

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1953

Time For Poetry?

Much has been said and written about a new Elizabethan Age and indeed there is every prospect that the glories of that epoch will be revived.

According to Professor H. R. C. Avison of Macdonald College, as reported in the Montreal Gazette, the Elizabethans were poets because they were enjoying prosperity that they had never dreamed possible.

What is yet needed, perhaps, is indicated by Professor Avison when he adds, "Let us not be cynical about science or technical advancement; but they won't make us safe or happy."

This is indeed what is needed for a new Elizabethan Age. Fear and suspicion must give place to pride in accomplishment.

Electric Power Expansion

Highlighting the importance of keeping abreast of the times in electrification planning in the Maritimes is the tremendous activity going in other parts of Canada in this direction.

The potential power that could be exploited is now estimated at about 65 million horse-power. From almost nothing fifty years ago, the proportion in fact exploited has risen to about a fifth of the total.

Canadian determination to build the sea-way. That, however, is still in the future, and as an engineering task it is in any event relatively straightforward.

Agriculture in Newfoundland

Included in the Newfoundland Government's programme of exploration and development of the natural resources of the Province are investigations into the possibilities of the agricultural industry.

The nature of a considerable part of the terrain of Newfoundland precludes any likelihood that the industry will ever reach the stage of productivity comparable with that in such provinces as Prince Edward Island.

A primary necessity is road communication. "So far," the Telegram concedes, "even in the western section of the Province, the only land under cultivation is in the coastal area."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Elizabeth I died this date 1603.

Promotions seem to be the order of the day for personnel of the Charlottetown Income Tax Office.

The Morell Consumers' Co-operative Association has long been one of the most successful in the Province.

It is not surprising that the present "sweet reasonableness" of Russian diplomats is being received with something less than enthusiasm.

Of unusual interest will be the public address this evening at Prince of Wales College hall by Mr. Walter B. Bowker, director of information of the National Capital Planning Commission.

John Millington Synge, Irish dramatist, died this date 1909. He studied music in Germany and literary criticism in France.



The Race Is On!

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.

ROCKY POINT FERRY

Sir.—Now that Spring is in the air and the wild fowl are returning to our fair Island, and day by day we see the remnants of the little ice there floating out the harbour, we wonder if the crew of our ship Fairview are sufficiently rested to attempt the blue waters to Rocky Point.

We have wondered this past few weeks if the crew of our fair ship crawled in with the Badger on February 2nd as there was no ice to stop the boat all winter.

With all the modern conveniences at hand today we hesitate to apply a fresh coat of paint to our century old ice boat and with stout hearts and strong oars ply the clear water to Charlottetown.

Sometime ago our Honourable Premier suggested giving this part of the country back to the Indians but that is out, as the Indians have all left. Maybe it would be better if he'd replace some of the crew with younger men because after all men who are approaching the octogenarian age, should not be expected to navigate this ferry in fair and foul weather.

Perhaps, our deputy Minister of Public Works after returning from his recent trip to Holland has something up his sleeve for us. We hope so any way.

I am, Sir, etc. RESIDENT OF ROCKY POINT

LABOUR UNIONS

Sir.—In reference to Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan's statement in the Provincial Legislature on Wednesday, the 18th of March, with regard to labor unions; it is very hard to sit by, and not make a reply to the good Doctor on his views towards labor unions.

Our local labor union, a branch of the United Steel Workers of America, at the present time has a signed contract with the local firm of Bruce Stewart & Co. Limited, and I can assure Dr. MacMillan and the people of this Province our demands upon this company have always been reasonable and just.

At the present time we are receiving wages which are below those of other shipyards in the Maritimes, and the wages of the shipyards in the Maritimes are well below those of other Canadian shipyards. We are quite satisfied with our wages here at the present time, and have always had good relations with the company.

After all we have to use our heads, and look at the financial situation of the company, before we make our demands; and I am quite sure both union and Company benefit by such a relationship.

I wish also to state that the members of our union have a free and open mind when voting on union matters, and are not dictated to or bribed with promises as is the case with the electorate at election time.

So far as Russianism is concerned there are no members of the Communist or Fascist organizations holding appointment or office in the United Steelworkers of America, one of the largest Unions in America today.

If Dr. MacMillan was speaking against the Railroad, I wish he would state so, as after all the Railroad is controlled by the Government and their union is not connected with any outside union. Therefore, the fault lies entirely with the Government.

I know that Mr. McLean and Mr. MacLean will hear with regret Dr. MacMillan's views on labor unions, coming at such a time, with an election in the near future. I only hope the voters will be able to overlook his views and vote for their candidates no matter which party they belong to.

Any married man with from one to 10 of a family who receives the general labor rate in this city,

The Age-Old Story

Bring ye all the tithes into the store-house, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

which I believe to be between 65 and 70 cents, amounting to approximately 33 dollars per week for several months of the year and draws unemployment insurance the rest of the year, could very aptly be called the Miracle Man of the Century. This alone will not buy the nourishment the good Doctor would prescribe for his patients.

I am, Sir, etc. RUSSELL DOYLE President Local 3246, United Steel Workers of America Charlottetown, March 23.

RIGHTS OF LABOUR

Sir.—The attitude toward Labor organizations, taken by the Hon. Dr. MacMillan is noted with surprise and apprehension by those who are protected by their being members, and no doubt by many who would like to organize, for the purpose of acquiring a wage rate which would get them a decent standard of living.

It would like to point out that the attitude of all those convened in our Legislative Assembly is not a new one.

The late, and unlamented Joseph Stalin, in his rush to do away with all semblance of individual freedom for the masses, started first by reorganizing the labor unions of his country, into an "on the spot" spy ring, and thereby sowed the seed of distrust and fear among those who, for their individual good, yes, and their very lives should have stood side by side to resist such a reversal of all that a free trade union works and stands for.

Where in the name of all that is fair and civilized does this class hatred come from? Surely we are not stupid enough to believe that reducing of labourers to an "on of economic slavery in this Province is going to improve the lot of anyone.

Certainly we can only pay these inflation prices, if we are earning inflation wages, and I would very much appreciate if the Doctor or anyone else, would show me a Union contract that has been negotiated and signed in the last ten years, that has kept pace with the ever-rising costs of what we buy, and anyone who is foolish enough to believe that contracts are renewed at best on an annual basis, and most are in effect much longer than that.

If this hope of taking our rights away from us is realized, do they propose to stop there, or will the Communist pattern be continued? Where will it stop?

Next will come the cancelling of all freedoms of association, with our countrymen, in religion as well as all others enjoyed in a free land.

Let us not shut our eyes to a situation which is fast approaching the cross roads, where we must make up our minds whether we want to maintain our freedom as dreamed of by our forefathers and maintained by our soldiers for everyone, or let unscrupulous individuals take it away from one of us at a time. This is Russia, but it can be just as effective.

I think that there is not anyone better trained to know the seriousness of undernourishment, than a doctor, and I should rather think that there would be much more credit due anyone in the Legislature, who would have the courage to try to better the position of those who need the help that cause of us at a time, but can't because of our discriminatory laws, than the attempting to take away all the security from those who

Old Charlottetown

(And P. R. L.)

1833 CENSUS

"On examination of the table published in our last number, which was made up from the Returns given in on the 1st July, in accordance with the Act of last session, we have the following result—Males, 16,840, Females 15,452, and 57 insane persons, making a grand total of 32,349 souls. By comparing with the Census taken in 1827, which is stated 23,266, there appears to be an increase, in the last six years, of 9,083 inhabitants, or an augmentation to our numbers not far short of one-half. In Charlottetown there has been an increase of 317, and in the Royalty, 152; Georgetown, which then only existed in name, now contains 59; Princeton, 16; Princeton Royalty has increased 144. The Township containing the greatest number of inhabitants is Lot 34, which exhibits 1,270."

—Royal Gazette, Aug. 20, 1833.

It has been argued that this is essentially an agricultural Province, as compared to Cape Breton, which is industrial. I can picture what the press would have to say, if the political representation of the area would attempt to have legislation passed to assure labor there, wages as good as any in Canada, and that the farmer would get half as much as in the favored areas. Any decent thinking person would be horrified to read of such an attitude being taken by a representative of the people, and rightly so. It is not reasonable that we should be so concerned by the same stand being taken towards us?

Let all of us who work in industrial enterprises take note of the record of representatives at this sitting of the House, and we cannot but see that we have neither representative nor friend in the Legislature; and it seems to me that if we ever had one, it was but one, and that not because of his associates.

I am, Sir, etc. ALEXANDER MACLEAN President, Division No. 20 Can. Brotherhood of Railway Employees.

CIVIC FINANCES

Sir.—I do not wish to take sides in the controversies that are raging at present about the increase in our taxes again this year. Instead I would urge all tax payers to impress upon their representatives the importance of running the City's business themselves and not listening to all the would-be Councilors and delegations. I have listed below a table of the more important items of expenditure; the revenue is self explanatory. All figures are approximately close. It can be seen that the taxes on our properties have almost doubled in the past six years. The expenses have jumped \$235,000 in two years and only the interest has been paid on the new streets that were laid during that time. I am in hope that the figures here will help our people to understand to some degree where our tax money is spent.

Table with 3 columns: Revenue, 1947, 1951, 1953. Rows include Taxes, Real, Personal and Poll; All other receipts; Expenditures; Sinking Fund Provision; Overdraft Interest; Debtors Interest; School Board; Lighting; City Gov't. Assessing-Collecting; Police Department; Fire Department; Street Department; All other, market, grants, library, pensions, compensation, Park.

I am, Sir, etc. AN EX-COUNCILLOR.

The Passing Scene

By Observer FINE ARTS

The director of an art school says that the school's work is being much hindered by the popular feeling that art itself is a "fill". He finds the students and even the teachers are not immune to it. In so far as this is true it is just one more symptom of present day impatience with anything that does not identify itself readily with so-called "practical" worth.

Actually, of course, Art in its widest meaning, is the most practical thing in the world, since everything that man has done or is doing in mechanical and industrial affairs may properly be listed under that heading. House building, construction and operation of a machine, road building, running a farm, buying and selling, and the thousands of other activities that are going on all the time, are arts. "Useful" is the adjective usually applied to them.

These are not the things, however, that critics have in mind when they speak of "fills". Their contempt or near contempt is for the "fine" arts, — painting, music, poetry, drama, and the like. These have been "practical" too for a lot of people who have made a great deal of money and acquired fame in the practice of one or another. But for most of us they are useful only in an aesthetic sense. Perhaps this is why they are commonly looked upon as "fills".

And yet a moment's honest reflection ought to convince anyone of the benefits these fine arts have conferred and are even now conferring on mankind. "Do not think it wasted time," said Ruskin, "to submit yourself to any influence which may bring upon you any noble feeling." And it is hard to understand how any normal person can look upon the work of a great painter, sculptor, musician, architect, or poet, without feeling a sense of beauty and experiencing a spiritual awareness of something that is good and uplifting.

It is well to remind ourselves that behind the thing of beauty, whatever it may be, is a great deal of hard work and much devotion. We are likely to think of the great masters as being born to greatness or as having had greatness thrust upon them. We are likely to forget the hours and days they spent, many of them, in pursuit of an ideal. "If people knew how hard I have had to work to gain my mastery," said Michelangelo, "it would not seem so wonderful after all."

The critical faculty concerning good art is given only to the very few and even some of the experts become humble in its presence. But to everyone is given the desire and that desire is quickened and to some extent satisfied by a masterpiece which is the product of love and skill. It is of course true that beauty must be sought after before it can be found, and sometimes the search is long and weary. It is also true that no one can see more than that to which his inner sense is able to respond. What is a thing of beauty to one person may be a mere lifeless object to another. As William Blake put it: "To some, a tree brings tears of joy; to others it is naught but a green uneven stick that stands in the way."

Life itself in all its facets is Art. What we call the "good life" is simply a matter of the fine and the useful. There is architecture in it. As Longfellow wrote in one of his fireside poems, well known and often quoted: "All are architects of Fate Working in these walls of time; Some with massive deeds and great."

There is drama in it. "All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances."

And there is melody, "successive forms and styles, like pitched tents, taken down again on the road to the ideal". To be appreciated to the full, Art must always be regarded as being indispensable to the daily round and trivial task. Not something added as a kind of luxury, but a quality without which life is incomplete. William Morris expressed this thought in words that are rightly included in the classic texture of the years: "If you accept Art at all, it must be part of your daily lives, and the daily life of every man. It will be with us wherever we go, in the ancient city full of traditions of past time, in the quiet countryside, as in the busy town; no place shall be without it. You will have it with you in your sorrow as in your joy, in your work-day as in your leisure. It shall be no respecter of persons, but be shared by gentle and simple, learned and unlearned, and be as a

language that all can understand". As concerning our consideration of the useful and the beautiful in Art I can think of no better observation than this one that is attributed to the philosopher Goethe: "The useful may be trusted to further itself, for many produce it and no one can do without it; but the beautiful must be specially encouraged, for few can present it, while yet all have need of it."

Accents Of Canadians

(Ottawa Journal)

We noticed that Angus MacLean, 38, was born in Prince Edward Island, and David Fulton, 36, was born in British Columbia. Listening to them in the House of Commons we once more stirred to thought that before long we will identify Canadians by their accents, just as the Texan and Virginian can be spotted in the United States.

Mr. MacLean, as might be expected from a man with a good Scottish name, has a slight burr and Mr. Fulton, as is the case with many a British Columbian, could pass for an Englishman who had spent a good many years abroad.

Even the English-speaking in Quebec, we suspect have gathered a fragment of the French enunciation. We readily confess to difficulty in locating in Ontario where we hear the Irish twang of the Ottawa Valley, the slightly-patented note of Toronto and the gruff voice of the Northern Ontario prospector.

The Prairies we group together in a common tone, noting in passing that the Icelanders appear to have imposed some of their accents on their neighbors, and we suspect that the people of the plains, more than any other in Canada, have adopted the voice of their neighbors across the border. An acute ear is needed to differentiate between a man from Montana and his friend from Alberta, but the tourist from Oregon in Victoria, B.C., must feel the English are still there.

This confusion of accents, according to our argument, is good for Canada. We all like being Canadians but we don't want to be the same. A bit of individuality in accent seems to us as attractive as a cowboy hat on a man from Calgary or the lively gestures with which a French-Canadian accompanist plays his words. Jack Canuck would be a dull boy indeed if the Newfoundlanders (there's a real accent), the lad from Lake Winnipeg and the Vancouver Island logger spoke alike, dressed alike and thought alike. All for variety, we say.

The Poet's Corner

AT TWENTY-THREE

How soon hath Time, the subtle thief of youth, Stolen on his wing my three and twentieth year! My hasting days fly on with full career; But my late spring no bud or blossom showeth. Perhaps my semblance might deceive the truth That I to manhood am arrived so near; And inward ripeness doth much less appear, That some more timely-happy spirits indueth. Yet be it less or more, or soon or late, I shall be still in strictest measure even; To that same lot, however mean, or high; Toward which Time leads me, and the will of Heaven; All is, if I have grace to use it so, As ever in my great Taskmaster's eye.

—John Milton.

PHILLIPS' MILK OF MAGNESIA LAXATIVE SO GENTLE FOR CHILDREN SO THOROUGH FOR GROWN-UPS

Refrigeration SALES and SERVICE Repairs To All Makes MOTORS Rewinding and Repairs ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE Repairs Palmer Electric PHONE 1444