

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8, 1950

Canadian Teachers

The announcement that the Canadian Teachers Federation will hold its next annual convention here from August 15th to 17th is a matter of congratulation to the P. E. I. Teachers' Federation and to the Island generally. It is no light undertaking for our local teachers and everyone in a position to do so should help to make the visit a success.

It is commonplace that in order to transmit a little to the pupil, the teacher must learn a great deal. When it comes to teaching about places, there is no substitute for personal experience. The boy or girl who is bored by second hand descriptions taken from text-books, sits up and takes notice when the teacher can say, "I have been there."

The visit of these educators from every part of Canada will be an invaluable opportunity to make Prince Edward Island a real place to a whole generation of our fellow Canadians.

Mum's The Word

The Canadian Press recently submitted a series of written questions to the Department of National Defence regarding the number of absentees and deserters from the special brigade force, part of which is scheduled to see service in Korea. The answer was, "No information."

Secrecy of this sort does a distinct disservice to the reputation of Canada's armed services. It implies either that the Canadian public is not entitled to information regarding discipline and conditions in the Special Brigade, or that those conditions are so bad and desertions so prevalent that the people of Canada must have the facts concealed from them.

Desertion and absenteeism would never have become a public issue but for the fact that on October 19 a Defence Department spokesman confirmed as correct newspaper reports stating that as of that time there were 703 absentees. It is now up to Defence Minister Claxton to tell the Canadian people why absenteeism was so high, what has been done about it, and what the facts and figures are now that detachments of the Force are about to leave for overseas. Failure on Mr. Claxton's part to do so will seriously undermine confidence in Mr. Claxton himself as Minister of National Defence.

Sham Proposals

Now that the so-called "Stockholm resolutions" have been thoroughly exposed, it appears probable that an effort will be made by the same peddlers of propagandist wares to popularize the "Prague proposals." A useful purpose is served by the Winnipeg Free Press in listing these and indicating briefly why they were entirely unacceptable to the Western Powers.

The proposals, drawn up by eight Communist foreign ministers meeting in Prague, were designed supposedly to provide the basis for a Big Four meeting on German problems. This so-called "new approach," actually a re-hash of somewhat dated propositions, consisted of the following points: (1) a declaration that the Great Powers will not permit the remilitarization of Germany or its inclusion in any sort of aggressive plans, (2) removal of restrictions on the development of the German peacetime economy, (3) an immediate peace treaty, (4) an equally divided anti-German constitutional convention.

Mr. Dean Acheson, in a communique issued on October 25, dealt summarily with these propositions. As regards the first he pointed out that a similar declaration had been made as far back as 1945 at Potsdam; that as a result Western Germany was now disarmed while in the East, factories were turning out armaments for the Russian bloc while sizeable forces had been recruited in the Soviet zone, trained and equipped with tanks and artillery.

Mr. Acheson suggested that Point Two should be addressed to the Russian authorities as the organizers of the Berlin blockade. The U. S. had spent billions in the effort to salvage Germany and had made innumerable attempts, frustrated by Russian obstruction, to bring about the creation of central German economic agencies.

The third proposal is meaningless in the absence of a single German Government capable of negotiating. Such a Government might emerge as the result of free elections on a national scale but these have been consistently refused by the Rus-

sians who have sponsored instead totalitarian voting in their zone.

Point Four pretends to offer an alternative, which turns out to be the snabbliest type of pretence. The proposed convention would have equal representation from east and west, though the east includes 13,000,000 people, the west 41,000,000. Furthermore the westerners would be the product of free elections; those from the east the choice of a Government "returned" by a people with no choice beyond a Ja vote.

It thus becomes transparently clear that the "Prague proposals" are as much a sham as their notorious predecessors, the "Stockholm resolutions."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Final day of the open season on woodcock.

Premier J. Walter Jones let them know at Amherst the Island had to be reckoned with in more senses than one.

The new approach to Charlottetown by Trans-Canada Highway from Borden will be a highly scenic one, that is unless development makes it one long village street.

We do not want any more wholesale Korean massacre of spies at their open graves in the name of Christian civilization. It is revolting.

Souris forges ahead as a progressive, aggressive fishing centre upon which it is to be congratulated. With four draggers at its command the enterprising Eastern Packers should make things hum both at sea and ashore.

Following the trend of the times, and in recognition of the importance of their duties, Fisheries Department employees will now be specialists in protection, inspection or administration, instead of being organized in unit officers each responsible for both inspection and protection.

The Canadian Fisheries Board floating laboratory "Calanus" brought back news that warming waters on the Western coast of Greenland have driven the seal farther northward and in his place are abundant codfish. The trend if continued, might well deplete the familiar banks of cod and send fishermen seeking them in northern waters.

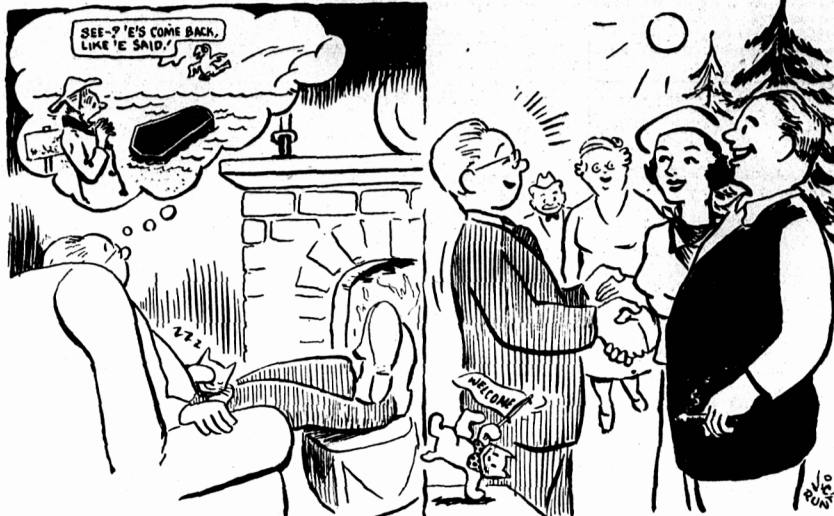
John Milton, English poet, died this date 1674. It was not until he reached the age of forty-four, when he became blind, his writings attracted popular attention. His prose is mainly controversial, and led him into trouble with the censors of his day. In poetry his greatest poem is "Paradise Lost", while his next, "Paradise Regained", treats of man's redemption, and is not so inspiring as its predecessor.

A repetition of the 1948 three-man race for the mayoralty has shaped up for Ottawa in the civic elections in December. Mayor E. A. Bourque and former Controller Grenville W. Goodwin have signified their intention of entering the race and the third candidate, Dr. G. M. Geldert, is expected to announce his entry shortly. The three contested the mayoralty in December, 1948 with Mayor Bourque polling 16,145, Goodwin 15,124 and Geldert 14,544 votes.

The two weeks' court mourning for King Gustav V of Sweden does not expire until Sunday 12th. Observance of court mourning means that the King's Lieutenant-Governors of the provinces carry out their normal functions and official business arranged before the death of King Gustav. However, they do not attend dances or similar functions. Officers in attendance to the Governor General wear mourning bands during the period, and if in civilian dress, they wear black ties. Officers of the armed forces may attend dances during this period, but may not attend them in uniform.

Seven years ago, in mid-November, 1943, elements of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division, particularly of the 3rd Brigade, broke up enemy scorched earth tactics along the upper reaches of the Sangro River in Central Italy. Fighting in bleak, snow-covered hills, their patrols ranged far and wide, looking for trouble and, more often than not, finding it. Operating out of Carovilli and Agnone in considerable force at the time, the enemy was systematically destroying everything on the right bank of the river to deprive our troops of food and shelter during the winter months. On November 16 the Germans were shelled out of Carovilli. A fierce battle followed at Castel di Sangro between the West Nova Scotia Regiment and troops of the 1st German Parachute Division. When forced to give up this strong point the enemy quit and withdrew entirely from the district. Two weeks later, as winter closed in, the Canadians were headed for an even bigger job—that of helping win the terrific battle then being waged across the mouth of the Sangro on the Adriatic shore.

Bring 'Em Back Alive



WHILE STORIES OF PEOPLE RETURNING BODILY TO THE ISLAND (AS ONE RECENTLY REVIVED) MAKE INTERESTING FIRESIDE TALES

THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAINTAIN OUR REPUTATION FOR HOSPITALITY AND INSURE FOLKS COMING BACK WHILE THEY ARE LIVING

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.

FARM PROBLEMS

Sir.—The economic plight in which so many farmers find themselves this fall, owing to the disastrous experience that has overtaken the potato growers of the Province, is something that all may well be concerned about. This is the third year in a row that potato growing has been a huge disappointment, and surely a lesson will have been learned that will prevent further gambling to any extent in this and other similar phases of agricultural activity. At the moment there does not seem to be a ray of hope that those involved can escape the tragedy in the offering as the Federal Government seems resolutely adamant against extending relief except on condition that the Provincial Government share on a fifty-fifty basis.

Whether government subsidizing of agricultural pursuits at a time when the inexorable law of supply and demand plays havoc with producer plans, is sound philosophy or not, is a debatable question, and with the demand for relief so wide-spread one would hesitate to argue for the contrary viewpoint. However, to base an opinion upon what the Government has been persuaded to do on previous occasions, in less exacting situations and indeed upon what it is now doing in the granting of subsidies to agriculture when in need, or to contribute only on an even split with the Provinces, intimation to that effect should have been given out a year ago, or at least before farmers committed themselves to any seeding or planting program last Spring.

This was not the case; in fact in this Province the situation was practically the contrary. Last winter and onward, when the drive for Federation of Agriculture membership was on an intimate basis, it was made that a Potato Marketing Board would be created to solve the customary marketing problems associated with the sale of that farm product, the argument was used that the Federal Minister of Agriculture had stated, in the event of the Federal Department having to make any contribution in aid of agriculture in this Province, it could only do so through a properly constituted co-operative organization, and many farmers signed up on the strength of that plea. If the organizers of the Potato Marketing Board and the executive of the Provincial Federation of Agriculture were correctly informed, and the argument used well founded, there appears to be a strong case against the Federal Minister of Agriculture and the Federal Government.

It seems unfortunate, however that the application for potato price support was not made officially and direct by the Provincial Government through the proper department. It is at least desirable that it should have been so rather than through a more remote agency, and quite possible that Federal reaction would have been different. It is fundamentally sound doctrine that all negotiations on behalf of the people of any Province, with the Federal Government, be conducted by the Government of that Province in nose-to-nose fashion. It usually commands mutual respect, and prevents that tendency towards

equivocation, evasion, and "passing the buck" so commonly in evidence when a substitute intermediary, representing only a portion of the people is entrusted with the mission. The case of the potato grower appears sound, and is of sufficient importance to warrant direct appeal by the Provincial Government.

I am, Sir, etc., J. A. GILLIES

Charlottetown.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Sir.—As the last stroke peals away on the eleventh hour from the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill on Remembrance Day and as I stand by the National War Memorial here in Ottawa on this November 11th, and think how fitting it is for all of us, that we should pause for a few moments on this memorial Day and think of that great host of gallant men who have given their lives freely for their country, Province, and so, we within the silence of Remembrance Day, we have mounted the flower of our youth and manhood. Their bereaved families and friends will remember to-day the lads who left their homes so willingly and who paid the supreme sacrifice so rapidly.

What more sacred duty is there for all Canadians on November 11th, than Remembrance, solemnly and sincerely expressed. Those who went from us and who will not return must never be forgotten, nor must we let their memory grow dim. We must not forget their dreams and hopes for Canada and, for mankind. It may, then, prove for posterity that those who fought and died in the war really achieved the object with which they set out; they fought the most awful war in history. They brought war to an end by the very horror of it, by the gigantic and incalculable enterprises that is entailed. This they did, and not only those who died but those who lived and returned.

So, we within the silence of Remembrance Day will offer our tribute of indebtedness and praise to them, to whom we owe so much, and pledge ourselves, to safeguard and not lose what they have won. These young men were men of every class, creed, and condition who came from every strata of our national life. They were men who heard the call. They marched and marched to their graves in a community of purpose, self sacrifice and endeavour.

What more sacred duty is there than Remembrance. Solemnly and sincerely expressed of those immortal heroes whose sacrifice insured for all of us our freedom and independence of our glorious country.

If Remembrance is to be sacred at all then it must be personal, and on Saturday morning of this week, it will be once again a great honour and privilege for me on this Remembrance Day 1950 to place a wreath at the National War Memorial here in Ottawa, in remembrance of the young men from my native Province, Prince Edward Island, who so gallantly and willingly made the supreme sacrifice and who brought honour and glory to this Dominion of ours and to their native land.

GERALD P. MURTAGH, 21 Crichton Street, Ottawa.

OTTAWA, Nov. 1—(CP)—External Affairs Minister Spender of Australia suggested today that Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom should join Australia and New Zealand in forming a five-nation Pacific pact.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

EARLY TELEGRAPH LINES

From The Islander newspaper, 1852:

Sept. 25: "The brig 'Henrietta' arrived here from Liverpool on Wednesday last, having on board 10 1-2 miles of telegraph cable, all in one piece, about 2 1-2 inches thick. It is to be laid between Cape Traverse and Cape Tormentine, crossing the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Sufficient wire, we understand, arrived here last week in the bark 'Closina' from Liverpool, to reach from Charlottetown to Amherst, N.S., less the length of the cable crossing the Strait." Nov. 5: "The steamer Ellen Gisborne, Norgrave, master, from Philadelphia, U.S., having on board F. N. and H. Gisborne, Esqrs., arrived here on Friday night last, for the purpose of laying down the submarine electric cable between this Island and Cape Tormentine. We hear that Messrs. Gisborne have been up at Cape Traverse, and have decided on Carleton Point as the place best adapted to commence laying down the cable. The telegraph posts are contracted for, and are to be erected during the coming month. We understand that when the line is completed—which is expected to be the case about the first week in December—between Charlottetown and Amherst a man in the office at Amherst is to fire off a gun in Charlottetown, by means of electricity, as a signal that all is finished and ready for operation."

Nov. 12: "We understand from a conversation with F. N. Gisborne, Esq., that it is his intention to extend the telegraph communication to the following places throughout the Island, in order to embrace the principal settlements: The line from Charlottetown will follow the main road direct to Tryon, Cape Traverse, and down to Carleton Head. From Carleton Head a branch is to be carried along the Belesque road, through Sealstown, round Hooper's Corner, up to Traveller's Rest, and from thence to Green's Shore, where an office will be kept open during the summer season, and in the winter at St. Eleanor's. A branch from Green's Shore to St. Eleanor's will terminate the line to the westward."

Next summer it is intended to lay down a submarine cable from the south side of the East Point of this Island, to Cape Race, on the coast of Newfoundland. From the East Point the telegraph wires will be carried to Charlottetown. The route taken will be along the south side of the Island to Souris where an office will be kept up to cross the harbor of Souris, from thence by Rolle Bay, Bay Fortune Road, Sutherland's Head of St. Peter's Bay, and along the main Post-road, direct to Charlottetown. There will also be a branch from Souris to Georgetown, passing along the Cardigan Road to Finlay's and from thence to Georgetown."

The Age-Old Story

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Advertisement for W.K. Rogers Agencies Limited, featuring a cartoon character and text: "A Good Habit" and "Of course, you are careful to change the oil in your car regularly. But, are you careful about your automobile insurance? Make a date to stop in and talk with us about comprehensive auto insurance."

Notes By The Way

Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, at his press conference in Ottawa the other day, exploded one of the misconceptions that have stood in the way of a proper understanding of Asian events. Bao Dal, the Indo-Chinese leader supported by France, he said, was neither a playboy nor a stooge of France. He is a great man of great courage and intelligence engaged in fighting Communism. — Ottawa Citizen.

There is a great deal behind the simple statement that 2,033 families in Stormont receive their mail by rural mail delivery, on 25 different routes. The same service of course, is given in all districts in the area. The 2,000-odd families get a valuable addition to the amenities of life, at no direct cost. Rural mail service is provided, under certain not too severe requirements, to all. The mailbox is a most useful adjunct to the farm. From it the people can send out letters every day. Even more important perhaps, is the incoming mail. Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

The slender birch, one of the most picturesque of trees, is rapidly disappearing from the Eastern Canadian scene. F. A. Harrison of Montreal told a luncheon-meeting yesterday. "The birch has completely disappeared from the Maritimes and is dying out of Quebec," said Mr. Harrison, who is manager of the woodlands division of the International Paper Company. A mysterious condition called "die-back" was the culprit, he said. In an interview following the luncheon, Mr. Harrison said that experts could not agree as to just what "die-back" is, much less know how to control it. "All that is known about it is that it seems always to attack mature trees, and that an insect, the bronze birch borer, works with it," he said. It had first appeared on the Atlantic seaboard and gradually had worked its way westward. Now, it had reached Algonquin Park, Ontario. (In the last few years there has been a noticeable mortality among apparently healthy trees in the appennine area.) — Montreal Gazette.

Advertisement for J.P. MacPherson & Son, featuring "The Poet's Corner" and "PEACE". Text includes: "The influence of wives in making their men more clothes conscious seems to be spreading. Here before the man of the house was content to let his better half have all the say in interior decoration in the home. But now it's different. The men are taking an active interest in the selection of furniture and the general scheme of decoration, according to a speaker at a Home Fashion League meeting in New York. It took the women a long time to get their men away from the staid business suits of darker colors. And in making them switch to more colorful suits and sports wear, they have gone beyond expectations. Now the men want to inject some of their ideas into the home. The average homemaker has always prided herself on her taste in the selection of furniture and the little doodads that go to make up a home. But she welcomes the aroused interest she has awakened in mere man." — Boston Post.

Advertisement for J.P. MacPherson & Son, featuring "Men!! CLEARING ALL STOCK SUITS AT \$45.00". Text includes: "WED., THURS. & FRI. Alterations Extra. J.P. MacPherson & Son 157 Queen Street."

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Grid of professional advertisements including: J. S. TAYLOR (Optometrist), J. A. CARRUTHERS R.O. (Optometrist), Frederic A. Large, K.C. (Barrister, Solicitor), Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister, Solicitor), A. Walther Gaudet, LL.B. (Barrister, Solicitor), H. R. DOANE & JO. (Chartered Accountants), and McDONALD, CURRIE & CO. (Chartered Accountants).