

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, JAN. 25, 1952

A New Governor General

History has been made by the appointment of the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey as Canada's first native born Governor General. Whether this change in Canada's constitutional development will prove beneficial or not is a matter of dispute, but there can be no question as to the high attainments of the appointee.

The danger lies in bringing the Governor Generalship so close to the field of party politics in Canada. Taken in conjunction with the scrapping of the word "Dominion" from our official designation, and of the word "Royal" from His Majesty's Mails, it marks a further severance of the ties which have bound us to the Mother Country since Confederation.

Certainly it can be said that the line of distinguished Governor Generals from the United Kingdom has terminated with one of the greatest of them all. Viscount Alexander stood out as perhaps the ablest general of the last world war, and during his vice regal term in Canada has shed luster on the office and added to his own luster as an administrator.

No General Election in '52

Unless some quite unforeseen issue arises in the summer, says Saturday Night, you can write off all the talk about an election this year. It's difficult to know where the rumors started, unless it was with James G. Gardiner who would like to get in an election before redistribution reduces seats.

There seems at the moment to be only one chance of an election being held on the pre-census distribution of seats. That would be by accepting "Chubby" Power's bill to refer the problem of redistribution to a commission, which could not possibly report for a year or two.

As for Prime Minister St. Laurent's plans, they are still his own secret. But it seems a gross misjudgment of this man's character to suppose that great issues of state will be settled according to his convenience, rather than vice versa.

Government Jobs

Speaking at the Montreal convention of the Dairy Farmers of Canada, Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, warned that the attitude towards employment of older workers must be changed "if we are to prevent one of the greatest wastes in our use of manpower."

The age limit at which permanent employees are taken into the Government service is 40. Older persons may be hired, if they have special skills or war service.

Temporary employment is given to persons up to the age of 60, but this is also exceptional, and is generally done during a period of rapid but impermanent growth of certain government services, such as the present Department of Defence Production.

Mr. Martin said that since 1900 the age of the average person has been extended by 20 years, and that this fact occasions a new approach to the whole question of old age. The Government might help industrial employers to find this new approach if it explored the possibility of raising the superannuation age of government employees from 65 to 70.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The sale of a herd of 164 British Friesian cattle, belonging to the late Mr. Norman Gee, which was held at Pottersbury, near Towcester, England, realized \$160,257.

Congratulations are in order for the second group of R.A.F. student navigators graduating today at No. 1 Air Navigation School, Summerside. May their world spanning travels bring them here again.

Mr. George M. Moore, who observed his ninety-third birthday anniversary yesterday, is an inspiring example not only to his community and Province but to the business world of Canada. His thousands of friends and acquaintances rejoice in his continued good health and spirits.

As the end of Viscount Alexander's extended term as Governor-General approaches the Canadian people can thank Their Excellencies for demonstrating what that high office ideally calls for. Returning to military responsibilities, if that is the Field-Marshal's lot, his reputation stands at the very top of a most distinguished group of contemporaries.

The first third of this winter has been milder than normal on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico and colder than normal on the west coast. The New York Times' expert steps well out on a limb and predicts that from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15 New York, and presumably the Maritimes, will enjoy higher than normal, or much higher than normal, temperatures.

Quebec Legislature sitting since November has prorogued, and now politicians are anxiously waiting for word as to when it will be dissolved and the date of the next election. Under their new Provincial Liberal leader, Mr. Lapalme, the Liberals feel they will give the National Unionists under Premier Duplessis a stiff run for victory.

Visiting huntsmen are a sore trouble in their season. We want them for the business they bring us, yet we do not like them to skim the cream of the birds while the farmers who, more or less, look after them all winter, are too busy on the land to participate in the opening of the season.

It is satisfactory to learn that in Toronto there is an opinion that potato prices are not too high, only the public have been accustomed to buy them too cheaply. If the buying public could be made to realize in the consuming centres that the more they had to pay for their spuds the better they would appreciate them, more satisfactory it would be all round.

Robert Burns, greatest lyric poet Scotland has ever produced, was born near Ayr this date 1759. His father was a poor gardener and farmer but nevertheless managed to give his children a good education. Burns was one of the first to free English verse from formalism.

Real Life Drama



The Poet's Corner

EMPTY HOUSE

Swallows foregather in the sun-warped eaves; In August neighbours mow the trampled hay; About the dooryard; and the land receives The full, the close, attention landmen pay To fence and furrow. But the old house stands Unlived in, useless, open to the rain.

The Age-Old Story

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Doubtful Blessings

Dorothy Thompson, the widely known newspaper columnist got herself a television set for Christmas, and in a recent article gives her readers her reaction to it. "Since this infernal machine has been in the house, conversation reading, music, and games have all gone out of it. In the days that we have sought channels for hours on end, we have not found one single program to fill an evening as satisfactorily as did our old pursuits. Most of them are unmitigated trips; most of them are dramatizations of tenth-rate detective stories; very few of the comedies are even occasionally funny enough to get a real laugh and the cliches are excruciating."

Notes By The Way

The St. Kitts Standard is awaiting, "with tense expectancy," the first new seed catalogue. As for us we just can't wait to see that glorious thing in color on the cover, that won't grow in our garden! —Ottawa Citizen.

Looking over his paper files for 1891, which is 60 years ago. Editor John Marsh of the Amherstburg Echo found an advertisement for Charles McLean, who was prepared to deliver milk in Amherstburg at four cents per quart. —Fergus News-Record.

Detroit is not the place you'd expect to find a blacksmith, but one has turned up there, and not surprisingly it's a tale of woe he has to tell. It was the need for a building site that drew authorities to the spot where this rarely David Goodman, plied his trade. The housing people told him he'd have to move by March 1, and with the grace of someone retreating from a last ditch he complied. Once upon a time, he commented in passing, he shod 50 horses a day at 25 cents a horse. Now he's paid \$10 for a complete shoeing job, but considers himself lucky if he gets any business at all. Yet he's not sure several others left in Detroit, he said, and he plans to join forces with one of them. They'll specialize in wagon repair. And that's getting to be a lost cause, too. —(Windsor Daily Star).

Time was when women fainted at the sight of a mouse, of a bit of blood or anything else which upset them. It was, apparently, the expected thing for them to do and they keeled over at the slightest provocation. Now one seldom hears of a woman fainting if it does happen, usually it is for some very good reason. We don't know why women of earlier generations fainted so easily. Some say it was because of the tight corsets they wore. Others claim it was only a fad to stress the delicacy of the female sex. In any case, whether it be due to less restrictive "foundation garments," to a tougher disposition, or merely because it is no longer fashionable, women now don't faint easily. Modern women, indeed, are neither squeamish nor queasy. Where some men will "pass out" quickly at the sight of an accident, most women take such things in their stride. A few still equal at seeing a mouse but they are more apt to take after it with a broom than to faint. — Windsor Daily Star.

Those who saw a preview of "Royal Journey" here are high in the praise of the manner in which the Royal visit was photographed by the National Film Board. And, in the United Kingdom, a fine reception was given to it at a special press showing. One critic said the beauty of the scenes was a "revelation" to any who didn't know Canada. This film will be great advertising for Canada in the United Kingdom and other countries where it may be shown. The Royal visit itself of course, was fine advertising. The Sunday Times of London, England, reports the visit, and news attendant upon it, resulted in a great increase in the number of would-be emigrants to Canada. Though business usually falls off during the winter months, shipping and air transport authorities reported it is holding up this winter, with inquiries as to prospects in Canada having multiplied. "Royal Journey" will be seen by millions in the United Kingdom. They will learn through it much more about Canada than they otherwise would have opportunity to do. —(Windsor Daily Star).

United States there is little to convince sceptical Canadians that we should be in any great hurry to bring its doubtful blessings into this Island.

Out in Vancouver, a woman who has "never been strong" has celebrated her 100th birthday. These cases turn up from time to time, and, eyebrows are raised in the direction of the medical profession, in an expression that says, "Another bad guess." But it may not have been a bad guess at all. In all probability the Vancouver woman really has been delicate, at least by comparison with more robust associates. Because she was apprised of her condition, and took care of herself, she outlasted stronger men and women of her generation. It's getting to be a truism that the surest way to live long and keep well is to have an ailment that requires some codding. If those precautions are taken, there is a relief that break down the unwary. Even the hypochondriac is freed for additional years of fretting by his concern for afflictions real and imaginary. This is natural. It's hard to burn out something that resists combustion. — Windsor Daily Star.

Among the petitions presented to the Legislative Assembly during the session of 1845 were the following: From Edward Rupert Humphreys, of Charlottetown, for a pecuniary grant towards aiding him in publishing a new edition of the works of Horace "on a plan, and at a price, which will greatly facilitate the acquirement of classical knowledge."

Old Charlottetown

From Mary Tanton and Isaac Scales, of St. Eleanors, setting forth, that the husband of the former had been killed and the latter severely wounded, while in the discharge of their duty, in endeavoring to prevent an infraction of the laws for the suppression of the illicit trade; that both petitioners have large families depending upon their exertions for support, and praying for relief.

From James Warburton, Esq., of Lot Eleven, setting forth that he as well as others connected with that part of the Island, is put to great inconvenience from the lines of the different townships not being ascertained, and praying that an Act may pass by which they may be able to ascertain what the real boundaries of the townships are."

From Alexander and Peter Scott, contractors for building part of Pownall Street wharf, for a grant to remunerate them for a loss sustained on their contract. From diverse inhabitants of Townships Thirteen, Sixteen and Seventeen, praying that the Bible be introduced as a class book into the Central Academy, for the use of all children whose parents and guardians shall offer no objection, and that a like regulation be extended to all schools throughout the Island receiving grants of public money. This resolution was voted down, on the ground that "whereas the introduction of the Douay Bible, as a class book, into the Central Academy, would give offence to one portion of the community, whilst the introduction of a different version thereof would be condemned by another, so nothing can be more injudicious than to make the reading of the Bible a necessary and indispensable condition of receiving the advantages of a secular education."

The House also received several petitions from "divers farmers and others," praying that "no tax may be imposed on domestic distillation." It proceeded, however, to include in the Revenue Bill a tax of eightpence per gallon "on all spirituous liquor distilled within this Island."

We'll A' Be Proud O' Robin

Let kings and courtiers rise home. So today Burns would use his pen to urge that homes be built for all that need them. It is 193 years since Robert Burns was born at Alloway, Ayrshire. It is 156 years since he died at Dumfries. Yet upon his brow rests Scotland's poetic crown, as lightly now, as then. Almost two centuries have elapsed since Scotland's immortal bard first saw the light of day and, therefore, it may seem futile to imagine just what sort of man Burns would have been had he been born in our generation. Yet in studying his writings we find how aptly his words apply to conditions which at present exist in our own time. Some years back this was pointed out in a Scottish weekly and I now pass it on with but few exceptions. Burns, therefore, would have been more than disturbed at the world's laxity toward religion to day. "Reverence to God I hope I shall ever preserve." He would have deplored the small congregations in our churches. As he thought happy families were essential to a happy nation, he would have written in his own magical harmony that God-fearing nations are essential to a peaceful world. He would have used mystic and violent words to prove that only God's sons can be the "brothers" he desired all men to be. He would have lyrically counselled reliance on the spiritual values of life and wildly decried the secular tinge in present day civilization. In a return to religion he would have seen the "hope of heaven" for the world. O Thou dread Power who reign'st above I know Thou wilt me hear, When from this scene of peace and love I make my prayer sincere. No minstrel ever sang more tune fully than Burns. His words cut still pierce hearts with their made his rhythm can still charm the mind toward all that our world needs today — honesty, forgiveness, love, the finer qualities of humanity. No genius was more wild than Burns. His life was the life of his times, but his genius was for all time. He used it violently and harshly to convey his message to his fellow-men. It remains today as he wrote it, the counsel of one who saw what the world should be for all men and their children. And mind your duty, duly, morn and night! Lest in temptation's path ye gang astray. Implore His counsel and assisting might, They never sought in vain that sought the Lord aright. Truly may the Scots, as they celebrate the birthday of their immortal bard "a' be proud o' Robin"

Peace, thy olive wand extend And bid wild war his ravage end Man with brother man to meet And as a brother kindly greet. Burns lived when Europe was scourged by war. Britain was often heavily involved and at times tasted temporary defeat. Burns hated war. "Misery and ruin to thousands are in the blast that announces the destructive demon." But if he hated war, Burns loved freedom. "I am a Briton and must be interested in the cause of liberty." Proud words, natural from a man whose own country had struggled dearly for freedom. Not only his pen, therefore, but his personal services as a volunteer soldier were given to his country. His hatred of war and of "man's inhumanity to man" would have made Burns an ardent supporter of the United Nations and its powerful efforts for world-wide peace. Burns, in fact, would have seen in the U.N. the practical embodiment of his own vision for all mankind. It's coming yet for a' that That man to man the world o'er Shall brethren be for a' that. Born in a small house which his father had built, and which was wrecked in a storm shortly after his own birth Burns very early in life learned something of the simple joy and happiness that springs from real family life. It was always hard at Mount Oliphant, and the means meager, there was in recompense the warmth of his harassed father. When he left home and went to Irvine, to lodgings of squalor and filth, he nearly died. By that time Burns had started to learn that life had a purpose. He was growing in intellectual stature. His genius was beginning to dawn. He early saw that happy firesides could mean happy families, and that happy families meant a happy nation. He knew the shadows that darkened the life of his own family. Yet always the Burns family had a house — a mortal bard "a' be proud o' Robin"

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for M. Alban Farmer (B.A., LL.B., Money to Loan), Frederic A. Large (B.A., LL.B., Money to Loan), J. A. Carruthers (R.O., Optometrist), J. S. Taylor (Optometrist), Chas. R. McQuaid (B.A., Barrister, Solicitor, Notary, etc.), Allison M. Gillis (LL.B., Barrister, Solicitor, etc.), Matheson, Peake & Nicholson (A.W. Matheson, B.A., LL.B., Barristers, etc.), Byron J. Grant O.D. (Optometrist), H.R. Doane and Company (Chartered Accountants), and McDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).