

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1953

Driving Qualifications

The death toll of the highways has caused governments and others to consider and adopt many ways and means of promoting traffic safety. There are constant improvements being made in the highways themselves to eliminate death traps in the form of sharp turns and obscured vision. Warning notices caution the driver of dangers which it is not practical to remove.

Cars are required to be engineered for safety and owners are required to maintain them in safe working order, particularly as to brakes, lights and steering mechanism.

Would-be drivers are examined for their control of the powerful machine which they will be operating and for their knowledge of the rules of the road and principles of safe driving.

When all that is done, however, safety remains an attitude of mind. It is of no avail that the driver knows exactly how to operate a car if he habitually disregards the rights and safety of other users of the highway. It has been often said that courtesy is the prime requirement for safe driving and that, indeed, embodies most of the other principles. The Golden Rule helps in going through life but on the highway it also helps to prolong life.

Another maxim is that one should drive defensively. That is one should be ever alert to counter the effect of surprise moves by others. The courts, of course, do not require that a driver assume that others are going to break the law. In fact that assumption would result in traffic being slowed to practically a standstill, but while taking the right-of-way as a matter of course, it is only prudent to be on the alert for strange behaviour by other highway users.

Rifle Problem

Ever since the end of the war, notes an exchange, Britain and the United States have been endeavouring to agree upon standard weapons. The advantages of standardization are too obvious to require argument. For example, as long as British and American troops use different calibre guns, it will be necessary to retain two reserves, two lines of supply, etc., etc.

It might be thought that progress would be easy. But experience is proving otherwise. It seems almost impossible to obtain agreement. A typical instance is the rifle. Up to and during the last world war the British used the Lee-Enfield with a .303 calibre bullet. The Americans used the Garand rifle with a smaller calibre bullet.

Search for a common standard produced a British gun with a calibre of .280. The smaller rifle is just as effective and much lighter to carry. The Americans however desire a .300 calibre rifle.

Speaking on these snarled negotiations in the British Commons, Prime Minister Churchill said: "The United Kingdom has joined Canada and Belgium in the development of a modified .280 round to meet the agreed Nato military characteristics. This round, although of different calibre, will have the same cartridge case and overall length as the new .300 round being developed by the United States. After the development work and domestic trials of the new round are completed, which should be within the next six months, further consideration on the adoption of a standard round will be necessary in Nato."

Once a choice has been made by Nato of the calibre of the new round, the rifles being developed in any of the four countries could easily be adapted, by replacement of the barrel, to fire it. The new British rifle has already been modified to fire the new round in either calibre.

Treated Too Seriously

Canadians generally will appreciate the emphasis placed by External Affairs Minister Pearson on the wisdom of this country playing the role of peacemaker in the current Anglo-American differences over Russia and Korea. This, Mr. Pearson intimates, is what the Canadian Government is attempting to do behind the scenes. "As the tension and fear of Russia seems to ease," he remarked, "we may yield to the temptation to be more critical of each other, to engage in useless bickering and backbiting. This would be a great tragedy for us and a great victory for those who may have altered their tactics for this very purpose."

A sensible thing it might be, too, sug-

gests the Ottawa Journal, if newspapers in Britain and Canada, not to mention those know-it-alls who instruct us nightly on the radio, got over their obsession with Senator McCarthy; ceased treating this wild man as though he was a rival of Eisenhower in the Republican party. "McCarthy has a certain following, mostly among isolationist die-hards and those who are hysterical over Communism, but no real evidence exists that Congress and the White House are his captives. President Eisenhower, not yet quite accustomed to the presidential saddle, and perhaps a bit too concerned with keeping peace in his party, may seem to some to be appeasing McCarthy, yet between appeasement over unimportant things and surrender over vital things there is a deal of difference. It will be time for Britons and Canadians to become critical when Eisenhower starts surrendering in vital things."

In similar vein the Hamilton Spectator treats the subject. "Just as the United States has her McCarthys," it says, "so has Britain her Aneurin Bevan's. Their trans-oceanic goading is a side show; not a true measure of two nations who have been through a lot together and have come a long way in understanding each other. Uncle Sam is wearying of McCarthy, as attacks on him by the American press emphasize, and John Bull snores quietly now in thinking of Bevan. Both these men are representatives of unrepresentative factions. The bigger and more important leaders are still in firm, if not technically placid, agreement. President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill speak for their people. They speak strongly and confidently."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, Whitsunday, Pentecost.

Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and other members of their Associations hold church parades in Charlottetown tomorrow.

The Coronation visit of Canadian and other warships to the Port of London will be from May 29 to June 4. The Sioux will dock at Greenwich, the Swansea and La-Hulloise at Deptford, according to the P. L. A. Monthly.

Tomorrow is being celebrated as Battle of the Atlantic Sunday when those who fought the longest battle of the war by sea and air and those who manned the merchant ships for which the battle was fought will be honoured from coast to coast.

William Kidd (Captain Kidd), pirate son of a Scottish clergyman, was hanged in London this date 1701. He married a wealthy New York widow and was rewarded by the colony of New York for privateering services against the French. He was commissioned to put down piracy in the Pacific but turned pirate himself.

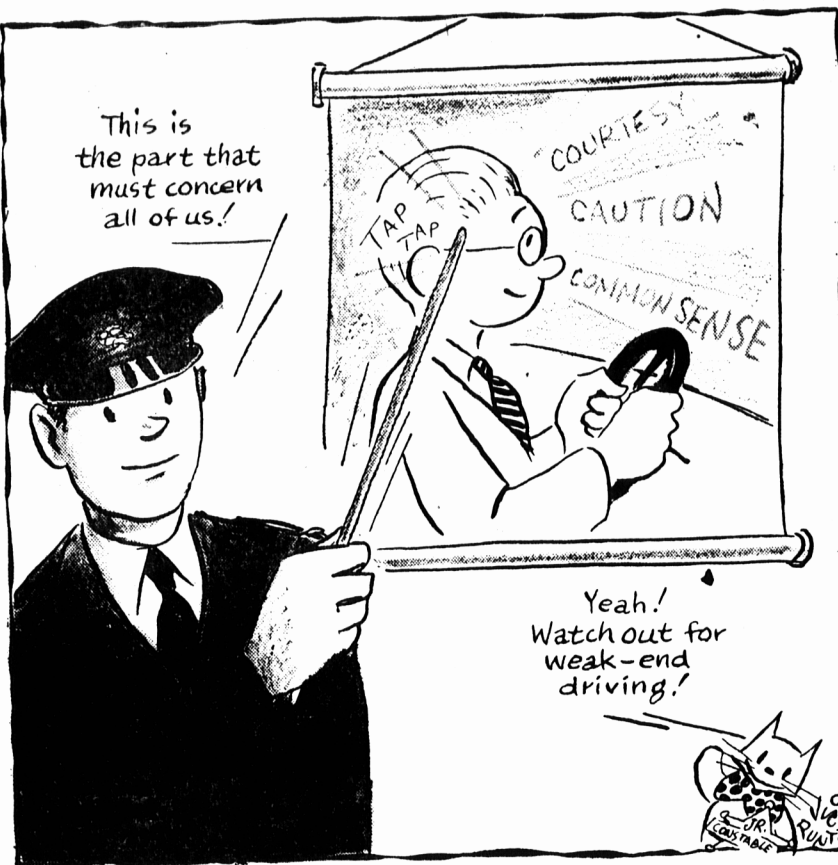
The early docking and return to service of the ferry Abegweit assures that it will be available for the first part of the tourist season. It was unfortunate, however, that the holiday was celebrated six days before the 24th. Ordinarily coming back in service on the 21st she would have been in good time for the holiday traffic as well.

The cost of fluoridation of water supplies is seven cents a year per person, the Canadian Society of Dentistry for Children was told recently. Present evidence proves that dental caries among children could be reduced as much as 55 to 60 per cent through drinking fluorine-treated water. Even if the figures are quite considerably inaccurate the proposition is highly attractive.

It is appropriate that the Canadian troops lining the route of the Coronation procession will stand on the southwest side of Trafalgar Square, dominated by Canada House, the office of the Canadian High Commissioner, and office building housing the C. P. R. and other Canadian companies. The two companies of troops on this duty will be commanded by Lieut. Col. C. C. Merritt, V.C.

The Federal Minister of Fisheries has announced that a plan of insurance to cover fishermen's boats and gear is to be inaugurated. Based upon a premium payment, it will recompense owners whose vessels or fishing equipment have sustained loss or damage. For instance, by the payment of \$7.50 per 100 lobster traps, operators will receive \$1.50 for every trap lost over and above 25. In the case of vessels valued at \$7,500 or under, the premium payment will be 1 per cent of the value, and restitution in the event of loss will be 60 per cent of the amount at which the vessel has been appraised. The scheme also includes compensation for damage sustained. The plan will come into operation in July.

Danger Spot



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

NEWSPAPER ITEMS

From The Islander, Nov. 22, 1844. A Proclamation by His Excellency, Lieutenant Governor Sir Henry Vere Huntly, announces a reward of £200 for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for setting fire to the roof of the Court House building at St. Eleanor on the 4th instant.

R. T. Tremain, proprietor of Tremain's Tobacco Factory, announces that he has made arrangements for obtaining a supply of raw material as will enable him to keep on hand throughout the winter, a stock of "Fig Tobacco, Ladies' Twist, Pig Tail, in Rolls, Honey Plug, Havana Cigars, Snuffs, etc., of the best quality, and at lower prices than can be imported."

James H. Peters announces that the real estates of the Hon. Samuel Cunard in this Island having been conveyed to John Duffus, Mather Byles Almon, Alexander Murison, Andrew Uniacke and Joseph Starr, of Halifax, he has been duly empowered by the above named to manage the said estates, and to sell and lease the land.

The Board of Education announces the appointment of E. R. Humphreys, Esq., as secretary, following the lamented death of Mr. E. Brown. The tenantry of David Stewart, Esq., are informed that grain, salted beef, pork and butter will be taken at the Charlottetown market prices, for rent and arrears of rent, the articles of produce to be delivered at the following places: at the Mills at Cascumpeque, belonging to James Yeo, Esq., from the tenants of Lots 7, 10 and 12, at the house of Mr. Allan Melnis, Seven Mile Bay, for part of Lot 27; at the residence of Mr. Morphet, for Lot 30; at the Mills of Messrs. Macgowan, Souris, for those on half Lot 47.

George Lewis, Market Clerk, gives the following prices current on Charlottetown markets, Nov. 22nd: veal 2 1/2d; mutton 2 1/2d; 3 1/2d; veal 2 1/2d; 4d; pork 2 1/2d; 3d; 4d; 5d; 6d; 7d; butter (fresh) 3d; 4d; 5d; cheese 3 1/2d; 4d; wool 1s; 1s 6d; fowls, each 5d; 6d; 7d; eggs per doz. 7d; 8d; home-spun per yd. 3s 9d; 4s 6d; potatoes 2s 6d; hay per ton 45s; turkeys 2s 6d; 3s; codfish per quintal 10s; 14s; turnips per bus. 1s; ducks each 1s; partridges 3d; 4d; geese 1s 6d; 2s; carrots per bus. 2s 6d; 3s; apples per bus. 2s 6d; 3s; rabbits 6d; each; cranberries per qt. 3d.

The Age Old Story

When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

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The Expanding Universe

(New York Times)

About twenty years ago the late Sir Arthur Eddington assured astronomers and cosmologists that, in accordance with the calculations of Abbe G. Lemaitre, the universe is doubling its radius every 1,400 million years or so and that the age of the earth, as determined by the spontaneous transmutation of uranium into several kinds of radium and finally into lead, must be about 3,500 million years. If the earth was not actually older than the universe, it was pretty nearly as old, an absurdity which was enough to make any physicist toss in his sleep.

The astronomers and cosmologists have been breathing a little more easily since last September when Dr. Walter Baade of the California Institute of Technology told the International Astronomical Union at Rome that with the 200-inch telescope of Palomar he had remeasured the distance of the great spiral nebula in Andromeda and found that the previously accepted determinations were wrong by a factor of two.

The distance of this particular nebula has long served as a yardstick by which all other distances beyond the Milky Way are measured. Now come Dr. Henri Minjar of the Institut d'Astrophysique and Dr. A. D. Thackeray of the Radcliffe Observatory at Pretoria with independent determinations that confirm Dr. Baade's.

If there is rejoicing at these findings, it is because the observable universe, in terms of the range of the 200-inch telescope of Palomar, is pushed out to 2,000 million light-years — double what it was supposed to be.

All heavenly bodies beyond the Milky Way are twice as far away and twice as large as we thought they were up to last September. Instead of being an anomaly, because it was so much bigger than other galaxies, the dimensions of the Milky Way by comparison are now more modest. The relativists find that the universe is blowing up at only half the rate once accepted.

Since the rate of expansion is known it is possible to travel back in time mathematically and to state that the universe had its beginning 4,000 million years ago instead of only 2,000 million years. Though the agreement of the new with that of the earth is close — uncomfortably close to a mathematician — it means much that an awkward discrepancy has been removed. No wonder the cosmologists are happy.

And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

The Sheep

(London Times)

Slowly they pass In the grey of the evening Over the wet road. A flock of sheep. Slowly they went In the grey of the gloaming Over the wet road. That winds through the town. Slowly they pass. And gleaming whitely Vanish away.

In the grey of the evening. Ah, what memories Loom for a moment. Gleam for a moment. And vanish away. Of the white days When we two together Went in the evening. Where the sheep lay. We two together. Went with slow feet In the grey of the evening. Where the sheep lay. Whittly they gleam For a moment and vanish Away in the dimness Of sorrowful years. Gleam for a moment. All white, and go fading Away in the grayness Of sundering years.

From Browsing To Drowsing

(London Times)

More than once it has occurred to the occasional Thinker, seated by the fire with his book, that the relation between temperature and the working of the mind has been insufficiently explored. If the room is too cold he cannot concentrate; if the room is too warm he glides off into slumber. That holds, roughly speaking, for all middleweight reading — for all that comes between, say, theology and Thackeray, political economy and Hercule Poirot. It does not hold for humor or for heavyweights, for crime or for philosophy. "Thrillers" keep him warm with excitement, and laughter makes him careless of heat or of cold. At the other end, the heavy end, there does not seem to be a kind of temperature suited to the study of specially solemn books. Gas fire or electric, the largest cobbles or simply nutty slack, produce, after no more than a page or two, the same soporific effect. It has proved possible to fit the kitchen oven with a knob that cooks the goose to a turn, but no one has devised a regulator for the sitting room that will keep a reader's mind just nicely on the boil.

A new "Coronation March"

by Sir Arnold Bax, Master of the Queen's Music, winds up the 1953 Coronation service.

The Passing Scene

By Observer AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR NEW SENATOR

What I had feared has now come to pass. The benign arbiter of political fortunes has elevated you to the Senate, that almost forgotten chamber of Canadian history. In using the word "feared" I mean no disrespect to you or to the new office to which you have been called. Indeed, assuming that the appointment had to go to someone who has rendered conspicuous service in the political and administrative field, I can think of no one more deserving than yourself. Moreover, I believe that this sentiment will be shared by your fellow citizens in great number and of all political parties. There is no doubt that in accepting the Prime Minister's be-lated gift you have followed the normal pattern well established by precedent. But, however, in common with a lot of other Islanders, I had hoped that you would avoid the norm in this instance and decide, for better or worse, to wear the harness of responsibility for as long as health and the people's will permitted you to do so.

However, now that you have made your choice, I wish I could say to you, in the words of Thomas Moore in one of his Irish Melodies, "go where glory waits you". Alas, I cannot, for the Senate, whatever it might be, obviously not a place of glory. Among the sinecures I should imagine it takes high place. As a resting place for the weary, whose one remaining ambition is to grow old gracefully, its importance could hardly be exaggerated.

There's little use in saying if now, but friends of mine who know you a great deal better than I do tell me that you are not given to weariness and are not inordinately concerned about a graceful old age. While the gift of prophecy is not one of my "fortes", I will hazard the opinion that before many months have passed you will wish yourself away from the ennui of sheltered idleness and back to the "perilous edge of battle". I am sure, for it appears in old John Milton's "Paradise Lost" one of your favourites.

The books tell us there was a time in Canada's history when the upper chamber was in possession of influential prerogatives de facto as well as de jure. The gradual weakening of these prerogatives, whether by design or accident, has not, in the opinion of some students of politics, been all to the good. It would appear reasonable to suggest that there is still need, with respect to legislation, for the "sober, second thought" of a body not directly concerned with the hopes or fears of political contests. From what one reads and hears, it would seem that the trouble with the Senate is more functional than

organic. If it has lost popular appeal it is because no one in high official place seems to care whether the institution be allowed to survive or encouraged to pass away from the Canadian scene. Even the Prime Minister himself, who has given evidence of caring in a great deal about almost everything in our historic traditions, is apparently a bit confused in his thinking as to the Senate's place in our governmental system. How else can we interpret his reluctance to bring the changes up to full strength? There are, of course, many vacant seats now as occupied ones. Such a state of affairs would be unthinkable with respect to the Commons. And it would be unthinkable for the simple reason that everybody thinks the Commons is important. There must be a good many people in this country who feel as I do that if the Senate has to occupy a place in 20th century Canadian democracy, the only thing to do is to close its doors and give the institution decent burial among the storied relics of the past. That would be far better, surely, than the "half-in, half-out" fiasco that obtains at present.

I venture to suggest that in the hope of a good many people and not all of them Islanders, that once you get the "feel" of your new status you will be constrained to use your many gifts in an all-out effort to breathe new life into the dry bones of the Senate. In preference, of course, to the institution itself, not to the Honourable Members.

Perhaps, in conjunction with other men of independent and orderly minds, you could in some way bring Canadians generally to a realization of the need for a strong, well-equipped upper chamber. You might even put a little more confidence into the minds of those members who now, apparently, are not quite sure if they are of any use or not.

If you can do these two things, future historians will number you among those few stalwart statesmen who helped to make this country great. It will not be an easy task, for lethargy and complacency have a tendency to take over in whatever you do. But you have shown in many ways that you are of a different calibre, and I have every hope that you will tackle this one with energy and zeal.

Good luck to you, Mr. Senator, and don't let them put you to sleep. Everybody seems to think you have left provincial affairs in competent hands, so you won't have to worry about that.

A total of 12,000,000 people organized into co-operative units in the republic of India.

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