

THE GUARDIAN

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St. Patrick's Day

The patron saint of Ireland is no legendary figure, but one of the greatest Christian missionaries of all time...

The observance of St. Patrick's Day has been one of the grand old traditions of the Benevolent Irish Society...

Also in keeping with time-honoured practice is the B. I. S. dramatic entertainment, which drew large audiences yesterday afternoon and evening at the Prince Edward Theatre...

Three outstanding objectives have been pursued by the Benevolent Irish Society since its organization here a century and a quarter ago...

Taxing The Small Merchant

Taxes, it is said, tend to favor Big Business at the expense of the small merchant. Truth of this observation is illustrated in the proposed provincial sales tax on retail sales.

Consider the problem posed by the retail sales tax for the merchant whose business is largely confined to low-priced items. How will he be able to add three per cent to the cost of a soft drink which sells for seven cents?

Even on more costly items there would be a problem. Trade practices of selling items at 99 cents would vanish. Three per cent added to 99 cents makes an impossible calculation for the retail business.

Defence Contracts & Recruiting

Consistency is, perhaps, an overrated virtue but it is one in which the Federal Government seems conspicuously lacking.

In the matter of recruiting the objective is to attain a maximum expansion of the nation's armed forces by voluntary means. In striving for this each Province and locality is given every encouragement to contribute its quota.

It is otherwise with war contracts. The desirability of making full use of available manpower, worker's housing, sources of raw materials and transport are as nothing compared with cost of production.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. Patrick's Day... Tomorrow 6th Sunday in Lent. Palm Sunday.

With the sale of the M. V. Eskimo the "Jones Line" would seem to be out of business.

War threats, the cost of living index, bridge sites and even election prospects are very much in the background as Irishmen hold the centre stage to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Philip Massinger, English dramatist, died this date 1640. In 1606 he went to London and wrote plays, mostly in collaboration with Tourneur, Dekker, and above all, between 1613 and 1625, with Fletcher.

It would appear that the question of dropping the means test for old age pensions will turn not on matters of principle but on the practical problem of determining over what age group a general pension can be awarded without reducing the value of the pension to those in actual need.

Minister of Industry and Natural Resources Cullen reported in the Legislature that over \$11,000 was paid out in fox, crow and skunk bounties last year.

It all depends on whose ox is gored. Britain's Socialist Government has been nationalizing her industries at a wholesale rate, irrespective of private interest and enterprise.

In India it is now proposed to introduce legislation to check the growth of India's superabundant population. This won't be altogether new. Before British administration and civilization stopped the practice, the restriction consisted not of taxing the parents, but of drowning the excess of girl babies.

The practical silence of the Transportation Commission report on our Wood Islands-Caribou service seems inexplicable save from the point of view that it is a private commercial enterprise without the scope of the Commission. But it will be a serious matter if the service the company renders is to be handicapped for the lack of adequate subsidy.

The service clubs of the Province, of which there are quite a few, are suggested by the Premier to add to their undertakings that of purchasing, say 1,000 acres or so of cheap land and planting it in trees, as is being done in some other provinces.

The trouble with our P. E. I.-Newfoundland trade development plans seems to be that no sooner was it inaugurated than the Federal Government subsidized big interest competition from Montreal and Cape Breton to help out the St. John's merchants, who were suffering loss from the Island's direct shipments to outports.

New Brunswick potato producers like our own are complaining bitterly of the inadequacy of markets and prices in the past year. Mr. H. C. Greenlaw told the Legislature that although there are fewer potatoes on hand than at the same time last year, the situation is worse, because the same markets are not available this season.

The C. C. F. in New Brunswick is making political history. For what is believed the first time in the annals of the 165-year-old Legislature a political party opposed to the government of the day presented a brief to a regular cabinet meeting.

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.

TEACHERS' SALARIES

Sir, - The Minister of Education, Hon. F. A. Large, in a recent speech in the Legislature, put forth certain figures regarding teachers' salaries which through their incompleteness might be misleading to the public.

The salaries of urban teachers which he quoted might seem relatively high when compared with those of rural teachers. Nevertheless, this does not mean that the urban teachers receive more from the government.

On the contrary other factors being equal, the urban teacher receives twenty-five dollars a year less from the Government than a teacher in the rural areas.

All teachers in the Province receive from the Government the same statutory salary and if there is a difference, then the school boards in the urban areas are the ones responsible.

We are, Sir, etc., A GROUP OF TEACHERS

The Poets Corner

CLONMACNOISE From the Gaelic of Angus O'Gillan In a quiet wald place, a land of roses, Stands Saint Kieran's city fair; And the warriors of Erin in their famous generations Slumber there.

There beneath the dewy hillside sleep the noblest Of the clan of Conn, Each below his stone with name in branching Ogham And the sacred knot thereon.

There are laid to rest the seven Kings of Tara, There the sons of Cairbre sleep— Battle-banners of the Gael that in Kieran's plain of crosses Now their final hosting keep.

And in Clonmacnoise they laid the men of Teffa, And right many a lord of Breagh; Deep the sod above Clan Creide and Clan Conaill, Kind in hall and fierce in fray.

Many and many a son of Conn the Hundred fighter In the red earth lies at rest; Many a blue eye of Clan Colman the turf covers, Many a swan-white breast.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) ST. PATRICK'S DAY

"Tuesday last being Saint Patrick's Day, the Irish Volunteers and the Benevolent Irish Society, with music and banners floating on the breeze, marched in procession to the Roman Catholic Cathedral, where a sermon appropriate to the occasion was preached by the Rev. James McKenna.

"In the evening the Society gave a concert in aid of their funds in St. Andrew's Hall, which was so well filled that numbers were unable to obtain admittance. The bill of fare was large, varied and well rendered. The performance on the Irish pipes was highly appreciated. Last evening the concert was repeated for the benefit of Mrs. Stevenson whose services in connection with Tuesday night's entertainment were favourably acknowledged.

"At the annual meeting of the Society, which was also held at St. Andrew's Hall on Tuesday evening, the following gentlemen were appointed office bearers for the ensuing year: Patron, Hon. D. Erenan (re-elected); President, James Reddin, Esq. (re-elected); Vice President, Mr. Francis McCarron; Assistant Vice President, Mr. John A. McKenna; Treasurer, Mr. Martin Hogan; Secretary, Mr. Walter C. Grant, (re-elected); Committee on Charity, Mr. John McQuillan, chairman, Messrs. Peter Doyle, Owen Winters, Michael Kelly, Patrick Farmer, Michael Hennessey, Francis McKenna, Standard Bearers - Messrs. Hugh Creamer and John Hennessey."

-The Islander, March 20, 1968.

FIRST MAYOR STURGIS Sack - (CP) - R. S. Nadurak was elected first mayor of Sturgis over W. L. Ronove. Sturgis became a town on March 1. Mrs. Amy Palmer, only woman candidate for council, was also elected.

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FASHION PLATE



Pop Goes The Weasel

(Montreal Gazette) There have been a number of financial crudités in Canada's political life. But perhaps a rather special claim may be established for the decision to make a direct grant of \$65,000,000 to the Canadian wheat growers.

The grant is not being made because the wheat growers did not do well under the terms of the wheat contract made by the Government with Great Britain. It is being made because they did not do quite as well as they and the Government expected.

But direct grants of this kind, and under such circumstances, can hardly be made to one group of producers alone. The Government can hardly become a political discriminator of persons.

The rush to Ottawa is already beginning. The cheese producers (who were also tied down to a long-term British contract) have announced that they are meeting next week and similar demands for "adjustments." And then there are the apple growers who may ask for more. They were not merely disappointed in their market, they had almost no market at all.

And then there are the fishermen of the Pacific and the Atlantic coasts. They too think that they have at least as good a case for a direct grant.

If these claims are to be met (and it is hard to see that one claim is not, on broad grounds, as reasonable as another) hopes of cutting Government spending will disappear. The bottom of the treasury box will resemble nothing so much as a sieve.

It all goes back to the year 1948, when the Government's planners, were planning. Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner, as Minister of Agriculture, received much the same kind of advice from his advisers that other cabinet members were receiving from theirs. According to the advisers, Canada was bound to enter into a slump after the war—a slump that might slip downwards somewhere near a depression. It was in accordance with such advice that the Government planned, more or less all along the line, to let loose an inflation, at the very time when it ought to

have been planning to hold it in. According to Mr. Gardiner's planning, it would be a smart thing to negotiate a long-term contract for wheat with the British Government. As an inducement to the British to enter the contract, a low price would be set—one lower than the world-price of wheat. When the great recession came, the world-price would tumble, and the Canadian wheat growers would find themselves riding above the waves.

Now it is all about over, and the calculated depression has failed to materialize. The Canadian wheat growers, instead of going better than average in a depressed world, have done somewhat worse than average in a booming one. The Wheat Pools and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture were all for Mr. Gardiner's idea in 1946. Now they expect Mr. Gardiner to pay them for his mistake.

It is true that Mr. Gardiner has been backed, by his own error of judgment, into a tight political corner. Perhaps some sympathy should be felt for the necessity of his cabinet colleagues to buy his way out. But the trouble is that the taxpayers have to put up the cash.

In order to soften the blow for the taxpayer an appearance is given of skilful financial juggling. As Mr. St. Laurent announced to the House, there happens to be \$65,000,000 left over from the money provided for the British loan. As the British don't want it, it is being turned over to the Canadian wheat growers.

But there is no real connection between paying \$65,000,000 to the Canadian wheat growers and having \$65,000,000 left over from the British loan. The only resemblance between the two amounts is that they happen to be the same. That

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Notes By The Way

A super type of bed has appeared in Boston. The ad. says it's a ceiling-high mahogany thing, with television receiver, home movie projector, air-conditioning controls, hydrostat, thermostat, aerostat, thermometer, barometer, hygrometer, fire extinguisher, radio, spot reading lights, an intercommunicating system with other rooms in the house, and a bounding-board down the middle so that when a large man rolls over his wife won't jounce. Priced at \$11.95, with an anti-morning device added, one of these would be a must for the well-equipped home. - (Ottawa Citizen.)

The role of Canada in the mobilization of the free nations in their own defence is extremely impressive. An army, navy and air force on a scale unprecedented in Canadian history in peace time is being created, and the fighting quality which Canadians have demonstrated on many battlefields makes the military contribution a most important one. But even more significant is the utilization of Canada's mines and forests for the common defence. - (New York Herald Tribune.)

A fortune in blueberries is left untouched in Northern Ontario every year. Thousands upon thousands of bushels of this small fruit ripen and shrivel away each season, their only function that of adding extra color to hundreds of miles of landscape. Some day, not too far away we hope, people in this section of Canada are going to capitalize on the abundance of blueberries throughout the district. A reminder of this is a recipe just handed on from the Department of Lands and Forests. Toss a handful of blueberries—in season—or frozen blueberries at this time

\$65,000,000 could have been applied to any one of a score of other urgent matters, from paying for defence to reducing the national debt. Because it goes to the wheat growers as a direct subsidy, it only means that there is still another \$65,000,000 for the taxpayer to make up out of his own well-worn pocket. It is an old saying about sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind. But in this instance this grain reaper will come tapping at the taxpayer's door. It is the taxpayers who will pay to ease the political embarrassments of Mr. Gardiner's big mistake.

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