

THE GUARDIAN

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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, THURSDAY, SEPT. 4, 1952

Our Commonwealth Parliaments

Perhaps the most universal characteristic of parliamentary institutions is their capacity for growth and development. There is little similarity between our historic institutions at different dates except for this notable feature of rapid change.

One of the forces which has given direction to the course of such change and kept each parliament in the Commonwealth and Empire in touch with developments in the others is the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, a number of whose members are welcome visitors to this Province today while in Canada for a conference of the Association.

Founded under the title "Empire Parliamentary Association" at the coronation of his late Majesty King George V in 1911, its present name was adopted in 1948. The objects of the Association are to exchange information and visits between Members of Parliament of the Commonwealth and associated countries. It has some 48 branches. That of the United Kingdom publishes the Journal of the Parliaments of the Commonwealth which reports significant speeches and developments in the various legislative bodies.

We venture to hope that the members of the Association will have a profitable as well as pleasurable experience as our guests. While for the most part they are strangers to Prince Edward Island, as parliamentarians they are not unaware of our unique history as the birthplace of Confederation. In many cases, too, they represent countries within the Commonwealth which have sent the flower of their youth to this Province for air training during the last war and in more recent years to the R. C. A. F. station at Summerside which is now one of the greatest air training centres in the world. The relations between our people and these young men from all parts of the Commonwealth have been of the happiest kind, and in many cases have been of a more than transient nature.

As noted in the preface to Dr. Frank MacKinnon's recently published history of the Government of Prince Edward Island, this Province, though by far the smallest of the Dominion both in area and population, is in terms of constitutional interest well up near the top. The same system which functions in the large and populous parts of the Commonwealth has developed here on a miniature scale, resulting in an unusual example of local democracy. Dr. MacKinnon's history was published last year on the one hundredth anniversary of our achieving responsible government.

The visitors whom we welcome are no mere students of parliamentary history, however; rather they are custodians of the living and changing entity which we now call the Commonwealth. Although visitors they are yet at home.

Ontario's Tax Agreement

Ontario's tax rental agreement with the Federal Government ends seven years of controversy and leaves only Quebec holding out against a similar arrangement. As is the case with the other Provinces, it rents Ottawa exclusively, for five years, the personal income and corporation tax fields, though not succession duties. The Ottawa Citizen opines that since Ontario has won concessions from Ottawa and expects to benefit from the deal, Quebec may feel encouraged to follow suit.

In his 1950 budget speech, Premier Frost announced that Ontario needed to take advantage of a Federal provision that without the level of taxation being raised it could levy a personal income tax of 5 per cent of Federal income tax collections in the province. In effect, he said, the field would be rented to Ottawa. From this position, the advance to a full-fledged rental agreement would be logical. It was no doubt facilitated by Ottawa's refusal to pay over the 5 per cent, so that Ontario would have had to set up an expensive collection machinery of its own.

Final agreement was further facilitated by the post-war withdrawal of Ottawa from several minor fields claimed by the province. In the result, Ontario gets a much larger guaranteed minimum payment than was offered earlier. Its net annual gain is put unofficially at roughly \$25,000,000, but its expanding economy suggests that this figure may be an under-estimate.

Premier Frost hopes the agreement is preliminary to a revision of the tax structure that will shift more revenue to the provinces and municipalities to meet demands for expansion of public services.

Consumer Expenditures

A study of the consumer's expenditures for food has been prepared for the Federal Agriculture Department's Economic Annalist by Mr. F. M. Schrader. It shows, among other things, that in 1935, \$73 per person was paid for food, being 24 per cent of the per capita disposable income for that year. During the next 17 years the annual per capita expenditure for food rose until it reached \$245 in 1951, this representing 23 per cent of the disposable income.

The actual expenditure for food per person increased by 236 per cent from 1935 to 1951 and the food price index by 150 per cent. This would indicate larger quantities were consumed and higher quality no doubt also is involved.

The statistics, comments the Ottawa Journal, do not tell the whole story. They do not carry forward the thought that in spite of all the advances in income in recent years the price of necessities has kept pace. We have more money and spend more, not from choice but because we must. And we give sympathy to those of fixed incomes who could live well in 1935 but today must find themselves left out of the good living so many others enjoy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Additional school accommodation will soon be a necessity in Charlottetown with larger beginners' classes each year. Of course a central high school would relieve the situation for a while by taking grades nine and ten out of the present schools.

With population ratios of 10 to 1 the United States and Canada had Labour Day traffic fatalities numbering 474 and 65 respectively. The high rate of fatal accidents on Canadian roads calls for strong measures to attain reasonable safety.

Our civil servants made quite an impression on two Ceylonese in Canada for a year on Colombo Plan scholarships. On leaving, the two said that they were most impressed by the "push" with which Canadian administrators get out and get things done.

There is, perhaps, some compensation for potato pests. When the probable price is low farmers are apt to neglect expensive precautions and bring production down to more reasonable proportions. On the contrary, the prospect of good prices results in every tuber that science can save, being brought to maturity.

The opposite members in the United Kingdom of the navigators being trained at Summerside are to have their turns at Polar flying. Five long-distance training flights to Canada, including one over the North Pole by the special Lincoln aircraft "Arises", will be made by the Royal Air Force Flying College, Manby, Lincs., starting September 5 and 6.

Francois Rene, Vicomte Chateaubriand, principal French writer under the First Empire, was born this date 1768. His earlier works in exile are confused but becoming converted, he published "Atala", part of a great apology for Christianity in poetry. A leader of the Romantic movement, he reformed French poetry, history and the novel.

Most of Canada's industrial expansion has been financed by our own and by American capital. Not all of it however. In 1949, British investment in Canada rose by 90 million dollars to 1,694 millions, the first appreciable upward move for well over a decade. In 1950, the total investment reached 1,723 million dollars, and, in 1951, it rose again to 1,772 millions.

Six Canadian horticulturists will be among the 150 delegates from 27 overseas countries who will take part in the 13th International Horticultural Congress which will be opened on Sept. 8 in London by Sir Thomas Dugdale, Minister of Agriculture. The following Canadians have submitted papers which will be read at the Congress: Dr. R. S. Willison, Dr. H. Hill, Dr. W. A. Ross, Dr. J. C. Wilcox and Mr. J. L. Mason.

The New York Journal of Commerce offers this quote from a Siamese newspaper which says of itself: "The news of English we tell the latest, writ in perfect style and most earliest. Do a murder get commit, we hear and tell of it. Do a mighty chief die, we publish it in borders of somber. Staff has each one been college and writ like the Kiplings and Dickens. We circulate every town and exteriorate not for advertisements. Buy it!"

A Place On The Calendar Assured

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ANNUAL EVENTS

AUGUST

			1	2			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

The Poet's Corner

PLAYS

Alas, how soon the hours are over
Counted us out to play the lover!
And how much narrower is the stage
Allotted us to play the sage!
But when we play the fool, how wide
The theatre expands! beside,
How long the audience sits before us!
How many prompters! what a chorus!

—Walter Savage Landor.

The Age-Old Story

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Cats and Rattlesnakes

An apprehensive Regina newspaper reports that rattlesnakes are moving into Saskatchewan in considerable force. A gentleman who makes a habit of collecting them reports that he has bagged 50 in the course of an hour near the South Saskatchewan river.

Lilies are much closer to people than most plants, in fact and association.

There could be many spots pointed out, where once a happy family lived and left behind to mark the spot but a lilac bush, tenaciously blooming every spring at the old spot. It is fortunate that they are fairly limited in their habits, for when they decide to grow there is no easy way to stop them. Time wipes out man's habits, but the lilac bush marks the spot. —Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

To the sporting fan invitations are multiplying to burn, so to speak, the floodlight at both ends.

For a long time the dogs alone held the center of the floodlight arena. Then the footballers joined them. And after a dignified interval, the cricketers joined them. Now racing motorists are to take their turn. Fun and games after dark are gaining in respectability. We long for the day when croquet by gaslight will set us free from the remnants of Victorian inhibitions. —News Chronicle (London).

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Notes By The Way

Pecan pie enters face a grim prospect. The 1952 pecan crop is an anemic 117 million pounds, 25 per cent under last year. Drought is the culprit. —Wall Street Journal.

Chief steward of a cruise ship in the harbour of Calais, France, sent an order ashore for 500 cut flowers and the obliging Frenchmen delivered more than a ton of cauliflowers. The florists call this Saying it With Flowers, don't they? —Hamilton Spectator.

We hate to say it—but the summer is on the wane. The shorter evenings, which are also noticeably cooler, bring a tinge of autumn to the air, and it won't be too long until evening golf games become a bit of a struggle for nine holes. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

Several reports we have heard from friends have confirmed our own experience that fishing in this district has not been at its superlative best so far this season. For this reason all fishermen and tourist resort owners should feel greatly indebted to William, Clarence, Victor and Lionel Allen, of Adolphustown, who landed a 212-pound sturgeon in the Bay of Quinte a few days ago. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

Old Charlottetown

From The Examiner of June 7, 1883: John Newson & Company announce that the "Seaside Hotel" will open for the season on the 1st July next. —Jas. D. Irving, deputy probationary, gives notice that on Monday His Honor Mr. Justice Peters will sanction the sale by the liquidators of the Bank of Prince Edward Island of certain real and personal property. —Hon. Senator Howland and lady have returned from Ottawa and are again at the Rankin House.

Last week the plant for the St. Eleanor's Cheese Factory was landed from the steamer and was the following day forwarded to its destination on trucks and carts. The plant consists of a 4-horse-power boiler, vat capable of holding 600 gallons, presses, etc. The plant was purchased in London, Ont., and cost considerably over \$100 for freight when landed in Summerside.

The new steamer "Heather Belle" was launched at Mount Stewart yesterday, and will soon be ready for conveyance of freight and accommodation of passengers. She is said to be much better adapted for the wants of the community than the old steamer.

Mr. William Dennis, of Margate, fed and sold an ox this spring which, though only 3 years old, tipped the scales at 1430 lbs. We question if the Province can beat this, and it shows the advantage of raising improved breeds.

The average attendance at St. Joseph's Convent has been, we learn, close on to two hundred. The present premises are wholly inadequate for the accommodation of this number of pupils, and we hear that the Mother Superioress will this summer appeal to the public to assist her in providing additional room for the increasing numbers that flock to her schools.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

PORTRAIT OF A FRIEND

A modern writer says that religion would be much more attractive if the religious people one knows were a bit easier to live with, and there is considerable truth in the assertion. True religion is the most joyous thing in the world. It is noteworthy that St. Paul puts joy as second only to love itself among all the fruits of the spirit. People who go around looking as if they wished they were dead, and thus making life miserable for themselves as well as for others, are not religious whatever else they may be.

There are, of course, many people in all walks of life who find joy in their religion and who manifest it in their social relationships. They are the salt of the earth. They are especially so when they possess wide intellectual attainments in addition to their faith. Not that scholarship is essential to religion, but I am sure it can be helpful to it, for He who made the soul made the mind also. So much by way of preamble to what follows.

Recently we had as our guest a Christian minister from the Eastern United States. I do not mention his name or his denominational affiliation, for neither is important for the purpose of this article. He is 78 years old and semi-retired. I met him some years ago and, although there is considerable difference in our ages and a little in our theological outlooks, we became very close friends. When I invited him to come and spend some time with us I told him that no man should allow himself to pass the fourscore mark without seeing for himself the natural beauties and splendours of this island. Besides, I wanted to experience again the intellectual and spiritual fellowship we had enjoyed in other days.

No sooner had he set foot on our soil than he began to realize the truth contained in the first part of my invitation. Time and again as we came over the road from Bordier he expressed amazement at the Island's beauty and charm. "I haven't seen anything like it in all my travels," he would say. The thing that impressed him most was the great proportion of land under cultivation and the orderly way it is arranged. This is in marked contrast to the chief attractions which probably passes unnoticed by people who live here all the time.

Intellectual and spiritual fellowship is, I think, one of the supreme pleasures that the human mind can experience. Doubtless, it does not mean the same thing for everybody, but I am sure there is no one who is not the better for it. In a sense that kind of kinship must be every bit as precious as kinship of birth.

Now that our guest has gone back to his home, and therefore is unable to reprimand me, it is perfectly safe for me to call him as a living illustration of the fact that religion need not be dull.

I can truly say that I have never met a more religious man, and I doubt if any such is to be found. His faith is a beautiful thing to witness although he has had his share of life's heavy clouds. It is demonstrated every minute of the day and shows itself even in his countenance. His scholarship, which he has in abundance, for

he has drunk deeply of the "Pierian spring", may not add substance to his faith but it does add vigor to it. Charitable, kind, a man of wide sympathies and deep human understanding, a sincere and able preacher. In short, a true man of God if ever there was one.

Such is a brief and inadequate sketch of the religious side of a beloved friend and guest. I would rather say these things now than put them in his obituary, should I survive him.

Added to all this is humor of the most delightful kind. There are people who are religious but who have little humour, and there are people who are humorous but who have little religion. The lack of either makes for incompleteness of personality, but both exist, one rounding out the other, to have a personality that is akin to the ideal. This is the enviable status of the subject of this sketch.

There are plenty of people who imagine that a story to be effectively humorous and entertaining must have a risqué ring about it. The story telling art of our recent guest is living testimony of the stupidity and falseness of such a view. And what stories he had to tell! His head is full of them. Dramatic, human anecdotes of his fifty years in active ministry. Enough to fill several good sized books and to keep a whole generation laughing.

When I marvelled at his memory and the large storehouse of his mind, he was ready to quote: "While words of learned length and thundering sound Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around, And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew That one small head could carry all he knew!"

When I suggested that he should write his memoirs while he is still able to do so, he replied: "No one would read them but myself, and that would be neither lucrative for purse nor soothing to my vanity."

It is easy enough to find scholarly men of 78, but it is rare to find one who apparently has remembered everything he ever knew, saw, or read. This seems to be the case, however, with the man I am writing about. He has a Shakespearean quotation for every conceivable situation. He knows the works of practically all the major poets and authors in the English language as well as many of the minor ones. It did not matter whom I mentioned. He was always ready with a quotation from one or other of his works, some pithy comments on his style, or a little anecdote about some phase of his career.

He thinks Mr. Longfellow remains the greatest all round American poet. His selection for the greatest American poem, however, is "The Chambered Nautilus" by Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Piety, faith, humor, intellectual strength, wide classical knowledge. What a delightful combination it is, to be sure! How very richly endowed are they who possess them all in well balanced measure.

No, religion need not be dull, nor scholarship pedantic. And that is the chief reason I have written which he has in abundance, for

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