

THE GUARDIAN

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

The Queens' Birthday

The birthday of Queen Victoria and the official birthday in Canada of Queen Elizabeth are both being celebrated today. The guns will fire Royal salutes in all the capitals, the firing in Charlottetown taking place, appropriately enough in Victoria Park.

Queen Victoria had a very real choice in the selection of her ministers and they in turn wielded wide powers over vast stretches of the earth. Her ships kept open the oceans of the world for traders and travellers of all nations.

Queen Elizabeth unquestionably is much more circumscribed in her choice of ministers, the people of her various realms almost invariably deciding that question for her by the strength of the political parties they elect.

Her Majesty, even more than her illustrious predecessor, is a personal sovereign to her people. Both have been legally Queen of Canada but our present Queen has more than justified that formal addition to her title.

GOD BLESS THE QUEEN OF CANADA!

Drama Festival

No less than ten plays are being presented in the Prince Edward Island Drama Festival this week, four of them being three-act plays. It seems a pity, consequently, that the Island should not be participating in the Dominion Drama Festival.

A strong organization, however, is needed to make an effective presentation on a nation-wide basis. The last entry from this Province in the Dominion Drama Festival was handicapped by the lack of such organization.

The Provincial Festival, however, is an admirable opportunity for all concerned to gain experience in their respective tasks, so that next year there should be a fund of experience and ability to draw upon to aid in participation in the National Festival.

The adjudication itself, by a dramatist of wide experience, should prove invaluable to those taking part. In the Music Festival the contribution of the adjudicators was outstanding both from the point of view of participants and audience and there is no reason to think that it will be any less valuable in the case of drama.

A Christian-Moslem Conference

A meeting, believed to be the first of its kind, was held recently in a little mountain village of Arabia; it was a Conference between a small number of Christian and Moslem representatives. Sponsored by an organization known as American Friends of the Middle East, and presided over by Dr. Garland E. Hopkins, its executive director, the Conference had for its theme "How the spiritual forces of Islam and Christianity can unite against materialism."

As was to be expected, in view of the strangeness of the experiment, there was

some adverse criticism of the Conference; one Middle East newspaper saw in it an American attempt "to bring the Islamic world into political alliance with the West in the cold war."

And why not? Christianity and Mohammedanism differ in many ways and, at some important points, come into direct conflict; but they do have some things in common. Both religions teach the Fatherhood of God and, with some reservations on the Moslem side, the Brotherhood of man.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Victoria Day; Empire Day.

Official celebration in Canada of the Queen's Birthday.

As pipers, Canadians seem to be able to hold their own. At any rate the pipe band of the R.C.A.F.'s No. 1 fighter wing at North Luffenham placed second at recent Caledonian games in London.

The Army may have to support civil defence organization in the first few weeks of a future war, in the opinion of Gen. Charles Foulkes, chairman of the Chiefs of Staff. That situation is far from satisfactory.

Congratulations are in order for Charlottetown's William K. Rogers on being selected by the Royal Society of Canada to continue his studies of musical composition at the Paris Conservatory.

There are some interesting tables in the latest newsletter of the P. E. I. Teachers' Federation. One of them shows the number of teachers with their years of experience. It is most disturbing that out of a total of 749 teachers 487 have less than ten years experience.

One of the great obstacles to a Korean settlement has been removed. South Korea has agreed to elections throughout the divided Korean peninsula. There are, however, provisions which may not be acceptable to the Communists.

Amy Johnson, English airwoman, arrived at Port Darwin this date 1930, having flown from England to Australia in nineteen days, the first woman to accomplish the flight alone. She made a number of spectacular and important flights including a return flight from Britain to Tokyo across Siberia in 1931 and a record-breaking flight to Cape Colony and back in 1932.

Historical research is fun, according to historical novelist Cecil W. Smith in a recent BBC talk. "I should just like to mention the extraordinary satisfaction of being an historian. Nothing in the world can exceed the excitement of finding out what really happened, of digging the truth out of lofts and basements, from the pages of forgotten letters, old records and diaries, affidavits, blue books. To find out what really happened is the function of the true historical writer, and that unites the pleasures of detection with the romance of a novel. Except that no novelist could possibly have the imagination to invent the way people in fact behave. The historian finds that truth is stranger, much, much stranger, than fiction."



On Passing Through A Doorway

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.

NEW STYLE DRIVING

Sir,—A number of school children and older people have already been hurt or killed on the streets and highways both on and off this Island this season and there must be a cause for such accidents.

As one who is on the highway I notice a great many new style drivers or new style cars with no horn or no one to blow it.

Those drivers pass other cars and trucks at high speed without a warning horn; they pass pedestrians old and young without a horn blast and they skim along like children without a peep of the horn. We see it every day in this city and on the highways, new style cars without a horn or new style drivers who are saving the horn to blast at weddings.

I have on my desk right now a manual from the motor vehicle branch and on page 10 we read every motor vehicle must be equipped with a horn in good working order capable of emitting sound audible for a distance of 200 feet.

For one I feel sure if the horn were used more, and more especially where there are elderly people or small school children on the streets and highways, there would be few if any struck down. The age of the sneak is gone forever; sneaking past others' cars without warning, sneaking past little school children whose minds are so taken up with their ball games, their skipping, etc.

The age of new style driving as above must be stopped NOW! I am, Sir, etc. WALTER O'BRIEN, Charlottetown

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

SHIPPING ACTIVITIES

"The wharves in this City are crowded with vessels of all sizes, some new, fitted out for Europe, and others taking in produce of various kinds, for markets in the United States, West Indies, Cape of Good Hope, New Zealand, Bermuda, Newfoundland, and the various ports in the neighboring Provinces. A large quantity of produce has already been shipped, and much more remains on hand to be shipped before the closing of navigation. We hear of vessels loading in nearly all the outports, and it is with difficulty the demand is being supplied. Oats readily realize 2s 3d and 2s 4d. per bushel, cash. Potatoes and barley are also in demand, and realize a fair price, particularly the latter article. We are pleased to observe a marked improvement in the mode of shipping produce—grain is being shipped in bags, and potatoes in barrels, bound to distant countries."

—The Islander, Nov. 17, 1863.

The Poet's Corner

THE BELLS OF HEAVEN

'Twould ring the bells of Heaven The wisest part of years, If Faxon lost his senses, And people came to theirs, And he and they together Kneel down with angry prayers For tamed and shabby tigers And dancing dogs and bears, And wretched, blind pit ponies, And little hunted hares.

—Ralph Hodgson.

HISTORIC TRAIL

The Cariboo highway from Vancouver follows a wagon trail laid by the Royal Engineers in the 1860's.

New Zealand Centennial

(from Forefront)

On May 24 the Executive Council and the Cabinet of New Zealand will move from the capital, Wellington, and hold a special session in Auckland to celebrate the centenary of the New Zealand Parliament.

On February 17, 1854, Colonel Wynyard, then officer administering the Government of New Zealand, called by Proclamation the first General Assembly to meet at Auckland on May 24.

When the Prime Minister, Mr. S. G. Holland, and his fellow parliamentarians meet in Auckland they may well sense the presence of the shades of those first members.

It is interesting to speculate with what emotion those early colonists took their places in a Parliament for which they had struggled so ardently for fourteen years since the founding of the Colony.

Thus free political institutions were axiomatic from the start. The Durham Report, that Magna Carta of the Colonies, expressed as its first principle the institution of self-government and the Cabinet system, so when the new settlers arrived in New Zealand from Britain in the early forties they were zealous agitators for self-government. They expressed their views with such vigour and determination that, within six years of the founding of the Colony, they had persuaded the British Government to replace the constitution of a Crown Colony with a representative constitution, and an Act conceding this was accordingly passed in the British Parliament in 1846.

Governor Grey, however, was doubtful whether the 12,000 colonists could be safely entrusted with the considerable powers of dominion over the Maori people given in this Act, and fearing trouble over the land question, proceeded very warily with the establishment of the new constitution. Grey, backed by the Colonial Office, was always on guard to protect the fair name of England where the natives were concerned, and, troubled by the likely implications of the Act mentioned, asked the Secretary of State to modify the constitution. For this he was bitterly assailed by the colonists, but his advice was taken and Whitehall suspended certain parts of the constitution relating to Provincial and General Assembly for five years.

The colonists did not cease to abuse the Governor for this attitude in the most emphatic terms and clamoured even more loudly for representative government.

The arrival in 1850 of the Canterbury Settlers, headed by Godfrey, added to the vigour of the expression for self-government. Wakefield in England, and Godley in New Zealand, battled in the same cause. Both had friends in high places in Whitehall including Russell, Gladstone, Buller and Lytton. Grey himself changed his position and wrote interesting despatches upon the subject, suggesting a new and more liberal Act than that of 1846. The Liberal Government under Russell prepared a measure, but was defeated before it could come before the House. However, the Tories, led by Lord Derby and Disraeli, were not averse to the change in policy so far as New Zealand was concerned, and an Act to grant a Representative Constitution to the Colony of New Zealand was passed in 1852. The Act gave powers to establish a General Assembly for the Colony, comprising a Legislative Council and a Lower House, and to divide the Colony into six Provinces. The Provincial Councils to carry out work of subordinate legislation. Native Affairs and Lands was taken out of Man.

were however reserved to the Governor-General.

Such was the Constitution which freed a large area of the life and affairs of New Zealand from rule by the Colonial Office and which is still the fundamental Act under which the Government exists today. The door to self-development was opened.

Early in 1854 Grey completed his term of office and returned to England, leaving his deputy, Colonel Wynyard, to arrange elections and to call the first General Assembly. The most notable member was Edward Gibbon Wakefield himself, who had arrived in New Zealand in 1833.

How is perhaps appropriate to the times that the whole of the First Session was taken up with a violent discussion between the Governor and the Members over the question of responsible Ministers. The First Session was protracted without any laws being enacted save one—a measure authorizing the sale of liquor within the precincts of the House for the use of honourable members. The House refused to listen to any other business until a responsible Ministry was appointed. The acrimony on this question continued through the Second and Third Sessions, but following a General Election in 1855, and the assembly of the Second Parliament in 1856, the first responsible Ministry was established under Sewell and the New Zealand Parliament entered upon its proper functions.

Perhaps it was fitting that in this new and vigorous Colony the age-long struggle for responsible government had to be re-fought into the New Zealand people the tradition and practice of British Parliamentary democracy. In 1865 Parliament shifted to Wellington, which has continued to be the seat of Government.

The New Zealand Parliament is a close copy of the British Parliament. Its privileges are defined as those exercised by the British House of Commons; its standing orders follow a similar practice. Since 1879 it has been elected for terms of three years. Elevation to Dominion status in 1907, and the adoption of the Statute of Westminster in 1946, wherein the New Zealand Parliament removed all limitations to its sovereignty, are the chief milestones of its history. In a country like New Zealand the conflict of philosophies has never embittered the political parties, and with the boundaries of action limited by the prosperity of its agricultural industry and the marketing of those products abroad, both Government and Opposition parties have tended to be closer together than have political parties in other countries. For this reason liberalism has been in evidence among the adherents to both sides, and loyalty to the Crown never in question.

Cycles of world economic depression have in the main been the only jarring note in the rapid progress of the country and generally speaking such depressions gave to further liberal legislation, while good times saw a more conservative approach to the country's affairs.

The great majority of New Zealanders prefer not to think of themselves as an independent unit in international affairs. Although they regard their national interests as inseparable from the interests of the British Commonwealth, nevertheless their representatives, particularly in the last two decades, have made their voice heard in international councils and have taken their full share of international responsibility.

The Age Old Story

And the rib, which the Lord God hath taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Some mothers want to get their daughters married as soon as possible, but their sons as late as possible, or never.—Toronto Star.

In many a case the person who feels the itch to write has a rough time scratching out a living.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Never in all recorded history have so many orators voiced so many solutions of so many intractable problems.—London Free Press.

"Britain is reported to have developed a hydrogen bomb that is cheaper and simpler to produce than the American weapon. The development is no doubt a valuable contribution to the West's world, but continued attention paid to the production of cheaper and simpler plows, tractors, textile-making machines and other useful tools might, in the long run, be even more valuable".—Ottawa Citizen.

The purse-carrier may be a more modest and cautious figure than the change-juggler; he cannot produce the impression of affluence by casually stirring around in his pocket a motley collection of cents and nickels, nor can he indulge any lordly instinct to fling handfuls of largesse to the waiting multitudes. But he is a sound and worthy citizen, nonetheless, who knows to the last cent how much (or, more frequently, how little) he is currently worth.—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Scientists seem more and more inclined to believe the so-called flying saucers are actually visitors from another planet. Their pres-

ent assumption is that there are intelligent and inventive beings elsewhere in space and that those of the earth are somewhere at or near the average, superior to some and inferior to others. The newest pronouncement is based on the supposition that the visitors to the region of the earth are friendly.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Constable Ron Goodchild is one of the dozen or so policemen who see to it that Notre Dame de Grace children cross the main thoroughfares of the district in safety. Some of the children tease him by standing in the middle of the road. Says he: "If I had my way, I'd see to it that some of these little monsters had their behinds tanned regularly until they did what their parents, their teachers and I tell them about traffic safety!"—Montreal Gazette.

The old-timer wonders whatever happened to the boyhood custom of making whistles from sections of willow, paw paw and other tree branches. He recalls that when he was a boy most every lad used to cut a piece of small limbed, crush the bark until the wood inside would slide freely. Then they'd cut a notch in the wood near one end, cut a sliver out of the top from the notch to the other end, replace it in the bark and then blow. Made a fine whistle, he says, with a pitch that could be varied by sliding the wood back and forth, in the nature of a trombone. Of course, that was back in the days before youngsters had so many ready-made toys provided for them. They had to entertain themselves.—From Indianapolis Star.

France, Indo-China And Viet-Minh

There is an almost automatic regularity in the pattern of the conferences between the Soviet bloc and the free world. This is not altogether surprising, since the aims of the two sides remain unchanged and there are certain constant geographical and strategic factors in the situations which they meet to discuss. Hence, observes Catey International Commentary, the close parallel between the Communist proposals, first for Germany, then for Korea and now for Indo-China.

First, there is always the demand for the withdrawal of all foreign troops. This arises from the fact that the disputed situations are caused by Communist attempts to expand on the periphery of the great land mass which they control. Hence the withdrawal of foreign troops, whether in Germany, Korea or Indo-China, would mean that the forces of the Western Powers or the United Nations would have to retreat across hundreds of miles of ocean while foreign Communist forces whether Soviet or Chinese, would remain poised on the frontier.

Secondly, Communist proposals for elections in the countries concerned always exclude international supervision, describing it as foreign intervention.

Thirdly, the Communists always insist that the minority which they represent should have equal representation or a power of veto in the bodies to be set up to supervise the elections. Further they always demand full freedom for what they call "democratic organizations" in preparing and holding the elections—by which they mean Communist-controlled trade unions and youth movements and the like.

All these ingredients in the Communist plan for domination are camouflaged with phrases about independence, self-determination and national unity. Every one of these characteristics is to be found in the Viet-Minh Communist proposals for Indo-China.

The Western aims are then clear enough. The problem is how to realize them—a problem of power. From this point of view the Communists are in a strong position, following the victory of Dien Bien Phu. But they are acting as if they were in the same position as they were in 1945 when the Red Army had overrun the whole of Eastern Europe and the Western Powers had to accept their terms in that area. However, that is not the situation in Indo-China and the Western Powers have learnt from their experience in 1945 that, whatever the balance of power, they gain nothing by departing from their principles.

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The War At Sea

(British Official History)

The story of Britain's maritime tasks in the last war is being officially chronicled by the British Government in three volumes entitled "War at Sea, 1939-1945," published by H.M.S.O.

The first volume, "The Defensive," was published May 20. The second volume which will chronicle how the nation's offensive power was first exploited will be called "The Period of Balance." The final volume will show how benefits of maritime strategy were reaped and the British and Allied forces transported overseas to gain final victory.

The author of the first volume, Captain S. W. Roskill, R.N., has been more fortunate than most naval historians since he has been able to refer to the complete archives of the German Navy.

Depicted are the spectacular successes such as the Battle of River Platte, the destruction of the Bismarck, the Battle of Cape Matapan, and the Fleet Air Arm's raid at Taranto. But German U-boats were straggling allied shipping; Italian and German air power was closing the Mediterranean. The book ends on a grim note—disaster in the Pacific in December, 1941.

The book does not hesitate to be critical and controversial. It discusses lack of preparation; widely differing and contradictory views held on air power at sea; and the use of destroyers to hunt U-boats instead of concentrating them for the protection of convoys.

TIMELY GAIN

LONDON, (CP)—Nearly 4,750,000 clocks and 2,500,000 watches were manufactured in the United Kingdom last year about one-third of the total going for export. Before the Second World War Britain imported all watches and most of its

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