

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 1953

His Passing Mourned

News of the death in Ontario yesterday of the Rev. G. Carlyle Webster comes as a shock to his many friends in Prince Edward Island.

During his long residence here as pastor of Zion Presbyterian Church he came into contact with all classes of our citizens, and his zeal and devotion to duty were traditional.

Although not a native of Prince Edward Island, Mr. Webster's attachment to this Province was well known. He loved and understood its people, shared in all their struggles and worked untriflingly for their moral, cultural and material improvement.

Royal Journey

On Monday evening Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh commence their Commonwealth tour. Their first stop, and it is merely a stop and not a visit, is on Canadian soil.

It is significant that in this, her Coronation year, the Queen should spend considerable time in her realms other than the United Kingdom. It ushers in a time when Her Majesty will be able to feel as much at home in her capital at Ottawa or Wellington as in London.

There was a time when kings and queens used to travel almost continuously around their kingdom. The successors of William the conqueror, for instance, possessed numerous manors and were constantly journeying about the country from one to another.

Royal travel in modern times is very different. Each country visited by the royal couple has its own machinery of government. She has her councillors and her judges wherever she may go within the Commonwealth.

Largest Traffic Areas

Proof of the grievous state of affairs on the world's streets comes to hand in the booklet, "World's City Traffic, 1950-51," published in Denmark and compiled by the Copenhagen police.

The years 1950 to 1951 brought a sizable increase in the number of motor vehicles. In 1949, the mean figure was 117.50 per 1,000 inhabitants; in 1950, it was 121.49 and by 1951 it had risen to 134.04.

The increase in the number of motor vehicles was accompanied by a disturbing rise in the totals of killed and injured in

traffic accidents. Whereas traffic fatalities averaged 8.62 per 100,000 inhabitants in 1951, they rose to 9.13 in 1952.

Attention paid to traffic offences varies a great deal from city to city. Comparing illegal parking offences in the world's two largest cities, for example, the survey finds 46,740 such cases in London in 1951 and a corresponding figure for New York of 707,095.

The discrepancies in the figures for drunken driving were even greater. Police procedure in this matter, the booklet observes judiciously, "differs widely." To take an example: the number of drunken drivers arrested in New York in 1951 amounted to a mere 289 whereas Stockholm—only one-tenth of the size—produced 589.

Not As In The Old Days

Preparing for Winter conditions is a far cry from what it was earlier in the century, recalls an Ontario exchange.

Take the ordinary home, for instance. Not so long ago many of these homes were banked up with earth, late in the Fall to keep out the cold blasts around the floors. Several of the rooms in the house were closed off. A Quebec heater was put up in the dining room, or, in the more progressive homes, in the living room.

The "final days" as the first heavy snow threatened, saw a big drive on the stores of the nearby town or city and an abundance of supplies laid up. For in those days it was quite possible to be isolated by snow or mud for quite a long time even early in the Winter.

But those times have changed. Many farm homes now have storm windows. In not a few it is a matter of turning up the thermostat to get more heat. The house is still used in its entirety, even though the blizzard howls outside, and roads are seldom blocked, even to motor traffic, for more than a day.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 25th Sunday after Trinity, 26th after Pentecost.

On Sunday Maritime Command of the R. C. A. F. will be responsible for defending Montreal against attack from London, Ontario. The attackers will be radar-controlled Mustangs and the defenders will patrol with Lancasters.

There should be a future in oysters in this Province. The high quality of the Malpeque oyster is widely recognized and the Fisheries Research Board reports that there is enough good oyster ground for a much larger industry than at present.

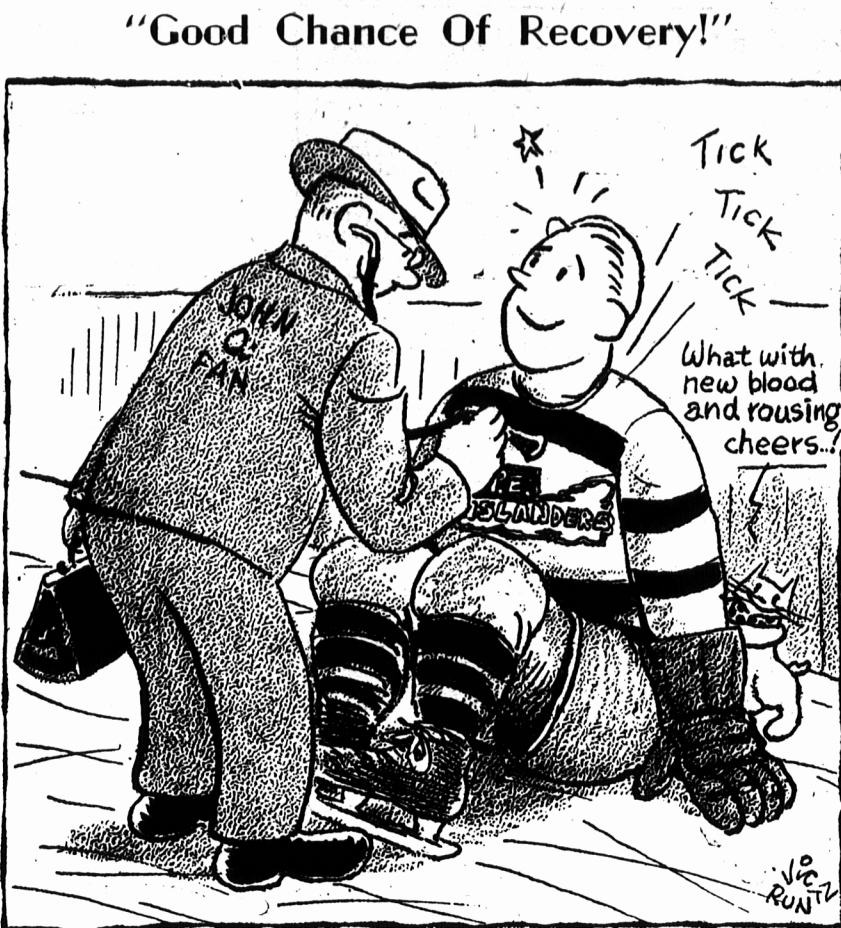
Pay increases for all armed forces personnel and about 75 per cent of classified civil servants have been announced in Ottawa. The remaining civil servants may take comfort from the information that their cases are "receiving immediate consideration."

The legal standing of the Prince Edward Island Potato Board must now be considered clear from every practical aspect. All that remains is to make the scheme work and reports indicate that an overwhelming majority of farmers and dealers are prepared to give it a chance.

The six New England governors recently sampled lobster from each of the six states on numbered platters. On a secret ballot the lobsters from Vermont, which has no seaboard, came out at the top of the poll. This sort of thing tries one's faith in contests in general. What would happen if Prince Edward Island suddenly started to win prizes for high quality automobiles, watches and cognac?

The larger share of the defence budget being mooted for the R.C.A.F. will mainly go for higher equipment costs with only a "slightly increased" defence effort according to a recent report. It seems to be necessary to run continually faster in order to remain standing still. The other two services will really be up against it if the total defence appropriation remains unchanged.

Sir Arthur Thomas Quiller-Couch, ("Q"), English author and professor of English literature, was born this date 1863. While still at university he published "Dead Man's Rock" which established him on a literary career. About the same time he completed R. L. Stevenson's "St. Ives". He made no distinction between good literature and good journalism. However trivial the subject, he always wrote with style. In 1900 he published his "Oxford Book of English Verse", recognised as the successor of Palgrave's "Golden Treasury".



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.

SPEAKING OF LOGGANS

(Ottawa Journal) Sir—In Toronto Saturday Night I see an extract from your estimable paper to the effect that you were unable to determine the meaning of the word "loogan" as used by the Charlottetown Guardian in a comment to the effect, "pigeons are loggans compared to many other wild birds."

The Poet's Corner

VANITAS VANITATUM O Vanity of Vanities! How wayward the decrees of Fate are; How very weak the very wise; How very small the very great are!

Though three a thousand years are past Since David's son, the sad and splendid, The weary King Ecclesiast, Upon his awful tablets penned it,— Methinks the text is never stale, And life is every day renewing Fresh comments on the old, old tale Of Folly, Fortune, Glory, Ruin.

Hark to the Preacher, preaching still! He lifts his voice and cries his ser- mon! Here at St. Peter's of Cornhill, As yonder on the Mount of Her- mon: For you and me to heart to take (O dear beloved brother readers) Today, as when the good King spake Beneath the solemn Syrian cedars. —W. M. Thackeray.

Old Charlottetown

"William Tanton returns his sincere thanks to the inhabitants of Charlottetown and the Island in general, for the kind and liberal support they have hitherto afforded him, and begs leave respectfully to inform them that his son Thomas Tanton has just arrived from London with the newest fashions, and having been under the instruction of the first masters in that great metropolis, he has completely acquired the new and superlative system of cutting and making up in the first style, and has furnished himself with all the apparatus for fitting the human frame in the most exquisite manner. W. and T. Tanton beg leave to inform the public that they have commenced partnership in the above business, and flatter themselves they will not fail to give the most perfect satisfaction to those persons who may favour them with their commands. Having opened a correspondence with one of the first houses in London, they will be supplied with the

Privy Council At Work

(Mr. R. K. Burge in The Ottawa Journal)

LONDON, Nov. 11. "Tweedy"? "Doddering"? If those are epithets you think of applying to the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, now hearing the last Canadian constitutional case that will come to "why think again."

I strolled yesterday morning into the modest Downing Street building where the committee has long had its home and to which, after its displacement by the Luftwaffe, it has now returned. I (the entire public) waited a few moments in a small anteroom otherwise occupied by a dozen bewigged and bejewelled courtiers (all but two Canadian) and a handful of clerks, stenographers and the like. Then "Counsel in, please," and I advanced to occupy one of the four big leather chairs that are the public gallery.

Their five lordships heads and shoulders appeared above an arc of about 60 big tomes stood on end on the committee's polished table. Four of their lordships wear big spectacles, four are bald or balding, all are smartly dressed in dark suits, immaculate white collars; the board, you might suppose, of a national bank or a trans-continental railway system. Lord Porter, the chairman, is the eldest of them (five years older than Mr. St. Laurent) and a lawyer since 1905, a judge since 1934; a life peer, as is Lord Tucker, sitting on his left.

Lord Porter has a thin, fine-drawn face, with lips that in repose look sour, but when he smiles, as he often does, his face lights up with charm. Lord Tucker, sartorially elegant, has the air of the head of a big business with a taste for open air, looks grim rather than when he smiles. Next to him, Lord Justice Cohen (not yet a peer), Lord Tucker's exact contemporary at New College, Oxford; best known to the public as chairman of the "Cohen Committee" which prepared the comprehensive amendment of company law a year or two ago. He is small, vivacious, likes golf and shooting, and by his looks might well be a top-ranking doctor.

On the opposite side of the semi-circle, Lord Asquith of Bishopscote, another life peer, sixty-three years of age, fourth son of the late Herbert Asquith, former Foreign Secretary, he just had time before World War I to complete a fabulously brilliant career at Oxford but, owing to the war, was not called to the Bar till 1920. He is the baby of the committee, 10 years younger than the fifth member, that Lord Oaksey (first baron), who was formerly Lord Justice Lawrence and who was in 1945 British President at the Nuremberg trials.

Lord Oaksey said little — seemed less genial than his round face and figure lead one to expect. As for Lord Asquith, he was red-headed in youth, and still has the white complexion that goes with that glorious tone, but today his abundant hair is also white. He looks the studious intellectual, speaks with quiet precision, never shows awareness of the bite in his questions and comments. Incidentally the back of his chair is draped with what is either a rug or a shawl—so maybe his weakness is drafts.

The case began a week ago. I found that the Attorney General for Ontario (Mr. Dana Porter, Q.C.), had ended his appellant argument, and counsel for Alberta was nearing the end of his. It was like old times to listen to the proceedings. Dimly I knew what the case was about, and I was lent a scarce document which slightly (very slightly) added to my understanding. Without some pre-knowledge I should have been completely lost. Counsel for Alberta was talking about grain elevators, whence he moved to a hypothetical milk-

newest and most splendid prints of fashions regularly. —Royal Gazette, Jan. 6, 1835.

The Passing Scene

By Observer IN REPLY TO A LETTER

There has come to my desk a communication from "A Prince County W. Institute member" (presumably the W. stands for Women's) relative to the series of articles on "The Impending Crisis" which appeared recently in this column. It is a very interesting and thoughtful letter indeed, and if it represents the kind of thinking that is going on in the Women's Institute and similar organizations it is something for which to be thankful.

It is the eternal problem of how to correct the glaring economic discrepancies which exist among the peoples of the world. "We have and the 'have-nots' have always been at loggerheads, and more than one nation has used the unbalance as an excuse for war. Until comparatively recent times the situation stimulated very little interest. It was only after the end of the war that the beginning of a new outlook in this respect. The better off nations (the Western nations, at any rate) began to see that in their own interests it was stupid to go hungry, illiterate, and without even elementary social and cultural advantages. This, of course, is the principle behind Unesco, the Point four program, the Colombo Plan, and so on. In each there is a combination of compassion and good politics.

Undoubtedly all this represents a great forward movement, but there has not yet been found a workable solution to the problem of how to turn surpluses in one country into bread for the millions in another. Whichever way you look at it it does seem unfair and unjust for one country to have millions of bushels of wheat in storage year after year while a friendly country millions of human beings are actually in a state of semi-starvation.

The easy way, most people would suggest, would be for the government to buy so much of it and send it without more ado to where it could be used to save and sustain a few lives. But easy ways are not always practicable ways, and we may be sure that the government has long before this explored the situation from every possible angle. All sorts of things enter into the problem—international agreements, trade balances, economic pacts, and other things which modern governments have to consider in the overall picture of their responsibilities.

It would be a wonderful thing if human want anywhere in the world could be alleviated by plain logic and simple arithmetic. Unfortunately the issue is much more complex than that. Meanwhile, the fact that influential organizations and many individuals are concerning themselves with the problem indicates a distinct advance in social thinking, and that is good.

"A Prince Co. W. Institute member" informs me that "these trips when such Canadian cases are heard in Ottawa instead of London?"

And—much more important—will there be quite the detour that I am imagining of a feature of the Judicial Committee? No one can conceivably feel that in a constitutional case of this kind there is the slightest suspicion of prejudice in these Downing Street proceedings. And will the Canadian counterpart achieve the wonderfully effective committee manner—the most searching test I can imagine of a counsel's understandings of his case and the strength of his arguments?

"I think that what you are saying is this... Lord So-and-So will begin and then, when counsel agrees, continue 'but is not that an argument against, not for, you?'"

On embarrassing occasions of this kind a counsel sometimes silently and slyly puts a book away on the desk behind him, clears his throat, and embarks upon an entirely novel theme. Never mind, that's what "hammer and tongs" means when it's the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Age Old Story

And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the Lord which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee. Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. . . . And Jacob was left alone, and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

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