

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1952

Progress Educationally

Among the reports tabled in the Legislature this week is that of the Department of Education. While it deals only with the fiscal year ending March 31, 1951, it provides information and statistics which can still be studied with interest and profit.

During the period reviewed, the number of graded schools increased from 79 for the previous year to 84. The total enrollment showed an increase of 189, the average daily attendance an increase of 267, and the percentage of attendance an increase of .60. The percentage of attendance, 82.9, was the highest in the history of the Province. Local districts added upwards of \$25,000 to supplements of the previous year and nearly \$34,000 to their current and capital expenditures, while Government expenditure was increased over that of the previous year by nearly \$128,000.

The statistics reveal clearly the high cost of maintaining small schools. One group of figures, comparing four schools in communities of approximately the same economic level, shows a cost of \$136.11 per pupil enrolled in a six-pupil school, as against a cost of \$66.34 per pupil in a school of twenty-six enrollments.

While all schools having a sufficient number of pupils to operate during the year were supplied with teachers, 24 very small schools had their pupils cared for either by transportation to an adjoining district or by correspondence instruction. Of the 721 teachers employed, 73 taught under permit, and a number of schools were served by teachers who had been out of the profession for some time. 53 per cent of the teachers (those holding second class license) had only one year of study beyond grade ten before undertaking the year of professional study; only 34 per cent (the first class license group) could be said to have completed adequately the high school course before undertaking professional study.

Definitely encouraging, notes Deputy Minister L. W. Shaw, were the comments of school supervisors on the high standard of work done by the experienced and trained teachers who are still to be found in the towns and villages of the Province, and to a lesser degree in the rural one-room schools, also on the improved standard of training shown by recent graduates of the Teacher Training School. On the debit side was the extremely heavy turn-over of teachers in the rural schools, and the loss in efficiency of rural schools through the employment of partially trained and immature teachers. It was evident that far too many of the rural schools were unable to retain the services of teachers more than one year.

It is to be hoped that this condition will be improved as a result of the salary increases this year, which have been forecast in the Speech from the Throne, and which appear to have the unanimous support of members on both sides of the House.

Timely Advice From India

India's Premier Nehru says that his country is prepared to accept foreign aid. Such an assertion, since the Colombo Plan and the UN Technical Assistance Programme came into being, is not news. India has, in fact, accepted some \$15 million from Canada in one way and another over the last twelve months. That works out at slightly more than a dollar per head of Canada's population, which is substantially more than most of us can afford to give to many worthwhile charities.

What makes Mr. Nehru's utterance on foreign aid newsworthy at this time, however, is his assertion that such aid will be acceptable only if no political or other strings are attached. Since Canadians have it on no less eminent an authority than External Affairs Minister Pearson that the purpose of this country's contribution to India and other Asiatic countries under the Colombo Plan is to counteract the influence and growth of Communism, it is fair to assume that Mr. Nehru's recent observations about "aid with political strings attached" relieves the Canadian taxpayer of any further responsibility in the matter of India.

Certainly, the people of Canada do not wish to embarrass the Republic of India with further assistance under the Colombo Plan so long as Premier Nehru and his cabinet colleagues are so sensitive about the danger of a few pamphlets on democracy

being slipped in with each shipload of Canadian wheat that is sent to that country. If Parliament is on its toes, Mr. Nehru's timely warning may save the taxpayers of Canada \$15 million in the next few months.

Income Tax Returns in Court

In a drive against bookmakers in Vancouver 26 persons were charged with conspiracy and part of the evidence which the Crown proposed to introduce was the Income Tax returns of some of their number. It is, to say the least, surprising that counsel for the Crown would thus seek to make public what is generally regarded as a very private document.

It is true that the activities of bookmakers tend to deprive the Provincial treasuries of revenue which would otherwise be derived from the licenced pari-mutuel machines but that is a minor consideration compared with the effectiveness of Income Tax collection. Taxpayers are accustomed to reveal to revenue officials details of their affairs which they jealously guard from every other living soul. If such information is in danger of becoming public knowledge, the difficulty of getting it for revenue purposes will be increased many times.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Debate on the Address resumed in the Legislature.

The new 70-ton British tank must be a staggering sight. The 57-ton Centurian adopted by this country is itself a monster fighting vehicle.

A decrease of exports and an increase of imports are recorded for February. Both could not be fully credited to stormy weather.

The mother of Winston Churchill was born in Brooklin, where a plaque is to be unveiled on March 26. It is interesting to speculate what might have been had the Lord Randolph Churchills not made England their home.

The Toronto and Montreal police are evidently running wild in a search for a bank-robbler and assassin. Since when has law and justice been put unrestrictedly into the hands of policemen with power to shoot and kill at sight?

Humour is not easily defined, but no less an authority than Charlie Chaplin accepts this as describing it: "When you go up behind a dignified individual, Charlie, and kick him in the rear, that's funny." In other words, dignity and impudence.

Mental disorders, like other injuries and diseases, are of varied origin. Also like other ills, they should be treated rather than ignored. The recently established Mental Health Clinic announced in the Legislature was long overdue.

The London Stock Exchange seems mightily pleased with the British Budget, notwithstanding that the combination of increased taxes on excess profits and the increased bank rate knock several hundred millions off exchange values. Thankful for small mercies these days.

Canada has a new voice, that of Mr. Eric Johnson, an ex-rancher, in the British House of Commons. He talked horse-and-cattle sense the other day in advocating the U. K. to do more importation from Commonwealth silver area in order to have more dollars to buy Canadian produce.

The "Canadian trade and financial officials" who have been hinting at retaliatory action against the United States restrictions on Canadian dairy products would seem to be talking out of turn. Either they are proposing something which is not Government policy or the Government is using a very round-about way of revealing its decisions.

John Jervis, first Earl St. Vincent, English Admiral, died this date 1823. He entered the navy as A.B. in 1749 and was post captain by 1760. He became a Member of Parliament and a Rear-Admiral and gained an earldom for his great victory over Spain in 1797 off Cape St. Vincent. He was an exceedingly strict disciplinarian and averted a mutiny in the fleet at Spithead by his strong measures.

The U. K. Government announces measures to make it even more difficult for Britons to get new cars. Under restrictions outlined by Brig. A. R. W. Low, parliamentary secretary of the Ministry of Supply, applicants for cars will have to declare their specific need for a new model. In addition there will be a stricter interpretation of buyers' needs for a new car and except in special circumstances no owner of a post-war car may have a new one.

All In It Together



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.

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS

Sir—I wish to commend the stand that Councillor P. C. MacCormac has taken with regard to Supervisors of our Playgrounds being too young for this job.

It is quite true that, heretofore, the supervisors have not been much older than the children they are supposed to look after, and as the mother of eight children, I think it about time that the post-ers-that-be place over our children in these Playgrounds, supervisors of more mature years and who, through their years of experience, are better fitted for this work.

More power to Councillor MacCormac.

I am, Sir, etc. PARENT.

Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England:— It would not be correct to say that the untimely death of King George VI brought our affairs to a standstill; indeed, that is probably the last thing that he himself would have wished. Shocked and saddened we were, but work went on pretty much as usual despite a sombre and hushed atmosphere that hung over us all. Besides our everyday tasks, there was much to be done in Court and Military circles by those responsible for the carrying out of the solemn duties that have to be performed when a Monarch dies.

Even without the traditional ceremonial of a Royal funeral we should have mourned the late King for his own sake, as a man, but there is still much to be said for the processional rites as a manifestation of the nation's last respects.

There was work too, for those organizing or taking part in the ceremonies attaching to the Proclamation of the new Queen. No one could forget that this show of pageantry became necessary only because of a previous loss; colourful spectacles though it is, it could do little more than accentuate the event of greater moment whence it sprang.

These things are traditional; they are perhaps the sinews of our way of life. But they are not quite what we mean when we talk of our affairs carrying on as usual. It's the everyday matters, on a more personal level, that keep the machinery of our existence running, and these were attended to without interruption. Yet there was a difference. Things were quieter. It would have seemed somehow improper otherwise. That much we felt in our hearts without the need for official expression, yet possibly we hardly realized the measure of our decorum, arising as it did from self-discipline as much as anything, until now when we begin to return to something approaching normality.

Parliament provides a good example. For several years now the Government and the Opposition have each been strong enough to be at the other's throat pretty consistently. Ever since the General Election of early 1950 gave the Labour Party a slender majority, our Members of Parliament have had no easy job. They have had to be in attendance, or on call, for long, long hours, sometimes all night, ready to take part in a snap division that could bring down the Government. Then, when the poll of last year reversed the position, there was still no respite. Whereas, before, the Labour Government had a constant fight to preserve its existence, now it is the Conservatives who have to be always alert lest their own meagre

Notes By The Way

A passport is not a visa and a visa is not a passport and the people who concern themselves daily with the handling of Canadian passports wish that idle gossip about the recently exposed visa frauds would call them visas and not passports. The Journal referred in this the other day, and we are glad to admit our error and make clear that there has been no suggestion that the passports in which the visas are stated to have been entered were themselves wrongly issued. It is perhaps churlish of us to add that we think a smell in the visa department is no less unpleasant than a smell in the passport department, but certainly there is a difference between the two and in this case, it appears, the odors are not common to both. — Ottawa Journal.

News photographers know that it is next to impossible to persuade most people to allow their faces to keep their ordinary expression while there is a camera in sight. Something seems to possess most people, and the result

The Poet's Corner

WINTER NIGHTFALL

The day begins to droop,— Its course is done; But nothing tells the place Of the setting sun. The hazy darkness deepens, And up the lane You may hear, but cannot see, The homing wain. An engine pants and hums In the farm hard by: Its lowering smoke is lost In the lowering sky. The sootling branches drip, And all night through The dripping will not cease In the avenue. —Robert Bridges.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CHAMPION BATTERY

"No. 1 Battery P. E. I. Brigade of Garrison Artillery" have again carried off the shifting ordnance prizes given by the Dominion Artillery Association of Canada. This Battery have now won four out of the five shifting ordnance competitions which have been held since the organization of the Association—three of them consecutively. These competitions are open to the whole Garrison Artillery of Canada, and we think it speaks volumes for the drill and efficiency of this Battery, when it can succeed against competitors who have much greater facilities and advantages—as, for instance, in the larger cities of Toronto, Montreal, Quebec and Halifax. We congratulate Capt. Passmore on the success of the Battery under his command and trust that he should another Canadian team be sent to Shoeburyness, it will number among its members several of this crack corps. The prizes consist of a money award of twenty dollars to the detachment, and a gold embroidered badge and cap, presented by the Governor General to the Commanding Officer." —The Examiner, Jan. 18, 1952.

The Age-Old Story

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. . . . And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch

English Milk Marketing Board

By L. P. McIsaac, Research Director, P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture

For the past few weeks, I have followed through the columns of The Guardian the comments respecting the place, and value to the country, of agricultural marketing boards. It is interesting to get the different points of view and to analyze the reasons given for each.

On the one hand, we have had various farmers defending the work of such boards; on the other, we have had defenders of our so-called free enterprise system using all the arguments at their command to persuade the producer that he should have nothing to do with "producers' organizations." In other words that he should ignore his neighbours and remain unorganized.

I thought it might be well to present some additional information, pertaining to one successful marketing board, which might be of interest to The Guardian's many readers—both dealers and farmers—who are concerned. The board I refer to is the Milk Marketing Board of England and Wales. If this Board can be of such benefit to the people of England and Wales, as both Conservative and Labour Governments in Great Britain have said it has been, then why cannot agricultural marketing boards be of similar benefit here?

While it is true that the British Milk Marketing Board functions within the confines of England and Wales and that our boards have been mostly set up for export purposes, yet Marketing Boards in Denmark and other countries do regulate export trade. The point should like to make here is that, at least in England and Wales, the primary producer has been enabled to control and market his product, not only to his own increased welfare, but to the welfare of the consumer also.

England's milk marketing board began functioning in October of 1933 under authority of the British Agricultural Marketing Act of 1931. This act was promoted by the National Farmers' Union and was passed by the British Parliament for the expressed purpose of improving the marketing of all farm products.

At the time of setting up the milk board, England's milk industry was in a bad way. The world depression was at its worst. Within a relatively short time, Edward VIII was to come out of the Welsh mines where human misery was rampant and promise that "something will be done about it" thus taking the first step in a series of actions which ended before a microphone on the night of December 11, 1936—"At long last I am able to say a few words of my own. . . . The unemployed were numbered by the millions. Milk supplies and prices fluctuated widely. Underselling by many milk producers in order to get some return for their product, had all but wrecked the industry. Naturally, when producers set up an organization of their own during a crisis, or in the midst of a depression, their first objective is likely to be a short-term one inasmuch as they are engaged in a struggle for immediate survival. However, the aims of the Milk Marketing Board as set forth in their 1933 report, show that the Board was building on a foundation which would be strong enough to hold a structure commodious

and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again; for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. (To be continued)

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