

THE GUARDIAN

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Narrow Interpretation

The Board of Transport Commissioners has chosen to give a narrow interpretation to the protective clause which Parliament wrote into the equalization amendments to the Railway Act in 1951. Instead of regarding the clause as applying to all the traffic covered by the Maritime Freight Rates Act of 1927, the Board has ruled that only traffic actually moving in the Maritime area is protected.

There can be no doubt that when Maritime Members of Parliament insisted on the protective provisions in the equalization amendments they thought that the West would be able to get reduced rates, comparable to those in Quebec and Ontario, without it costing the Maritime shipper and consumer more than at present.

The allowable increase in the Ontario-Quebec area will have little effect on actual rates. Competition keeps rates well below those set by the Board. It is far from certain, however, that the Maritimes will derive any benefit from that competition because on part of a haul the competing carriers would be at a decided disadvantage.

The Board has only begun its equalization studies and the proposed rates will not take effect for at least a year. In that time many things may happen. It is to be hoped that something can be done to prevent equalization throwing an additional burden on the economy of these Provinces.

Ontario Highway Measure

Ontario, through its Highways Department, has announced that in the interests of highway safety it is contemplating a complete revision of existing highway legislation and regulations. The department is to make a survey of the traffic laws and regulations of every Canadian Province and state in the U. S. Anything "worth-while and practical" the survey turns up will be written into the new Traffic Act.

It is to be hoped that Ontario's action will lead to an interprovincial conference being called on this important subject, in which every Province has a vital stake. Surely if we can achieve uniformity in insurance laws, taxation and other matters we can co-ordinate our highway safety measures to a point where at least some reduction will be made possible in the appalling toll of traffic injuries and fatalities.

Veterans' Rehabilitation

With little fanfare, notes The Legionary, Canada has virtually rounded off the massive job of rehabilitating 1,000,000 veterans of the Second World War and dug in to handle their long-range problems right into the 21st century. The Department of Veterans Affairs now estimates the final bill for rehabilitation at a little less than \$1,500,000,000, exclusive of war pensions.

The department which once spent \$50,000,000 a month now has settled down to live on an annual budget of roughly \$225,000,000, more than half of it made up of pension payments to the maimed, ailing and bereaved of two world wars and Korea. In one way or another, as pensioners, recipients of war veterans allowances, people needing hospital care, or as the last of thousands who went through university, roughly 250,000 Canadians still get monthly payments or care through the department.

used up all of their re-establishment credit. The bulk of the department's work now consists of the problems it will face over the next half-century—that and looking after the rehabilitation of the few thousand men who have come back from Korea and returned to civilian life. It runs veterans' hospitals and homes, an insurance agency and a welfare service to handle all sorts of social problems. It pays pensions to 194,300 maimed or ailing veterans, dependents, war widows and orphans; it judges the applications of others, pays allowances to 38,600 needy and aged overseas veterans and widows of veterans, administers the huge land-settlement program known as the Veterans Land Act, and is still at the job of getting veterans on their feet in civilian life.

There still are 238,000 veterans who have used none or only part of their re-establishment credits after seven years of peace. More than 1,400 Second World War veterans, for example, have \$1,000 and up coming to them.

The total cost of Second World War rehabilitation, projected to its conclusion, now is set at \$1,456,000,000. Its main elements are \$112,000,000 for administration; \$106,000,000 for treatment; \$1,237,000,000 for benefits and grants such as college training, straight re-establishment credits, war service gratuities and V.L.A. It gave educational aid to 54,000 men and women, settled 57,877 on farms or small holdings, and poured hundreds of millions of dollars into the national economy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. Nelson J. Castonguay, chief electoral officer, estimates on the basis of the 1951 census, there will be more than 8,500,000 Canadians on the voters' lists compared to 7,893,000 in the 1949 general election. The next Federal house will have 265 members.

U. S. Naval medical research indicates that there are diets high in certain types of food which may actually make a better fighter out of a man. That is old stuff. British and Canadian army cooks have been able for generations to turn out food that makes soldiers want to fight.

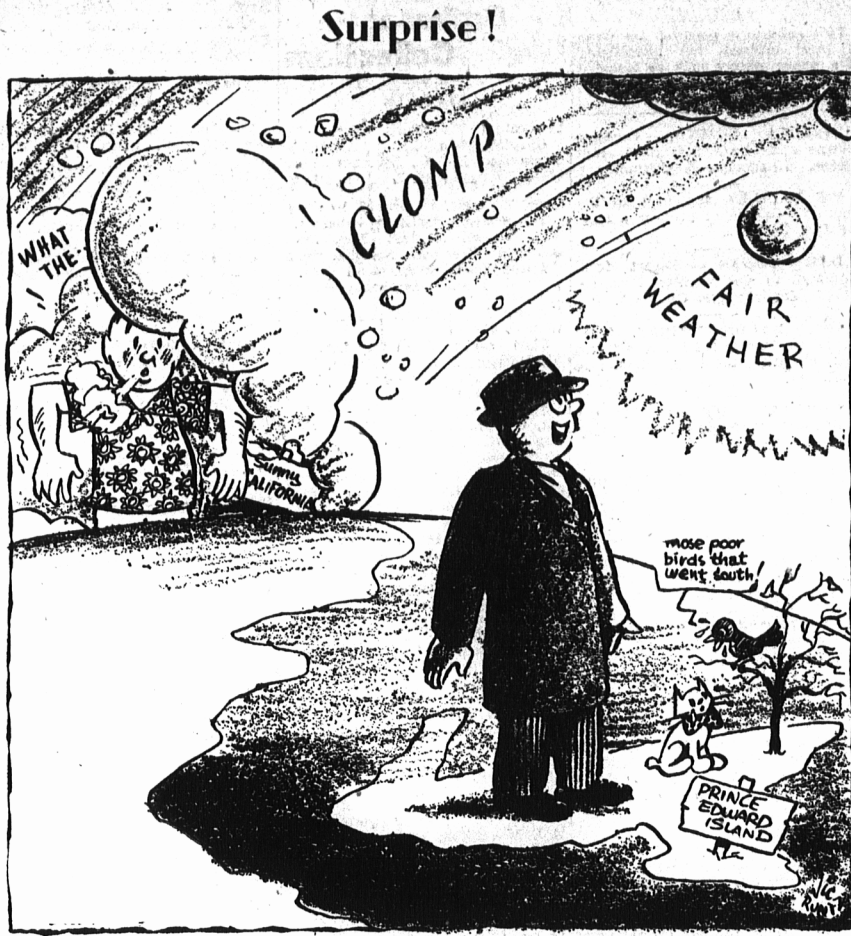
The lives of Canadians are going along pleasantly for the most part and people are looking forward to a Christmas which should have almost everything for full enjoyment. A grace is suggested by Dean Cecil Swanson, as reported in the Vancouver News-Herald, which should be said in every home in Canada: "For what we are about to receive, thank God, and the boys in Korea. Amen."

Composers from Britain, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia have submitted works on Coronation themes, from pianoforte solos to full-scale orchestral works, to the London Contemporary Music Circle. A jury of five distinguished British composers—Alan Rawsthorne, Alan Bush, Alan Frank, Humphrey Searle and Racine Fricker—are now judging them. The best will be performed in public in a series of London concerts from January till June.

Jan Vermeer, or Van der Meer, Dutch painter, died this date 1675. Little is known of his life and after his death he was forgotten for almost a hundred years. Forty-one pictures are now regarded as being his work and he is recognized as the most perfect of the Dutch masters in point of technique. His greatest qualities were his capacity for careful design and his feeling for the play of light on colours, shown to perfection in his interiors.

The dispute as to whether General MacArthur should present any plan he may have on Korea to the out-going or in-coming administration indicates the difficulty of carrying on government with a "Lame Duck" administration. General Eisenhower has no authority but will soon have full responsibility for American affairs. President Truman has full authority now but no responsibility for the outcome after the first of the year.

At this time of year there is a temptation to go for a drive in the country and cut one's own Christmas tree. Most farmers are quite willing to permit their city friends to have the fun of cutting one on their land and may even extend the privilege to some whom they do not know personally. One and all, however, are understandably annoyed when people drive up without so much as a by-your-leave and make free with their property. The deplores might reflect how they would feel if the farmer came in and helped himself off a store counter.



The Poet's Corner

FROM: VOICES IN THE WIND We are the voices of the wandering wind, Which moan for rest and rest can never find; Lo! as the wind is, so is mortal life, A moan, a sigh, a sob, a storm, a strife. What pleasure hast thou of thy changeable bliss? Nay, if love lasted, there were joy in this: But life's way is the wind's way, All these things Are but brief voices breathed on shifting strings. —Edwin Arnold.

The Age-Old Story

The light of the body is the eye; therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

Last Of The Big Four

(Montreal Gazette) Vittorio Emanuele Orlando was a Sicilian, with all the Sicilian's traditional independence, fire and toughness. But he did not waste these qualities on the local controversies for which his island home is famous. He devoted them to the political development of all Italy.

When he entered politics in 1888 Italy was a new country but lately forged in a series of wars from France and Austria and the Vatican. Democratic government was strangely new. Divided by its mountains and its history, Italy was a loose federation of very different provinces.

Orlando immediately set to work to help unite them. His political methods were typical of the man. An expert on law and political science, he was not content to lecture. His long life—he was 92 when he died on Monday—was punctuated with dramatic protests.

One of the "Big Four" who planned the peace after the First World War, he walked out on Clemenceau, Wilson and Lloyd George when they refused to cede Fiume to Italy. When the Versailles Treaty was to be signed, Orlando arranged for a no-confidence vote in the Italian House. This enabled him to resign as Italian Premier so he wouldn't have to sign the treaty.

Public Forum

MORE HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

Sir,—Greetings to Prince Edward Islanders at this holiday season from the land of sunshine! Contrary to the opinion of many, however, I do not have continual sunshine nor do I feel that we should appreciate it if we had. But the strong winds of late autumn and sometimes torrential rains of winter carrying destruction in their wake only make us enjoy the fair days, and glorious sunshine when it comes.

The weather topic brings to mind an item I read in your "Notes By The Way" November 22, when a writer (Peterborough Examiner) painted a picture of gloom dark as night re both the days and the inhabitants. Then he went on to say: "Why should they be radiant and gay with the long southern Canadian winter ahead and spring far behind?" Why indeed should anyone ever be happy, or could they, if they were dependent only on things and circumstances outside themselves? Contentment, or inner peace, I feel is a by-product diffused from deeds well-done and comes to us unsought. Or, as Emerson said: "A political victory, a rise in rents, the recovery of your sick or the return of your absent friend, or some other quite external event raises your spirit, and you think good days are preparing for you. Do not believe it. It can never be so. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles." Or, this item I found in our church paper "The Courier": "When the heart within is enlightened with cheer and happiness, it is heaven's hall; when the heart is dark and gloomy, then it is earth's prison."

I noted the interest P.E.I. took in our election, also the many letters I think everybody breathed a sigh of relief when it was all over, as all were weary, but if we were worn out from listening, or not, from choice, think of those who were in the midst of the fray and how very tired they must have been. We were happy about the outcome, although not exuberant as we realize the great responsibility. With the first step over the real task lies ahead, and Mr. Eisenhower needs the prayers and loyal support of every American. Although there was much approval of the campaign we did not approve of, we attributed it to the easily gamed politics as Mr. Truman said: "I have been in politics forty years and everyone wants to win; let us forget and go on with the job," or words to that effect. Perhaps in time they will forget and even forgive. I liked what Howard K. Smith (CBS's London news-analyst) said after it was all over. He had spent an even amount of time with both candidates and was disgusted at times, but he said: "I like Ike, and I like Adlai. Mr. Eisenhower is away ahead of any other the Republicans had to offer; and Mr. Stevenson is a great man. America needs both." To the latter I can say "amen!"

Although as I write this, Christmas day seems quite a little time off, it has a way of creeping up on us almost unaware. We address our cards and greetings and think we must not mail them yet as it is much too early, then we find often we are too late. In childhood and early youth there seemed to be some time between Yuletides, but in later years it seems to be always coming around. Already here they are putting on programs preparatory to Christmas. Sunday week dialing A.B.C. fifteen minutes early in preparation for my favorite religious radio program, "National Vespers" (Dr. Bonnell) instead of the usual program I found the Methodist Church in this area intended broadcasting each Sunday until Christmas with the singing of carols and a short talk by one of their ministers. That Sabbath it was given by their Bishop and he said we could not have the real spirit of the holiday season if we spent all our time frantically shopping, or in other words commercializing it. I was so glad I tuned in as I think the wonderful music is one of the loveliest things about the holidays.

I note preparations are going on in the little "island" judging by the recipes for fruit cake, white and dark. Anne Shannon's sounds very fine if one were going to indulge in such indulgences. She says she isn't in the efficient class doing her baking early. With a family of that size, to get things done at all, I would say, denotes efficiency. Sounds somewhat like my childhood home as to numbers, but somehow the cakes and plum pudding were ready ahead of time, and no doubt the flavor of the former was improved. My only wonder is that we survived with so much of rich, sweet food no matter how delicious we might have thought it. L. M. Montgomery, in one of her books for girls, has a chapter entitled, "The stuff that dreams are made of" i.e. fruit cake. She had some of her characters, to help along their night (not day-dreams, L.M. had plenty of them) dreams, eat fruit cake before retiring. I should rather think they would have produced frightening nightmares instead. This I write from memory of many years past, so I may not be quite accurate.

As to the merits or demerits of fruit cake, it is as traditional in Prince Edward Island as the "White Christmas". I may be foolish but I always associate snow with that season, although we were not always so blessed. It was so much more thrilling for little folk, whether our parents thought so or not, for invariably it meant a ride in the beautifully sleigh drawn by a spirited steed to the music of the bells. Then we could see Santa Claus tracks (rabbit) especially if the mantle of white was new-fallen. Those rides were in relays as small folk were many in our home and the jaunty sleigh would only accommodate a few. How different Christmas was in those days of the long ago, with the tree with its home-made decorations—tissue paper roses, pink, red and yellow daffodils fashioned by loving hands; strings of popcorn and the gay gifts draped over the branches, bright-colored, usually red hair ribbons, and gay scarfs then worn by the older females. Gifts were not wrapped at least in our home in those days—quite a saving in baubles, time and effort. I often think of the terrible waste today, especially with little ones, the way they ruthlessly tear off the beautiful wrappings hardly noticing so anxious are they to discover the contents of their artistically packaged gifts. It could be a rebuke to their elders as somehow we have smothered the real meaning of Christmas in commercial wrappings, and find it difficult to find the Christ-Child as we look toward Bethlehem's hill. But it is our own fault if we, in our hearts, cannot cradle Him still. One Christmas, I think it was on Sunday, stands out in memory's hall; we had unexpected guests, among them a little girl a mile older than us, and we played church, a game often played in our home. Our little friend was the clergyman and performed a baptism service. Gifts were not wrapped, the lovely new hair ribbons were broken and did not appreciate her service in the least, but went in tears to our mother. The aftermath I do not recall, whether the culprit was reproved or not. The other evening I came across a book entitled, "Crisis, Faith and Ideals", written by a Dr. (Rev.) Miller, a gift of a very favorite older sister dated Christmas many years ago. It was published in 1892, or copyrighted at that time. As it was only a booklet I read it through and was interested in the ideas of that day. Evidently at that period reverence meant a sad countenance, girls were not to smile in church; and this is a common fault: "Following fashion to an extreme that is unbecoming and often extravagant." What would the author think of many of our customs today. One interesting item, a quotation from

Notes By The Way

A drinking son of 49 in Whitty, who beat up his 78-year-old mother, was given a six-month term in jail with six strokes of the strap. Most people will heartily agree with Magistrate Frank S. Ebbs about this sentence and they hope the jailor will be in time fetters when he lays on the strap. Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Instead of worrying the School Board about Charles Dickens being anti-Semitic, why does not Communist Joseph Zuken send his complaints to Moscow? Russia has now added the weapon of anti-Semitism to its armory of persecution and is engaged at the moment in spreading slanders against the Jews in the puppet state of Czechoslovakia and in insulting the Jewish race as a whole and, in general, showing

John Ruskin, "Always have two mirrors on your dressing table, and see that with proper care you dress both the mind and body before the day." Good advice even for our day. My first Christmas message came on Saturday from a pal of the long-ago. I wondered why it came so early; I recognized the handwriting but the explanation was apparent on opening it; she was leaving for Florida for the winter and she left. I was so glad to get the new address as last year I just missed her and during the year never seemed to catch up with her, as her summers are spent on P. E. I., fall and spring in one of the large Canadian cities, and winters in the southland. Sounds interesting? Oh, well, no better than California all the year around—we do not have tornadoes, or cyclones,—just earthquakes, floods, smog, and flying saucers of the debit side and glorious sunshine on the credit.

Believe me, the latter more than balances the former! To come back to my friend, I was delighted to hear from her and it will not be my fault if we lose contact again, as some of the happiest hours of my teen years were spent at her home. We did not go to the same week-day school but attended the same Sunday school and often I was invited to her home after church in the summer months, sometimes we walked to the beach before her home and just sat and pondered at the immensity of the expanse of blue, at least I did (her thoughts I did not know), while we listened to the breakers roar. Like Tennyson I could not utter the thoughts that arose in me; I rather think they were only half-defined longings anyway. At any rate we loved the solitude of the pathless wood and lonely shore, and even then loved nature much. This is so long that I should stop right here and now, but I should like to comment on a few of the many articles that I have enjoyed and the authors will pardon me as it is only because I read them all with interest. For some time I had been missing the beautifully written "Ellen's Diary"—the paper I received last Saturday explained it and I am so sorry. The author portrays nature so wonderfully and poetically, revealing a wealth of innate beauty of soul and character. I have learned much from the "We And Our Neighbors" column but my sympathies are with the old gentleman, who claimed the Stuart Kings as his ancestors; if he is a real, and not just a fictitious character conjured up for the sake of argument, at the celebration of things in the line of long descent, I see evidence of it all around me. Science and facts to the contrary, there are many things that cannot be weighed and measured in a test tube and to my way of thinking, the very most important, the elusive things of the spirit, are the things of the heart.

My friend's last article re success story I enjoyed immensely, and am glad she gave prominence to the home influence—the real foundation of the nation; but there is no time here to go into that—it is a pet subject of mine and might get long and involved. Observer's articles are good, one of the latter ones on the poets. All Americans do not put long enjoyment on a pedestal if the youthful college graduates are any criterion of general opinion. They like only

the writings of the great masters whose meaning is hard to find. I think it more or less a pose of youth, and later they will find virtue in simple everyday things of the heart. Every one of these poems mentioned in the article was in our school books and I loved every one, but I am not high-brow in my choice of poetry and am no authority unless loving verse gives me the right to comment.

Which relaxes me more than reading poetry and that was from my earliest recollections. "Literature and Life" is clearly and concisely written,—simple and ideal, showing fine thought and ideals. In the memory of all the Christmases with a halo and later when they were fading into the light of common day, are the words of the mythic "St. Nick", I wish one and all, "Merry Christmas", and to all, I say "Goodnight". I am, Sir, etc., G. S. GORDON. (Mrs. D. J.) Oakland, California.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) JTEAMER SERVICES "We are pleased to learn that the Government have made arrangements whereby the public steam accommodation on our river and coast will be greatly increased. The steamer 'Heather Belle' will for this season make three trips to Orwell weekly, instead of two as in former years; and she will run up to Vernon River Bridge as often as practicable. She will also make two trips a week to Crapaud for the season. The steamer 'Southport' will take the place of the 'Heather Belle' on the East River, and will also, in addition to the usual trips to Rocky Point, make facilities taken in conjunction with the establishment of efficient steam ferries between Summerside and Berdies, and between Georgetown and Lower Cardigan. will be of great advantage to the people of these important sections of the country affected by them. —The Examiner, April 29, 1941.

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