

# The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Best  
Published every week - day morning at 10 Prince Street,  
Charlottetown, P. E. I., by the Thomson Company Ltd.  
44 King St. W., Toronto.  
Montreal Office, 225 University Tower Bldg.  
Editor, Frank Walker  
General Manager, Ian A. Burnett  
Member Canadian Daily Newspaper  
Publishers Association  
Member of The Canadian Press  
Member Audit Bureau of Circulations  
Branch offices at Summerside, Montague and Alberton  
Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office  
Department, Ottawa.  
Carrier: Charlottetown, Summerside \$10.00 per an-  
num. Elsewhere in P.E.I. \$2.00. Other Provinces and  
U.S. \$12.00 per annum.

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1956

## Interesting Question

Immigration Minister Pickersgill is reported to have told an audience in St. John's, Newfoundland—the hub of anti-confederation sentiment in days gone by—that it is not "legally possible for Newfoundland to withdraw from Confederation," a step which Premier Smallwood has hinted at on two or three occasions. While the report does not say so, it is a safe assumption that Mr. Smallwood was not present when the minister (and Newfoundland's representative in the Cabinet) made his judicial pronouncement. If he had been, he almost certainly would have disputed the opinion, for the Premier is not a man who on occasions when his judgment is called in question "keeps silence even from good words."

In any event, Mr. Pickersgill's pronouncement raises a most interesting question: Just what would the Federal Government do if Newfoundland, or any other Province, did decide to break the federal connection? It is unlikely ever to happen; for, quite apart from the legal aspects of the matter, there would be so many economic readjustments involved that it is doubtful whether any Provincial administration would attempt to wade through them. But, assuming that the step were decided upon, even though it might not be "legally possible", how would the Federal authorities go about thwarting the wishes of the dissidents? Would they send troops and guns and bombs to terrify the citizens into submission? Or put all the ring-leaders of the secession movement in durance vile until they recanted? Or abolish the Provincial Legislature and install a "quising" administration to carry out federal injunctions at the point of the sword? To ask these questions is to realize how ridiculous they are in this day and age. For one thing, any Federal government that would consider coercive measures against any Province would go out of office so fast that it would be some time before its members recovered from their consternation.

It seems almost certain that Newfoundland's destiny, for better or worse, lies in a continued relationship with the greater community. But that is an entirely different thing from a Federal Minister's telling a provincial audience, in effect, that if they have made a hard bed they must lie in it. That is much too reminiscent of a day that can never be recalled—thank the Lord!

## It Looks Hopeless

Under the auspices of the National Council of Churches, which is made up of some thirty religious denominations with a combined membership of thirty-five million, an eight member delegation of American Church leaders is planning to visit the Soviet Union next month. Leader of the delegation will be Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, the present President of the Council. The purpose of the visit, according to Dr. Blake, is to increase, if possible, mutual understanding with Russian Orthodox Church leaders, some of whom are expected to visit the United States later in the year, and through them, to try and do something towards easing tension between East and West. Referring to some criticism of the impending trip, Dr. Blake said: "While we cannot be sure that agreement can or should be reached at many points, we do hope that this exchange of visits will contribute towards a larger measure of understanding and goodwill."

It is fairly easy to see how a measure of understanding can be reached between Western religious leaders and the leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church. Indeed, one may presume that on many points this understanding is already in effect. It is very difficult, however, to see how Russian Church leaders, even with the very best intentions, could do very much towards easing the tensions that exist between the

Soviet Union and the West. Whatever influence they may have with the Russian masses—it does not appear to be very considerable these days—they have none at all with their rulers. They could not possibly have any in circumstances where religion is looked upon as being anti-social and a detriment to progress, where no church member is permitted to be a member of the ruling political party, and where young people are taught in the schools and in their organizations that religion—not any particular church, but religion itself—is an enemy of the state. How then can there be the slightest hope of "mutual understanding"—in the field of religion, that is? It looks pretty hopeless.

## The Bobby Decker Story

With so many gloomy and unpleasant stories coming over the wires these days, one finds much needed refreshment in a little story about a nine year old youngster, Bobby Decker, of Boston. Early in the fall Bobby was admitted to a hospital suffering from an incurable disease, although for several weeks he was able to be fairly active. It seems that Bobby's great ambition was to be a newspaper publisher. The doctors and nurses, hearing of this, suggested that he should put out a daily pencilled paper from his hospital cot. Bobby needed no urging. He called his creation the "Boston Rocker" and filled it with little items about the doctors and nurses, other patients, and anyone else whom he found newsworthy, in the best free lance tradition. Christmas called for a larger edition than usual—two whole pages and a number of pictures of Santa Claus in various poses.

News of Bobby's venture got around, as important news always does, and reporters came from the various news agencies to interview the publisher and take his picture which was sent all over the country, with the result that Bobbie became a bit of a national figure. News clipping services sent him lots of clippings about himself which, needless to say, he enjoyed immensely. Came the inevitable day when Bobby could do no more reporting. The "Boston Rocker" went out of circulation, and a kindly doctor, who knew something of the jargon of the newspaper fraternity, wrote "30" on Bobby's card. It was the end.

A great story, isn't it? It tugs at one's heart-strings; yes, and it is proof that kindness is still a great force in the world.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Citizens of Niagra Falls have reported sighting an airborne object resembling a Chinese lantern. Perhaps that's what it was. Anything is possible these days, including Chinese lanterns over Niagara.

It is reported that Sergei Kruglov, Soviet Internal Affairs Minister, has been "relieved of his duties". Since Mr. Kruglov succeeded the ill-fated L. P. Beria, he must be feeling anything but happy these days.

Aneurin Bevan still exercises a powerful influence in the British Labour Party. This certainly is the inference to be derived from his strong showing in the election of a deputy leader—111 votes to 141 for James Griffiths, the successful candidate.

Now that Archbishop Makarios, leader of the union with Greece movement in Cyprus, has expressed tentative satisfaction with the British Government's proposals for Cypriot self-government, the situation there can be expected to take a turn for the better. It is to be noted, however, that the Archbishop has not said he will follow any recommendations made by the British, but only that he will give them consideration.

According to figures released by the First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, there are now 8 million party members in the Union. It is interesting to note that the biggest republic making up the Union, bearing the imposing, if cumbersome, name "the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic", has no party organization at all. It is interesting also to note that farmers and factory workers who used to be dominant among delegates to the annual congress are now outnumbered by plant foremen, engineers, scientists, army officers, and delegates from other professional groups.



## JOINED FORCES

### Anglo-U.S. Discussions

Joseph C. Harsch, Washington, in The Christian Science Monitor

The most important feature of the three days of talks between the top government people of Britain and the United States in Washington is that they did quite a lot of business.

They could not, of course, agree on everything. They could not settle all the problems of the world. But they grappled with some pretty big problems, and they made what is surprising progress in terms of the difficulties and the differences of point of view involved.

Compromises were involved. Each side gave way on some things. Neither side "won" the conference. There was a balancing of concessions, which is, of course, what must be done with people with business to transact. Roughly, the gains and concessions can be summarized as follows:

**JOINT GAINS:**  
1. What looks like a sensible and practical way to head off war between Egypt and Israel will be invited to withdraw their troops from a two-mile neutral zone along the common frontier. The United Nations will put in a substantially enlarged police force to be done without emergency powers or resolutions. Dag Hammarskjöld can do it. The United States and Britain will be ready, if necessary, to back up the plan with their military forces actually in the area.  
2. A way, undisclosed in detail, was found which should avoid United Nations dispute with Saudi Arabia concerning the Buraimi Oasis.  
3. Tentative and preliminary plans were studied for a Western answer to the new Soviet economic offensive. This project is still a long way from the stage of action, but the philosophic theory behind it was put into the Declaration of Washington.

**UNITED STATES GAINS:**  
1. Britain deferred for the time being its intention to reduce restrictions on trade with Communist China to the level of restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union.  
2. Britain agreed to defer action for the time being toward bringing Communist China into the United Nations, at least until after the next session of the UN General Assembly, which means definitely after the United States elections in November.  
3. Britain supports the United States position on Formosa.

**BRITISH GAINS:**  
1. The United States agreed to immediate revision and reduction of the list of goods banned in trade with Communist China. It is understood the list will be an early revision of Malayan and Ceylonese rubber from the list in order to bring economic relief to that country.  
2. Britain is free to move for admission of China to the UN, but not until after the next session of the General Assembly.  
3. Britain obtained inclusion in the Declaration of Washington of a sentence which reads: "We know that political independence cannot alone assure men and nations full opportunity to pursue happiness and to fulfill their highest destiny." This is called the "Colonial" reference. It carries, unstated, an understanding that the United States will not pursue an "Anticolonial" policy to the detriment of Britain's colonial empire.

**AREAS OF NONAGREEMENT:**  
1. The United States will continue to help Nationalist China in its plans to defend Quemoy and the

Matus. Britain strongly disapproves this course and favors earliest possible withdrawal from these islands. There will be no British involvement if the United States becomes involved over these islands.  
2. The United States declined to help Britain shorten the process of evolving an atomic submarine engine by disclosing technical problems overcome in obtaining the first United States atomic-powered submarine.  
In the long run it may turn out to be the most important accomplishment was the groundwork laid for a future joint answer to the Soviet economic offensive. This was a conference which could have defused the Middle East and southern Asia. That would have opened the way for the Soviets to romp at will through that part of the world. This did not happen. The conferees discovered that they could at least approach joint solutions to the Arab-Israeli and the Arabian oil problems.

That is: The Anglo-American front was not broken on the sector which is being most heavily assailed by the Soviet economic offensive. The two will continue to work together. From this defensive foundation a positive plan of common action can, in time, be worked out.  
The net of it is that the Anglo-American alliance continues to be the strongest political feature of the Western world. The conferees on both sides parted with a feeling of comfort arising out of the renewed appreciation that they have more in common than in conflict and that they can compromise a lot of their differences.

**OUR YESTERDAYS**  
From The Guardian Files  
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO  
(February 7, 1931)  
With the object of promoting greater gymnastic activities among boys of high school age, the H.Y. Club was organized at the Y.M.C.A. last evening. The plans call for a supper at the Y.M.C.A. each Friday evening at 6.00 o'clock, followed by one hour in the gymnasium. Officers appointed were: President Bill Reid; Vice-president Frank Storey, Secretary-Treasurer Fraser MacMillan.

As a result of the visit of Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada to Washington last week, steps are at last to be undertaken to pave the way toward construction of the much discussed St. Lawrence waterway project. This will provide a ship canal from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic ocean.  
The bulk of the \$20,000,000 relief fund which was provided at a special session of Parliament for public works and relief, has already been earmarked. The following tabulation shows the amounts allotted to the Maritimes:  
Allotment Value of works  
N.S. \$500,000 \$1,361,000  
P.E.I. \$80,000 \$200,000  
N.S. \$700,000 \$2,329,000

**TEN YEARS AGO**  
(February 7, 1946)  
J. Wilfred Boulier, Charlottetown, was re-elected president of the Canadian Horticultural Council of Canada at its convention in Ottawa yesterday afternoon. Mr. Boulier is the first horticulturalist from Prince Edward Island ever to have held the presidency of the council.  
Ferry service for highway traffic across the Strait of Canso, which was suspended last Friday due to ice-packs damaging the ferry, was resumed today.  
At the Holstein-Freisian Association of Canada convention in Toronto, Premier Jones yesterday presented a certificate of superior production for Abegweit Milady, which set a 305 day record of 1,085 pounds of fat from 24,939 pounds of milk. A second Islander, Colby C. Lewis of Freetown received a Master Breeder Shield.

## Where Cabot Landed

(Frederick Gleaner.)  
The famous Venetian-Genoese navigator Giovanni Caboto, whom history knows as John Cabot sailed under the flag and authority of King Henry VII of England, and it was his famous voyage in 1497 which gave Britain first claim on this continent, for Cabot was the discoverer—or perhaps we should say "re-discoverer"—to appease admirers of Leif Ericson—of North America, as distinct from the western land mass as a whole.  
Cabot certainly made a landing in what are now the Atlantic provinces of Canada, and tradition places the spot somewhere in Cape Breton. The names "Cabot Trail" and "Cabot Straits" are memorials to the great explorer.  
However, as long as three-quarters of a century ago, historians, checking on Cabot's course, found that published descriptions of his journey including such details as elapsed time and estimated distance from the embarkation point of Bristol, and particularly the latitude mentioned, cast doubt on Cape Breton as the place of Cabot's landing—and make it equally likely that he sailed through the Strait of Canso and made his actual land-

## The Age Old Story

Look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.  
ing in New Brunswick, somewhere near the mouth of the Miramichi.

## Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

**TREATMENT FOR DRY SKIN**  
Dry skin is a common winter complaint.  
Not only is this due to the relative low humidity but also to the fact that your circulation is somewhat slowed by the cold.  
Frequent and prolonged bathing in hot water, a common winter practice for many of us, might also lead to dryness of the skin.

**ALKALINE SOAPS**  
Too frequent use of alkaline soaps and detergents can be a contributing factor, too. This is especially true of homemakers whose daily chores require great use of water, strong soaps and detergents. This skin dryness may vary from only a slight, uncomfortable feeling to annoying roughness, sometimes your finger tips or nails may be involved, with resulting hangnails or slight cracks in the skin. Your nails may become coarse and easily broken.  
Dry skin may make you more susceptible to bacterial infection, sunburn and certain chemicals and other irritants.  
To help clear up the condition, try a good skin cream or ointment. This skin cream should be applied after each night before bedtime, wearing cotton gloves to protect pillowcases and bed linens.  
In addition to these measures, your physician might decide your case calls for administration of vitamin A or thyroid extract (taken internally).

**As for your nails, try applying castor oil.** For chafed hands, you can apply olive oil or toilet lanolin each night before bedtime, wearing cotton gloves to protect pillowcases and bed linens.  
In addition to these measures, your physician might decide your case calls for administration of vitamin A or thyroid extract (taken internally).

**QUESTION AND ANSWER**  
M. K.: What causes the skin to itch an hour after eating ice cream?  
Answer: Itching of the skin after eating ice cream might be due to a nervous disorder or to an allergy or sensitivity.

## The Poets Corner

**TO CHAUCER**  
If you had known how English was to change,  
Oh, would you still have written your songs?  
In scarce a hundred years your words were strange—  
As lost as they are now. But time still throngs  
To read your verse—now sad, now pungent, sweet,  
Quite often merry, rollicking with life.  
Its alien melodies alone retreat,  
The substance stays. Your might, your sure, your wife  
Of faith, hold up a mirror to our times.  
And selves: pretense of any kind you caught  
And gently ridiculed. Your vision climbs  
Right off the page and straddles time: is fraught  
With wisdom, humor, and the wit to know  
That heart, not dress, reveals men high or low.  
—Carroll Earle Chapin, in The Christian Science Monitor.

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## Notes By The Way

A long-time bachelor, newly married, says he doesn't feel comfortable after all these years, eating his breakfast without his hat on.—Hamilton Spectator  
Some of these modern-type chairs which put the feet up higher than the head should pay for themselves in recovered change alone.—Winnipeg Tribune  
Army life is changing, but there's still nothing like piling 75 pounds of equipment on a buck private to make a roomy pair of new shoes fit snugly.—Vancouver Herald  
We used to wonder where popular songs went to when they were no longer popular. We now have lived long enough to know that they are revived and put back into circulation every twenty years.—Kingston Whig-Standard  
Before 1939 only 26 percent of the milk production of Canada came from Quebec. Now some 34 percent of the milk production of the nation is from Quebec. It is no wonder Quebec farmers are watching butter and milk and cheese prices so closely. So many of them depend on these prices for their livelihood. An election could be lost or won on dairy prices in Quebec.—W. L. Clark in the Windsor Star  
The Farm Forums have just endorsed a farmer's retirement on his own farm. Nowadays, this is about the only thing an elderly farmer can do. Few can afford to give up land and move to a village or town. So instead the farmer and his wife gradually enter into a special kind of retirement, one which has both advantages and disadvantages for them. On the whole, though, the advantages are more important than the drawbacks. The most important benefit is that the semi-retired farmer who hangs on to the homestead can almost always keep up some of the lighter and less taxing branches of farming, perhaps for many years. He may no longer draw in hay or manage a big herd of dairy cattle but he may still do a great deal.—Owen Sound Sun-Times

Nowadays when you tell some one he looks like a million dollars it is necessary to specify whether before or after taxes.—Kitchen-Waterloo Record  
A southern gentleman is arrested at the age of 70 for burglarizing a house. Well, aren't we all supposed to take up some hobby to occupy us in the golden years of retirement?—Winnipeg Tribune  
The widow of a Vancouver book maker was released each day during a jail sentence to carry on his business. Who says Canadians don't foster literary activities?—London Free Press  
An Eastern Ontario store advertises "cocktail shoes". We presume they are reinforced with sturdy toes to protect the wearer whose feet are liable to be stepped upon in the jam of people who usually attend these things.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

Although in some situations it is a convenience to be able to drive cars across frozen bodies of water, for the most part it is a dangerous practice to venture on ice in an automobile weighing at least a ton and a half. Just for the fun of it, every winter there are tragic car accidents as persons being drowned and families wiped out as cars have broken through the ice and sunk before the occupants could escape.—Brookville Recorder and Times  
Several years ago when Corporal Montagu completed his service with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police he published a book based on his experience with Eskimos at what was then the Dominion's farthest north police post. He told of seeing a young Eskimo completely disarmed and accurately reassemble an engine from a motor patrol boat, after having merely watched a constable do it a few days earlier. Since then many voices have been raised in advocacy of incorporating our far northern natives into the economy of the nation by utilizing their native genius in Arctic development.—Globe and Mail

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## BRIEFS INVITED

**THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON BROADCASTING**  
will commence public hearings in Ottawa, on April 30th, 1956

The Commission will welcome briefs from organizations, associations and individuals wishing to express their views with regard to radio and television broadcasting in Canada. All briefs must be in writing and must be addressed to the Secretary, Royal Commission on Broadcasting, Ottawa, Canada, not later than April 15th, 1956. At least thirty copies of each brief will be required by the Commission.

Each organization, association or individual wishing to submit a brief should so inform the Secretary as early as possible and, in any event, not later than March 1st, in order that a programme of public hearings can be prepared and announced. The Commission plans to hold its public hearings at various points throughout Canada during the months of May and June and reserves the right to receive any submission either, at public or at private hearings.

Under the terms of Order in Council P.C. 1955-1796 of December 2nd, 1955, the Commission is directed to examine and make recommendations upon:

- (a) the policies to be followed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in its television broadcasting activities and the relation of such policies to the finances of the Corporation;
- (b) the measures necessary to provide an adequate proportion of Canadian programmes for both public and private television broadcasting;
- (c) the financial requirements of the Corporation for television broadcasting and the relation of these to the extent, nature, standards and distribution of programmes;
- (d) the financial requirements of the Corporation for sound broadcasting in the light of the development of television and the growth of population in new areas of Canada;
- (e) the manner in which the finances for the television and sound broadcasting operations of the Corporation should be provided and managed;
- (f) the licensing and control of private television and sound broadcasting stations in the public interest; and
- (g) such other related matters as the Commission considers should be included in reporting properly upon those specified.

R. M. Fowler Chairman Paul Pelletier Secretary