

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, SATURDAY, MAR. 29, 1952

Progress In The Legislature

Despite the lengthy debate on the Draft Address, justifiable by reason of the subject matters in the Throne Speech, the Legislature has made good progress, with a fair prospect of reaching prorogation before Easter. The decks were cleared Thursday and yesterday morning of a good deal of outstanding legislation, in preparation for the Budget delivery on Monday evening. The Budget is always a matter of outstanding interest and importance, and this year will certainly be no exception. Since assuming the portfolio of Provincial Treasurer, Hon. Mr. Darby has made it a point to go very thoroughly into the financial situation. His presentations have been noteworthy also for their frankness and absence of partisan bias. Indeed, he has set an example in this respect which our sister Provinces could follow with advantage.

Judging from comments already made on the new tax agreement, it is evident that while there has been improvement in our relations with Ottawa, we are still far from realizing all our fiscal needs. Much will depend upon the expected further increase in gross national production, to which our guaranteed minimum grant is geared.

Several members had occasion to complain of road conditions during the winter, which is not surprising in view of the severity of the storms. It would appear, however, that King's County was the most adversely affected, and that greater attention to snow clearance in this section will be necessary. If the Railway request for bus franchises to improve the passenger transport service is granted, it will be natural to expect Railway co-operation in this expensive work of winter highway maintenance. This would be a much more satisfactory alternative than that proposed by Mr. Saville, for example, of increasing the already exorbitant gasoline taxes.

The question of dragger operations was also discussed in the Draft Address debate, and for the most part favorably. The Resources Minister, Hon. Mr. Cullen, outlined the improvements under way, and the great possibilities in this new phase of our fishing industry. When first proposed, the scheme had few backers, but now it is pretty generally conceded that the Government was fully justified in giving its support to the movement, and encouraging its further development.

Activities in our biggest spending department, Health and Welfare, were dealt with by Hon. Mr. Matheson who, like Mr. Darby, has given straight factual statements, devoid of partisan arguments, and has at times frankly expressed his doubts as to the wisdom of certain courses on which, nevertheless, it has been necessary to embark under the system of grants established at Ottawa. Mr. Matheson has an encyclopaedic knowledge of his department, and his statements and explanations are accepted on both sides of the House without question as to their sincerity or accuracy.

The same absence of partisanship has been shown by Hon. Mr. Baker since assuming his responsible portfolio of Agriculture. It is encouraging to note this increasing tendency on the part of Ministers of the Crown to take the House into their confidence at all times, and even to invite constructive criticism rather than to anticipate it by partisan blasts against their opponents' policies in days gone by. Departmental problems today are tremendously more involved than they were a decade or two ago, and the Legislature is no place for wrangling over them in the juvenile manner of the hustings.

Civic Air Ports

Transportation facilities are the key to progress whether progress be thought of as increased trade, industry and population or as wider cultural contacts with the world at large. The value of local production and the opportunity for seeing good theatre are alike governed by the transportation facilities or their lack.

The Halifax city council is aware of the importance of possessing a first class airport and is taking steps to acquire the necessary land. In this Province Summerside is fortunate in possessing relatively large and modern facilities and Charlottetown has at least an air field of sorts. Every improvement and extension of these airfields and particularly of the Department of

Transport field at Charlottetown is to the direct advantage of the community as well as to the Province and Nation and the City and Town councils should be ever alert to assist in their improvement.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, fifth Sunday in Lent. Passion Sunday.

Our Fat Stock Show and Sale got off to a good start, and bids fair to be one of our outstanding annual events.

Witnesses are to receive a boost in the fees attending Court, an increase long overdue.

The increased legislative indemnity, together with old age pensions, should place some of our legislators on easy street for the next four years.

There are six Federal by-elections due, two in Ontario, two in Quebec and two in New Brunswick, but so far there are no indications of the dates to be set.

Under the amended Temperance Act it is now possible to get four bottles of whisky at a time instead of one. As Mr. Earle MacDonald remarks, if we can afford such a luxury.

The Queen has approved the following form and order for the loyal toasts:—1. The Queen. 2. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Queen Mary, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the other members of the Royal Family. Then follow The Navy, The Army, The Air Force.

That our Legislature can get through business with despatch when members have a mind to is evidenced by the fact that it considered no fewer than 24 bills in one day. Judging by the discussion the members were not unduly hurrying their labours, giving each measure due consideration and attention.

For next general election the Progressive Conservatives at their meeting in Ottawa were not satisfied with the rumour that it would be delayed till 1953. Fall elections have been popular in Canada. Here's the election record by months: January 1, February 1, March 2, June 4, July 1, September 3, Oct. 3, November 2, December 2.

The Premier and the Mayor let the Federal Minister of Public Works know that the capital of the Ninth Province was not taking his neglect lying down. Hon. Mr. Fournier now knows we are in earnest about our demand for the start of work on our Federal Building and on the settlement of a site for our Naval Barracks. The visit to Ottawa was well worth while.

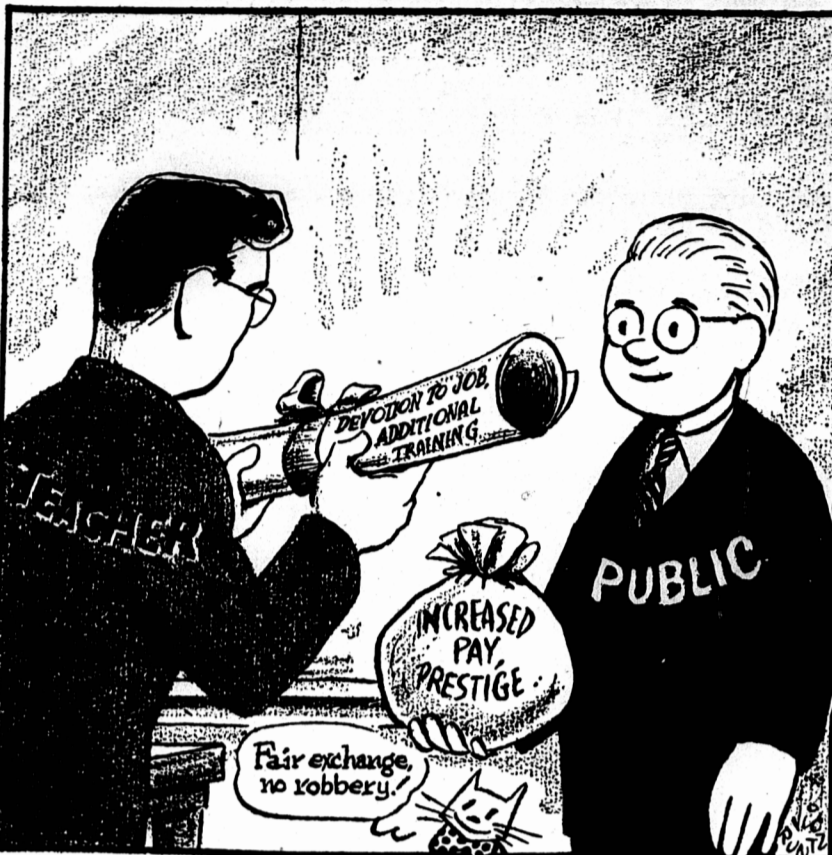
Not for the last forty years have we had such a happy-go-lucky legislature as we have today. They are 'a' Rab Tamson's bairns', and agree with everything done or to be done after, perhaps, a make-believe show of temper which leaves no ill effects, and all pursue the even tenor of their way without the slightest resentment. Hail fellows well met, happy to meet, sorry to part and happy to meet again.

We have no Island capitalists here willing to invest their money in an up-to-date bus system to cover the Island. The Railway is prepared to fill the breach, and should be encouraged to do so. It is not a plan confined to this Province. It is a deliberate, progressive policy for general adoption throughout Canada. If we do not fall in line we will be by-passed and suffer the consequences.

Sir William Walton, English composer, was born this date 1902! He studied under Sir Hugh Allen and E. J. Dent and in 1923 became known as the composer of a string quartet which was performed at the Salzburg festival, and of "Facade" to accompany a series of poems by Edith Sitwell. He also composed the striking choral work, "Belshazzar's Feast", "Symphony", "The Passionate Shepherd" and other works for orchestra and strings.

It does not do to be at loggerheads with the Party machine if you have an eye on patronage or a lucrative job. The genial and Hon. C. G. Power, M.P., is experiencing this. He quarrelled with the Mackenzie King Government on the question of conscription, and the appointment of General MacNaughton to succeed the late member for Prince. An eloquent orator, he speaks his mind freely, sometimes to the embarrassment of the powers-that-be. Shortly after the War he was reported to be Senate-bound. But though his relations with Prime Minister St. Laurent have been friendly his colleagues from Quebec have not forgotten his clash with Mr. King, and so Mr. Power's appointment has been held

The Makings Of A Satisfactory Deal



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.

ELECTORAL REFORM

Sir.—The question of electoral reform and representation in our Legislature is one that should be receiving the consideration of every Prince Edward Islander, especially now that legislation is costing so much more per capita here than in any of the other provinces.

There seems to be general agreement that a change is necessary but few suggestions are put forth as to the form it should take. Here is a proposal which may stimulate further correspondence and help develop a satisfactory plan.

Leave the fifteen districts as they are, with possibly slight adjustments of boundaries to more nearly equalize the rural districts within each county. Elect one extra representative in Fifth Prince (Summerside) and two extra representatives in Fifth Queens (Charlottetown) making a total of eighteen members to be elected on the federal franchise and latest Federal list, with provision for additions to and deletions from said list if prepared more than six months prior to election.

In addition elect five representatives at large on one ballot for the whole Province, eligibility to vote for these five being ownership (male or female without wife or husband provision) of real property to the value of at least \$1,000. Thus providing for a House of twenty-three representatives all of equal standing and eligibility for office.

The smaller House would involve desirability of a smaller Executive consisting of the six portfolio members.

This plan practically eliminates the plural voting and yet is weighted, though in lessened degree, in favor of the perhaps more responsible and experienced electors, who will be loath to surrender entirely the electoral rights which they have held for many years.

I am Sir, etc. ROBERT L. COTTON Charlottetown.

SPRING STYLES ON THE AVENUE

Sir.—We've had rain and snow since and many nasty days before, but Friday, March 21, Spring appeared on the calendar, and by a Heavenly coincidence, there was such warmth in the air (63 degrees) that ladies in suits looked with pity at ladies in mink coats!

What a day to go window-shopping on 5th Avenue! There wasn't a "style trend" that does not appear in Charlottetown, Montreal, Boston, Chicago, New York or Paris, or probably in the large centres of Asia as well, but I am writing this report because clothes are almost as much fun to read about as to look at.

Are hats your weakness? One of the finest department stores had only hats on display. The first window was filled with utterly preposterous but enchanting straw hats. They were large as a parrot and flat as a table. Some were round, others squashed in at the sides to appear rectangular, and they were of all colors. I remember two especially. One was perfectly round of shiny black straw edged in black velvet, and a stiff tailored velvet bow stretched across the top from rim to rim. The other was of pink straw with narrow pink velvet ribbons and a silvery nose-pink. Some mink playing with shells on a foamy coral beach, would inevitably have sold her immortal soul for this hat!

But all the other hats were adorable and practical as well. They were of straw, small, and of all colors. The sailor shape was much in evidence but the inverted scoop and saucer effects were equally on display. Narrow velvet ribbons seemed the favor-

The Age-Old Story

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.

Old Charlottetown

Who can see a willow tree On a cold March day and not Dull of an eye and slow of pace? He should feel his pulses race Keeping time to branch and root. To each bursting willow shoot Chosen by the earth to bring Renewal from its hidden spring.

—Helen Howland Prommel.

FAT CATTLE SHOW

"The Easter show of fat cattle at the Market on Tuesday last afforded another very satisfactory illustration of the adaptability of our soil and climate to the raising of beef cattle of the finest and most profitable description. One animal, only four years old, fed by Mr. T. Bullman, and owned by Mr. P. Blake, butcher, of this city, weighed, alive, 1802 lbs., and is said by competent judges to be one of the fattest animals ever exhibited in our show. A cow, also four years old, belonging to and fed by Mr. P. Blake, weighed 1715 lbs. The young cattle (one three-year and three two-year-olds) fed by Alexander McKinlay, Esq., York River, a very handsome lot, were greatly admired, their aggregate live weight being 5264 lbs. Two oxen and a cow, owned and fed by the Hon. J. C. Pope, also attracted the special attention of connoisseurs."

—The Islander, April 7, 1871.

Perhaps they may find suggestions for their own wardrobes!

"The first window showed the "Club Woman" as she arrived at the hotel for the important conference to which she was a delegate. (A handsome brown leather overnight bag at her feet gave the clue). She was a symphony in bronze, was fitted at the waist and skirt length and full. It was open just enough to show a glimpse of suit with a short fitted jacket of the same shade. On her head was a small pink-bronze straw hat that fitted close and was edged with a gold velvet band. A heavy gold pin representing a thick nail, pierced the side of the hat from one edge to another. Flesh colored gloves and dark brown pumps completed this outfit of beauty and elegance. And finally, after appearing in a series of lovely costumes, our "Club Woman" stood ready to go to the banquet hall. She had grey hair, short and up-swept. She wore a mink jacket over a gold chiffon dress cut square but not too low, tight bodiced with a skirt falling into numberless folds. Her bracelets and necklace were heavy with gold and pearls and topaz. Very beautiful yet somehow very competent was our "club woman"!

I am, Sir, etc. RUHAMAH SCHEINFELD FRANK Riverside Drive, New York City.

The Poet's Corner

MARCH WILLOWS

Fattening along the bough Sleek young buds are showing now Golden green against a sky Filled with snow clouds moving by. Willow trees can tell you when Spring has claimed the earth again By their sudden golden look - Although ice still chains the brook.

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(And P. E. I.)

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Notes By The Way

There are some evolutionists who have explained the origin of life on earth by saying it came from another planet. If their lot has been hard, perhaps they are now in a position to advance a new argument in support of their contention. It hinges on that barrel of monkeys the rocket people are supposed to have shot 250 miles into space, then brought back unharmed to the proving grounds in New Mexico. The expectation is that some day monkeys can be fired all the way to the moon, on test flights. And if the moon can be reached, why not Jupiter, Venus, or some other planet? It won't be altogether surprising if some savant presently informs the world that new discoveries have shown our simian ancestors came to the earth by rocket from Mars. — Windsor Daily Star.

Apparently the girls are doing something about the strange differences between their natural appearances and the appearance of the girls in the "comic books." The strangely modified figures of the girls of the "comics" has long been somewhat of a puzzle. And they all seem to be poured out of the same mould. Nor does it matter how much dress or undergarments they are doing something about it. And, of course, the girls will fall right into line. Waists are being pulled in to "wasp-like form", and nature is being assisted to a greater extent in other regions. There has been no move to wear padding beneath the cheeks to emphasize the high cheek bone and give a somewhat greater cheek effect as yet. But that may come. Just what is being done to carry out the illusions on the beach remains to be seen! — Owen Sound Sun-Times.

Sir John Cockroft, Britain's top atomic energy authority, says Canada's Chalk River atomic energy pile is "far and away the best in the world." It is likely to be that for several years. That is due to its being the only one which uses "heavy water" to produce atomic energy. There could be no greater tribute from a greater authority. His judgment isn't just a hasty one based on his present visit to Canada and the United States. During World War II he was director of the Chalk River plant for some time. It is partly his creation. But he has learned a lot about atomic energy since, and is so satisfied with the manner Canadian scientists are operating it, he thinks it the best in existence. — Windsor Daily Star.

With the Canadian dollar at par and better of the American, people of this country are encountering more than ever interesting experiences as they visit the United States. A few businesses and institutions across the line, particularly hotels which are first to con-

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