

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1951

Trade Board Activities

In his report at the annual meeting of the Charlottetown Board of Trade on Tuesday evening the retiring president, Lieut. Colonel Storey, gave an impressive summary of the Board's activities during the past year, which was supplemented by more detailed reports from the various committee chairmen. These reports indicate that the Board has taken an active part in every movement for the improvement of business and transportation conditions, provincially and municipally, and has co-operated most effectively with our Provincial Government and City Council.

Membership in our Boards of Trade throughout the Province is composed chiefly of business and professional men who have little time to spare from their own affairs, but who continuously give their attention, freely and unselfishly, to matters of public concern. Their influence is exerted largely behind the scenes, in an advisory capacity, and is no doubt all the more effective for this reason. Certainly their record of achievement, down through the years, has been a most substantial one

Freedom Of Attention

An interesting problem has arisen in the United States, centering not on freedom of speech but on its counterpart, which is now styled "freedom of attention." The issue arose in the following manner. In Washington the Capital Transit Company has a monopoly of public transportation. Some time ago radio receivers were installed on street cars and buses, an agreement being entered into between the transport company and a local radio station. As in the case of the loudspeaker programmes in New York's Grand Central station, various citizen groups took exception to this arrangement. The difference is that the Washington case has now produced a decision from the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. It has found against the transport company.

Central to this decision is the court's finding that the passengers on a street car or bus constitute a "captive audience." The judges had this to say: "Short of imprisonment the only way to compel a man's attention for many minutes is to bombard him with sound that he cannot ignore in a place where he must be. If Transit obliged its passengers to read what it liked or get off the car, the invasion of their freedom would be obvious. Transit obliges them to hear what it likes or get off the car. . . Freedom of attention, which forced listening destroys, is a part of liberty essential to individuals and to society. . . This loss of freedom of attention is the more serious because many people have little time to read, or discuss what they like or to relax. The record makes it plain that the loss is a serious injury to many passengers." Thus a new value, "freedom of attention," has been established and it is clear that a large new field remains to be explored by the courts in this connection.

The Issue In Gold

A showdown on official Ottawa's gold policy appears to be shaping up on Parliament Hill. Canada's gold producers, attracted by higher prices prevailing in the free market for gold abroad, are questioning the wisdom of a policy whereby the price of gold is officially fixed at \$35US per fine ounce. Even the substantial subsidies paid by Ottawa to the gold mining industry are not sufficient to quell the manifestations of concern.

Quite apart from the arguments of gold producers pro and con the present gold policy, the existence of subsidy payments and a fixed price for gold has rendered it quite impossible to determine whether gold mining is beneficial to the entire economy, or whether it constitutes an economic liability. The only true test of an industry's usefulness to the national economy is whether it can produce the commodities people want at a price they are willing and able to pay.

The test is entirely lacking under the present gold policy where the output of the industry must be sold to Ottawa at a fixed price and where the profit and loss picture on a national basis is obscured by subsidies exacted from the people in taxes. There is only one way in which the true value of the gold mining industry to the Canadian economy can be determined and that is to

authorize gold producers to sell their output on the free market and to relieve the taxpayer of the burden of subsidies presently paid to the industry to "compensate" producers for the fixed price of \$35US per fine ounce.

The hesitancy and uncertainty which characterizes the attitude of Canada's gold mining industry at the present time is symbolic of the plight which befalls an industry under a planned economy as contrasted with what happens under free market conditions. It is difficult to justify the continuance of gold subsidy payments to an industry which plays no essential role in the defence programme. If subsidies are abolished, in fairness to the gold producers, price fixing must be abolished and the free market be made available to them. If the price of gold in the free market is not sufficiently attractive, the efforts of those presently engaged in gold mining will be quickly diverted to more attractive channels.

EDITORIAL NOTES

President Gordon's visit was brief but much appreciated by C. N. R. personnel and business people alike.

Water from Loch May, near Inverness, has been sent to a Canadian village in Nova Scotia to baptize young Mackintoshes.

How does the Provincial Government hope to increase the 65-69 old age pensions without increased taxation in line with that of Nova Scotia?

Who is to succeed Mr. B. Earle MacDonald as Mayor of the City? There seems to be diffidence on the part of the other Councillors to accept the office.

The Battle of Naseby was fought this date 1645. The Royalists were defeated by the Parliamentarians under Fairfax and Cromwell.

Canada has one-and-a-half millions of Scotsmen in her population, according to Vice-Admiral the Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Chief of the Gaelic Society of Inverness.

A fur show is being held by the Hudson Bay Company from June 14th to August 31 at Beaver House, London, including a display of finished garments.

Congratulations are in order to Mr. M. Alban Farmer, on his election as President of the Charlottetown Board of Trade, and to Lt.-Col. Frank Storey on the conclusion of a most successful term in that office,—not to omit the enterprising, efficient and courteous secretary, Mr. A. Walthen Gaudet, who has been re-appointed to that position.

What seemed to impress the C. N. R. President most on making his first visit was the magnificence of the Abegweit Car Ferry. He had never seen anything like it, and did not believe it had a superior in the world. While we appreciate this compliment to the builders, we would much rather have had less magnificence, and two Car Ferries for the same money.

Bishop Barnes of Birmingham thinks the best way to reform the world is to eliminate the inferior strains in a community. "Are we to refuse to have restraints that limit the increase even of bad stock? Or are we deliberately to seek and foster smaller populations for finer types?" The 77-year-old Church of England bishop said that when feeble-mindedness appears in a family the only way to eliminate it was to eliminate the stock. This may be good eugenics but it certainly is bad Christianity.

Canadian stamps fetched big prices at a London auction recently. £120 (\$360) was given for a 7½d stamp issued in 1852; £140 (\$420) for a 10d issued between 1852 and 1857; £500 (\$1,505) for a set of 1897 Jubilee stamps in blocks of four, ranging from the half cent to five dollars; £165 (\$495) for a half stamp—a bisected 8d stamp of Newfoundland of 1857; £190 (\$570) for a shilling stamp of Newfoundland of 1860, and £175 (\$525) for a two cents stamp issued in 1866.

The expected happened this time. In Commerce, Okla., the J. Oren Mowerys, already parents of two boys, hoped desperately their third child would be a girl. But it was another boy. "Oh, I'd give anything if it had been a girl," murmured the mother. "Just be patient," admonished her doctor. Fifteen minutes later he delivered a twin girl. In Quebec it is the same thing only more so. The fourth set of twins born to Mr. and Mrs. Onesime Bisson since 1945 in St. Ferdinand de Halifax, Megantic County town were christened recently. The twins, a boy and a girl, were given the Christian names Marie Therese Yvette, and Joseph Raymond Yves. The other three sets of twins were born to the couple in January 1946, May 1948, January 1950. There are altogether 17 children in the family.

Speculative Thinking



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.

DAD ON THE FARM

Sir,—Much has been written and said about Mother's Day and much more could be, but I have never seen much tribute paid to Dad. In fact up till the last few years he seemed to be more or less a meal ticket or oody guard.

We wouldn't have to draw very much on our imagination to look back some fifty years and see a young man, tall and stately, possessing sterling qualities, blessed with energy and ambition, who had just wood and was a pretty young maid. In those days it was hard for a young man to be anything but "like father, like son." So they settled down on a small farm far back in the country. There was no place of amusement within reach and neighbors were few and far between; so they were content to enjoy their own company and "let the rest of the world go by."

How proud he was of his young bride as she assisted him with his chores or helped clear some land! But in due time an heir was born, a boy with brown eyes and dark hair whom they called John, who soon became the pride of the home, and much of mother's time and affection were bestowed on him. And Dad, feeling the responsibility of another little mouth to feed and body to clothe and missing mother's help, had to work harder. So Dad trudged along not counting his life dear until one day he couldn't keep his eyes open. He had a heart attack and died. He left behind him a young wife and a young son. Then another baby was born, this time a girl with soft blue eyes and flaxen hair with dimples and wrinkles, whom they called Mary. When she turned the centre of attraction and mother's time and affection were quite absorbed. And poor Dad unconsciously became a lone slave for the family. In those days there were no tractors to ride as they pull two furrow ploughs, but Dad had to walk from morn till eve behind his sprightly team and guide a one furrowed plough.

As the children grew older Dad felt it his duty to educate them so they would have an easier life than he was having. Money was scarce in those days; the only way to prosperity was economy. So Dad denied himself every luxury and many of the necessities of life that he might clothe his children well enough that they wouldn't feel embarrassed when they mingled with those who live in more favorable circumstances. So John and Mary went to College and Dad trudged along in his patched overalls and even spread his butter a little thinner so he could send a few extra dollars for the children to enjoy city life.

Finally graduation day came and Dad for the first time bought a ticket to the city. As he entered the auditorium he was presented with a free ticket over which he felt quite elated, and when John graduated with honors and Mary led her class, tears of joy were in his eyes; and again he felt quite repaid for his efforts.

With his ability and pleasing personality "inherited from his Dad", John's service was much in demand not only in the business world but in sports as well. Mary, tall and graceful, still, showing dimples and her winsome smile, was well on the road to success. After many years we go back to the farm. Yes, Dad is still there, but his hair has turned to silver, his stately form has stooped, his shoulder has rounded and his step shortened; but he still

The Poet's Corner

MARKET DAY

It follows up the hill and down— The road that takes me into town; And oh, it's many lads I meet With smiles and glances bold or sweet; Eyes that are blue maybe, or black— But I am never smiling back. I have to hold my tongue and go As prim as if I didn't know. Ah, dear, it's hard—this being good— I don't like doing what I should. My basket's always heavy, too— I need a man's strong arm, I do! I wonder why there's any harm. When all the air's so kind and warm. When smiling lads swing down the road And ask to help me with my load, In smiling back at them again— Not every time, but now and then. —Abigail Cresson.

retains his independent spirit. His beautiful bride of fifty years ago is wrinkled, old and grey and of late she has lost interest and retires early; and Dad sits alone by the fireside. Tonight he seems to be looking back and reflecting on his losses; there was the spring when the grey mare died, his favorite; later a calf choked and the fox took the old grey goose and her brood, and although Dad pretended to laugh at adversity, sooner or later losses have a depressing effect on the loser. Then his small farm that was once the pride of the community with its bountiful crops and well kept buildings and fences, has depreciated as Dad's strength has gone; and as he hasn't heard from John and Mary for a long, long time he seems to be wondering if life was worth while.

So we go to the city and inquire about John, and we are told he is a very successful business man who is respected by all who know him, and that he lives on a certain avenue far up from the noise of the city. As we ride up and turn into that avenue we are impressed with the beautiful homes; tall elm and maple overshadow the walks and driveways, and we see John's initials in large letters on the corner of a beautiful dwelling. Nearby we see a lovely cottage; a maid is reclining on an easy chair as she watches the children romp around the flower beds, and they have soft blue eyes and golden hair and we know that Mary has also been successful.

Again our mind turns back to Dad alone by the fireside, and something seems to well up in our throat and it makes us uncomfortable, and a mist comes to our eyes that makes driving difficult. Listen, Jack, when you were young, your Dad had temptations in plenty, trials and disappointments not a few, but he resisted the temptations, endured the trials because he wanted to protect and provide for those who depended on him; he also took time out to tell you that honesty is the best policy and that men's life consisteth not in the abundance of things he possesses. Don't you think a Dad like that deserves a tribute? He isn't asking help, but he would appreciate a nice letter, and you, Mary, if you haven't time to write a letter get a card and say: "You are the best Dad a girl ever had."

And once more Dad's eyes will brighten and once more he will feel quite repaid for his efforts. Now, Sir, if you think this imaginary trip might help some Dad to hear from his boy or girl, I would appreciate your cooperation.

I am, Sir, etc., THOMAS GORRILL O'Leary, P.E.I.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

NEWSPAPER ITEMS

From The Examiner, May 26, 1884: Under an Act respecting insolvent debtors, notice appears from Justice James H. Peters, of the Supreme Court, ordering that a third and final call of fourteen dollars and eighty-eight cents per share be made on all contributors of the defunct Bank of Prince Edward Island, and instructing each such contributor, on or before October 31 next, to pay into the Bank of Nova Scotia, at its branch in Charlottetown, the amount of the liquidators of the said company, the amount due in respect of such call.

The death is reported from Summerville, Lot 66, on the 16th inst., of Margaret, relict of the late Charles McEachern, aged 92 years. "She immigrated to this Island from Inverness, Scotland, in the ship Polly in 1803. Her remains were interred in the Belfast burying ground belonging to the Church of Scotland, of which she was a true and staunch member, waiting in the hope of the first resurrection."

The Ravennier Comedy Company announces a schedule of four nightly entertainments at the Academy of Music, beginning on Wednesday, May 23, with the great New York success, "The Banker's Daughter." Mr. P. C. Brown is reported to have purchased Mr. T. Burdett's three-year-old for \$275 for a gentleman in Bangor. E. J. MacDonald advertises bargains in his clothing store, including men's all-wool Tweed suits for \$7.50, men's felt hats for 50 cents, and men's strong shirts at 10 cts. a yard. Mr. Richard Hertz offers a reward of \$20 for information leading to the conviction of the person or persons who uprooted a tree in front of his residence on the night of the 24th. W. W. Wellington advertises, at very low rental, the double tenement dwelling known as the Franklin House. Citizens cleaning out their yards are urged to deposit ashes, etc. in the dock at the east end of the Gas Works. The P. E. Island Hospital advertises for "a reliable cook; no washing. Millview, offers to match his three-year-old colt "Abdullah Boy" against any colt of the same age which Mr. William Coughlin, of Crapaud, can produce, for a mile race, best three in five, for from \$50 to \$200. Benj. DesBrisay, Esq., offers for sale "all those beautiful grounds adjoining the Hon. Judge Young's property, comprising Town Lots Nos. 26 and 71, in the fifth 100, Charlottetown, having a front on Fitzroy Street of 84 feet, and a depth through to Euston Street of 320 feet, with a front thereon of 84 feet," also a building lot, 75 feet square, on Orisbar Street. Beer & Sons, proprietors of the P. E. Island Soap Works, advertise full lines in Maple Leaf, Acme, Spruce Bud, Mottled and Island Bouquet; "value fully equal to imported soaps."

Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. 180 Richmond St. - Ch'town. Phone 350

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Notes By The Way

A problem which the city churches will have to face within the next few years is that of parking. It will have to be faced both for the benefit of the churches themselves, in their quest to encourage church attendance, and for the general well-being of the city. For some time now those areas within several blocks of churches have had a very serious parking problem. During the morning church service time those blocks are closely lined on both sides by cars, providing a serious traffic hazard and a considerable inconvenience. The churches themselves are certain to suffer as a result. The situation tends to discourage churchgoers, particularly those of the more or less indifferent type. Late comers find that they have to travel considerable distances to find parking spaces, and, probably, if the weather is good, frequently yield to the temptation to go for a drive and forget about their good intentions. — Owen Sound Sun-Times.

When the Island entered Confederation in 1873, it had a bicameral Legislature, an Upper and Lower House (a Legislative Council and an Assembly). In 1893, the Upper House was abolished—in form but not in substance. Actually, it was fused with the Assembly at that time and continues into the present as a joint legislative body of assemblymen and councillors. The assemblymen and councillors are elected on an unrestricted franchise; the councillors, on a franchise based upon property qualifications. During the elections, "both Liberals and Conservatives promised study, and possible reform, of the electoral system," which, if carried into effect, would give the Island a unicameral system similar to that in all other Canadian provinces but Quebec where the bicameral system still prevails. — Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

The Age-Old Story

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all good; and this latest incident, if a sinister interpretation is arrived at is bound to make things much harder to work out. — Montreal Star.



He's a going concern!

BILL IS ANOTHER enterprising boy who is learning to appreciate the value of saving for what he wants. Each week, he puts a part of his spare time earnings in the bank. And is he proud of his bank book!

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One of a series by your bank