

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1950

Liberty Of The Subject

It is strange that organizations which profess to wish to maintain freedom of thought, conscience and religion so often do a disservice to their own cause by spreading the belief that there is now no such protection for Canadian citizens.

For example the brief of the League of Democratic Rights presented before a Senate committee alleges that these rights are "not protected in Canada" and urges the enactment of a Canadian Bill of Rights to make good the omission.

The fact is, of course, that Canadians have very definite liberties which are protected by the great prerogative writs, the most important of which is Habeas Corpus which provides for immediately bringing a prisoner before the court to enquire into the legality of his detention.

Four great charters or statutes regulate the relations between the Crown and people. Magna Carta, the Petition of Right, the Bill of Rights and the Act of Settlement ensure the peaceful enjoyment of the rights of property, and the freedom of the subject from illegal detention, duress, punishment or taxation.

The right of public meetings is limited only by the law of trespass to private property, the law of nuisance, the laws relating to public meetings and unlawful assemblies. A meeting to carry out a lawful purpose in a lawful manner is not an unlawful assembly, although it is otherwise if there is an intention to provoke a breach of the peace.

Reform Of The Senate

In a series of articles in the Winnipeg Free Press, Senator Normal Lambert discusses the somewhat hoary subject of Senate reform from a new angle. He points out that with the establishment of the Supreme Court of Canada as our final court of appeal, and steps being taken to find ways and means of amending the B. N. A. Act here in Canada without reference to the British Parliament, the Senate must be viewed in a different light from what it was in pre-Confederation debates.

The minority rights of certain Provinces in their relations with the Dominion were intended to have a safeguard in the Senate. That was the great underlying idea of Confederation according to Macdonald and his associates. But consultation and conference between Federal and Provincial Governments with the consequent adoption of special agreements on taxation and financial grants are rapidly displacing the historic role of the Senate as a guardian of provincial rights.

The courts, too, particularly the Privy Council, have settled most of the constitutional issues between the Provinces and the Dominion, even to the point of national embarrassment. As a matter of legislative record, the Senate has never been called upon to decide more than a few rather unimportant questions involving the rights of any Province as against the Dominion.

Senator Lambert argues that if the Provinces had a more direct responsibility for their representation in the Senate, the old theoretical basis of contact between the Provinces and the Senate could be restored, and the Federal system strengthened materially. To offset partisanship in Senatorial appointments, he suggests that a selective procedure might be followed, "such as having the state university in each Province nominate two members." This selective principle has been adopted in connection with the Irish Senate, and includes representatives of labor, farming and commerce.

Today, the Liberals have 75 members in the Senate, the Conservatives 13; and 14 seats are vacant. That means a potential Liberal membership of 89 Senators. The present one-sided character of the Senate has only two parallels, once in 1896 when the Liberals were down to 10 seats out of a total of 81; and again in 1911, before the famous Reciprocity election, when the Conservatives numbered 21 out of 86.

Both periods were of 15 years just the same as the Liberal span from 1935 to 1950. But the present Liberal Administration is only at the beginning of its term of office. In the ordinary course of events, other vacancies will occur in the Senate before another Federal election is held. The prospects are for an even more one-sided membership in the Senate than ever before.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Speculators should thrive on the public uncertainty about the details of the Trans-Canada Highway route.

This week-end will be the last when it will be reasonably safe to use 1949 license plates. The roads will probably be crowded with cars that will not again see the highway for some weeks or even months.

Perhaps this old calendar is not so bad after all, even if it was messed around with by Emperors Julius Caesar and Augustus. It gives us an extra day for filing Income Tax returns and also provides five Saturdays in this tax paying month.

Increasing the load limit on the highways to 12,000 pounds should do much to relieve the hardships caused by the necessary closing of the roads, but if drying is not unduly delayed it should be possible to remove restrictions altogether.

There is, of necessity, a good deal of emphasis placed on the monetary aspect when the tourist trade is under discussion. The individual tourist, however, will find that people here are interested in him or her as a person rather than as a unit of spending power.

All ex-WD's of the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Maritime Provinces are being invited to a re-union at Halifax on May 27th. This marks the first occasion of its kind in the Maritimes, and it remains to be seen if wartime associations hold the same attraction for the ladies as for old soldier buddies.

To help the housewife iron the sleeves of her husband's shirt with the minimum of effort, a British firm has produced a sleeve ironer to be exhibited at this year's British Industries Fair. It is of all steel construction, perfectly balanced so that it can't tip up, fire-warp and vermin-proof. First consignments are now on their way to Canada.

A lot of us don't know how lucky we are in Canada, thinks the Victoria Times. "People who visit us from time to time, especially from overseas, are amazed at the fulminations of the crepe hangers. Well they might be." And to think that the West used to be the stamping ground of grade A boosters.

A new book, "Lewis Carroll, Photographer" by Helmut Gernshum, now reports the rather uninteresting snapshots taken by the creator of Alice in Wonderland. They do not show the world as seen by that master story-teller, rather they show the world as it would have appeared to a more prosaic person in Carroll's shoes.

Sir Thomas Beecham, 2nd Bt. was born this date 1879. He was educated at Rossall and Wadhams College, Oxford. He early gained recognition as a conductor, composer and operatic impresario and founded the Beecham Symphony Orchestra and Beecham Opera Co. Conducts concerts of the Royal Philharmonic Society, directed the Seattle Symphony Orchestra 1941-42 and also conducted the New York Metropolitan Opera. He published his autobiography, "A Mingled Chime" in 1943.

The proposed visit here of Newfoundland's Health and Welfare Minister James R. Chalker to invite representatives to attend celebrations on Cabot Day, June 24th, should provide a wonderful opportunity for showing the new Province that Prince Edward Islanders are glad to have them as fellow Canadians. Very few will be able to visit Newfoundland next month but next week we will be able to convey our good wishes through the visiting minister.

Indian potentates are reputed to have much wealth in jewels. Maybe that is an answer—buy precious stones and hide them in a strongbox. It isn't an illegal transaction yet, though Ottawa penalizes known holders of gold. The disadvantages, according to The Printed Word, include the difficulty of getting change from the milkman if, say, a ruby is proffered, and, when thy soul is demanded of thee, executors may have difficulty settling with those who administer the succession duties laws.

The simple ceremony of "crossing the border" by the Governor of Bombay, Raja Maharaj Singh and Mayor S. K. Patel on April 15, marked the ushering in of greater Bombay. At Mahim causeway border line which divides the city from the Bombay suburbs, the Governor inaugurated the scheme by cutting a tricolour tape. As a result of this extension, Bombay now becomes one of the six biggest cities in the world. Greater Bombay's total area will be about 90 sq. miles and will have a total population of more than four million. The present population of Bombay is about three million.

Making Ready



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.

DOUBLE FERRY SERVICE

Sir,—If you do not consider it impertinent for me to refer to the contractual relations between Prince Edward Island and the Federal Governmental organization of Provinces, which is doing business at Ottawa under the name of Canada, I would like to support Mr. J. O. Hyndman's letter in your issue of the 25th inst. regarding "Double Ferry Service." Because of the fact that a responsible ministry system of government, which is not provided for in, and is definitely repugnant to, Canada's constitution, has been imposed upon this nation, and because this unconstitutional action has given the elected representatives of the St. Lawrence Provinces complete control of the functioning of Canada's governmental machinery, is, no doubt, why the Minister of Transport considered it necessary to so speedily apologize to the representatives of those Provinces, by making the statement to which Mr. Hyndman referred, as assurance to those representatives, that if the additional service does not pay, it will be discontinued.

The following is part of the contract which was arranged between the Parliament of Canada and the Legislature of Prince Edward Island in May 1873, and legalized by British Order-in-Council dated June 26th, 1873: "That the Dominion Government shall assume and defray all the charges for the following services, viz. Efficient Steam Service for the conveyance of mails and passengers to be established and maintained between the Island and the mainland of the Dominion. Winter and Summer, thus placing the Island in continuous communication with the Intercolonial Railway and the railway system of the Dominion, and such other charges as may be incident to, and connected with the services which by the British North America Act 1867, appertain to the General Government, and as are or may be allowed to the other Provinces."

That 1873 document is a definite, legalized contract and it is the duty of the parties concerned, especially the Government of Prince Edward Island, to see that it is respected, in letter and spirit.

I am, Sir, etc. A. P. PATERSON. Saint John, N. B. April 27, 1950.

THE HIGHWAY ROUTE

Sir,—In your editorial of April 26th, re the route for the Trans-Canada Highway, you remark: "It is inevitable that the selection of the route should fall to satisfy everyone. Probably it would not even be possible to get a majority in favor of any route. On this Island we have often seen useful projects held up or even shelved because of the objections of citizens..." Then in your issue of April 27th you report Premier Jones as intimating strongly that Brighton bridge was "definitely out."

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) MONEY VALUES

"The English Sovereign now passes here for its general value, 20s. sterling; but until the last two or three years it could be bought in Prince Edward Island for 20s. currency, or 19s. 4d. sterling. The Doubleton here is worth 24 sterling; in Nova Scotia and the States it will command from 7d. to 1s. 1d. more. The gold States Eagle is here worth 20s. sterling; in Nova Scotia and the States it is worth 9d. or 10d. more."

"All English silver coin commands the same sterling value in Prince Edward Island as in the other Colonies. Mexican and Spanish Dollars pass here for only 4s. sterling; in all other Provinces they command 4s. 2d. sterling, and occasionally a premium over and above. French Five Franc pieces pass in Prince Edward Island for 5s. currency, or 4s. 4d. sterling; in Nova Scotia and the States they are worth from 90 to 94 cents, or 3s. 9d. to 3s. 11d. sterling."

"Of copper coins, twelve English pennies in England are worth 1s. sterling; in Prince Edward Island, 1s. sterling will buy eighteen of them. The copper coin of the neighboring Provinces passes here as P. E. Island currency, or in other words, 20 per cent cheaper than in any other Colony."

"Canada, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Notes are worth in Prince Edward Island the same sterling value as in other Provinces."

"Last of all, Bills on England are purchased here at so much below their general value, that one gentleman in Charlottetown carries on a very profitable trade by buying English Bills in P. E. Island and selling them again in Halifax, N.S., proving, by doing so, that sterling Bills, the most convenient circulating medium of all, are so under their value here, as to pay for buying up."

"P. E. Island Treasury Notes being in no request, and having no sort of value beyond the precincts of this Island, are 20 per cent below their original value. Why is this the case? Because there are too many of them; because, at the present rate of expenditure, there is not the least probability of their ever being paid off, and they therefore possess a

REMINDER TO HOUSEHOLDERS
Persons removing their Furniture and Personal Effects, from one location to another, should notify Underwriters, and obtain a removal permit, under their policy of Insurance. In the case of premises becoming vacant for more than thirty days, it is also advisable to notify Underwriters and obtain permit where necessary. As a safeguard, make sure that your Fire policy includes Supplemental Covers. Consult our Agents, or write or call on HYNDMAN & CO. LIMITED

Notes By The Way

From Texas to the top of the Prairie Belt in Alberta soil is reported moving this spring before heavy winds. In one 48-hour stretch in mid-Kansas just after April 1, soil moved to such a degree that thousands of acres of winter wheat were written-off. Indications are that after about ten lush years the U. S. winter wheat crop this year will be down at least 150,000,000 bushels, probably more unless heavy rains fall before May 1. —Lethbridge Herald.

Southern Albertans are at long last going to have some buffalo that they can call their very own. Many of us have for years been urging the federal government to place buffalo in Waterton Park. Not only are they symbolic of pioneer Canada, but they cannot help but attract a tourist's roving eye. For our own children they are, of course, something not to be missed. Our history books are full of tales of the buffalo. He appears on our coins, on tourist stickers and even on license plates. He is a part of our history. —Lethbridge Herald.

value only by courtesy. To a certain extent faith in the Government supported their long value; but that extent has been long ago passed, and an increased issue would only lead to a more extended and more rapid depreciation.

"I was told not long since by a gentleman who, from the gravity with which he asserted it, was, I have no doubt, perfectly convinced of the fact himself, that the reason why the English shilling passed off for eighteen-pence of Island currency, was that certain of the store-keepers in Charlottetown met together and resolved that it should be so. I have seen the same absurdity asserted in a speech delivered in another place. Now, what would your honours think, if I were to ask you to sit around this table, and after examining the particulars of its construction, to come to a resolution that it should henceforth be a table combined of certain pieces of wood, covered with cloth, and nailed with brass nails, and we were all to walk forth into the town, impressed with this achievement, and proclaim to the wondering hearers that our resolution had made it to be what it is? Would they not say that the fact had preceded the resolution, and that the one had as much to do with the other as Tenderden Steeple has with the Goodwin Sands, although all the old women upon that coast have an unflinching belief in the mysterious connection between them?"

—From a speech by the Hon. Charles Hensley in the Legislative Council, Friday, March 27, 1846, on a proposed additional issue of Treasury Notes.

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