

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1953

Quoddy Hopes

Hopes rather than expectations are raised in the Maritimes by the news that on July 14 a U. S. Congressional sub-committee will consider bills to authorize a survey of the economic feasibility of a Passamaquoddy tidal power project. The project of harnessing the great tides of Fundy has been a dream in the Maritimes and New England States for many years. Both President Roosevelt and President Truman advocated a thorough testing of the scheme but until now nothing has been done. Even now the Canadian Government is taking no active interest in the matter although no objection is being taken to possible American investigation.

It is expected that it will cost \$3,000,000 to make the survey as to the feasibility of the project, a sum which would be well spent indeed if it results in the power development being undertaken and brought to a successful conclusion.

Maine, as well as New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, is woefully short of power and the prospect of harnessing the international waters of Passamaquoddy Bay is enticing. Tides of 25 feet or more effect that body of water which averages about ten miles in breadth and 15 in length.

At the moment Canada is concentrating on a start of the St. Lawrence seaway and power project but if the coastal development is shown to be practical this country should back it at least fifty per cent.

Function Of The Opposition

An excellent article on the place of the Opposition in our Parliamentary system, by Lord Campion, noted British authority on parliamentary procedure, is published in the current issue of "Liberal", official organ of the Liberal party in Canada. The present time is as good as any of underlining one of the principal points made by Lord Campion, namely, that not only has the function of opposing the Government of the day lost all taint of disloyalty, as indicated clearly by the title "Her Majesty's Opposition," but that it is one of the responsibilities of the Government to provide the Opposition with the parliamentary facilities needed for making its criticism known to the public.

"Considered as a constitutional organ," says Lord Campion, "the Opposition is the characteristically British solution of the problem which has puzzled every attempt to embody the principles of Parliamentary Government—the problem where exactly to place the responsibility for performing the function, for which Parliament exists, of controlling the government in the interests of the people. This is a difficult question, to which the very nature of parliamentary government makes a definite and universal valid answer impossible. The responsibility presumably lies somewhere in Parliament. Can it be with the majority of the House of Commons, the Government party? Certainly not, because the majority is pledged to the support of the Government—and a powerful party machine sees to it that the pledge is honored. And yet, one must admit, it would be a poor House if the members of the Government party so entirely subordinated their parliamentary capacity to their party character as to neglect this function altogether.

"Instances not infrequently occur of a Government altering or withdrawing legislation or changing its administrative policy in deference to representations from its own supporters made openly on the floor of the House (and it is reasonable to suppose that many more are made behind the scenes.) The responsibility for controlling the Government is supposed to have developed on the minority party of Parliament, to be the very thing for which the Opposition exists. But how can the Opposition discharge this duty effectively, since it is 'ex hypothesi' a minority in the House of Commons? How can it control the Government if it cannot control the House of Commons? "This is the impasse which seems to be reached in working out the principle of parliamentary government. On the one hand, you have a majority of the House of Commons which has the voting strength to control the Government, but is in fact controlled by it; on the other hand, a minority which has taken over Parliament's task of controlling the Government, but has not the voting power to do so effectively. It is this kind of contradiction between theory

and practice which has led some continental parliamentarians to dismiss the Opposition as a piece of British constitutional make-believe. But the key to the puzzle is simple enough—it is the fact that the real controller of the Government is not to be found inside the House, but in public opinion outside which, provided it can be made to take notice, has all the sanctions to make its control effective.

"The role of the Opposition is to act as public remembrancer, or, perhaps, public prosecutor. It produces all the facts and arguments which, set against the ministerial defence, will enable the electorate to make up its mind whether to find for the Government or the Opposition at the next general election. Meanwhile the Government provides the Opposition with the parliamentary facilities needed for making its criticism known to the public. This is not pure high-mindedness on the part of the Government, for it knows that it would be very damaging to its prospects to be open to the charge of stifling criticism, for that would be confessing to doubt as to the ability of its case to stand publicly."

New Use For Atoms

The study of atomic structures continues to bring benefits to medicine and to man. The latest advance reported, says the Montreal Gazette, is the development of a synthetic chemical which searches out lead in the system and extracts it. As lead poisoning is a hazard in some 150 occupations—as well as to babies who chew at paint—the creation of the new chemical is indeed welcome.

How the molecules of the chemical—EDTA is its official name—"handcuff" their prey is another interesting chapter in the atomic research story. EDTA is a "claw" chemical. Its molecule is a circle that sets up an attraction for loose metallic atoms. The metallic atoms become prisoners in the hollow centre of the molecule.

However, not all metals are harmful. Calcium, for instance, is necessary to animal bodies. When EDTA was first injected into experimental animals, it proceeded to capture their calcium content first.

This problem was solved with simple directness. The four U. S. chemists who had produced EDTA in the first place made a small addition to its formula. They added calcium to it. This broke EDTA of the habit of "capturing" other people's calcium. It was ready, then, to capture lead particles. In both babies and adults, EDTA increased the body's ability to rid itself of lead by 300 per cent. The presence of EDTA in shops and factories, as well as hospitals, may add a new safety factor to industrial production.

EDITORIAL NOTES

After 180 years the Boston Tea Party no longer stirs animosities and the British tea industry has shipped a commemorative chest of tea to Boston with apologies for the provocation leading up to the famous demonstration.

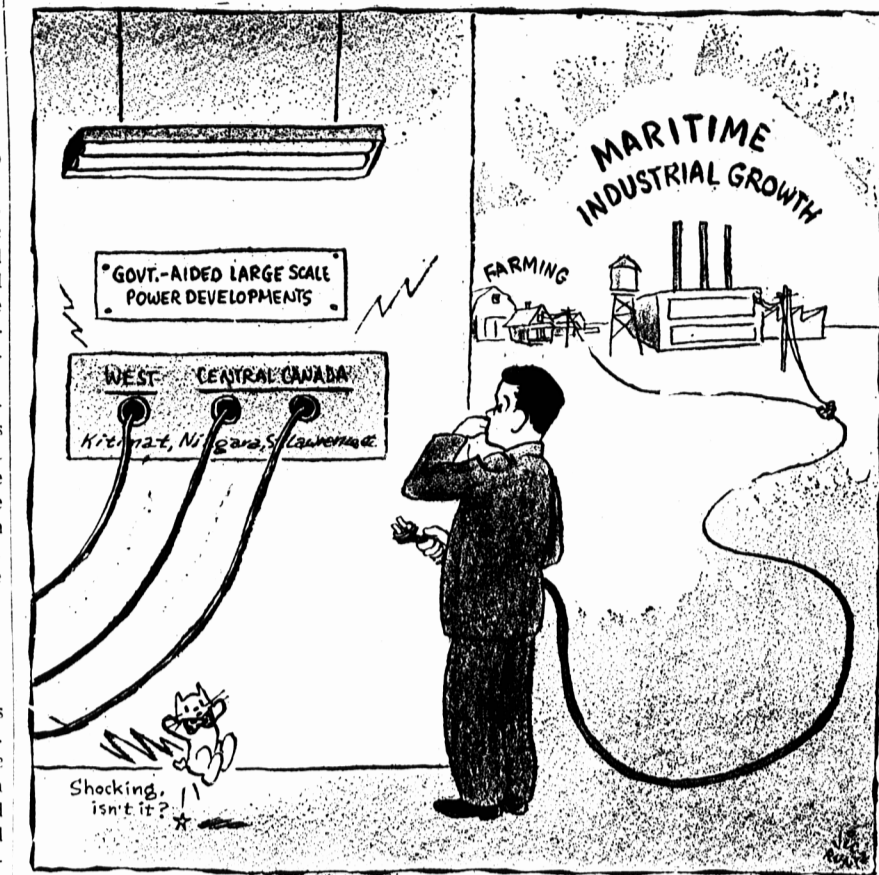
The Scotchlite tape being applied to vehicles by the Junior Chamber of Commerce during Highway Traffic Safety Week should be an important safety measure, particularly on bicycles. It is an extra measure, however, and does not in any way replace the legal lighting requirements.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, English author, died this date 1930. He was a physician but success as a writer induced him to devote his time to letters. His famous character, Sherlock Holmes, first made an appearance in 1887 in "A Study In Scarlet". Doyle also wrote historical novels and plays. His later years were largely given over to psychic research.

Supervised playgrounds are being provided by the City this year at Connaught Square, Prince of Wales College and Victoria Park, the latter being for children over ten. It may be regretted that the other squares are not to be so utilized but it is better to have three well run than more without adequate supervision. No doubt there is also the hope that the remaining squares will look better and greener without playground facilities.

Considerable fuel will be added to the ancient controversy over whether art imitates life or vice versa, says the New York Herald Tribune, by the news that Canada is building a genuine flying saucer. It was high time that somebody was building a flying saucer; people have been seeing them for so long that it has become necessary to invent them. Canada's flying saucer, of course, is a seriously intended device; it is a jet plane embodying new principles of flight which may or may not succeed in revolutionizing established air concepts.

About Time Another Outlet Was Installed



Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

FIRE BUCKETS SCARCE

"On Sunday last, at a little after four o'clock, a fire broke out in the house of Mr. David Wilson, merchant, of this town, in one of the bedrooms on the second floor. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, with the greater part of the family, were attending public worship at the time. On the alarm being given, it was promptly and numerously responded to, and within a short time, with the help of the Town and Barrack engines, the element was got under, and further damage averted. "One thing that struck us, as rather peculiar, at this fire, was the very great scarcity of buckets. No people, we think can turn out more readily or in greater numbers on these occasions than our townspeople, and did so on Sunday; but from some unexplained cause there was not a sufficient supply of buckets, which might, had the fire got ahead, have proved very prejudicial. The London Alliance Company, through its agent, the Hon. Charles Young, have given \$5 towards the erection of the new building, at the rear of the Court House, to be used as an engine house." —Royal Gazette, Jan. 19, 1844.

The Poet's Corner

A MIDSUMMER EVENING

Darkness is hidden in the heart of roses And stored already in the barn with hay Or deep in pools beneath the falling willows; A wealth of benediction calms and closes The hot enormous day. See, with small hands abandoned on the pillow, In curtained rooms, with all their ardours done, The children, settled now, their tender noses Burrowed in safety, sighing breathe their way into oblivion. —Francis Cornford in The Countryman.

Where Are Our Hecklers?

(Ottawa Journal) A sad and curious thing about Canadian election meetings is that mostly they are without hecklers; without people in the audience well-primed with facts and ready and willing to hurl them at the unfortunate speaker who betrays himself into trifling with facts. In the old campaigns there were plenty of them. "Where are those profiteers about which we hear so much?" asked a Conservative speaker at a stormy meeting in 1921. "They are all on the platform, sir," shouted back a voice—a hit at a number of prominent citizens on the platform that brought down the house. "If," said an Ottawa controller in charge of finance "if at the end of the year you found yourself short by \$50,000, what would you do?" "I would beat it," shouted back somebody in the audience, and the meeting all but broke up. Laurier, Borden, Meighen and Bennett, all were heckled. They thrived on it. Meighen especially rose to his highest when heckling was fiercest, once silenced and won the cheers of a great, open-air, hostile meeting in Quebec City during the passionate days of conscription by hurling back javelins that killed. Today, perhaps, because of the manuscript, perhaps because young Canadians are more interested in the latest streamlined number than in politics, perhaps because our modern politicians deny ad-

Notes By The Way

The importance of the general practitioner of medicine, or family physician, has received considerable emphasis at the eighty-sixth annual convention of the Canadian Medical Association in Winnipeg. Parents throughout the Dominion will be happy to note this. Due to the growth of the specialization, so characteristic of most forms of endeavour today, a great many of them now feel an acute need for more general practitioners. In an effort to raise the standards of general practice, the general council of the association has decided to establish a college in this division. It would compare with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, which sets standards for specialists, and would be similar to the American Academy of General Practice and the College of General Practitioners of the United Kingdom. The task of organizing the new college is expected to consume at least a year. It is to be hoped that this move will not only raise the standards, but also generate a greater respect among medical men and students for the work of family doctors and lead to a substantial increase in their numbers. —Edmonton Journal.

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.

AFTER FORTY YEARS

Sir:—I am a native son of St. Margaret's, P. E. I. and have just returned from a visit there after an absence of forty years. It is shocking for a man to see the changes that take place in that time. I was especially impressed by the North Side of the Island. Numerous people I had known were gone, moved out, or had passed away. Some of my old friends are there still and it was more than gratifying to see them. Mrs. Sadie Runnebau, Lea Vickert, Mrs. Andrew McDonald, all of Morell. Mrs. Emmett Pierre of Souris was very hospitable to me; her son Bill drove me around to see the Island. I also was able to take in the Charlottetown Races and found them most entertaining. I also visited Elmira; there I recalled 1911, when I worked on the railroad when it was put through. I am now in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with my niece and her family. Before I return to Vancouver, B. C., I shall spend some time with my brother, Dan, in Chicago, Illinois. God willing, I shall be able to visit the Island again in the not too distant future. I am Sir, etc., RONNIE McLEAN, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Age Old Story

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There is but one temptation taken up but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

THE KEYSTONE

The keystone of any home is income; when death takes away the keystone, the home crumbles—unless you provide a substitute keystone. Life Insurance will provide that keystone by guaranteed monthly payments. Consult your nearest Great-West Life Agent for a suitable Policy, including Accident and Health Insurance.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer SOME POST-DOMINION DAY REFLECTIONS

The theme of this year's Dominion Day speeches was Canada's greatness. In London Mr. Massey spoke of material and spiritual growth and predicted "our own" Elizabethan age. In Charlottetown Mr. St. Laurent referred with pride to the "full nationhood" that Canada is about to achieve. Similar sentiments came from less exalted rostrums around the country. The material growth to which His Excellency referred is, of course, obvious on all sides. There was nothing spectacular or extraordinary about this growth until quite recent years when new oil and mineral deposits were added to our known resources. In the overall historical picture it has happened that our political and economic development coincided with the great scientific advance of the first half of the 20th century. No part of the Commonwealth started its journey to nationhood under more encouraging circumstances. It would have been strange, indeed, if Canada had made no great material strides in the last 50 years or so.

Mr. Massey's confidence in our spiritual growth is especially worth noting. Some will say he is over-optimistic about this. One might ask what kind of a measuring stick would an investigator into the spiritual growth of any country be expected to use. Statistics are alright for oil wells, uranium mines, and the like, but for gauging spiritual assets they are of extremely limited value. It may be that in using the word "spiritual" Mr. Massey was thinking of it in its widest sense as including mental and cultural interests as well as those specifically called religious. There is no doubt that in these wide areas there has been substantial growth. Liberal education is much more widespread than it was only two or three decades ago. And yet, according to a report I read recently (this is one instance where statistics are of some value), total illiteracy is still a social factor to contend with in this country.

Even now, strange as it may seem, there are many thousands who can neither read nor write. And it has been estimated, with what accuracy I am not prepared to say, that of all the students who leave our schools annually not more than 20 per cent have managed to acquire a taste for serious reading. If this figure be even approximately correct, our story we have to tell about our cultural growth has discouraging as well as encouraging features.

In the specialized areas of culture it is not long since we began to show signs of sturdy growth. For a long time to come we shall probably have to depend very sub-

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