhabitants enjoy more uninterrupted health."

In a fair way now to eclipse all our longevity records are Messrs. George and Joseph Younker. Certainly the best wishes of all our citizens will go with them as they journey together sturdily past each successive milestone.

Financing Education

A private member's bill to provide Federal funds for education was "talked out" this week and goes to the bottom of the list, which means at this stage that it has a chance of being again considered during the session.

Education is, of course, a Provincial matter and for many Canadians it is of prime importance that it remain Provincial. It is well known that, as the tag goes, "He who pays the piper calls the tune."

The financial problem, however, is very real. The disparity between the per capita spending on education in the various Provinces is a blot on Canadian citizenship.

A Prayer For Lawyers

The following invocation, quoted from an exchange, was delivered by the Rt. Rev. Angus Dunn at the opening session of the joint annual meeting of the American and Canadian Bar Associations at Washington last year.

"Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Hold us in obedience to Thy holy will that in the day of Thy judgment we may be able to stand in the light of Thy countenance, and may our deepest trust be in Thee, the Lord of nations and the King of kings. Amen."

Men And Money

Our defence program, as it was outlined to the House of Commons by Defence Minister Claxton, calls for a Navy of some 100 ships and approximately 20,000 men.

While it would be unwise to minimize the importance of the Navy and Air Force, it will strike thoughtful Canadians as curious that the Army should be kept to such small proportions.

Canada itself. It will do nothing to build up the army so sorely needed by General Eisenhower in western Europe.

Lack of emphasis on the Army is even more curious in the light of events in Korea. In the rocky and inhospitable terrain of Korea it has been discovered that trained ground troops are more valuable than air units.

Such considerations lend more than ordinary point to the Hon. C. G. Power's proposal that a defence committee of Parliament be set up to supervise defence expenditure.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Washington's birthday 1732.

Employment wherever possible of ex-servicemen in taking the census next June is urged by the Summerside branch of the Canadian Legion.

American researchers have come up with the information that "grippers" are usually better workers than "whistlers". But did they look into the question of which are the best to work with?

Villages surrounded by the open country can be delightful places to live or visit. The same houses strung out in a ribbon along the highway are an eyesore, traffic hazard and decidedly inconvenient for the inhabitants.

Civil defence is the subject of the Federal-Provincial talks starting tomorrow at Ottawa. As the term implies it is not part of the Armed Forces' responsibility but the organization of the civil population to cope with any emergency.

Amerigo Vespucci died this date 1512. Born in Italy in 1451 he became a navigator and fitted out Columbus's third expedition. He himself explored the Venezuelan coast (1499); discovered all Saints' Bay in Brazil (1503), and was appointed pilot-major of Spain in 1508.

Nothing could more strikingly illustrate the flexibility of Canada's present constitution than Nova Scotia's proposing a sales tax in the speech from the throne while indirect taxes are still invalid.

The potato dealers' unsuccessful attempt to make their potato levy payments "under protest" is quite understandable. The Provincial Government may not have been guilty of the practice but Ottawa has more than once insisted on payment of sums which subsequent court rulings have shown to be claimed in error and then taken the position that the payments were voluntary and not recoverable.

According to Dr. Cameron, Deputy Minister of Health for the Federal Government, the one thing certain about the 'flu is that it is unpredictable. There doesn't seem to be much people can do to avoid getting it; those who stay at home contract it just as quickly as those mixing in crowds.

According to the Bureau of Statistics the spectacular increase in production and income in Canada for 1950 was shared by most industry with the exception of farming, due to the drop in wheat. Lower initial payments for wheat and increased operating costs pulled down net farm income six per cent to \$1,424,000,000 from \$1,513,000,000.

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.

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Sir,—I notice that the contract of a new boat harbour at Souris has been let to a dredging firm in Toronto, and that your Ottawa reporter states that Mr. Kichham gives some of the credit to Senator Grant for his wise counsel.

I am, Sir, etc., LIBERAL VOTER. Montague, P. E. I.

POTATO MARKETING

Sir,—Permit me space in your columns to express my views on potato marketing. When the government dropped into the government the big potato dealers all down through the years have been very firmly united, especially when it came to declaring a price to be paid to the producers.

"Fair Dealer" feels the whole situation needs a thorough airing. I agree with him there, providing of course that it is enlightening and informative to the farmers, whose products have been gambled and speculated with for too long.

"Fair Dealer" in that an airing would reveal a trend towards bureaucracy, or to use his words of "sloppy Socialism". The farmers of this Province have none of the above ideas or ambitions; they merely wish to have their just voice in the marketing of their products.

"Fair Dealer" says he is amused and amazed at the proceedings of the potato industry in the past year or so. Well, the farmers no doubt are very much amused, but not in the least amazed at the grumblings of the dealers.

I am, Sir, etc., FORT AUGUSTUS FARMER.

Origin Of The C.N.R.

(From an address by Donald Gordon, C.M.G., president of the Canadian National Railways, before the Canadian Society of New York.)

Perhaps you will allow me to select from my own experience an illustration of the kind of misunderstanding that can arise between the best of friends. The railway system which I serve is owned by the people of Canada, as the name Canadian National Railways implies.

It came about after the First World War with the financial collapse of the major railway systems, owned in one case by two captains of industry, and in the other by a great number of private investors, of whom the majority were English.

The one over-riding consideration which governed policy at the time of their financial collapse was the fact that the Canadian economy required these railroads to continue in operation. The Government, as the largest creditor, could see no alternative but to undertake the responsibility thereby avoiding a default which would have seriously damaged the credit of Canada in the money markets of the world.

A Haunting Refrain Keeps Stealing In



Notes By The Way

Reports from northern Manitoba tell of the disquieting experience of members of a motorcade from The Pas to the Carrot River district. Before setting out on the journey one member of the safari dropped into the government liquor store and bought a bottle.

Old Charlottetown

Georgetown, P. E. I., has been declared a Free Port. We understand the extension of this privilege is owing entirely to the influence of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, (Sir Charles Fitzroy), who has thus obtained a boon for the inhabitants of that part of the Island which, it is not to be doubted, will materially influence their prosperity.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "TINTERN ABBEY" The sounding cataract Haunted me like a passion: the tall rock, The mountain, and the deep and gloomy wood.

The Age-Old Story

For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

BLEW ONE MORE SAFE

GLASGOW, Feb. 20 — (CP) — The Commandos took John Ramsay from prison during the war because his safe-blowing ability made him valuable in the document-filching business behind enemy lines.

SPRING SAMPLES HAVE ARRIVED AT

J. P. MacPherson & Son Men's Clothing That Fits 157 QUEEN ST.

Memiors Of The Hon. A. E. Arsenault

Former Premier and Retired Justice Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island

(Continued)

About the year 1913, the Prince Edward Island Government found itself short of office space and Premier J. A. Mathieson proposed that the old Senate Chamber be converted into offices.

It was during this time that the Prohibition Act, which had been passed while Mr. Mathieson was Premier, went into effect. Personally, I had always been opposed on general principles to such types of legislation.

I said that it was generally considered that the Mathieson Government had done many good things in its first five years of office and that the Provincial Government felt it had been fairly well treated by the Federal Government at Ottawa.

Perhaps this is as good a place as any to pay tribute to J. A. Mathieson, who was Premier from 1912 to 1917 when he became Chief Justice of the Province.

During our years in the House and on the Bench we were very close friends. Whatever knowledge I acquired of Dominion and Provincial affairs, I owe to him.

He was a fighter and a doughty opponent. Moreover, he was resourceful and possessed a bulldog tenacity. Sometimes it occurred to me in the House that he carried this tenacity of purpose too far, but I had to admit it brought results when nothing else would likely have done so.

He was highly regarded at Ottawa and at the Inter-Provincial Conference he made a marked impression on the delegates from the other Provinces.

The Liberal Opposition, after the election of 1915, was not only strong but aggressive. Mr. J. H. Bell, however, was not a strong leader. He was long-winded and rather prosy.

When he resigned in 1917 to become Chief Justice, he, as was his prerogative, asked the Lieutenant-Governor to swear me in as Leader of the Government.

(To be continued)

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