

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, JAN. 11, 1954

Welcome Curlers

The eighth Confederation Bonspiel commences today at the Charlottetown Curling Club and once again Charlottetown welcomes visiting curlers from clubs throughout the Atlantic Provinces.

The "roarin' game" brings out the best in young and old. There may not be the same excitement any more when a winter's day dawns and the curling fraternity look out and find that it is indeed curling weather.

Fashions change in curling as in everything else. The draw game in which exquisite skill was needed to place a rock exactly where the skip indicated gave place for a time to the western or knock-out style.

What does not change is the fellowship of the curling fraternity. Whether they be easterners or westerners, young or old, skilled craftsmen or salesmen, from cities or from the farm, they all share a fellow feeling for the game and its players.

Emergency Powers

In time of war the granting of special powers to government becomes necessary; it is in fact inevitable. Many circumstances arise which call for immediate cabinet decisions without prior discussion and approval by parliament.

A year ago, when extension of Canada's Emergency Powers Act came up for consideration, it was felt by the cabinet that the legislation was still necessary in view of the continuance of the Korean war and the uncertain international situation.

Parliament agreed to the extension, although a number of representatives expressed grave doubts as to its wisdom. The question is due to come up again this year and it is to be hoped that, should extension be requested, parliament will take more than a casual glance at the proposal before consenting to it.

Senator Crerar's Warning

Are we putting too much emphasis today on security and sacrificing freedom and liberty in the process? This is the view expressed forcefully in the Senate chamber by that veteran parliamentarian, Hon. T. A. Crerar, who states that this question is one of vital concern to our democracy.

Citing Canada's estimated gross annual production at twenty-four billion dollars, and net income at nineteen billions, Senator Crerar goes on to say:

"How much of that amount today is absorbed in taxation? Taking all levels of government in Canada, federal, provincial and municipal, I suspect that fully one-third of the net national income is paid in taxes by all the Canadian people. That ratio is too high. There are sound economists who contend that the danger limit is reached

when more than 25 per cent of a country's net national income is absorbed in taxes. From this total burden of taxation, I should think about \$1,600,000,000 is spent today on social welfare of one kind and another, if soldiers' pensions—which of course must be paid—are included, and of this sum well over \$1 billion is spent in the federal field.

"If there should be a decline in our economy and something in the nature of a depression, or a severe recession, what would the effect be on taxation, and could we maintain the heavy cost of these social security charges? If it were found impossible to maintain these services, except by inflated currency, which of course would be madness, this country might be confronted with dangerous political trouble.

"There is no doubt that the world today is passing through very dangerous times. The great danger to the world, as I see it, is not alone the danger of war and destruction that may come. The greatest danger lies in the deterioration and possible disintegration of the moral and spiritual forces of mankind that are the very foundation and basis of civilization."

"Without Inhibitions"

It is generally assumed that trade among the nations is a powerful aid to good diplomatic relations. One of the objectives of the United Nations Organization is the exchange of goods between the Communist States and the Western world. Thus far the effort has not met with appreciable success, chiefly because of the difficulty in determining just what commodities should be classified as "strategic" materials.

Apparently having come to the conclusion that the best way to get business, even in Russia, is to go after it, forty British merchants are setting out for Moscow with the whole-hearted approval of the government and encouraged by the Trade Ministry's hope that negotiations will be conducted "without inhibitions arising from political considerations."

There will be a host of people both in and outside of the British Isles who will wish the forty merchants every success in their mission. While they are going to Moscow to talk business and not politics, the friendly give-and-take which necessarily will accompany talks with prospective customers might help to break down some of the partitions which more formal diplomatic exchanges have not been able to clear away.

EDITORIAL NOTES

They say that industry attracts industry and Souris is a good example. The latest in a series of developments is a proposed potato chip factory.

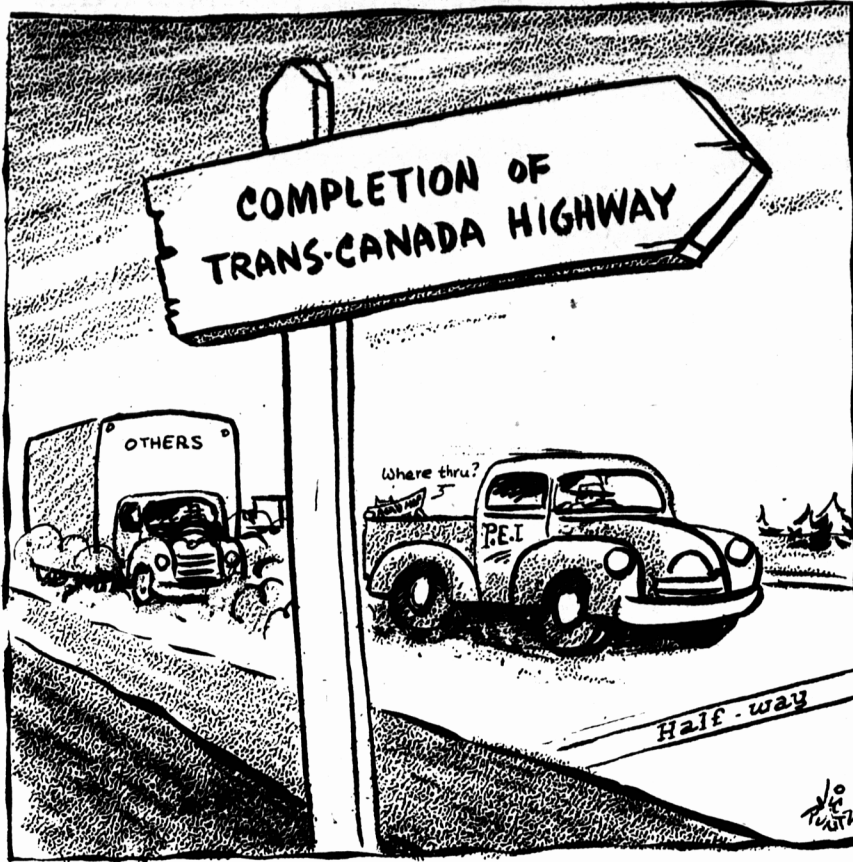
Fishermen long ago had to become as much mechanics as seamen when the marine engine replaced sail. Now that it is proposed that lobster traps be constructed of steel rods instead of wood they will also have to become something of machinists.

The steadily increasing industry of this Province is reflected in the organization of the Trades and Labour Council of Charlottetown and District. As the trend continues, what the farmer may lose in political power he will gain in larger local markets for his products.

Sir Hans Sloane, Irish physician, was born this date 1753. Educated at Paris and Montpellier, he attended Queen Anne and held many high positions. In 1721 he founded the Botanical Gardens in London. A great collector of natural historical specimens and books and manuscripts, he left his collections to the nation. They are now in the British Museum. He wrote "The Natural History of Jamaica".

The late Major Walter A. Smith was well known in many capacities, notably as a soldier, civic official and sportsman. Like many other veterans of the First World War, his active service may well have impaired his health in later years. He maintained, however, his keen interest in sports and military affairs and did much to encourage the younger generation in these activities. The Guardian joins in extending sincere sympathy to his bereaved widow and family.

In The Lead



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.

TRIBUTE TO LATE MR. THOMAS JOHNSTON

Sir, The passing of the late Thomas Johnston on December 30th at the advanced age of 87 was an extreme shock to his family and many friends in Summerside and throughout the Island.

It was suggested to this writer that a tribute be written in honor of Mr. Johnston who was a former Fire Chief of the Summerside Fire Department and also served on the Town Council where Col. E. H. Strong was a member.

Although there is a difference of 53 years in our ages, we thought it only a privilege to assemble some of the fine points in his career with the Fire Department. Although Summerside has had a fire department since before the turn of the Century, only six men have acted as chief and leader of the fire fighting squads, dating back to the first chief, Thomas Frizzell and including the present chief, Abdon Arsenault.

Mr. Johnston took over as chief about 1908 from James A. McNeill but he was acting chief in 1906 when the worst fire in the history of Summerside took place. That fire started at the freight shed and spread throughout the town practically wiping it out as the buildings were of wooden structure. It was an impossible fight as old timers like Claude Kenney, W. B. Mosset and George Sudsbury will tell you.

Their equipment was practically nil. Firemen were forced to pull around a hand pump and got their water also from tanks around the town. Such a thing as hose or hydrants was not in existence. Thomas Johnston, a real pioneer in the Summerside fire department in the following years until he retired in 1916 had some of the hottest sessions in the history of the Summerside Fire Department and with the Town Council.

"We had a \$1,000,000 fire," said Mr. Johnston, "and we will never have another if I can help it." The result was that after the 1906 fire through the efforts of Tom Johnston in his capacity as fire chief that he was directly responsible for the beginning of the installations of the first phases of the Water & Sewerage Commission. The old timers tell me that Tom Johnston fought and fought until he convinced our town fathers that it was absolutely essential. Consequently Water and Sewerage started and the fire losses were cut down. Tom Johnston had thus won a fight and reached a goal which improved the standard of living with bathrooms, water closets and hot and cold water taps being installed in every home which could afford one. He was a plumber himself by trade.

When the second big fire in the history of Summerside broke out in 1916 Tom Johnston was again chief. It broke out right where Smallman's Ltd. now have their ladies' wear department on the second floor in the old Sim-

clair and Stewart building. Tom Johnston's victory in installing Water and Sewerage throughout the town was a marvel and the citizens now realized what it meant to them. The fire destroyed Gourlies Drug and destroyed buildings as far as where Rogers & Arnett's building now stands, but they controlled it there. They had their hose and they put out the fire. Tom Johnston was congratulated on this great fight and he retired soon afterwards as he felt it was time for a younger fellow to take over but he left behind a record of which future chiefs will be justly proud.

In those days of Wm. Matheson, Tom Johnston and Wm. B. McNeill, the firemen received very little pay. Maybe you won't believe us but in any event we will pass it over to you. Today the pay for each and every fireman exclusive of Secretary and Chief is two hundred dollars a year. They are docked five dollars for every fire they miss and two dollars for each meeting they miss. The boys should make one hundred and sixty dollars with ease. Otherwise it is their fault. Mr. Johnston's pay when he was chief will amaze you. He received fifty cents for a practice as did every fireman but they did not receive any pay for a fire. They were definitely voluntary. In the old days their equipment was poor but today we have the best and secure what is needed from the Town Council. It was therefore a struggle in the old days when Mr. Johnston was chief but a pleasure today to serve.

What man on earth has not got a fault? But we know of none that Tom Johnston had although he might have had an odd one like us all but we are sure that when the credit side is ticked off against the debit side that he will have a big credit up above. At the services in the Baptist Church Rev. Charles Britton paid tribute to a fine Summerside citizen and said there were many changes in the life span of Mr. Johnston in Summerside. He said we should not be sorrowful in time of death but look to our maker who we will join. Proudly stepped the Summerside Fire Department at Mr. Johnston's funeral with their new uniforms and ex-chiefs Bill McNeill and Wm. Matheson were in attendance as well as ex-chief Deputy Claude Kenney. My sympathy goes out to the immediate family of Mr. Johnston and I believe I speak for the entire Summerside Fire Department when I say: "Well done good and faithful servant." I am, Sir, etc. JOHN W. McNEILL Summerside.

Notes By The Ways

One place where good looks count is at a railroad crossing. Hamilton Spectator.

We see a native of India has a mustache 64 inches long. Wonder what he looks like when his spirits are drooping? — Hamilton Spectator.

"Perhaps the most valuable contribution which has been made by the British people to the progress of the human race has been their sense of respect and tolerance for the rights of the private individual. From this sense springs those parliamentary institutions of which we are justly proud. — Queen Elizabeth II

This wonderful language of ours becomes more intriguing by the hour and is threatening to outgrow the so-called romantic languages. This observation follows reports that a certain faction of would-be authorities is seeking to drum such words as "smog" and "smaze" out of the dictionary into which they are said to be infiltrating. The fact is that we need about as descriptive as could be. Actually, "smog" is a good English word. According to an authority in the London Times, the word was first printed in the

Globe newspaper on July 3, 1905. It was coined by a Dr. Des Voeux, who was first president of the British National Smoke Abatement Society. The authority who reports it is the present general secretary of the society.—Brandon Sun.

Manitoba is rich in archaeological history and the intriguing story of the past is now being interpreted in the light of ancient village sites, burial grounds and the like, with the Ice Age acting as the focal point for such studies. Plainview Men, for example, are now known to have existed in the region some 10,000 years ago—following the recession of the glaciers but prior to the final drainage of glacial Lake Agassiz. Relics of Indian culture of several hundred years ago have been uncovered while in the Rock Lake and White-shall areas the presence of a "middle-period" or lakeshore culture, dating back about 5,000 years has been determined. This mid-period culture is found only in the highlands of Manitoba, never in the basins of the glacial lake, which indicates it too existed before the final drainage of Lake Agassiz.—Winnipeg Free Press.

The Poet's Corner

ONCE BY THE PACIFIC

The shattered water made a misty din, Great waves looked over others coming in, And thought of doing something to the shore That water never did to land before. The clouds were low and hairy in the skies Like clouds blown forward in the gleam of eyes, You could not tell, and yet it looked as if The sand was lucky in being backed by cliff, The cliff in being backed by continent. It looked as if a night of dark intent Was coming, and not only a night, an age. Some one had better be prepared for rage. There would be more than ocean water broken Before God's last "Put out the light" was spoken. —Robert Frost.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. M. 14) SAME OLD COMPLAINT

From an anonymous letter in The Examiner of Aug. 28, 1888: "When were the streets of Charlottetown in such a disgraceful condition? They are a disgrace to the Mayor and every one of the Councillors, who, I presume, are too busy in fostering their own schemes and cliques to pay any attention to the comfort of those who are even now called on to pony up so liberally their large taxes. Such conduct in the representatives of our city cannot fail to reap its own reward on January next. What in the name of goodness does the City Surveyor find to do that he cannot find time to deposit some clay or ashes at the plank crossings? A couple of days' work from the squads of men engaged on our streets would nearly finish all to be done in this line. Who are the Street Committee formed of? and what are they about? Are they like Rip Van Winkle, asleep for long years? If one of their august number should happen to break his wagon—or even his neck, it might be over one of these abominable planks, what a beneficial change might take place!"

Indialogue

By Gerald Steele 4th Year S.D.U. Student

THE JOINT-FAMILY SYSTEM

It is rather difficult for us to imagine a family of nearly 200 people living under one roof. In it we find great-grandfathers and grandmothers, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces and all other brands of relationship found in a group spanning three or four generations and which does not break up except for the daughters who marry into other families. Although 200 members in one family are found not too often, smaller numbers of one hundred or so are very common. This type of family development in India is known as the joint family.

India seems to have retained many institutions in their early form without the possible advancement of evolution. Of these institutions can be mentioned the Hindu religion, the Vedic system of medicine and the joint-family system. In the development of the institution of the family all peoples have passed through similar stages of progress. What may be called the "patriarchal" stage is one of these. Because of the necessity of large numbers for the procurement of food and for combat, defence, sons did not leave their father's holding when they got married, but took their wives into the household and lived under the direction and supervision of the eldest male. With consequent development of conditions in society generally, this picture changed in most cultures of the world.

With expansion of communications, more developed methods of agriculture and food-producing, the introduction of industry, mining and trade, young men saw a wider world than they were imagined; a world full of possibilities for a livelihood such that they left their father's fireside to establish homes independently and under new circumstances. The new development in political authority in which a civil ruler was recognized and obeyed as the rightful law-maker and law-enforcer of the state, made this shift from the authority of the patriarch possible. Now instead of authority divided among the heads of families, there was one supreme authority as head of many families. Fewer hands were needed within the family now too since great progress in the task of food-raising enabled fewer people to accomplish more.

In India conditions were not ripe for this latter change so that today the joint-family system is very common. The authority of the patriarch however does not replace that of the civil ruler but rather supplements it.

While viewing this institution in the light of present-day problems, certain advantages and disadvantages can be pointed out. Anything which results in the promotion of families of such numbers as are found, tends to make society very unwieldy and resistant to change. The larger the group the more complicated are its associations and its obligations so that normal reactions to social change cannot be counted upon by social planners working to bring about relief to India's many problems.

The joint family besides making society very unwieldy, discourages initiative and youthful vigor so necessary for a dynamic evolution. In our culture, a young man can start out on his own and with the intention of building for his future and happiness, he is not hampered by the mistakes of others and the discouraging factor of seeing nothing really concrete for this work. The young man in the joint-family system is equally responsible for his many relatives as he is for his own wife and children. Having to contribute his savings to the common family pool, he is not encouraged to the same extent as he would be were he master of his own affairs.

Because of this tradition and the general uncertain nature of the Indian economy, young men are an extremely conservative and unadventurous lot. They are not of the mentality which lends itself to risk-taking and speculation. Rather than consider a

chance opportunity they will remain a mere subsistence occupation which is at least certain in its provision. The same holds true with farmers and investors in business. Being equally cautious, the farmer will not subscribe to any development in technique or seed or fertilizer until he sees its results proven, while the investor or manufacturer is interested only in projects of proven economic worth. Because of these disadvantages generally, progress is slow both because new methods are adopted with great reluctance and because the spirit of inventiveness and initiative does not adequately provide for the country's needs without assistance from outside countries.

On the plus side, Indians are proud of the fact that the joint family does not provide a suitable milieu wherein grows the spirit of individualism and competition so prevalent in the West. From his earliest days a child rears that the slogan for survival is "one for all." Always he must co-operate fully with the other members of his group both for his own good and that of the others. Along with the need for co-operation comes the training in responsibility. The very young must scour pots for auntie as well as for mother and carry water for uncle as well as for father. The five-year old boy is cow-herd first and then introduced to the other chores on the farm suitable to his age and strength. When he is a young man, his earnings are not his own but are at the disposal of the family generally.

The most valuable asset of the joint family in addition to those of responsibility and co-operation is that of security. Life anywhere is insecure but in India it is inestimably more so. Their death and sickness are as one of their own with which they try to appease the wrath of the gods, are indicative of this insecurity. The security offered by the joint-family group results from the sense of oneness found in it and from the tradition of joint responsibility. A child, for example, has more security in the joint family than in the single family because on the death of one or both parents he will be cared for by his numerous relatives as one of their own. In our culture such security is more subject to chance. As would be expected, a child in many cases does not distinguish between his mother and any other relative because he is equally cared-for by all. For parents such assurance of welfare for their children is a matter of contentment especially in their inability to provide protection in other ways. Old folks too are at an advantage—that is, they expect to share the fortunes of their children. There is no system of old-age pensions in India nor any organized plan for homes for the aged so they would face a very uncertain future were it not for the accepted tradition which sees them well fed in the family circle.

Whether on the whole, the institution of the joint family is advantageous or disadvantageous, it is difficult to say. One thing is certain and that is, it is gradually disappearing in the face of changing social conditions which not only make its existence difficult, but make its continuance less necessary.

The Age Old Story

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

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