

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5, 1952

They Like Ike

It is still possible at the time of writing that Governor Stevenson will overtake General Eisenhower's impressive lead in the Presidential race. It seems, however, that Eisenhower is to be the successor to Harry Truman as the administration head of the great republic.

The swing of New York towards Eisenhower made it virtually certain that the great military leader would become the principal civilian statesman in the world today. He is a leader faced with many difficulties. At home, as Republican President, he will be faced with a predominantly Democratic Senate and House of Representatives. What that will mean depends upon how rapidly and completely Americans can forget that they are politicians and remember that they have a common objective in world affairs.

To the watching nations, somewhat awed by the convolutions of the giant making up its collective mind, it was not a matter of dread that either candidate might get in. Eisenhower has made it clear that the bogey of isolationism is dead. In the world of 1952 it is also inconceivable that protection could again become American policy. Both parties are solidly behind the principles of the United Nations and such mutual security arrangements as the Atlantic Pact.

Eisenhower was and is a popular hero. His nomination gave heart to the long unsuccessful Republican party and it has worked as perhaps it has never worked before to elect a President. In spite of that, however, the telling campaign work of politically experienced Governor Stevenson went far towards overtaking Ike's personal lead. If the nominations had come earlier in the long campaign it is quite possible that Stevenson would have been the next President.

To Canadians the campaign has been even more than usually overpowering. If anything was needed to demonstrate to what extent we are influenced by things American, the dominance of the electoral campaign in our news and views shows all too clearly how closely we are linked with American thought and events.

Perhaps in return the United States will take a leaf out of Canada's book. If Eisenhower selects a Government that takes on the complexion of Congress his road will be greatly smoothed and Responsible Government will at long last have come to the United States.

Sweeping All Before Them

Prince Edward Island growers and livestock breeders are usually at the head of the procession at the Maritime Winter Fair, but this year their success all along the line has been phenomenal, and every day brings news of fresh achievements. It is to be hoped that in many cases they will go on to further victories at the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto, against Canada-wide competition, where also they have scored successfully in the past.

Our farming industry, and the Province in general, owes a great deal to these men who have gone to so much trouble and expense in preparing for mainland competitions, where they are at a disadvantage so far as transportation is concerned but where the rewards in the way of favorable publicity, not to speak of the cash prizes and personal satisfaction in outdistancing other competitors, are of tremendous value. Our County fairs and Provincial Exhibitions serve a splendid purpose in this connection, in stimulating interest in prize showmanship and improving quality production.

An item in today's "Old Charlottetown" column shows how our pioneer farmers of more than a century ago overcame the hardships of their condition under absentee landlordism, and when this problem was solved under various Settlement Acts and the land passed to the rightful owners, their achievements became even more outstanding. The large tracts of rough wilderness land disappeared; holdings became homes in the true sense of the word, and year by year, at enormous sacrifice and with back-breaking labor, improvements were added to suit the increasing requirements of expanding families and communities. We are all familiar with the general outline of the story, but it is an epic that is still to be written in its inspiring fullness and detail. In the meantime we need but

recall that many of our outstanding breeders and farmers today are on the old homesteads of their forbears, and many others claim direct descent from those pioneer tillers of the soil. Farming in this Province is indeed a way of life, as well as a means of livelihood. It is something to cherish and be proud of, for its associations with the past as well as for its material rewards. That is one reason for the successes our farmers of today are scoring at home and abroad; and its no-wise detracts from the credit due to their enterprise to say that it is perhaps the most important one of all.

Unjust Means Test

When Parliament reassembles there is likely to be strong agitation for abolition of the means test for blind persons qualifying for pensions. The allowance of \$40 per month goes to a blind person as a compensating factor for his handicap which narrows the range of his earning capacity. Few of the blind, even with the addition of the monthly allowance, can expect an income much above the subsistence level.

The law providing for the allowances to the blind stipulates that the recipient's total income must not be above \$840 for a single person or above \$1,320 a year for a married person if he is to receive the allowance. This is a harsh limitation. It assumes that the blind are to live below the subsistence level recognized by income tax law.

The law specifies that an income of \$1,000 or less is not taxable, it being assumed that an individual earning no more isn't in a financial position to pay the tax. But if a blind person's own efforts bring him annual income above \$840 the same law that awards him the allowance will take everything away beyond \$840.

The income tax assumes that a married couple need \$2,000 a year for subsistence, but if a married blind recipient of an allowance, or his wife, adds more than \$360 to the allowance and brings the family income over \$1,320, he too will have the excess deducted. In effect, this is the same as being taxed and taxed below the basic level of the income tax law.

A writer commenting on this situation in the Vancouver Province, remarked: "And what is the purpose of this harsh treatment? There doesn't seem to be any purpose except to be harsh. The amount of money saved the country, since the possible earnings of the blind are so small, anyway, can hardly be enough to pay the salaries of the officials required to keep the books and make the means test."

There should certainly be no complaint from any source if this situation is remedied by our lawmakers at the earliest opportunity.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"Prisoners of war shall be released and repatriated. . ." The United Nations is trying to decide if that means they must be handed back to their leaders at bayonet point if they refuse to return voluntarily.

United States Senators are always called Senators but Members of the House of Representatives usually call themselves Congressmen, as our own Members of the House of Commons call themselves M.P.'s. There being only 96 Senators to 432 Members, it is not surprising that the Upper House enjoys by far the more prestige.

Guy Fawkes Day. Guy Fawkes was an English conspirator. He served in the Spanish army in the Netherlands and came to England on the invitation of Robert Catesby and was initiated into the gunpowder plot. He was entrusted with the actual accomplishment of the design owing to his exceptional courage and coolness. An anonymous letter resulted in Fawkes being arrested in the cellars of the House of Lords with thirty-six barrels of gunpowder.

Delay by the British Government in disposing of surplus properties in Bermuda has resulted in some expressions in the House of Assembly of the desirability of joining Canada. The British Government, however, must have some doubts of the wisdom of having abandoned Bermuda as the base for the Royal Navy's America and West Indies command. It is easier to hold on to properties valuable for defence purposes than to acquire them again after they have been put to other uses.

In this day and age diplomacy has become less a matter of maintaining contact between governments and more a direct contact with the peoples of the respective states. The United Kingdom Information Office, whose Ottawa Director, Mr. A. Gordon Huson, will be here tomorrow, is an outstanding exponent of the art of appealing to the man in the street in the various countries of the world, in the hope and expectation that there will then be less room for misunderstanding with governments.



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.

HEATHER IN P. E. I.

Sir.—In The Guardian of Oct. 22nd I noticed an article headed, "Lord Lovat To Check On Prospects Of Growing Heather In P. E. Island." What interested me in the article was that while on P. E. I. a year ago I saw what seemed to be Heather growing close to Souris River, also at St. Peter's. I have never seen Heather growing in Scotland, but it is no trouble to see it here in Vancouver at the St. Andrew's or Burns' celebrations; and I mean the real Scotch Heather. The small plants I saw on P. E. I. and which I took for Heather, may not have been; but if not there was such a close resemblance that only an expert would detect the difference. I remarked it on seeing it, and the folks to whom I spoke of it said they had heard it found its way from Scotland as stuffing in the bed ticks of some of the early settlers. I suppose the season is too far advanced for any sample sprigs to be obtainable; but any time after next midsummer it would be interesting for some one with botanical knowledge to compare these plants with the Scottish grown brand.

There is little likelihood of Heather refusing to grow on P. E. I. as it is supposed to be a tough, hardy denizen of waste mountain land. But of what use would it be in P. E. I. excepting a few bunches to stick in a bonnet on St. Andrew's Day or the Twenty-fifth of January? Even though there may be some small demand for Heather on occasions when Scotchmen gather to celebrate; why deprive the Scotchman of his native heath of pride in the fact that his distant cousins annually demand the genuine article from the "Land of green heath and shaggy wood." I am, Sir, etc. G. L. McINNIS Vancouver, B. C.

POSTPONED CONVENTION

Sir.—Many letters have appeared in your paper recently regarding the postponed Liberal Convention at Alberton, and some of the writers have asked who really postponed the Convention; some wished to know the reason for the postponement, and when another date would be set. However, up to the present time their requests have gone unheeded, and unanswered by those responsible. I too, have waited patiently for some reply through the medium of the Press, in answer to those who have been asking for this information. Because, I have been bombarded with questions by people who know that I am supposed to be a member of the West Prince Liberal Association until another candidate is selected by the delegates to replace me.

Although I am a part of that organization I was as much in the dark as those people who have been asking and asking for their democratic right to know what is going on, and why, up to the present they have been denied their right to vote and select the two candidates they wish to have represent them.

This Convention was called for the month of September, and it is now November with no report of progress to the people of First Prince. Therefore, several of us decided to check the situation over in order that we may discover the real cause for the silence and the delay.

The finger of blame has been pointed at our President, Mr. Percy Adams, but I am fully convinced that Mr. Adams is entirely blameless in this connection, and is the same staunch, honest democrat that I always regarded him to be. Mr. Adams told us frankly that he was new in his present position, and that he had received the request to postpone the Convention, from those whom he thought knew the feeling of the people of First Prince. Most of them he knew were members of the Association, and he acted in good faith. The official document that caused the postponement of the Liberal Convention was signed by four members of the executive, and by Mr. Wm. MacKendrick, who had no right whatsoever to sign it, as he is not a member of the executive, but merely Honorary

"Look! It's Easy!"



The Poet's Corner

YOU ASK ME WHY

You ask me, why, tho' ill at ease, Within this region I subsist, Whose spirits falter in the mist, And languish for the purple seas. It is the land that freemen till, That sober-suited Freedom chose, The land, where girt with friends or foes A man may speak the thing he will; A land of settled government, A land of just and old renown, Where Freedom slowly broadens down From precedent to precedent. Where factions seldom gather head, But by degrees to fulness wrought, The strength of some diffusive thought, Hath time and space to work and spread. —Lord Tennyson.

President, a position usually given to a Past President. Mr. MacKendrick was President for a long time, and should have known whether or not he had a right to vote, or to sign official documents. And he should also have known, that four members of the executive had not been given the opportunity of attending this English meeting, and several other meetings held at Mr. MacKendrick's, and had not been consulted in any way regarding the postponement of the Convention.

I feel that each and every member should have had the opportunity of helping to decide whether or not it was logical or reasonable to postpone the Convention called to contest First Prince for the Liberal Party. The four members of the executive who were not consulted, are Mr. Percy Adams, President, Mr. Stewart Montgomery, Secretary, Mr. J. Hector Richard, ex-M.L.A., and myself. I would like to point out, that the President and Secretary of the Association, are our President and Secretary just as they are also President and Secretary of the Second District. We voted them in as our officers, and they have every right to vote and act for us on all matters pertaining to our District.

RICH AREA

Besides vast oil deposits, Iran has large resources of iron, coal, copper and lead.

GUADALUPE, Calif., Oct. 23.—(AP)—A freight locomotive sideswiped another, caught fire and crashed into a house Tuesday night, injuring seven persons. The wreckage blocked the Southern Pacific's main line between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

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Notes By The Way

The possibility of milk deliveries only six days a week is at last facing Calgarians. Abolishing Sunday deliveries in this province is not new. The cities of Edmonton and Lethbridge have not had Sunday deliveries for some time.—Calgary Herald.

Men about to marry will be interested in a home economics pamphlet that says, "To wash dishes you need a pan large enough to accommodate your dishes." That seems obvious enough, and for the amount of dishwashing the average helpful husband does, a pan the size of a thimble would be about right. —Ottawa Citizen.

The really important falling of this many-faceted kind of education is that it does not adequately provide the student with the one tool he should have—the ability to learn by thinking for himself. That has been the fault that has become most apparent in the American system of education in recent years. That is the fault that is beginning to appear in our Canadian system. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

The prospect of Victoria's retail stores closing down for a full day each week, which sales clerks have met with grave misgivings by for Hiram was ever a lover of David. And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the Lord his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. But now the Lord my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent. And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon the throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name. . . And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house. And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stone-squarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house.

except, that our delegates appointed by their respective Committees, in each and every poll, are demanding their democratic right to select and vote for whoever they think best to represent them. Therefore, if those responsible for having the Convention postponed, do not reply through the Press to the many requests made for some information, I shall take it upon myself to circulate among the 100 delegates selected by the Poll Committees to attend the Convention, asking them their opinion, whether or not they wish an early Convention. This I earnestly and seriously believe is their democratic right, that right that Canadians and their friends, have paid and are still paying so heavily for. Then, I feel certain our President, when he has a true picture of our present situation before him, will act accordingly, and give the people of our District their wish, whatever that wish may be. I am, Sir, etc. F. C. RAMSAY Montrose, P.E.I.

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