

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, JAN. 14, 1953

Political Activities

While it is possible Canadians will go to the polls in a Federal general election this year, the likelihood is that this will not happen unless some election issue should emerge during the next twelve months which is more attractive than those now at hand. This is the opinion of Mr. Arthur Blakeley, Ottawa resident correspondent for the Montreal Gazette, who contributes an interesting political summary to the Gazette's annual "Commercial Review and Forecast."

"It seems likely that 1953 will be the election year," Mr. Blakeley says. "There is little to substantiate speculation that Prime Minister St. Laurent, with an eye on early retirement from public life, is preparing to call a snap election this year to catch his political adversaries off-balance. Liberal members of Parliament returned to their constituencies at the close of the last session satisfied that they had been given a frank assurance that the Government had no such plan."

All parties, he notes, are demonstrating a cautious reluctance to give offence to any important or influential section of the electorate. Even the Canso Bridge project, which has figured prominently in election campaigning in the Maritimes for the last half-century, has once again received an official green light.

The Liberals he reports as being "still on top and looking to the future with immense confidence." Despite by-election losses, party membership in the House of Commons of 262 members, actually rose from 185 to 186. This was accomplished by accepting Arthur Masse and Herve Rousseau, elected as Independent Liberals in the Quebec ridings of Kamouraska and Rimouski, as full-fledged Liberals. Consensus of opinion is that in any immediate election the Liberals, if led by Mr. St. Laurent, would be returned to office—though with a substantially reduced majority. Biggest blow to Liberal hopes in 1951, aside from failure to produce a winner in five straight by-elections, was the crushing defeat in Ontario.

Progressive Conservative Party prospects are brighter than at any time since June, 1949, Mr. Blakeley reports. They won all five of the by-elections held during 1951 for a net increase in House of Commons membership of three, to a total of 46. Quebec is still the big question mark for the Conservatives. Party reorganization is still incomplete. In an immediate general election the party would expect to make substantial gains. But their chances of ousting the Liberals are, as yet, not great, unless Mr. St. Laurent should decide to step aside. In that event, the P.C.'s consider that they might have about an even chance of forming the next Government—with careful management.

The C. C. F. are in the doldrums, at the moment, and caught in a new Liberal-Conservative squeeze. Best example of the problem facing Canada's socialist party is the recent Ontario election. Despite Liberal losses, the Liberals still emerged as the official Opposition, with C.C.F. M.L.A.'s reduced in number to two. Despite this, though, it is too early to write off the party in Ontario, as some observers have done.

Ship Construction

By turning from the practice of riveting plates together to welding, ship-builders made great economies in labour and in the steel saved by eliminating the overlap involved in the older method. The individual weld is usually stronger than the plates themselves and some problems, such as the gradual wearing down of rivet heads are eliminated.

Unfortunately there is one great drawback to the welded ship. A riveted hull has a certain amount of "play," allowing it to respond to the forces of the waves tending to make it hog or sag as the case might be. The construction of the frame, of longitudinals and transverse frames, is designed to resist these forces as far as possible but they cannot be eliminated. When the plates are welded, the play is largely eliminated and the stresses which should be left to the frame are apt to be applied to the plates themselves. The result is the disconcerting habit which ships have today of a crack appearing across the welded plates, sometimes resulting in the ship breaking in two.

Ship-builders do not seem to have been

able to find a solution to the problem. Perhaps some landsmen can come up with the answer, something more practical than hinging sections of the hull.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Our January thaw has still to make its appearance.

The old-time horse sleighs have had an innings for the first time for several years.

Average farmers allegedly earning \$300 per week, over and above their keep, will not be envious of the septuagenarians receiving \$40 per month pensions.

Mr. Churchill's address this evening to the Canadian people need not be expected to be what we want to hear but it will undoubtedly be what we should hear.

The new Holy Redeemer recreation centre promises to fill a long-felt want in the northwest section of the city. There is a steady growing population there that requires to be catered to.

It is highly satisfactory that there was an increased birthrate and a decreased death rate in the Province last year. It is now up to the Federal and Provincial Governments to see that the increase is not lost by emigration of youths for improved employment conditions.

The suddenness with which this Province found itself facing a coal shortage last week indicates a dangerous trend by coal dealers to operate without proper reserves to assure their customers of a continuous supply, as well as a similar trend by consumers to avoid laying in adequate reserves to take care of any delays in delivery.

The earmarking of part of a national health grant to develop an organized nutrition program in this Province should provide a valuable service. The Federal Government did commence such an advertising campaign a few years ago but apparently the necessary funds were soon diverted to other purposes.

In the City most people got out early and shovelled their footpaths, but here and there careless ones let pedestrians trudge knee-deep in front of their premises. The crossings also were a hazard, the snow ploughs heaping up the snow and making it practically impossible for pedestrians, especially women, to get from point to point. The ploughed streets, however, in a measure compensated for this.

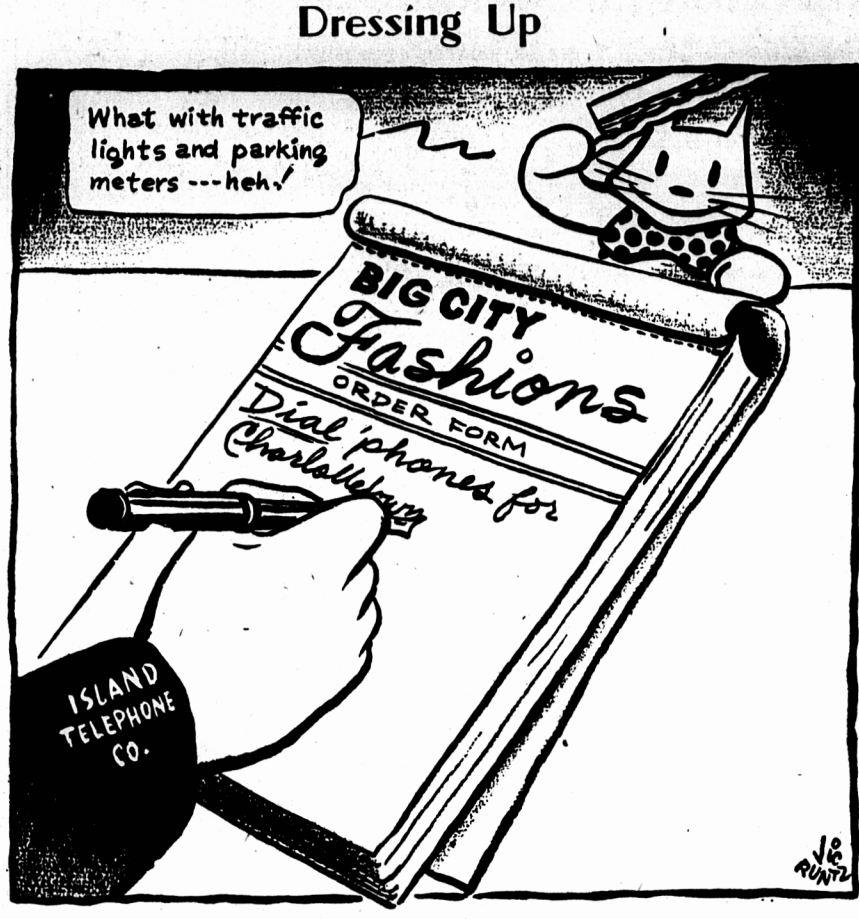
Henry Edward Manning, English cardinal, died this date 1892. He was an eloquent speaker and one of the ablest of the Tractarian party. He took a leading part in the debates of the Vatican Council in 1870 on papal infallibility and in 1875 wrote "The Vatican Decrees". He devoted much effort to social reform and founded a total abstinence society, the League of the Cross.

The City ploughs, notwithstanding enormous difficulties, did excellent work in keeping the centres of the principal streets open for traffic Friday and Saturday, it was somewhat surprising to see autos early in action on Saturday morning after possibly the worst drifting storm in our history. The City Council, Streets Committee and staff are deserving high commendation.

It is obviously better for the nation and the individual for handicapped or disabled persons to be helped to become self-supporting than merely granted financial assistance, although that is much better than complete neglect. The newly announced national advisory committee on such rehabilitation should offer hope to many who have become discouraged by the prospect of unending dependence.

Zion Presbyterian Church, City, is endeavouring to carry on without an acting minister in place of Rev. C. Carlyle Webster, now on the sick list in Toronto. Miss Webster, his daughter, a trained theological teacher, substituted for her father for two Sundays, while yesterday two elders, Mr. J. E. McEwen and Mr. A. A. Macdonald, ably officiated giving great satisfaction to the worshippers.

A powerful and representative new Dollar Exports Council has been set up in Britain consisting of leading industrialists with wide experience of Canada. To insure co-ordination of policy and effort, leading Canadian and U. S. business men are to join the Council as overseas members. The new body, which has the full support of the U. K. Government and is sponsored by U. K. industry and finance, succeeds the Dollar Exports Advisory Council set up last summer.



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.

A DISCOURAGING TASK

Sir,—Following my reading of your editorial in today's Guardian entitled "The Knocker Knocks" I could only say with all my heart "So True, So True."

For those of us who give of our time and energies in a number of organizations towards making our City and our Province a finer place in which to live and bring up our children in, the task does get discouraging at times indeed.

I am, Sir, etc. A. WALTHEN GAUDET, Charlottetown, Jan. 11, 1952.

THE WRONG SPOKESMEN

Sir,—If everyone is so dumb up in King's County as you quoted in your issue of January 11, will you please explain where Mr. Ching came from? I understand he came from King's County and is one of the right-hand men of President Truman.

I am, Sir, etc. JIM HANLAN, New Zealand, P. E. I.

(The article referred to was reprinted from the Ottawa Journal. Unfortunately it was the unprogressive Kitchin-MacKinnon delegation and not Mr. Ching that appeared as representing King's County before the Postmaster General—Ed. G.)

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK

Sir,—I would appreciate a few lines in your paper on the improved mail service which was blocked by a delegation led by Mr. Kitchin, M. P., from King's County.

It is a great pity that this convenient and beneficial system has been "thrown out" through the efforts of our sitting member and others who accompanied him secretly. So far as the writer can learn, this was the first move which has been made through the postal service of any account for King's County since the time of Sir Louis Davies.

In other Provinces in Canada any beneficial services are jealous-



MOVIES

Let us to the movies and see Ourselves as we shall never be. With that man's art and this man's scope, We'll climb up marble stairs of hope, We'll soar up to each lofty station And alter without alteration, I'll snatch up Helen from lost times And carry her through olden rhymes, Or I'll be Odysseus, trying with you, a Goddess, rife for myth, We'll buy up domes of Kubla Khan Nor fret on the installment-plan, We'll roam to sunsets of desire, Like rich flotillas all on fire, We'll move in suburbs of a sigh And view the deaths we do not die, Or through some tragedies we've made, We'll walk, Olympian and unscathed, Then, when the program's done, at ease We'll leave with our own identities.

—Louis Ginsberg, in New York Herald-Tribune.

The Age-Old Story

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

I should imagine that with the increased freight rates, etc., this delegation would be anxious to secure the best and speediest possible service for us. However, the system will not be easily reverted to after our delegation's request. However, this a repetition of things past—our airport, our post office, our naval barracks, our converting and repairing of naval craft, and other lost opportunities too numerous to mention.

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Who knows what these knockers will do next? I shouldn't wonder if the next delegation they send to Ottawa will be to have the car ferry "Abegweit" replaced by the old lifeboat system!

I am, Sir, etc. DISGUSTED.

STORMY WEATHER SCHOOL SESSIONS

Sir,—Isn't it about time that the Charlottetown school authorities decided upon a sane system of cancelling or holding school sessions on stormy days?

During last Friday's blizzard, with hundreds of grown-ups staying at home, and taxis and private cars at a standstill, it was decided that the school sessions must go on. As a result most of the grades had only a skeleton attendance, one class of ten-year-olds with an enrollment of thirty-five having only nine present.

The writer who is quite rugged, found it a tough job walking several blocks, and was not surprised to be called upon to dig out several youngsters who were almost overcome in a snow drift. It is true that classes were dismissed early—but that was not of much avail after breaking their way through deep snow in a sixty mile gale and then having to retrace their steps. I, along with many other parents, believe it was foolhardy to expect them to leave their homes at all that day.

I suggest that the Board appoint a committee of three (one a woman) any two of whom would decide about cancellations when the weather is stormy.

Friday's storm was bad at seven a.m. and a decision to cancel sessions could have been easily made and announced by the local radio station. When a storm develops during school hours it is a simple matter to make the decision and cancel afternoon ses-

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) REPORTING THE HOUSE

From the Journal of the House of Assembly, 1845:

"Tuesday, March 11: Whereas 'it appearing in certain newspapers published in Charlottetown, purporting to report the proceedings of this House, and the appointment of certain officers thereof, that Mr. Edward Whelan had been appointed Reporter to this House; ordered, that the Clerk do notify the proprietors of said newspapers to contradict such statement, neither the said Mr. Edward Whelan, nor any other person, being the authorized Reporter of this House."

"Wednesday, March 12: Upon reading the Journal of yesterday's proceedings, it was moved, that the following be added to the entry of yesterday on the subject of a Reporter:—But Mr. Whelan having offered to report the proceedings of the House, it was agreed that he should be allowed to occupy the Reporter's box; and if his reports gave satisfaction, as being correctly given, such remuneration as his services might be deemed to merit would be awarded him at the close of the session."

"The House divided on the question: Yeas: Mr. D. MacLean, Mr. Dingwell, Mr. Wightman, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Dalziel, Hon. J. S. MacDonald, Mr. MacGregor, Mr. MacIntosh, Mr. Rae, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Bearisto, Mr. A. MacLean, Mr. Coles; Nays, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Mr. Longworth, Mr. Douse. So it was carried in the affirmative, and ordered accordingly."

Extremely stormy weather only occurs intermittently during the year, but when it does and under the present confusing way of dealing with it—it presents a very annoying problem to parents and teachers.

I am, Sir, etc. A VEXED PARENT

LARGEST BASIN

The Amazon River system drains a basin of 2,053,000 square miles, compared to 565,500 for the St. Lawrence.

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Notes By The Way

A Chicago publication urges that the lean, bearded figure of Uncle Sam and his stogy give place to something more modern. The benevolent old gentleman is too deeply embedded in grateful hearts throughout much of the world to be so lightly discarded.—Hamilton Spectator.

A Toronto man "paid \$111 for cutting 45 Christmas trees in Dysart township in Haliburton County, and Reeve Harold Black said the penalty should serve as a warning to others who "start chopping down trees wherever they find them." There was a time when a man could go out into the bush to cut a Christmas tree with the same freedom that he would pick up a gun and go looking for a wild turkey for the Christmas dinner. However, it is only in the remote districts that the law might wink at individuals who cut single trees for their own use. Cutting without permission is taboo, even on Crown lands—which, perhaps, is not as generally known as it should be.—Sudbury Star.

A motorist from Florida is reported to have stopped at a Baltimore filling station, and then to have driven 10 miles farther along on his way to Philadelphia when a thought suddenly exploded, "Where's my wife?" The gentleman had forgotten to drive off from the filling station after his wife had gone to the rest room. When he sped over the 10-mile stretch back to Baltimore—within the speed limit, it is to be hoped—he found her standing by the gas pump, "tapping her toe on the concrete." It is not unnatural to wonder if the tapping toe signified murderous thoughts—or just patient understanding born of the years. Did the lady mind being forgotten—or was she complimented by the knowledge that her husband took her company for granted, like a pair of spectacles momentarily misplaced—like a pair of slippers mislaid but bound to turn up?—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Last March a young migrant worker, colored, was dragged from his rooming house in Florida, and was beaten, and finally shot by four masked men. This murder is listed by the Tuskegee Institute as the United States' only lynching in 1951. In the traditional pattern of such brutal affairs, the guilty parties were never apprehended. Yet while Americans were reminded by this incident that the ugly excesses of night-riders still lingered in the republic, the 1951 showing was an improvement over the previous years. In 1950, two lynchings, involving a Negro and a white man, were recorded. Seven were averted. In the long-term view, it can be seen that law and order finally

are triumphing over the prejudices of self-appointed vigilantes. Although they do occur in these times, lynchings are infrequent. Once they were almost monthly occurrences, and cynically accepted by authority as unavoidable violence. Swifter means of communication and transportation these days offer ways to control lynch mobs. It only remains to put them to use in all cases.—Windsor Star.

There's one wheat grower in the Claresholm district who can answer the question whether the wild duck is an expensive bird. Part of a field of the Claresholm farmer's wheat went down under the snows and rains during the Fall. The ducks found it. He had expected to reap 2,000 bushels from the part of the field caught by the weather. When he got around it during the few days in November when harvesting could be done, he got only 700 bushels. The ducks had eaten some. The rest they had tramped out. The ground was covered with grain. It will lie there till Spring, then it will begin to grow and will be plowed down in the summer/fallow operation. This Claresholm farmer thinks 1,300 bushels of wheat make a pretty expensive diet for wild ducks. Little wonder farmers are asking the Fish and Game Branch to do something about it.—Lethbridge Herald.

Harrassed by high taxes, the rising cost of living, the perils of international crisis and numberless private worries, the American husband can take cheer from the report of a group of Cornell University authorities that the family is better off today than it has been in any time in recent history. It is better housed, more fully fed, has more cash in the bank, more household appliances to make housework easier, and is getting more mileage out of the family jalopy than in former years and the outlook for its continued prosperity remains bright. Among the reasons given for this encouraging situation are the continued high rates of both industrial and food production. But also important to the family's sustained good fortune is the finding that one-third of the nation's labor force are now women, and that one-half of them are married women.—New York Herald Tribune.

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