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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1952

Transportation Proposals

Yesterday the Select Standing Committee of the Legislature concluded its Charlottetown hearings of the C. N. R. bus service application. Its enquiry is being continued in Georgetown and Summerside, after which a report will be made to the Legislature. In the meantime, the various briefs and testimony of witnesses indicate not only a marked divergence of opinion on the subject, but also a considerable misunderstanding of the Railway proposals.

As emphasized by the chairman, Mr. W. F. A. Stewart, the Committee is primarily concerned with obtaining for this Province the best transportation service possible. The Guardian has already expressed its views on this subject, and there is no necessity for repeating them now that the inquiry is under way.

One point, however, is worth noting as it has not been touched upon in the briefs submitted. We have no special guarantee with regard to railway passenger service within the Province. In all matters touching upon this service we are in the hands of the Board of Transport Commissioners. We have had several adverse judgments from this Board, most of them hinging on the factor of uneconomic operation of the particular service in dispute. There is no prospect in sight of the Board ordering the Railway to give us improved passenger service at an increasing cost and with constantly diminishing returns.

On the other hand, acceptance of the proposal would be contingent upon its satisfactory operation, and the judges in this case would no longer be the Transport Commission but our own Provincial Board of Public Utilities. Even granting the opposition argument that there might be a conflict of jurisdiction as between the two Boards, at least we would be no worse off. There is no conflict now because the Federal Board rules the roost. Apart from its other aspects, therefore, the move would be in the direction of decentralization of control, which is something we have been striving after for years.

Our Legislative Committee has a responsible task which they will no doubt discharge thoroughly and conscientiously. After that it will be for the Legislature to decide. Whatever the outcome, there can be no doubt but that it will have far reaching effects on the future of this Province.

Saskatchewan Election

It may be that Agriculture Minister Gardiner was right with respect to the Saskatchewan general election yesterday. He predicted that the C.C.F. could easily use the Province's new system of sworn ballots for some types of electors, including absentee voters, to "steal" the election. These ballots, expected to run into several thousands, will not be counted until July 2. In any event, there is no question but that the C.C.F. Government under Premier T. C. Douglas has been returned, and with an increased majority.

The Progressive Conservatives had only eight candidates in the field, the Liberals being the main contenders against the Government party. In the Liberal bid for power, the party was banking to a considerable extent on a switch in voter sentiment in eight ridings which they lost by close margins in 1948. A shift of about 1,200 voters altogether would have given them the seats. Evidently something went wrong, but the returns at the time of writing give no indication as to how the Liberals came to grief.

Expansion of hospitalization and medical care plans loomed large in the C.C.F. campaign, coupled with highway development, rural electrification, reclamation of new northern land areas, increased grants for education and old age pensions. Oil and mineral resources development was also highlighted, the returns from these re-

sources being indeed one of the greatest factors in the Province's economy.

Both major parties expressed confidence in yesterday's outcome, but it is a rare occasion on which such optimistic predictions are not heard. The result undoubtedly will be of assistance in boosting C.C.F. morale generally, which has been on the decline of late. For Saskatchewan it means a continuation of the form of government the Province has had since 1944, and to which it has evidently become philosophically adjusted.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Here on Tuesday we must have got the tail-end of the 50-mile-an-hour blizzard and rain storm that visited Ottawa, to our detriment.

The re-election of Dr. G. D. Steel as President of the Music Festival Association assures another success for this organization in the current year.

The well-known diesel engine manufacturers, F. Perkins Ltd., of Peterborough, England, have formed a Canadian subsidiary with headquarters in Toronto.

The potato market is attracting even more attention in the House of Commons than the financial markets, because, no doubt, more members eat potatoes than buy stocks.

The Social Credit Party in Saskatchewan practically substituted for the Conservatives who had only eight candidates. The contest was largely between the Liberals and the C.C.F.'s.

A new street in the vicinity of Brighton will encourage the development of building operations for much needed additional house accommodation. Dr. Wendell MacDonald, Health Officer, stressed the necessity for additional house-building to relieve overcrowding.

Health authorities are urging, amongst other things, the use of dark glasses for long hours in bright sunlight. There is a danger in connection with such glasses, however. Young children, and some not so young, may look at the sun and feeling no immediate pain may continue to do so until their eyes are seriously injured.

No longer "slaves", Lady Squires of Newfoundland, who claims to have converted Premier Joseph Smallwood of Newfoundland to the idea of confederation, told the Toronto Women's Liberal Association: "We have to make men realize that women are people and that we are out of the kitchen and into the world of affairs."

Sir Oliver Lodge, English physicist, was born this date 1851. He discovered wireless telegraphy before Marconi, pioneered in the theory of electrolysis and the movement of ions and made many practical contributions such as improved spark plugs. He wrote many scientific and popular treatises and made excursions into spiritualism.

The Legislative Transportation Committee has another sitting today at Georgetown. It must be admitted that Mr. Frank F. Gaffney, Transportation Research expert, who has been the chief witness, makes the position of the Railway abundantly clear and explicit, leaving no loophole for misunderstanding of the Railway's attitude in the matter.

The Federal Government has entered into an agreement with the provinces to meet half the cost of any civil defence project the provinces think should be undertaken, Health Minister Martin states. He told the Commons during consideration of civil defence estimates of more than \$6,000,000, that the agreement will extend the present Federal program of providing equipment and training for Canada's civil defence buildup. The agreement, he said, was "on a fifty-fifty basis with the provinces" and will apply to "any project they think should be undertaken." He did not elaborate.

Alberta is looking after alcoholics. Miss H. P. Christofferson, Assistant Supervisor of Guidance for the Department of Education, and Dr. J. M. Byers, Assistant Medical Superintendent, Ponoka Mental Hospital, have been selected by the Alberta Government to attend the Yale University Summer School of Alcoholic Studies at New Haven, Connecticut, July 6-31. The Alberta Legislature in March of this year set aside \$50,000 for a project covering the study and solution of problems associated with alcohol. The attendance of the two government representatives at the summer school is a preliminary step in this project. The course of studies at the summer school embraces psychological, physiological, economic and sociological aspects of beverage alcohol.

A Most Provoking Plum



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.

PREPARING FOR A SURGICAL OPERATION

Sir—I write again on the subject of tobacco because I am concerned, not so much for smokers as for heavy smokers, and there are a good many of these and the number is increasing. Some time ago I had to be in hospital. Two men were there whom I knew well of about the same age and each for the same operation. Apparently, each had the same chance of coming through, but one man smoked rather heavily, the other did not smoke. The smoker did not come through. Of course, there is no absolute proof from this case that it was the pipe that killed; but it is a well known fact that a non-smoker has a better chance of coming through an operation.

Dr. Dille, Toronto heart specialist, gives us the reason why smokers don't so often come through a major operation. He says: "Nicotine is one of the most potent of poisons. Pure nicotine is such a powerful poison that it is illegal to sell it. With every 3 cigarettes there is introduced into the system 3 milligrams of nicotine. The amount is small, but over a year's time the amount is large; and he adds, "We know that nicotine aggravates coronary heart disease which is a common and killing disease." Every surgeon will tell you that a great deal of the success of an operation depends upon the condition of the heart. Most people at some time or other in their life time must go for an operation and why put an extra burden on that amazingly faithful-old pumper that keeps on pumping tons of blood every few hours, without a minute's intermission, for 80 or more years, i.e., if we are good to it.

I am, Sir, etc W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

TEMPERANCE MEETING

The public meeting in the Y. M. C. A. Hall last evening passed off pleasantly and successfully. The meeting reminded us of the good old-fashioned Temperance meetings held by the Sons years ago. Councillor Tanton, P. G. W. P., occupied the chair. The address of welcome was delivered by Rev. J. McLeod, P.W.P., and responded to by the G.W.P., James Carruthers, Esq., on behalf of the Grand Division. Then followed speeches from Jos. Rogers, Esq., Rev. Mr. Whitman, John Edwards, Esq., and P. R. Bowers, Esq. The order appeared in full regalia. On the platform were noticeable G. W. Bentley, Esq., M.P.F.; Dr. Leeming, Capt. McRae, John Jury, Esq., J. J. Chappell, G.S.; D. W. Henderson, G.T.; Miss Schurman, G.C., and H. H. Pollard, G.S. The choir under the leadership of D. M. Fraser, Esq., and Miss Hughes, as organist, contributed in no small measure to the success of the meeting. The License Laws, judging from the tone of the addresses, find little favour among temperance men and especially among members of the Sons of Temperance.

NEED SOCIAL WORKERS

MONTREAL — (CP) — Current shortage of trained social workers may become even more acute in the near future as enrollments in Canadian schools of social work are dropping. Dr. J. J. O'Moore of the McGill School of Social Work said fewer than half of the first-year students at the McGill class would finish their two-year course because of lack of financial support for such students.

Notes By The Way

A motorist had just crashed into a telegraph pole wire, pole and everything came down around his car. He found him unconscious in the wreckage but, as they untangled him he reached out feebly and fingered the wires and murmured: "Thank heaven I lived clean; they've given me a harp."

"What we need in these days of strenuous efforts and of great extremes is a vigorous preaching of the doctrine that the man who achieves success in life is the man who does his best, even in a humbler sphere, to benefit his fellow."

By use of a mathematical trick known as the theory of probabilities, it is possible to prove that if you left 20 chimpanzees in a room with 20 typewriters for an indefinite length of time, they would ultimately produce a word-perfect copy of Hamlet. The Calgary City Council, so far as we can see, conducts its business on a roughly equivalent plane.

County Court Judge Temple Morris has a way with him. At Bridgend, Glamorgan, a man came before him wearing his working clothes, and apologized without being asked to do so. The judge regarded him for a moment, and then said: "It is nice of you to apologize. These are your working clothes, and these (pointing to his wig and gown) are mine."

In the Queen's first birthday honors list of her reign appears the name of Dan Parker, captain of the tug "Turmoil." He has been decorated for his part in last January's sea epic in which Kurt Carlson's "Flying Enterprise" played the leading role. Captain Parker would probably say he was just doing a routine job, but it is nice to see his Queen thus giving him recognition. This is in the tradition of the first Queen Elizabeth who, four centuries ago, also honored doughty English seamen.

The average United States tourist visiting Ontario in 1951 spent \$65.44. He remained here for 6.3 days and his party consisted of 3.4 persons. All told, tourists added \$222,000,000 to the revenues of this province. Seventy-three per cent of all tourists questioned said they were coming back again this year. The figures remind us both of the value of the tourist business, and of the necessity for keeping accommodation and manners on a high level and prices reasonable and fair.—London Free Press.

Two individuals who took the notion to stage bank holdups in widely separated spots on the same day recently found this sort of stickup is not so easy — at least, any longer. In Rhode Island a pair who had scooped up nearly \$200,000 came to grief as he stared into the businesslike gun in the hand of a state trooper. A bank employee had managed to put in a telephone call to police. The man meekly

surrendered. In New York, a "human bomb" bandit, who said he had two vials of nitroglycerine in his pockets, along with a gun fired without having obtained money when a teller fell to the floor and touched a burglar alarm. This is a happy reversal of what had happened in a series of previous bank holdups in New England and elsewhere.—Boston Post.

Being of a lazy and fearful nature, we have never responded personally to the challenge of mountain climbing, least of all an attempt upon the 20,000 foot peak of Everest. Yet, from our fireside, we have watched successive expeditions make the attempt, and have found ourselves hoping ardently for their success. Now we read that the gallant Swiss attempt has failed. The Swiss, despite marvellous new lightweight equipment, were easily beaten back by the giant mountain which slowly bore by Lord Clyde's death shortly before the second war but has never been climbed. Its summit remains inviolate.—Montreal Star.

Judge H. D. Lang, of Perth, granting Canadian citizenship certificates to new Canadians at Saranac, suggested that they read the newspapers, both news and editorials, as a means of education. Such reading he said is a duty, a fulfilling of the responsibilities of citizenship. Judge Lang's words might be addressed to many Canadian-born too. Reading the news provides the facts; reading the editorials interprets the facts. Together they offer a very fair picture of one's community, and of the philosophy and desires of the people.—London Free Press.

The Poet's Corner

FAIRY SONG

Where dips the rocky highland Of Sleuth Wood in the lake, There lies a leafy island Where flapping herons wake The drowsy water-rats; There we've hid our fairy vats Full of berries out, And of reddest stamen cherries. Come away, O human child! To the woods and waters wild, With a fairy, hand in hand, For the world's more full of weeping than you can understand.

Where the wandering water gushes From the hills above Glen-Gar, In pools among the rushes That scarce could bathe a star, We seek for slumbering trout, And whispering in their ears We give them evil dreams; Leaning softly out, From ferns that drop their tears Of dew on the young streams; Come away, O human child! To the woods and waters wild, With a fairy, hand in hand, For the world's more full of weeping than you can understand.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

MORE ABOUT CRANKS

When I was a youngster I was much intrigued by a story of an old woman who lived in a barrel. I never had the privilege of meeting the lady although, until I was twelve or so, I always wanted to. Since then the desire has gradually become less and less, and at the present time I have none at all, which is probably just as well. She must have exchanged her barrel for a casket long before this.

Back in the 4th. century B.C. another crank was reputed to live in somewhat similar quarters. His name was Diogenes, and because he was a philosopher of note his name and eccentricities have been preserved in history. He was convinced that the more wealthy people had the more they craved, which proves that whatever his personal habits were like, he had an alert mind. In order to practice what he preached he went around with nothing but a tattered suit, a purse and a wooden bowl. Besides the tub he lived in, these were his only possessions. Later, it is said, he threw away the bowl and drank from the hollow of his hand. Perhaps the most profound observation with which he is credited was "I am looking for an honest man."

His biographers do not tell us whether or not he found his honest man. It isn't likely, for absolute honesty is hard to come by, and even harder to retain, even now. In Diogenes' time it was probably more difficult still. In the field of Science cranks have been as plentiful as weeds in a trout pond. The first that comes to mind is Copernicus who in the 16th. century made the startling claim that the sun, not the earth, is the centre of the universe. This took courage which the crank usually has in abundance. All concerned, especially the Church authorities, were quite sure that Copernicus was either a knave or a fool, perhaps both. Somehow, however, he managed to escape violent persecution which enlightened authorities were apt to inflict on anyone daring to dispute the sacredly held opinions. The unpardonable sin was refusal to conform. His ardent disciple Galileo was not so fortunate. This was probably due to the fact that his controversy with the theologians was more bitter than that of Copernicus had been. The latter had contented himself with expounding new astronomical discoveries without comment likely to infuriate his critics. Galileo allowed his crankiness to make play of several literal passages of Scripture which spoke of the rising and setting of the sun, and such like. For this he suffered indignity, but, like most notable cranks, he did manage to make very substantial contribution to the measure of human knowledge, and he helped to dispel much of the superstition which had grown up around the Scriptures. There is still a lot of it left, however.

Isaac Newton, who came into the world the year that Galileo went out of it, would have had no claim to membership in The Ancient and Honourable Society of Cranks but for his great sense of modesty and humility. No one bothered to ridicule him for his scientific discoveries, a fact which may have been due to his being born in England. The English have done very unwise and cruel things in their time, but usually they have not discouraged the search after knowledge. The thing that made Newton a bit "queer" was the way he had of minimizing his achievements. "The immense ocean of truth lies unexplored before me," he used to say, "and I myself am as a child playing upon the seashore."

Doubtless it is true that humility is a sign of greatness, but like a good many other fine qualities it is almost never fashionable. The truly humble man is usually suspect. In the field of exploration it is generally agreed that Christopher Columbus had no peers. And yet there is plenty of evidence to prove that both before and after his discovery of America he was regarded as a crank of the most dangerous kind. His idea that the westward route to India could be found was met with extreme ridicule. "Only a madman would think of it," his critics said. Once out on the high seas his crews became so alarmed over the fact that they had allowed a foolish adventurer to take them to what appeared to be certain destruction that they threatened to throw him overboard. But alleged madmen have often done the seemingly impossible and this one found a new world. Even then the sceptics were not of the opinion that the greatest adventurer of all time died of a broken heart. Abraham Lincoln is today almost a legendary idol before whom free men, of whatever nationality, do homage. Whenever freedom is in jeopardy his spirit is called from his sepulchre to help defend it. His dream that all men should be free has not yet been realized even in his own country, but at least it is acknowledged as the goal towards which human society must aspire.

It would be quite wrong, however, to imagine that in his lifetime Lincoln was thought of as a hero and wise man by all the people who lived North of the Mason-Dixon Line, to say nothing of those who lived South of it. His supporters and detractors, even in the North, were in about equal proportion. Many political leaders of those days, especially the people described him as "leopard as a june-bug and crazy as a gabby-bird."

Limited space will not permit me to mention the politicians and statesmen who in their day were called cranks and fanatics. Their name is legion for they are many. How much the world owes to them in the way of progressive political thought and action cannot be adequately measured but it is no doubt considerable. It appears that there is at least one in the present Parliament of Canada, Ross Thatcher of the C.C.F. His insistence that waste be eliminated in government is good to hear about, but whether or not it will bring him any political prestige is a question which only time will be able to answer. At the moment he is considered by all political parties, especially his own, as a bit of bore and a nuisance, and it is reasonable to assume that the C.C.F. strategists will find some way to get rid of him.

Whatever idealism motivated the founder of that party, there appears to be little or no trace of it in his successors, whose chief aim seems to be accession to places of power. They are embarrassed and angered by Thatcher's independent spirit, for Socialism, more strikingly perhaps than any other democratic political group, hates the man who will not conform.

HARDY TYPE The aspen, a small slender tree abundant all over Canada, is the first tree to cover burned-out areas.

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