

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa.

The Island Guardian Publishing Co.

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, MAR. 27, 1952

Bill of Rights

Once more Mr. John Diefenbaker has introduced a motion for a Canadian bill of rights and even those who do not agree that it would be a good thing can be grateful for it's being periodically brought forward.

On the other hand it would mean a further concentration of power at Ottawa which would itself be something of a threat to those very liberties now reasonably well upheld by the division of powers between Provinces and the Dominion.

The only sure safeguard, of course, is the force of public opinion. It is useless to protest only when one's own rights are trampled upon. It is essential that a free people should be quick to protect from oppression even, or rather particularly, those with whom they thoroughly disagree.

The Royal Income

The annual cost of maintaining the British Royal Family amounts to £577,000, which in Canadian money would be about \$1,615,000. The Civil List, which authorizes grants paid to the monarch, allows \$450,000 for the royal household.

At first glance the expense would seem to be a rather heavy drain on the taxpayer. However, as is pointed out in a bulletin from the United Kingdom Information Office at Ottawa, the cost is not charged against taxation.

This arrangement has been in effect since George III ascended the throne, but it was not until the reign of William IV that the Civil List was freed of all charges for government service as distinguished from the court and family of the ruler.

All this came to an end in 1830. The Civil Lists of William IV and his successors, heavy though they may seem, cover only the actual costs of the court and royal household.

The Coming Budget

Finance Minister Abbott announced last April that the Government would collect and spend \$3.7 billion during the present fiscal year—\$1.6 billion for defense, and \$2.1 billion for other purposes.

"There has never been any question of the Canadian people's willingness to support the defense program," says the Globe and Mail. "They are ready to give Defense Minister Claxton all he wants for the forces; they are ready to give Defense Production Minister Howe all he wants for the factories.

"Mr. Abbott will present his next Budget on April 8. The Canadian people do not expect him to announce economies in defense expenditure. But they do expect him to announce economies in non-defense expenditure. They expect it for precisely the reasons he gave last April—that defense takes precedence over all other functions and services; that they must take less so that it can take more."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Montague is in favor politically these days—a new post office and new bridge.

Since the two car ferries were first instituted at Borden there has been an increase of 24,000 cars visiting the Island.

If Grenada, the southernmost of the Caribbees, were to become part of Canada this country would have a Charlotte Town as well as a Charlottetown.

In the opinion of some members of the Legislature, "Go-Slow Train" seems to be the motto of progress knockers, notwithstanding farmers and business men are clamoring for quick-time autos and mails.

The Legislature, now with the Address disposed of, is settling down to business preparatory to the budget being brought down. It looks as though Easter will see the rising of the House.

On Wednesday a bronze plaque was placed in a Brooklyn dwelling to mark the birthplace of the mother of Prime Minister Churchill—a striking reminder of the close ties of two great nations.

Captain Robert Falcon Scott, English explorer, died this date 1912 some two months after having reached the South Pole with Captain Oates, Dr. Wilson, Lt. Bowers and P. O. Evans. Scott's last message ranks with the noblest writing in the history of exploration.

The decline in housing construction indicated in the annual report of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is the first since the post-war boom started in home building. The obstacles today are principally financing and cost and should be at least as readily overcome as the earlier ones of material and labour.

Trade Minister Howe estimates that the total public and private investment program in Canada for 1952 will reach a peak of \$5,000,000,000. This is an increase, he told the Commons, of about \$400,000,000 from the previous high of \$4,600,000,000 in 1951.

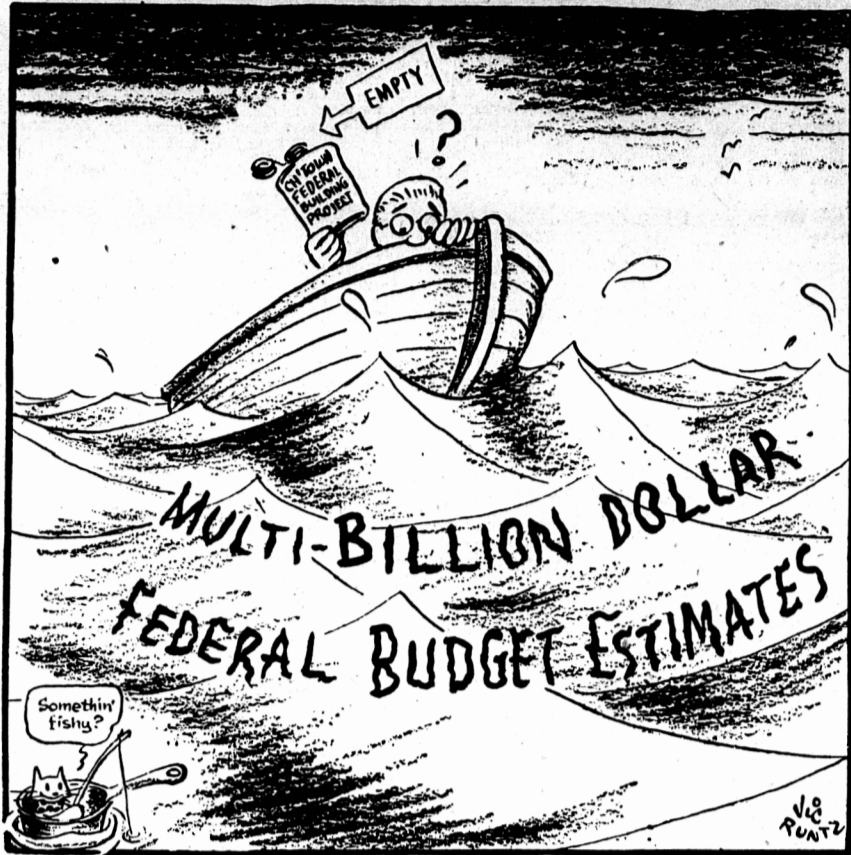
Mr. Earle MacDonald made a point worth considering when he declared in his maiden speech in the Legislature that the Government should consider the practicability of making the Canada Highway run through Charlottetown, and also that it should pay more for the city's upkeep by sharing the taxation on Government property.

One of the anachronisms cleared away by the Act to Confirm the Revised Statutes is the repeal of certain Nova Scotia legislation which formed part of the law of this Province. From the proclamation of October 7, 1763, uniting this Island with Nova Scotia until Governor Patterson's commission of August 4, 1769, Nova Scotia legislation applied to the Island of St. John.

M. P.'s from rapidly growing provinces like British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and possibly Alberta, won't be easy to convince that they should lose seats through redistribution. At present, representation by population prevails in nine of Canada's 10 provinces—the sole exception is P. E. I., which was guaranteed a minimum of four seats in our Confederation terms.

It seems to me that this is the kind of politics they have behind the Iron Curtain. Do we want that kind of a "system" in Canada? Then, Sir, I noted in The Guardian of March 24th a letter signed "Taxpayer" stating that if Mr. Cecil Miller were at Ottawa there would be no delay concerning the commencement of the various Federal projects promised. Well, that is a matter that might very easily be remedied. Why not have "The Party" get solidly behind this mighty Miller and put him in the Senate? Then all our troubles would be over; he would be able to shake the tree and "various Federal projects" would fall in profusion. I feel sure Premier Jones would

--But Not A Drop To Drink!



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.

BROTHERHOOD WEEK

Sir,—The celebration of Brotherhood Week this year was by far the most successful yet held in Canada.

PARKDALE SITUATION

Sir,—The Guardian of March 26 reports from the Legislature the speech by the junior member from St. John's and former Mayor of Charlottetown, in which he is alleged to have said "there is no immediate danger of a disease epidemic in Parkdale," and if there was, "most farmers in the Province are in the same danger."

FRINGE AREA

Parkdale, March 26.

SENATOR GRANT'S LETTER

Sir,—Since reading that famous epistle I have been a bit confused. I am more or less of an independent in politics and like to vote for the candidate whom I think best qualified to represent us in Parliament.

A SECOND-CLASS TEACHER

Sir,—After reading "Good Citizen's" letter regarding our Farmers' Federation I felt that I would like to say a word or two and ask a couple of questions.

FEDERATION & MARKETING

Sir,—I am a member and a firm supporter of this organization and always expect to be; I also work for my Dad on a big farm where we carry on mixed farming.

FOR THE BEST IN DRUGSTORE NEEDS

Shop At Hughes. Prescription Accurately Dispensed Since 1874. PHONE 3060

The Poet's Corner

THE LAST WORD. Creep into thy narrow bed, Creep, and let no more be said! Vain thy onset all stands fast. Thou thyself must break at last.

Let the long contention cease! Cease are swans and swans are geese. Let them have it how they will! Thou art tired; best be still.

Charge once more, then, and be dumb! Let the victors, when they come When the fortis of jolly fall, Find thy body by the wall!

not object to this. He is doing a good job and should remain where he is, especially till the Trans-Canada highway is completed.

In conclusion, a word about Senator Grant. I feel that he is wasting his time in Ottawa at six thousand dollars a year. If his coercive electioneering tactics could just be made known to Premier Joseph St. John, I am sure that a very lucrative job would await him in the Land of the Bear.

TEACHERS' QUALIFICATIONS

Sir,—I was very much interested in a letter, "Teachers' Qualifications", which was published recently in your Public Forum.

WONDER WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE

wonder would it be possible some day to have a Marketing Board for beef and pork that would pay us as much as they can instead of as little as they can get away with now?

OLD CHARLOTTETOWN

"Michael Madden respectfully informs the inhabitants of Charlottetown and its vicinity, that he opened a School on Monday last, in the house formerly occupied by Mr. Benjamin James, tailor, two doors west of Mr. Yates', where youth will be instructed with the greatest attention and propriety, in Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English, Grammar, Book-keeping, Navigation, and the most useful part of Mathematics."

THE AGE-OLD STORY

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) MADDEN'S SCHOOL

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The Passing Scene

By Observer POLITICAL REFORM

There is some talk of revising our provincial political set-up. It has been mentioned by various speakers, including the Premier, and around the Province it is a subject of quite general discussion. It is not a new thing. For many years the fact of limited franchise for a large number of voters has been frowned upon, but old customs die hard and institutions of ten out run the purpose for which they were created.

In practice the so-called property clause has not been without a measure of justification. There was a time when quite a good case could be made of it. In practice it is a bit too archaic for our times and it is hardly in our day conducive to enlightened political sense. Its abandonment cannot be far off. Very few people, I fancy, will be sorry to see it go.

One cannot help feeling that a Legislature not more than half its present membership would be adequate for a Province the size of ours. Fifteen electoral districts, each represented by one legislator, would seem quite enough in the interest of efficient administration. It would then be possible to increase the seasonal indemnity something which ought to be done without adding to the over-all cost of government.

Whatever political reform may come our way it is to be hoped that it will help in the encouragement of a deeper and more profound sense of the significance and the privilege of the franchise itself, for this greatest of all instruments at the command of free men is falling under ever increasing neglect. On all sides there is a feeling of near cynicism concerning things political. Both the right and the responsibility of the vote are treated by many as small, unimportant things.

Equal political privilege is a great principle, but it means nothing unless it is accompanied by equal responsibility in maintaining sound and effective government.

A well known social analyst says that, by and large, most committees have much better governments than they deserve, a view quite at variance with popular opinion regarding politicians generally.

The Canadian Senate is also coming in for a good deal of discussion pro and con, chiefly the latter. The matter came up on the C. B. C. Citizen's Forum a few evenings ago and the Senate's case

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for Dr. John E. Sterns (Veterinary Surgeon), Allison M. Gillis (Barrister, Solicitor), Byron J. Grant O.D. (Optometrist), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), Dr. W. R. Carson (Chiropractor), and H. R. Doane and Company (Chartered Accountants).