

THE GUARDIAN

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President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, JAN. 12, 1952

A Setback

Regret will be felt in King's County at the decision of the Post Office to revert from the recently established morning mail service by truck to the former train service. Despite the fact that the trucks began operation at the beginning of winter when their advantage was least the service which they gave to the eastern sections of the Island met with general approval.

There is an old maxim to the effect that the squeaking wheel gets the grease. Perhaps a little more noise from the long-suffering users of the mails in that county would have kept the mails rolling on the highway for them.

Contempt Of Court

Courts of law possess wide powers to enforce compliance with their own orders; to assure accused persons of a fair trial; and to prevent scandalous allegations which might bring the administration of justice into disrepute. This power exercisable by the courts, however, to punish for contempt is rarely invoked to vindicate the dignity of the Court or the person of the Judge, but is unhesitatingly exercised to prevent undue interference with the administration of justice.

While any comment published about a pending trial is sharply checked, there can be no objection to subsequent comment made in good faith, even though it goes as far as to allege erroneous judgment. The publisher must take care, of course, not to exceed the bounds of fair criticism.

The faithful reporting of cases is looked upon with favour by the Courts. A fair, truthful and impartial report of the proceedings at a trial is not only permissible, but of public advantage, and is therefore, encouraged, not repressed.

Farm Costs

Farming in this Province has made great strides from something very like a subsistence level to a highly developed commercial enterprise. The standard of living in the country has risen as a consequence, but on the other hand the farmer is faced constantly with the possibility of crippling losses.

As was pointed out to the Federation of Agriculture in the presidential report of Mr. Charles Yeo, there is a pressing need for precise information on farm production costs and the relative efficiency of various operations. It is all too easy to do a tremendous business and at the same time be losing money hand over fist.

It was the requirements of income tax law that educated many business men in matters of accounting and the lessons so learned, albeit at the cost of parting with much of their profits, nevertheless saved many a firm from bankruptcy by timely warnings from their financial statements. There is no reason why farmers should not similarly derive benefit from their painful experiences with the tax authorities.

Policemen in White

The traditional blue of the police uniform shows up very badly indeed in car headlights at night. It is bad enough for pedestrians to make themselves almost invisible by wearing dark clothing, but they at least can look out for their own safety and avoid oncoming traffic. The nature of the traffic constable's duties puts that almost out of the question and he must depend upon drivers being able to see him and his signals.

Calgary is doing something about the problem. They are trying out white uniforms for police on night traffic duty. The idea is not new, of course. In Charlotte-town white capes were tried out and apparently proved useful although it is a long time since they have been seen.

Perhaps the best safety measure is the traffic light system which makes it unnecessary for our upholders of the law to stand in the midst of traffic at all at the busy intersections where lights have been installed.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the first Sunday after Epiphany.

We are to have competition in our transportation service to Newfoundland.

Alberta Legislature has been summoned for Tuesday, Feb. 5. It is expected to be prorogued before Good Friday, April 11.

This week-end will see the R. C. A. F. carrying out bombing and interception exercises in Ontario and Quebec.

Consumers demanding food controls really want government control of others as a means of escaping self-control of themselves, remarks "The Rural Scene".

The proportion of University grant to P. W. C. and St. Dunstan's should at least be \$50,000, allowing for the basic grant of \$2,000 allowed before the distribution by per capita.

Unfavourable weather accompanied the Week of Prayer, but notwithstanding there have been good attendances at the various churches where the faithful rejoice in inaugurating the new year with prayer, praise and preaching.

If the length of the term of peace eventually resulting from the Munsan negotiations is in proportion to the time spent striving for agreement it should be very nearly perpetual.

The Grand Jury's proposal for a prison farm reflects a long felt need in this Province. The county jails are designed only for detention purposes and have nothing to offer towards rehabilitation.

Prime Minister Churchill and President Truman agreed to differ on the question of a common rifle. That leaves Canada in the unfortunate position of having to produce one or other obsolete rifle and being unable to sell surplus production to a great part of the Atlantic Pact nations.

Edmund Burke, English statesman, was born probably this date 1729 in Dublin. An outstanding writer and speaker, he early joined the youthful Fox in advocating reform and toleration both at home and in America. The excesses of the French Revolution, however, turned Burke into a determined opponent of his former principles.

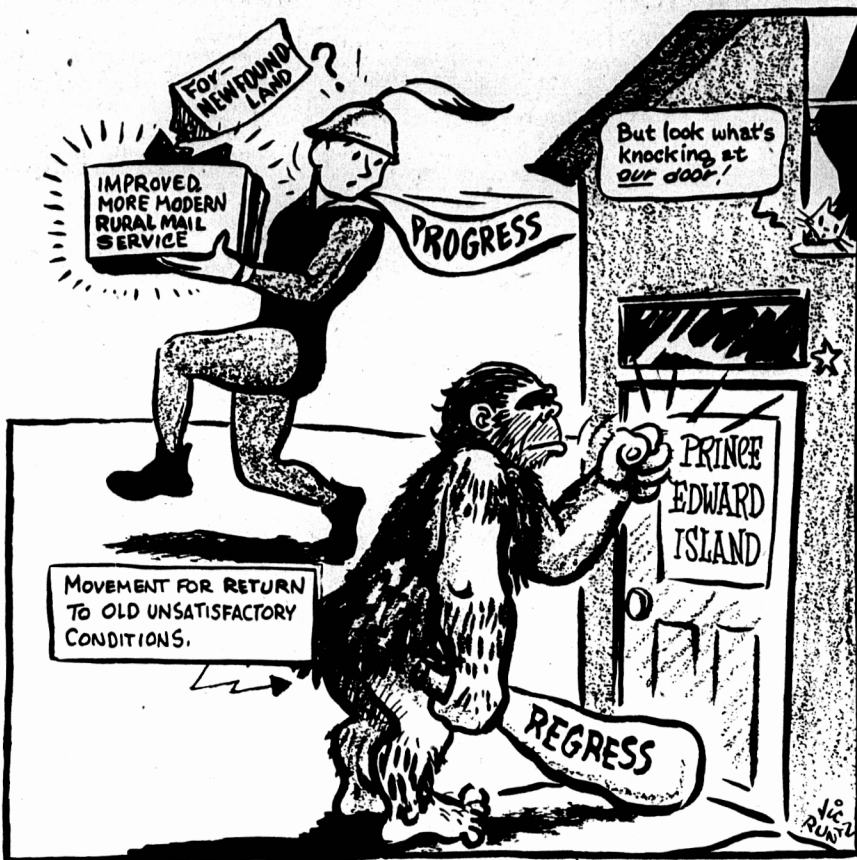
That certainly was a record shipment of Island potatoes despatched this week for South Carolina. It took 132 C. N. R. freight cars to convey the load to Halifax where it was despatched to its destination by the freighter Sparholm. We trust the seed will arrive in good condition and produce good results.

Field Marshal Viscount Alexander is being counted out as successor to Field Marshal Eisenhower because he is an Englishman. In this instance his nationality is a distinct handicap, because Britain is now in the position of "a poor relation" to Uncle Sam who is providing the sinews of war. What is U. S. A.'s loss is Canada's gain, however, as we would like to retain Lord Alexander's services until such time as we have a successor of our own ready to fill his shoes.

It is to the credit of New Zealand that it has stepped into the breach caused by Argentina's withdrawal from the world meat supply market, but hardly complimentary to Canada that she will be one of the recipients of some 5,000 tons of meat, mostly lamb, to be consigned to us and the U. S. A. jointly. We are exporting largely to our next door neighbour, and it is not very comforting to learn that a similar agricultural country like distant New Zealand should be able not only to supply us with butter, but butcher meat as well, in addition to competing with us in our next door trade.

The Federal Government plum that waits cabinet appointment is the chairmanship of the St. Lawrence Seaway authority, with which the names of both Mr. Chevrier and Mr. Howe are associated, though it is unlikely either of them would consent to accept the position. Besides the Seaway appointment, several others await Cabinet action. Legislation at the last session increased membership of the CBC Board of Governors to 11 from nine and of the board of trustees of the National Gallery to nine from five. Members of the boards receive a small honorarium and travelling expenses to and from periodic meetings. Although there are some 15 vacancies in the Senate, Prime Minister St. Laurent has given no indication that he plans to fill them at an early date. A vacancy that may be filled shortly is on the Board of Transport Commissioners where W. J. Patterson resigned to become Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan.

Time Moves Ahead....In Most Places



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.

THE FARMER'S JOB

Sir,—Your editorial on "Farm Life" meshed neatly with a smart discussion meeting of our rural-urban study club, and I thought you were entitled — and likely pleased — to learn that the following paragraph did yeoman service, from the rural side of the table: "Farming is not only our basic industry... it is also the source of a large proportion of our present and future population. Cities, generally speaking, draw heavily upon the farm population to maintain and increase their numbers, so that the quality of both rural and urban life depend largely upon the upbringing of farm youth."

You will observe that the speaker dispensed with just three words from your editorial picture, namely, "in this Province". As a matter of fact, it was in drawing this feature of his "quote" to the attention of the members, that enabled him to make one of his most attractive points, by simply adding the opinion that: "And what is true for the social and economic life of Prince Edward Island, is equally true for Canada and for the whole human family. As one of the United farm leaders pointed out to a gathering of topflight American businessmen the other day: "No farm surplus — no life on the pavements, for long!"

While I've my pen in hand some of your readers may enjoy the following related lines, from the Jan. 3 issue of one of the farm papers ("If Food Should Fail" by William Collier Gray): "If food should fail, What value then To giant factory and trust Of all the wealth and power they hold— Impregnable their stand and bold, But how impregnable is told By their dependence on a crust, And only farmers stand behind The scanty crust or gracious loaf; Not plastic, nylon, nor steel, Can build a universe of light, Save only if the farmers' might Of seed and service handled right Shall make, for all, the plenteous meal!"

I am, Sir, etc., TORONTOR EADER

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) TOLL OF THE SEA

"The crew of the Schr. 'Victoria', belonging to James & M. MacDonald, of Cardigan, — which vessel was lost last Fall — arrived here yesterday by way of Cape Tormentine. The 'Victoria' sailed from St. Pierre, de Georgetown, in the month of November last. In a heavy gale she lost her mainmast, and while in this condition fell in with an American schooner, the 'Harriet Cook', of Calais, Maine, also dismantled, and took off those remaining of her crew — a part of them having been previously washed overboard. Five or six days afterward, when off Canso, the 'Victoria' lost her foremast and thus became unmanageable, and drifted about for nine days. Near Sable Island they were fallen in with by a vessel bound to Boston, taken on board, and landed there the last week in December." —The Islander, Jan. 13, 1871

The Age-Old Story

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Notes By The Way

Another person is burned painfully when varnish heated on a stove explodes. It is so simple to take the chill off varnish in cold weather by placing the can in a vessel of warm water safely away from excessive heat and an open flame. —Hamilton Spectator.

After a concerted police drive which put them underground for a time, bookmaking establishments are again operating almost openly in Montreal. The Quebec police seem all right in the sprits, but the long haul appears to wear them out. —Ottawa Citizen.

Russian wine makers have perfected a new grape which produces a cherry-red wine tasting like chocolate. A mess like that should be popular with our teenagers, especially if livened up with some nuts and a gob of whipped cream. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

We agree that there should be no profanity in plays produced on the radio. The radio in one's living room is not, after all, like a motion picture theatre, a legitimate theatre playhouse or even a book. It can be turned on at will by children as well as adults, whereas children can be kept away from theatrical plays, motion pictures or sordid or too realistic novels.

We trust that the chairman of the C.B.C. Board of Governors will see to it that there is no more profanity over our national networks. As John Diefenbaker, M.P. for Lake Centre, Sask., says, there is unnecessary profanity on the air-

waves today and it should be cut out. All adults who realize that there are radios in almost every Canadian household will agree. —Lethbridge Herald.

The Poet's Corner

WINTER The keener tempests come; and fuming dun From all the livid east or pierce-fing north, Thick clouds ascend, in whose capacious womb A vapory deluge lies, to snow congealed. Heavy they roll their fleecy world along, And the sky saddens with the gathered storm, Through the hushed air the whitening shower descends. At first thin-wavering; till at last the flakes Fall broad and wide and fast, dimming the day With a continual flow.

—James Thomson (1700-1748)

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Mr. MacKinnon's Predicament

By Critic

It would now appear that the Hon. Dougald MacKinnon and the real instigator of the secret delegation to restore the old eastern train-mail service; also that he has been hoisted high, wide and handsome with his own petard.

Mr. MacKinnon, it is true, does not represent a King's County constituency, but he was active in putting through a resolution against the new service at a political meeting in his district, at a time when his colleague the Premier was absent from the Province. This was the only protest he succeeded in getting passed, for other Liberal meetings refused to touch it; but no doubt he made the most of it in his appearance before the Postmaster General.

I would exonerate Kichham to a large extent because in his letter of last December, quoted in Thursday's Guardian, he naively confessed that he had received "many letters expressing great satisfaction with the new service." The pressure must have been applied after that, and doubtless the complaints which he claims later to have received — and which apparently are to remain anonymous so far as the public is concerned — were supplied by his friend Dougald.

But Tom was to be the goat! His name was given at Ottawa but the others were kept secret. However, they were smoked out and it stood revealed that they included three members of the Provincial Government. Then Dougald stepped forward in his true role, boasting of having "rectified" the wrong perpetrated on the people by giving them a faster mail service!

It is to the credit of Premier Jones and Hon. Alex. Matheson that they both promptly repudiated their colleagues' action. The job had been pulled off behind their backs. Mr. Matheson not only repudiated an important King's County district, but he was Acting Premier when the MacKinnon delegation left for Ottawa on a quite different mission; and he states that they had no authority whatever to pose as representing the Government in this matter.

Dougald, of course, does not now claim to have done so. He says he went there on non-government business. But in what capacity did he and his colleagues appear before the Postmaster General? That is the question.

Was he introduced as merely representing a Queen's County district in the Legislature, or was it in his full cabinet role as Provincial Minister of Public Works and Highways — the very department which has control over the roads traversed by the mail trucks? I think it will be agreed that the latter assumption is by far the likeliest.

If the Postmaster General was not misled into assuming that the Provincial Government was in full accord with the delegation, would he not at once have communicated with Premier Jones? Certainly he would have done so. The fact that neither the Premier nor Matheson had any knowledge of the matter until a few days ago, after the news had leaked out from other sources, throws a sinister light on the whole transaction.

What was Dougald's motive in double-crossing his leader and colleagues in this matter, and in keeping the whole thing dark until Kichham disclosed the names in The Guardian? Was it not to wait for the official announcement of the change from Ottawa, and then to challenge them to a showdown? He might well have figured that the Premier and Health Minister would hesitate before disclosing an open cabinet split on this issue. With the Legislative session coming on, that would furnish great capital for the Opposition. Would it be better for them all to hang together now that the thing was done?

But Dougald misjudged his men. They had more gumption than to be associated with such a deal, even as accomplices after the event. They have disowned any connection with it, and left the instigator to fend for himself.

His first reaction has been to boast loudly of his achievement. "The best defense is attack," Dougald is an old hand at this game. But he has gotten out on a longer limb than he intended especially when he says that the people who don't like the backward change can "do their business by telegraph." That includes a lot of good Liberal voters in King's County, and even in his own district!

Now that he has been left holding the baby, Dougald must realize that it is anything but a come-what-may infant. His colleagues have shooed it from their doorstep, and he has had to assume the full onus for its paternity. "A poor thing, but mine own," the clown says in Shakespeare. Unfortunately it is not likely to grow any handsomer as it gets older.

FIRST PRINTER

William Caxton, England's first printer, in 15 years produced at least 100 different volumes of varying-sized editions.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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