

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1950

City Council And Public

Charlottetown's First Magistrate this week reviewed for citizens the "state of the city." His remarks, as always, were pungent and informative. One point in particular seems to call for the widest possible attention. Emphasizing that able men should be willing to serve on the Council and learn for themselves the problems of civic administration, His Worship stated: "I feel that, if some of those who are so ready to criticize, and whose criticisms are not constructive, were to serve on the Board, then they could see and learn for themselves actual conditions, and not be influenced by listening to some biased opinions which are being today expressed. They must obtain their second-hand information in this manner, for it is deplorable the lack of attendance at our regular monthly meetings, and this must be the criterion of public interest."

Without taking issue on the amount of bias displayed in accounts of Council meetings, we applaud Mayor MacDonald's concern at the smallness of the numbers of those who attend the meetings of the City Council. More of the public certainly should attend on occasions, and probably would do so if they could expect to hear the affairs of the city discussed by their elected representatives. All too often, however, open discussion is waived. The members of the Council privately discuss matters even of the highest import, and then hold their public meeting and formally record their vote without discussion. A surer way of killing public enthusiasm for the proceedings could hardly be imagined.

Prof. Burton's Suggestions

Prof. C. L. Burton, of Macdonald College, caused a stir a few days ago at the convention of the National Dairy Association at the Seignior Club, Quebec, by proposing that dairies should be continually seeking to find more efficient, and hence cheaper, ways of distributing fluid milk and in so doing pass some of their savings in cost on to consumers by reducing milk prices. The three suggestions which he offered as to how economies might be brought about were: increased sales through stores, price concessions for the consumer buying more than one quart at a time and some reduction in trucking charges between the farm gate and the dairy.

Dairies in New York City, Prof. Burton says, have found that it costs from 3 to 4 cents less per quart to deliver milk to the store than to the doorstep. The consumer got milk 2.7 cents per quart cheaper by walking to the store for it. It is not surprising that in New York City more than 70 per cent of all milk sold is handled by the stores. Sales through stores in most Canadian cities are negligible because their price is at least as high as the delivered price.

This study in New York also showed that the average cost per quart of delivering milk to the consumer's doorstep dropped sharply as the number of quarts was increased. A typical cost of delivering one quart in that city was 12.4 cents; of two, 6.2 cents; of three, 4.1; and of four, 3.1 cents per quart. Charging the same price for each quart irrespective of the number taken per delivery gives the consumer no incentive to buy more milk per delivery, with fewer deliveries. If it were possible to pass these lower costs for larger deliveries on to the consumer she would be encouraged to take fewer deliveries—perhaps one every other day—more milk per delivery and more milk per week.

Minority Government

An analysis of the British general election results, appearing in the Liverpool Daily Post, shows that in 68 constituencies where Conservative candidates were unsuccessful because of a split vote, the Liberals secured a total poll of 400,000; whereas the Labor majorities totalled just over 200,000. It is pointed out that even allowing for the contingency that not all of those who voted Liberal would have supported the Conservatives if there had been only two parties from which to choose, it could be reasonably assumed that at least 50 per cent would have done so. Assuming that this would have happened, the Conservatives would have gained a minimum of 42 seats (including the 8 Liberal seats), and Labor would have been 34 less.

This, points out an exchange, would have meant the Conservatives having an overall majority of at least 52 seats, which would have been enough for them to

carry on the government for the complete term of office. Moreover, it would have been more representative of the popular vote than was the big majority of seats secured by Labor in the 1945 election. In that election Labor obtained about 43 per cent of the total popular vote. It was therefore a minority government, and yet it carried out the most revolutionary program of legislation in the history of British politics. Strangely enough, in every instance where Socialism or Fascism has gained power it has done so by dividing the opposition and ruling as a minority government.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Holy Thursday.

Tomorrow, Good Friday.

Two more days till Easter.

New Brunswick harvested no less than \$900,000 worth of clams last year. It is staggering to the imagination to think of the area of shore-line around this Province which could be similarly valuably used.

This year Lyman's Ltd. celebrates its 150th anniversary, having been established in 1800. Lyman's Ltd. was the first wholesale drug house in Canada and is the third oldest on the North American continent.

A Reuters dispatch reveals that Number 10 Downing Street has a new carpet in the Cabinet room. At the rate absentee Government supporters are likely to be brought on it, a new and hard-wearing carpet was probably a necessity for the present term.

Skunk bounties do not seem to produce the desired result, which is extinction of the breed and necessarily an end to the income from the bounty. Perhaps the opposite approach would prove more successful, to provide penalties for permitting the creatures to exist on one's property.

John C. Stow, chronicler of London, born this date 1525. He followed the trade of a tailor till the age of forty when he blossomed out as the publisher of a new edition of Chaucer's works in 1561. He published Summary of English Chronicles in 1565, and Annals of England in 1580, and his chief work Survey of London in 1598.

The P. E. I. Fisheries Federation certainly has an approach to problems that should result in getting things done. They do not propose to ask the Government or outside investors to finance additional processing facilities. They propose to find the capital, or most of it, from their own membership and other interested individuals.

The First Canadian Army, which fought so courageously and efficiently in North-west Europe, was formed in England on April 6, 1942, exactly eight years ago. . . . Five years ago, on April 8, 1945, airborne troops of the Canadian Army dropped east of the Zuider Zee and on April 9 the First Canadian Army crossed the Ems at Meppen.

Mr. Watson MacNaught, M.P., certainly has been busy at Ottawa looking after his constituents' interests. In addition to the harbour improvements ready to be proceeded with, there is the new Federal building at Summerside, besides 102 new houses for the R. C. A. F., just waiting for improved weather to be proceeded with.

Governor-General Alexander has no idea of "succeeding" Field Marshal Montgomery as head of the Western Union Military Organization. Indeed, it was claimed at the time of General Montgomery's appointment, that General Alexander received the Canadian office in compensation for being unexplainably passed over, he alleged to be the better tactician and administrator of the two.

Probably British War Minister Strachey, member of the Attlee Government, who is having his past literary efforts cited against him may recall that his distinguished father, Mr. J. St. Loé Strachey, editor of The Spectator, wrote about the authors of his day, who tried to be ultra original. They "Re-write the thrice re-written. Strive to say Some older nothing in some newer way."

He must be sorry he did not benefit by his father's advice.

Nova Scotian politicians have long had a reputation of being feeders at the "public trough". Now it is proposed that those fortunate enough to enjoy seats in the government when their usefulness in that respect is done, shall continue to be spoon fed as an act of charity. At this rate soon in our neighbouring province almost every politician, except opposition members, as long as they draw breath will have security of tenure, for it will be a simple matter substituting new cabinet members for those going on pension.

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.

SOME FARMING SUGGESTIONS

Sir.—May I express my ideas on general topics concerning farming and farmers in our Province. The writer looked into the possibilities of growing sugar beets. My findings were that to construct a sugar beet processing plant, with a capacity of one thousand tons daily, it would cost \$1,500,000. A plant with a processing capacity of less than 500 tons daily would and could not operate at a profit. Further, the beets would have to be grown within a radius of from forty to fifty miles surrounding the plant. My conclusion is that sugar beet growing is out as far as our Province is concerned. Now what other crops can we grow successfully and make a little money on other than what our farmers have been growing and know all about.

I suggest that the growing of strawberries and raspberries, not in a large way for a start at least, but from one-eighth to one acre. Now with plane freight transportation to the Canadian and American markets where there are good markets and constant demand for fresh and canned fruit, the writer has known of a crop of 600 boxes taken off one eighth of an acre at 12 1-2 cts per box. This would yield \$900.00 per acre.

I hasten to say that this is an exceptionally high yield, which no one could expect on a larger plot even of one acre. I do not wish to paint too rosy a picture; for example, I saw one year when so much rain and damp weather came at ripening time that only a small percentage of the crop was saved, because of mould. Cultivated raspberries are also profitable. Anyone interested in the growing of those crops can obtain full information by requesting same from the Publications Branch Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

In the past, we farmers have been largely buying our timothy and clover seed requirements, using up a lot of our money when there is no necessity for it. We can grow equally as good timothy and clover seed in Prince Edward Island as can be grown anywhere and freer from weed seeds than we very often import. The same for turnip and mangle seeds. We farmers should try to conserve our dollars rather than exporting them too freely.

With the U.S.A. reducing their potato acreage in 1950, if I may be bold enough, I would suggest farmers growing the same number of acres as you planted last year, but go slow on turnips. Of course, if we did have an over-production of turnips, we could convert them for stock feed more readily than potatoes.

In closing, I wish to bring to the attention of farmers what I believe to be great negligence with respect to their keeping records of their expenses throughout the year that are now necessary for filing income tax returns. There is not a day passes that farmers are not paying out something and the same applies to fishermen. Our difficulty is that we are not accustomed to keeping strict records. It would be a good education, where there are children, to keep the expense and receipts records. Personally, I think there would be few farmers and fishermen in Prince Edward Island subject to income tax if proper records were kept and filed.

T. J. KICKHAM, M.P. for King's, P.E.I.

OUR ALL-WISE MAYOR

Sir.—I wonder if we, the citizens of Charlottetown, realize just how fortunate we are at this low state of civic intelligence to have at the helm of our City government the wise and guiding hand of our most beloved Mayor! During his term of office he has received many suggestions and criticisms but very unfortunately none of them have been constructive and most of them have been with self interest in mind.

As an example of this unwise and selfish part of our citizens one might think of the case of the Board of Trade which sent in some suggestions in a brief to the City Council. This group of men, who have so much leisure time, were so selfish as to make proposals relative to fire hazards in our city. Apparently the Mayor and Council were far too busy to consider these proposals — so busy that they can't even remember receiving the brief. That these proposals were constructive is ridiculous — shortly after a fire did occur that had no relation to the hazards mentioned in the letter that both papers knew about but the Mayor can't recall.

The Mayor invites civic interest — the writer has never attended a Council meeting and a couple of times recently decided to do so. Both times he was told, upon arrival at City Hall that the meetings had been held at 5.00 instead of the scheduled time. Very convenient.

Before the last election someone suggested an open meeting to discuss civic problems but this was decided to be a needless gesture. Now, our Mayor addresses a small group of business men — an admirable group to be sure but certainly not representative of the common man on the street — and confides to them that he is the only person capable of governing the city as everybody else gives him poor advice.

Perhaps the Mayor is right — it would seem so — he has filled the

Keeping The Flag Flying



office three times and will probably do so as long as he wishes. It would certainly seem he is absolutely correct — we can't be very intelligent.

I am, Sir, etc., FOOLISH VOTER Charlottetown.

SO-CALLED SECURITY

Sir.—The attached "parable" is rather amusing, to me at least. It was clipped from the editorial page of the Idaho Farmer. Perhaps you have already seen it; I think it worth republishing.

I am, Sir, etc., READER Charlottetown.

FLEAS IN THE WELFARE STATE

"Once there was a pair of newly-begotten fleas that selected a big, healthy dog as their abode. Life was easy for them, for their food and shelter problems were solved. Heat, too, was furnished by the animal.

"Freedom from want and fear was theirs, for they had a housing unit in every wrinkle. All they had to do all day was eat, sleep 'n' multiply, which they did in amazing fashion as they enjoyed the abundance of life.

"But the patient dog, sore and unappreciated, finally grew old and weary. Unable to support his unproductive population, he up 'n' died.

"Among the fleas, consternation reigned. They ran frantically from one end of the body to the other yapping that the economic system had let them down. Some of the louder ones talked of suing the dog for non-support.

"Many of the frantic fleas died on the spot, for by this time they were completely incapable of making a living. Others died by the roadside while trying to thumb a ride to the next dog.

"A little more initiative, and a little more self-reliance, and the fleas would still be living. So would the dog."

L. M. MONTGOMERY'S BIRTHPLACE

Sir.—The recent sitting of the Legislature with its many items of business, debated and transacted, is now over. One act will always remain in the minds of the people as one of the most disgraceful deeds of any government up to the present time, namely, the selling of the birthplace of the most widely known and beloved person that was ever born on Prince Edward Island. Everywhere that the English language is spoken or read the name of the Clifton-born girl is honored and remembered — nor does her audience cease here — for her immortal "Anne of Green Gables" has been published in the Dutch, Swedish, Polish, French and Spanish languages also in Braille.

Having attained this world-wide fame, it was a very natural thing for the author to receive requests for the story of her life. On granting one of these to the editor of "The Woman's World," she begins this fascinating and informative account entitled "The Alpine Path," with the following: — "I was born in the little village of Clifton, Prince Edward Island. My father was Hugh John Montgomery and my mother Clara Woolner MacNeill, so I come of Scotch ancestry with many traditions and tales on both sides of the family," etc.

I wonder if one member of the present Government, or the officials of the Travel Bureau and National Park have ever read this autobiography which is, and should have been, the connecting link which would have saved the present misrepresentation of the Green Gables history so prevalent today.

It was rather amusing but still more alarming to hear the former Minister of Agriculture state that he had represented the district of her birthplace for fifteen years without being aware of the fact. I wonder if his colleague, Hon. Mr. Large has found out yet. It might be interesting for these two gentlemen in particular and the pub-

lic in general to know that in addition to this little home in Clifton, many other places made memorable by her writings are located in the First District of Queens, namely, Lake of Shining Waters, Silver Bush, the house where she lived for a time and was married from. I could mention others.

The Age-Old Story

The Lord knoweth the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be for ever. easy reach of our young people at colleges and universities, we wonder upon what tonic they subsist that they have grown so abnormal and so stupid. On the result of teaching temperance in our schools we have no report, and we do not even know to whom to go for information. Statistics showing the number of women and children who have recently taken up drinking as a profession would be illuminating. Churches, schools and social service clubs should have that information on file.

That there is still one man in Canada who doubts the advisability of trying to drink our country into a state of economic equilibrium is the one ray of hope for the immediate future.

I am, Sir, etc., VERNON CROCKETT York, P. E. I.

DEPLORABLE ROADS

Sir.—Would you permit me through your valuable newspaper to make a request to the Department of Public Works. I understand there is such a department, though one would not think so from the mudholes in the Churchill and North River roads. Roads are public conveniences which everybody should use freely. In the years long ago people used to build roads, and keep them in good condition, charging so much for their use. This was done away with and we should have better roads now under Government supervision.

During the month of April the farmer has a considerable amount of hauling to do. What is he to do when his turnips are spoiling in the cellars because he can't get them hauled fourteen or fifteen miles to a shipping station, and the roads closed to heavy traffic? What is he to do when his pigs are ready for market, and he can't get them there? Glue them up so that they will be over weight and lose some of their money? And also his cream, when he can't get to Charlottetown or Crapaud?

We all know that the Government did very little on the roads last year, except to enforce law and order. The money to pay for these roads comes from the farmers, who pay the taxes. And don't forget that we poor farmers have to work mighty hard in order to make this money, and half break our backs to earn it. Haven't we got enough stone and gravel on P. E. I. to fill in the cuttings and potholes.

When we want to leave Long Creek to go via New Argyle to Bonshaw we have to pull the guts out of the poor horses in order to

get them there and back. Snow at one end, and ruts and mud at the other. And the Government thinks that we are so small that they shouldn't do anything for us.

I am, Sir, etc., A FARMER'S DAUGHTER, Clyde River, P. E. I.

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The Poet's Corner

BAENFLOOR AND WINEPRESS (2 Kings vi. 27)

Thou that on sin's wages starved Behold we have the joy of Harvest: For us was gathered the first-fruits For us was lifted from the roots, Sheaved in cruel bands, bruised sore, Scourged upon the threshing-floor; Where the upper mill-stone roared His head, At morn we found the Heavenly Bread, And on a thousand Altars laid, Christ our Sacrifice is made.

Those whose dry plot for moisture gaped, We shout with them that tread the grapes: For us the Vine was fenced with thorn, Five ways the precious branches torn; Terrible fruit was on the tree In the Acre of Gethsemane; For us by Calvary's distress The wine was rack'd off from the press; Now in our Altar vessels stored Is the sweet Vintage of our Lord

In Joseph's garden they threw by The riv'n vine, leafless, lifeless, dry; On Easter Morn the Tree was forth, In forty days reach'd Heaven from earth. Soon the whole world is even spread; Ye weary come into the shade. The field where He has planted us Shall shake his boughs as Lebanon When He has sheaved us in His sheaf, When He has made us bear His Leaf.— We scarcely call that Banquet food, But even our Saviour's and our blood, We are so grafted on His Wood.

—Gerard Hopkins.

18-YEAR ERROR

BURGESS HILL, Sussex, England — (OP) — John Hoadley has had to change his pet tortoise's name after 18 years. When he bought the shell-back he named it George. Now that it has laid two eggs he's calling it Georgina.

FIRST CHARIOT RACES

Chariot races originated with the 25th Olympiad, in 632 B. C. get them there and back. Snow at one end, and ruts and mud at the other. And the Government thinks that we are so small that they shouldn't do anything for us.

I am, Sir, etc., A FARMER'S DAUGHTER, Clyde River, P. E. I.