

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink". CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, JAN. 29, 1952

East To Suez

The barrage of invective and the deliberate provocation of "incidents" which for the past few weeks have pinpointed Egypt as the latest trouble zone in the Middle East have done little or nothing to reveal the real cause for the unrest which now bedevils that unhappy land. Superficially it would seem that Egypt was but the latest victim of the new wave of intense nationalism which has swept Asia and the Middle East since the end of World War II. In fact, however, the events in Egypt reflect rather a fear firmly held by many of its citizens that the Suez Canal under British control is an invitation to the Soviet Union to attack. From this somewhat illogical premise is drawn the equally fallacious conclusion that if the British would only evacuate the Canal Zone, the menace of Soviet aggression, in so far as Egypt is concerned, would miraculously vanish overnight.

Such is the background against which the weak and corrupt Waft Government of Nahas Pasha now dismissed sought to justify its failure to suppress the terrorism and violence which has flared up time and again in Egypt during the last few weeks. Indeed, it even serves the purpose of Nahas Pasha to foment anti-British sentiment in order to distract public attention from the shortcomings of a regime which has done nothing to alleviate the economic distress of a country where the distinction between rich and poor is still as appalling as it was in the time of the Pharaohs.

Happily, the specious logic of Nahas Pasha and his opportunist henchmen does not find universal support in more thoughtful Egyptian circles. Amr Pasha, who until a few weeks ago held the post of Egyptian Ambassador to London, has recently had the moral courage to point to certain definite advantages in the Anglo-Egyptian treaty. Rifaat Bey, legal adviser to the cabinet and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has expressed the view in an article in the Journal d'Egypte, that "even if Egypt and the Arab states were to declare their 'rality, they could not maintain it'."

Indications of a desire for a rapport with London are not lacking. In such circumstances, it would be shortsighted to lay upon the Egyptian the blame for the events of the past few weeks. Rather, it would be better diplomacy to encourage the moderate elements in the country in the expectation that in the course of time Egypt will once again have a government sufficiently strong not to need to foment external difficulties in order to conceal its own ineptitude.

Serious Wool Problem

The latest disastrous fires in Australia reminds us that wool auctions in that country have had to be deferred for the reason that expected wool shipments from the sheep ranches have not reached the auction mart.

The reason given is that intense drought and serious forest and range fires had cut deeply into the wool clip during the past few months.

A year ago, notes the Lethbridge Herald, wool prices were being paid in Australia and New Zealand as high as \$3.50 a pound. This was on the basis of a par value for the Australian pound which is near \$2 a pound Canadian. The result was that flocks were greatly increased, and now a drought has struck. Drought is a terrible thing in Australia for hundreds of millions of acres of sheep range are in the dry interior where almost desert conditions prevail when moisture fails. Sheep have been known to die by the millions in drought periods.

The Australian wool clip reduction will add to the worries of a world short of wool. After the last war there was a tremendous stockpile of wool, largely controlled by Britain. That stockpile has disappeared. Some areas have increased their sheep population but others, as is the case in Canada have seen a steady diminution of their sheep bands. Even high wool prices have not been enough to offset the reduction in sheep population in many countries, including Canada.

Synthetic fibre manufacturers have been making the most of the wool shortage but there continues a strong demand for wool which is irreplaceable for many purposes. Canada, it is claimed, could triple its present sheep population with profit if labor could be found to man the sheep ranches.

Will There Be Gerrymandering?

The redistribution bill is likely to wipe out several parliamentary seats in Saskatchewan, including those of three leading Progressive Conservatives. Referring to this The Gazette says:

"The House of Commons that met after the general election of 1949 did not accurately represent the will of the people. No doubt there were many explanations for its anomalies. The splitting of the vote among several candidates in a constituency was certainly important. But it seems that the gerrymandering of scores of constituencies across the country was not without its intended effect.

"If the general election of 1949 be compared with that of 1945 it will be found that the Liberal Party (including the Independent Liberals) increased its total vote by only four per cent. But it raised its membership in the House from 125 to 193. As for the Progressive Conservatives, they increased their total vote by 1.3 per cent. But they saw their representation in the House drop from 67 to 41. As for the C.C.F. Party, it saw its total vote drop by two per cent, but saw its representation drop from 28 to 12.

"Unconstitutional practice establishes a certain degree of public tolerance. But the toleration of abuses in democratic institutions cultivates cynicism at the expense of faith. It is not good enough in Canada, or in any democratic country. This is a time when no democracy can afford to make itself incapable of logical defence by the gerrymandering of constituencies."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The U.K. Parliament reassembles today.

Something seems to be troubling the conscience of Senator Grant, otherwise why should he worry about the effect of the restoration of the slow train mail service?

It is not announced what title the Governor-General will adopt as an Earl, but automatically his son and heir will become Lord Alexander, the title of his viscounty.

Canadians generally will be pleased that Prime Minister St. Laurent favors the designation "Royal Mail" and the cypher GR. Tourists also may get a thrill out of seeing the outward trappings of Canadian constitutional monarchy.

Sir Frederick Hymen Cowen, musical conductor and composer, was born this date at Kingston, Jamaica. His works include oratorios, operas, symphonies, cantatas, overtures and the settings of over two hundred songs. His ballads, "The Better Land" and "The Children's Home", won great popularity.

The equalizing of the value of the Canadian and American dollar has its disadvantages as well as its advantages. It is highly satisfactory when we have anything to sell across the border to know approximately in advance what it will bring us. On the other hand, as in the case of the grain growers, when contracts are entered into on the basis of the exchange rate of the American dollar, there is liable to be a loss when the two currencies reach par.

A solemn warning. Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart, writer, diplomatist, former Under-Secretary at Britain's Foreign Office, published on the eve of Burns anniversary a book entitled "The Whisky of Scotland in Fact and Story", which includes this prediction: "Unless the Scots themselves continue as a race of whisky-drinkers, in the end the art of making whisky in Scotland will be so changed and altered that the claim to describing it as 'Scotch' will disappear."

What was formerly the Eastern King's County Board of Trade is now known as the Souris Board of Trade, but this change in name does not imply any limitation of its membership and interests to the town of Souris. It was made for the purpose of avoiding confusion with the King's County Board of Trade, which meets at Montague. As will be noted in the advertisement of the Souris Board's annual meeting tomorrow afternoon, rural members are particularly invited to attend.

The Quebec Legislative Assembly has unanimously approved a bill to oust Councillor Harry Binder from the City Council of Montreal without further ado. The bill provides for the provisional ousting of any person who usurps office after a Superior Court ruling that he is not qualified to be councillor because of a conviction for a criminal offence. Binder has clung to his seat while waiting the results of his appeal from the Superior Court to the Court of King's Bench, and the appeal from court to court was estimated to take two years. Now the Councillor is suspended until his final appeal is announced.

Sitting Pretty



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) CITY COURT

"The Legislature this season have abolished the old Small Debt Court of this city, and created a new one in its place, to be named 'The City Court of the City of Charlottetown.' The former jurisdiction is increased to eighty dollars. The proceedings are greatly simplified, and will be similar to those in the County Courts. The Judge of the Court is the Stipendiary Magistrate. This will somewhat increase the gentleman's duties, but the benefit to the citizens will be, we are sure, more than compensate him for any additional labour." -The Examiner, Aug. 22, 1878.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "THE LOSS OF THE EURYDICE" They say who saw one sea-corpse cold That he was of lovely manly mould, Every inch a tar, Of the best we boast seamen are. Look, from forelock down to foot, Strung by duty is strained to beauty, And russet-of-morning-skinned, With the sun, salt, and whirling wind. Oh! his nimble fingers, his gnarled grip! Leagues, leagues of seamanship Slumber in his forsaken Bones, and will not, will not waken. -Gerard Hopkins.

Which Comes First

(Sydney Post Record) The Ottawa Journal says: "Between Levis and Quebec City there is a splendid ferry service, but in these grandiose days it isn't good enough. Now there is talk of spending \$18,000,000 on a traffic tunnel under the St. Lawrence to link the two cities." Not only that. The Journal might have mentioned the combined railway and highway bridge spanning the St. Lawrence River only a short distance above the City of Quebec.

With its excellent ferry service and its great bridge, Quebec already is ably served. The ferry boats ply constantly across the river to and from Quebec and Levis. It is service far ahead of what we get at the Strait of Canso.

All this raises a question. Which will be made first, the Quebec-Levis Tunnel or the Canso Causeway with its linking bridge across the Canso channel of navigation? It's a pertinent question.

The pressing need for an adequate Canso crossing has stared Canada in the face for generations. How long will the appeal for the least needed Quebec-Levis Tunnel stare Ottawa in the face before the engineers are ordered to get busy on that job?

Cape Breton Island doesn't begrudge Quebec any good fortune it may gain but Cape Breton does most urgently assert that first things indeed do come first. From the viewpoint of national defence and national self-interest as well as the just interest of Nova Scotia, it's as plain as a pike-staff that the Strait of Canso crossing is of paramount importance.

MARINE IVORY

The male narwhale, similar to the porpoise, has a spiral horn of pure ivory from six to 10 feet long.

Notes By The Way

We regretted as much as anyone the fact that North Bay and the quints were left out of the National Film Board's lengthy and well-screened version of the Royal tour. The meeting with the quints was one of the highlights of the trip, in our opinion, but the Film Board chose to ignore it. -North Bay Nugget.

In one of the sessions at the White House Field Marshal Sir William Slim was conversing on the difficulties of getting a decision to use either the new American automatic rifle or the new British automatic as the standard rifle for the North Atlantic Treaty nations. "I suppose what we shall do," he remarked sarcastically, "is to compromise on an inferior bastardized rifle which is half British and half American." Field Marshal replied Mr. Churchill, "moderate your language. Remember that I myself am half British and half American." - J. B. Restor in New York Times.

A diplomat whom Lethbridge and Southern Alberta and all Canada for that matter have come to like, Sir Alexander Clutworthy, British High Commissioner at Ottawa, is now dean of Ottawa's diplomatic corps. This man Clutworthy is one of the best good relations builders that Britain ever sent to Canada. Really, some inducement should be held out to make him a permanent resident of Canada. We wonder if Ottawa has ever considered asking him to take over Lord Alexander's job at Rideau Hall. He and his good wife would meet what is expected of the occupants of the gubernatorial mansion. -Lethbridge Herald.

As proposed by an Inter-Commonwealth Universities Conference in Madras the achievement of common policies among institutions of higher learning would be of mutual benefit. It would facilitate the recognition of degrees, the work of research and the exchange of teachers and students. The conference, an annual affair since its 1948 meeting at Oxford, may have opened a new chapter in Commonwealth co-operation. It was attended by representatives from India, Pakistan, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Hong Kong and the Gold Coast. -Ottawa Citizen.

It does not take superhuman precedence to predict the opening of the Soviet Union's third television station, in Kiev, will be propaganda jubilation for much paper and ink and hundreds of thousands of hours of radio time will be devoted to this new "proof" of the superiority of Soviet science, the genius of the Russian people etc. Before the deluge begins, however, three footnotes are in order. First the station was supposed to be completed under the Fourth Five-Year Plan before 1951, so it is at least a year late. Second, that same plan called also for a fourth TV station to be opened in Sverdlovsk, but that still remains for the future. Third, this "decadent bourgeois country" (our U. S. A.) has 108 television stations without benefit of socialism, economic planning, or even "the invincible genius of Comrade Stalin." -New York Times.

From the long-range viewpoint, the dairy cow is one of the most important factors in soil conservation and fertility maintenance. The cow, since horses have almost passed out of the picture, is probably the heaviest consumer of hay, and hay is a soil conservator and soil builder. It is a specified crop for one year out of every three or four in any long-range crop program. The pasture field from the cow gains sustenance, and is one of nature's best soil restorers. Thus it might be deduced that dairying and its decline is serious not only as it affects its direct

products but because it is important to the natural resources, to mixed farming and our very way of life. The real change that has come about is the swing from agricultural areas to industrial areas, which has increased rather than decreased reliance on the dairy industry. The problem must be faced from the viewpoint of this change. - (Woodstock Sentinel-Review).

Immigrants do get jobs, of course. That doesn't mean they take them from native Canadians. It means, in most cases, jobs which otherwise would be going begging. Immigrants are willing to accept many types of work which many Canadians do not wish to take. They can't be choosers. They get started at some job work hard and do well, in most instances. - Windsor Star.

Formal start of drilling operations at Ivry in the Laurentians north of Montreal, for titanium provides another example of scientific beauties and vacation facilities being sacrificed on the altar of industrial progress. Ivry is located almost in the geographical center of Montreal's favorite vacation land. -Financial Times

Embarrassing typographical errors still continue to turn up, and the most amusing of the latest crop has just appeared in the carefully edited New York Times. Naturally it wasn't amusing to the Times which has run a tight little correction confessing all. It had started out to say, in a news story that the victim of a flooding did not report the incident until last Wednesday because he was afraid. But printers took over at this point, and the sentence appeared as: "Although Mr. Tyson was flogged on the night of December 1, he did not report the incident until last Wednesday because he was a fraud." - H. L. MacPherson in Windsor Star.

The results of an experiment currently being conducted in Saskatchewan may affect the driving public's opinion of parking meters. Recently a row of parking meters on one of the city's main streets was equipped with electric plugs. When motorists deposit their coins, they are provided not only with parking space but with an electric outlet in which they plug in their heater cords. Since their car engines are being kept warm while they are standing, Saskatchewan motorists can comfortably assume that they will have no difficulty starting them, no matter how wintry the weather. How well this scheme will work out remains to be seen. Certainly, the idea behind it—that parking meters should be made to serve a purpose other than that of fattening the civic purse—seems sound and altogether admirable. In Saskatoon, the open-mouthed meters must look a little less objectionable than they do in other cities. -Ottawa Citizen.

"Oh, well, ignorance is bliss," said a man to the other day apropos of something or other. How often does one hear that glib quotation used as an excuse for a blunder, for an error in judgment or worse? "Where ignorance is bliss," the poet has written, "it's folly to be wise." The operative word of course, is "where" but even its addition does not make sound logic out of an assertion that can at best have but an occasional and fleeting truth. There are higher aspirations for the human soul than a state of bliss in the earthly sense. But we go on repeating "ignorance is bliss" and we sometimes believe it. One dictionary defines ignorance, with admirable brevity, as "lack of knowledge." In some realms of philosophy in the soft-hued rosy world of romanticism the aphorism may have some application, but in the challenging world in which we live today, "it's folly indeed to think that ignorance is bliss." - Calgary Albertan.

Ships And Weather By A Father Of Confederation

The Diary of Hon. A. A. Macdonald January to April 1870

(Continued from yesterday's Guardian)

Wednesday, 28th January: It rained and thawed a good deal last night, blowing heavily from the S. and S.E. This morning the wind veered to the W. and N.W. weather fine and at 10 a.m. still thawing. The postman driving his wagon. A good deal of the ice up the river going out this morning with the N.W. wind. Fine day to come down the Halifax shore. A little frost in the evening but none after ten o'clock. During the night it got quite calm.

Thursday, 27th January: The morning was as calm, bright and beautiful as a morning in May. By ten a light warm air came from the South. The streets very muddy, people getting out their carts and wagons again. Archy in Charlottetown with a sleigh and will have a task getting home with it. A light southerly air continued until 5 o'clock when it hauled round to the N.W. and continued so all night. Wind light and night fine with very little frost. Not sufficient to make ice to carry a person even on the small puddles.

Friday, 28th January: Morning fine, a light air from the North West scarcely to the freezing point. No ice as far up as Brudenell Point. Ferry boat running as usual. Business has been very dull this month owing to the want of snow and ice which prevents travelling. Arch'd. came from town to Montague today with the horse and sleigh, crossed the town ferry track was here all the way home. Left the sleigh at Montague and brought a wagon from there on.

Saturday, 29th: Also a bright and fine day but freezing pretty hard all day with a light air from the S.E. which was not sufficient to prevent a skim from forming on the river. The ferry boat crossing all day. Expecting the 'Arrow' in from Halifax tonight; wind very light. Making out roads order for Arthur & Co. This night at 10 p.m. the schr. 'Arrow' arrived at the wharf from Halifax. Left Halifax on Wednesday the 26th and had a fine passage down. No ice except a little lolly out from the wharf for 300 yards, brought there by the S.E. wind today. Several passengers aboard.

Sunday, January 30th: At four o'clock a.m. a snow storm began with the wind E. which hauled round until at noon the wind was about north and at dark N.W.: it blew hard the greater part of the time and the air was thick with drift. We went to chapel but there were very few there. It did not freeze much until after dark when it froze pretty hard until Monday morning. Austin and his wife here with wagon since Saturday.

Monday, January 31st: Wind west, a good deal of lolly in the river this morning caused by the frost last night. The snow a good deal drifted with the high wind yesterday. By noon much finer and warmer. Landed the flour, 75 bbls. from the 'Arrow' and think of loading her again for Newfoundland. River clear.

Tuesday, February 1st: River caught across this morning but broke up again. I left for Town at 9 o'clock; morning fine but soon began to snow and by 12 it was a perfect storm which continued increasing till night with snow falling and drifting all the time. Got to Town at 2 p.m. and attended meeting of Board of Works. Cold at night and very rough.

February 2, 1870: In Charlottetown at Miss Rankin's. Cold but fine morning after the storm. Road must be a good deal drifted up in the country. Attended meeting of the Bd. of Works in the morning and Council in the afternoon.

Feb. 3, 1870: Thursday pretty cold in Town. Bd. of Works and Council today.

Feb. 4th, Friday: Very cold last night. Harbour at Georgetown frozen over this morning or yesterday. In the evening after being in Council and at meeting of the Board of Works today went to a meeting at the Athenaeum where the Debating Club were discussing the question of Confederation. The meeting ended in rather a noisy manner without coming to any division. Thermometer said to be 17 below zero last night, being the coldest of the season.

Saturday, Feb. 5, 1870: Charlottetown; bought a Little Wanzler sewing machine for 150 today. Finished work of Board of Works and in the afternoon came home, brought out Alex. Macdonald and got home at ten p.m. Roads heavy

and day pretty cold. Horses first crossed to Aitkens. Sunday, Feb. 6: A fine day, people crossing and skating on the ice between here and Wightman's. Arch'd. and Eliza went to the Parker's to Brudenell Point. Monday, Feb. 7th: Getting the orders ready for dry goods from Arthur & Co. Tuesday, 8th: Austin and I went to Charlottetown today; roads heavy. Wednesday, 9th: Selecting dry goods from samples from Arthur & Co.'s agent at Charlottetown. Thursday, 10th: Completed this and settled accounts with Steamboat Co.; gave them cheque for the balance due them.

Friday, 11th: Came out this morning to Montague, examined the wharf sites there and attended a Confederation meeting this evening. Opinion generally against Confederation on any terms. Got home at 2 o'clock in the morning. Saturday, 12th Feb'y.: Had some snow and appearance of a storm. Some rain at night. The channel open up to Wightman's Point. No horses crossing below the upper end of the town. Foot passengers crossing to Wightman's.

Sunday was a fine day. Mrs. Laird here to tea. Mr. Laird came in afterwards; spent a quiet day. Monday, 14th Feb'y.: A bright clear day but pretty sharp frost in the forenoon. In the afternoon went out with Austin's horse and drove across on the ice to old Westaway's, this being the first day on which horses have crossed so low down the river. It is still open to Wightman's Point. Laird and Mrs. Laird were here. Mr. Carvell and several other visitors. The Institute met this Monday evening and with readings and music passed off very well. Archy in Charlottetown today.

Tuesday, 15 Feb. 1870: Raining; this morning. Ice open almost to Wightman's wharf. Mr. Laird and Mr. Carvell here all the forenoon and to dinner. In the afternoon Mr. Carvell drove Dibble and Mr. Laird drove Mattie to Cardigan. Mr. Carvell and Dibble returned at 11 1/2 o'clock; night fine, soft and mild.

Wednesday, 16th: Wind north in this morning with snow and drift which continued all day but not very cold. Harbour still open to Wightman's Point. Thursday, 17th Feb'y: A bright cold day, roads heavy and not much of anything doing. Making out an order for hardware to send to Thomas for shipment. Archy drove up to the Bridge and brought down Helen Macdonald with him.

Friday, 18th Feb'y: Bright and fine, wind S.E. pretty sharp frost last night. Wind S.E. today. We drove to the Thomas's in the afternoon to call. Sent off orders for hardware to Thomas and Kelso by this day's mail.

Saturday, 19th Feb'y: It blew hard from the S.E. last night and began to rain about 10 a.m. this morning, raining heavily by noon and continued thawing all night. Sunday, 20 Feb'y: was a foggy, misty morning, thawing rapidly. Ice and street very soft and wet. Did not go out anywhere except to Mamma's in the evening afternoon.

Monday, 21st Feb'y: was hard in the morning but soft in the day and afternoon. Went over to a meeting at Dundas Grand River Bridge school house to discuss the question of Confederation. Road very soft. Drove Wightman across to Grand River to a meeting to discuss the proposed terms of Confederation, and after a discussion of 5 1/2 hours in which all the speakers were opposed to the proposed terms, we got home at 3 o'clock in the morning. D.D. Clay held forth at the meeting for two or three hours against the Canadians and their proposals.

(To Be Continued)

The Age-Old Story

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. FIRST ARCHIVIST Nova Scotia had the first Provincial Archivist in Canada when Thomas B. Atkins was appointed in 1857.

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