

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, JAN. 29, 1954

Boy Scout Campaign

Each Boy Scout Troop and Wolf Cub Pack in the Province is financed by its own Group and largely through the efforts of the boys themselves. It is one of their principles to give value for money received and they do not ask the public for free donations.

The headquarters of the Provincial Council, its full-time Field Commissioner, the permanent camp site and equipment at Camp Buchan and manifold activities in fostering scouting throughout the Province all require funds. In addition there is the sum of \$500 contributed annually to the Canadian Headquarters.

Most of the work in connection with the Boy Scout Association is done on a voluntary basis. In fact only one Scout official in the Province is paid, the Scoutmaster, Cubmaster and their assistants, the Group Committees, members of the Provincial Council, Commissioners and other workers all give their time free for the purpose of giving as many boys as possible the opportunity of taking part in the great game of Scouting.

The movement is steadily increasing its scope and the number of groups continues to grow. To train and direct the necessary leaders is one of the essential functions of the Provincial Council. It deserves every assistance in carrying on the good work.

A Common Heritage

An inter-denominational Church service called a "service of dedication for political and civic leaders" was held recently in Buffalo, N. Y. Reputed to be the first of its kind it was attended by the heads of the Republican and Democratic parties, the mayor and councillors of Buffalo, many leaders in county and city organizations, and official representatives from the various religious bodies.

"The real heart of government," said Mr. Taft, "is the operation of the government's personnel. Solid moral foundations are needed in government as never before."

In commending the new departure in political thought the Buffalo Courier Express sees the service as "an event of major importance, an expression of a community desire to obtain the best possible government at all levels."

Level Crossing Menace

The Board of Transport Commissioners has been holding public hearings all over Canada on the problem of level crossings, and on February 3 it will hold in Ottawa what is expected to be the final session. Meanwhile, notes the Ottawa Citizen, fatal accidents will continue. It is not enough to say that death at crossings represent only a small proportion of total automobile fatalities, or that this type of tragedy has remained practically constant during the past 25 years (about 1.1 per 100,000 of population), while deaths from all motor accidents have risen sharply during the same period.

Recently the superintendent of safety

for the Canadian National Railways, Mr. J. P. Wadsworth, reported that out of some 870 accidents (many of them involving death or injury) at CNR crossings last year, 269 were caused by vehicles striking trains instead of vice versa. The company, he stated, had filed claims against car owners in 705 cases and had collected a total of about \$151,000 for damages to trains and railway property.

Board statistics, which deal only with accidents involving injury or loss of life, show that in roughly 25 per cent of crossing mishaps, the vehicle strikes the train. They indicate further that the victims are frequently experienced and careful drivers who, too late, discovered an unlighted freight train in their path. On the other hand, truck and bus drivers whose company regulations require them to stop at all crossings rarely figure in the accident statistics.

"It seems obvious," says The Citizen, "that until a persistent menace on the public highways is reduced—it is unlikely that it can be abolished altogether—drivers must be prepared to be doubly vigilant. At the same time, public authorities, with the help of the railways, should greatly speed up the work of crossing protection and grade separation. Much larger federal contributions are indicated. Yet these in themselves will not be enough. The weak link in the present chain of effort is the municipality with no funds to spare. The answer probably is to bring the provinces into the picture as direct partners, which at the present time they are not."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Something new in tourist attractions is becoming popular in Ontario. Starting with Mr. Gouzenko, they have gone on to have a former officer of M.I.5. British army intelligence as operator of a tourist resort.

The Indian troops who guarded the unrepatriated prisoners of both the United Nations and the Communists will soon be returning home themselves. They deserve credit for the fair and efficient performance of a thankless task.

The recent storms put a stop, at least temporarily, to talk of milder winters. But as one swallow does not make a summer, neither does a storm make a winter.

The average winter temperature could go up considerably without necessarily putting an end to blizzards and zero weather.

Investigation is going on to determine why there has been an increase in the number of dogs who attack humans in Labrador. Before being too ready to blame the dogs, authorities might bear in mind that there has been a notable increase in the number of men in the area.

Some 2,000 physicists are attending the 55th annual meeting of the American Physical Society at Columbia University, New York. It is safe to say that during the nine years it has attracted far more attention than during the whole of its previous history.

We are apt to think of bird migration as being due to weather conditions but it seems that what wildfowl are more interested in is Daylight Saving. According to some authorities, at least, the birds go north to take advantage of the long hours of daylight and move south again for the same reason.

The cost to a company of defending itself against combine or other charges may not be money spent in earning its income but it obviously is a necessary expense in order to remain in business to be able to earn anything. The Supreme Court of Canada has overruled a departmental interpretation making such expenses non-deductible.

Frederick Delius, British composer, was born this date 1863. He received early piano training in England and Germany and continued his lessons in Florida, where he had gone to grow oranges. He completed his training in Germany. His orchestral suite, "Florida", was performed in 1888 with Grieg and Sinding in the audience. He provoked a storm in Sweden by a satirical rendering of the national anthem. In later years his eyesight failed.

Parliament is finding the need for an authority on heraldry in connection with proposals for the adoption of a new Canadian flag. The creation of such a college of arms or similar body is, in fact the logical preliminary to settling the flag issue. It would have a continuous function to perform in registering flags and ensignia for business houses, schools, clubs and the armed forces. Simple but inspired heraldry was developed in the services during the Second World War. The ensignias used by our fighting troops should be properly recorded.

Once Upon A Time



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.

WINTER ROADS

Sir.—It has been proposed by two of your readers that cars and trucks be laid up for three months of the year and our snow plows discontinued to keep our winter roads open. I would like to know how many years these letters have been written before they were sent to your paper.

In olden days our farmers used the scythe and flail, nowadays we use the binder, thresher or combine. I wonder if these gentlemen would like to go back to those days or continue to use modern machinery.

Why be selfish? Open our roads far and near so that all may move their produce, livestock and essentials with the ease of one who lives beside a shipping centre.

Why spend all our money on sunny roads? It is possible now to drive anywhere on this Island during the summer months. Is it not better to be able to drive all the year round than only seven or eight months of the year?

Open roads for prosperity. Close roads for unemployment. For many on this fair Isle, it is the boys and leave the fields which we used in olden days to those who do not wish to use our winter highways.

I am, Sir, etc., ANOTHER OFF THE PAVEMENT RESIDENT, 1954 New Wiltshire.

FAILURE RATE AT P. W. C.

Sir.—Now that the results of the Christmas examinations at Prince of Wales College have reached parents, there are many who are justly alarmed at the situation that exists in that institution. The question that so many parents ask is, "What is the cause of the high failure rate, especially in the academic classes of the First and Second Years?"

Indeed, some students become so discouraged that they withdraw from the college and look upon themselves as complete failures, incapable of finishing high school. Surely this is not a desirable thought to reflect upon as a young person is planning a life work.

If any one is skeptical that a problem exists, let him look up figures given by the principal of the college in his annual reports. In the 1951-52 there were 180 students registered in the academic classes of the First Year at P. W. C. Of these, 63 (or 35%) gained certificates and clear pass standards at the end of the year. This means that about 65% failed or withdrew from college, a few possibly because of sickness. In the Second Year academic course the situation is even worse: 29 (24.5%) out of a registration of 118 passed successfully and a failure rate of 75.5% is indicated. It would be interesting, indeed, to know the percentage of Second Year students who have clear passes in all examinations written before the last Christmas holidays.

The Age Old Story

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or even thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

'Small Accounts'

Once again, the Canadian Government has refused to exempt all medical and hospital expenses from income tax. Such a move, it argues, would take too much revenue from it. And the Income Tax Division would have a lot of extra work with the "almost endless stream of small accounts that would be submitted."

Here in the words of Mr. W. M. Benoit, Parliamentary Assistant to Finance Minister Abbott we have the authentic voice of a Government that neither knows enough, nor cares enough, about the life of its people.

Under present arrangements, Canadian taxpayers can only claim exemption on medical expenses which exceed 3 per cent of their gross income. The average wage-earner in this country makes \$3,000 a year. This is taxed on medical costs up to \$90. The \$4,000-a-year Canadian is taxed on medical costs up to \$120, and so it goes.

To official Ottawa, medical bills of \$50 and \$100 may seem trivial. Similarly, the estimated \$35 million it would lose by exempting such bills from income tax may seem large. We do not believe many Canadians will agree on either count. To the \$80-a-week worker, a \$100 medical bill seems pretty substantial. As for the \$35 million, it is about seven-tenths of 1 per cent of Ottawa's current tax revenue. A Government which cannot trim its spending, and hence its taxes, by seven-tenths of 1 per cent, is in a most rigid position—much more rigid than any of its taxpayers can afford.

to forget that the students of the First and Second Years are still in high school. These teachers lecture the students in university style and set examination questions which the average high school student finds difficult to interpret. It would seem that this very problem has been intensifying within the past few years by the Government's apparent policy of appointing to vacancies in the staff persons from outside the Province with, perhaps, a good university record but with little or no experience in teaching the high school grades. Why do we have to import teachers?

Another major cause of the high failure rate is an overloaded course. Students find that not all the subjects forced on them in the First and Second Years at P. W. C. are required for entrance to university. So much depends on the course one is preparing for at university.

The parents of Charlottetown, with a new high school under construction, are probably hoping that a long-existing evil will be averted insofar as they are concerned. But what about the rural areas not served by high schools? The Government must be reminding them it costs about \$600, for a farmer to maintain his son or daughter at P. W. C. for a year. It is noted that for the year 1951-52 the operating expenses of P. W. C. were \$144,564, for a registration of 485 students. Almost another \$300, per student!

Prince of Wales College exists as a public institution to serve the people of this Province. I wonder if the members of the Government think that it is doing a good job.

I am, Sir, etc., PARENT Charlottetown, R. R.

The Poet's Corner

HOPE Hope is the thing with feathers That perches in the soul, And sings the tune without the words, And never stops at all, And sweetest in the gale is heard; And sore must be the storm That could abash the little bird That kept so many warm.

'Valley Of Blind'

I've heard it in the chilliest land, And on the strangest sea; Yet, never, in extremity, It asked a crumb of me.

Another rugged custom associated with Canada will be lost, if the shaggy three-quarter length coat of buffalo hide worn by the Mounted Police in the West, is to be replaced by a nylon parka.

The new parka will be issued to various RCMP detachments on a trial basis. At the end of the winter, officials in charge of equipment expect to have a good idea as to the effectiveness of the new garment. The buffalo hide coat may not have been worn to an extent by the Mounted Police in the West, but the garment has been worn during the winter by RCMP on out-of-doors duty at the Houses of Parliament in Ottawa and by members of the force throughout the West and far north. The Winnipeg city

Dr. Crisp reports that the fly carrier, technically known as simuliid, damnosum, or the Buffalo gnat, lives in its larval stages in running water and cannot easily be destroyed with insecticide. The insect is known to have a complicated life history. It manages to survive the dry season and the larva of a species found in Kenya lives under water attached to the back legs of crabs.

River blindness is caused by a microscopic organism transmitted by the fly. It is called a microfilaria or pre-larval form of a white threadworm about 30-mm. in length.

The pre-larval organisms become lodged in the skin, breast, eye and lymph glands but it is not known how long they remain in the embryonic form before attacking eye tissue and other organs.

Few cases of the disease among Europeans have been reported, although one Englishman from Liverpool who is said to have "lived native" in the Belgian Congo was afflicted.

Dr. Rodgers and Dr. Crisp intend to make another survey of the diseased areas before launching a full scale attack on the fly carrier with the support of the British Empire Society for the Blind.

TAYLORS FOR THE FINEST DIAMONDS

Notes By The Way

"Wonder what the folks did when there was no radio, television or rural free delivery?" —Windsor Star

This Summer it is going to be harder to find a bed. Vancouver has more than at any time in the memory of the most obliging hotel clerk. —Vancouver Province

A college professor failed to answer every question asked him on a recent quiz program. College professors are far better at asking questions than answering them. —Kitchener-Waterloo Record

Now comes the news that a machine has been invented and put into use to translate from one language into another. According to the story, a "pretty brunette" who knows not a word of Russian sat down at the keyboard of an electronic brain and copied Russian sentences, which were forthwith rendered into English as though rendered in its own language. —Halifax Chronicle-Herald

In 1819 a certain proud father, in a moment of parental bliss, deposited ten dollars in his son's name at a New York bank. The following year he made another deposit which brought the balance to fifteen dollars, and proved to be the final investment. Recently the same bank credited his 13th consecutive dividend to the account which brought the balance to 4,638.84. The family of the original depositor has died, leaving no heirs, and the bank retains the fund as a memory to its first years of business. The results of thrift, however, can be great, providing you live long enough. —Canadian Doctor Magazine

How would you like to have a pocket calendar that would last a lifetime. No yearly models (every year would be the same). No wondering whether Christmas would fall on Tuesday or a week end (it would always be Monday). No making adjustments (if you are a business statistician) for the fact that a month may have anywhere from twenty-four to twenty-seven weekdays in it; they would all have twenty-six. These are some of the advantages that we set forward for the world calendar which will be proposed at the next session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in a resolution by the delegate from India. The proposition is not a new and sudden one. It has been urged by the World Calendar Association for several years, and is backed notably not by Sir Harold Spencer Jones, astronomer royal of Britain. —Christian Science Monitor

This is a report of a remarkable phenomenon of the period. It is the story of a young man and wife who made it a point to pay cash for everything they purchased. The time arrived, however, when the decision was reached to have a home of their own and in the ordinary routine secure credit or mortgage as under the National Housing Act. On application, they were told that they had no credit rating. And before a mortgage loan was secured, the young man had to go out and dig up references. Here, then, was a case where a young man with a clean face and clean sheet, fully employed, could not secure a loan until he had more or less proved his integrity. In other words, he could not incur a debt because he had never been in the habit of going into debt before. He had his incongruities. —St. Catharines Standard

Another rugged custom associated with Canada will be lost, if the shaggy three-quarter length coat of buffalo hide worn by the Mounted Police in the West, is to be replaced by a nylon parka. The new parka will be issued to various RCMP detachments on a trial basis. At the end of the winter, officials in charge of equipment expect to have a good idea as to the effectiveness of the new garment. The buffalo hide coat may not have been worn to an extent by the Mounted Police in the West, but the garment has been worn during the winter by RCMP on out-of-doors duty at the Houses of Parliament in Ottawa and by members of the force throughout the West and far north. The Winnipeg city

A tax in New York was wrecked when a tax collector in the back seat fainted. That's the trouble with those easily read meters. —Hamilton Spectator

A Michigan duck has survived a hunting experience which left him with an arrow in his tail. Meanwhile the hunter may be wishing he had used salt instead. —Windsor Star

What's a trillion? It's a million million. And it would take a person a month of uninterrupted counting to get up to the first trillion. Alberta surely talks big with trillions of cubic feet of natural gas rolling off our tongues. —Lethbridge Herald

In our crowded world no person can live in isolation. Sharing the world with others involves a whole lot of adjustments, the sum of which is civilization. A man's manners are the outward sign of how well he has adjusted himself in fact of how civilized he is. —Hamilton Spectator

Good manners are not just a surface politeness. They are not put on, like a coat, to suit the climate of the times. They are not deliberate. They are instinctive. They are the outward sign of something within the man. In fact manners, good or bad, reveal a lot about the man's inner quality. The foundation of good manners is a respect for the dignity of one's fellow men and women. No one can have that unless he also respects himself. Hence the two unpleasant extremes of behaviour—a too effusive politeness and plain rudeness—are sure signs of a lack of confidence and self-respect. There are some who seem to think they can prove that "I'm as good as you are" by being rude. What they actually prove is not their equality but their own inner suspicion that they are inferior. There are others who attempt to impress their imagined superiority by a condescending over-politeness. All they are showing is their own lack of self-confidence, their secret doubts about their own worth. —Editorial for Young People, Hamilton Spectator

Old Charlottetown

From The Royal Gazette, May 31, 1836:

The fine new Brigantine "Shannon" Simon Dodd Master, now loading at Cascumpeque, will sail from Charlottetown for Cork, on or about the 2nd of June next. For Passage only (having good accommodations) apply to D. Brennan, Charlottetown.

A detachment of the 34th Regiment, consisting of two officers, two non-commissioned officers and 62 rank and file, under the command of Capt. Broderick, arrived in the steamer "Pocantonia" on Friday last, to receive the detachment of the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, stationed here since the 10th of July last. The Rifles embarked the same evening, and sailed the following morning for Picton, on their way to headquarters. The Rifles during the stay of the latter at this place, they lost five men by desertion.

At a land tenants' committee meeting at Bay Fortune on the 16th, Joseph Coffin, Esq., in the chair, a resolution was passed concurring with the general view of other committees, including one from Belfast, "that a majority of the House of Assembly have abused the trust reposed in them, and have turned the power with which they have been invested, against the people, and have treated them and their petitions with the utmost scorn and contempt throughout the course of the last session." The meeting recommended to the other committees, and to the House of Assembly, that the Administrator of the Government be petitioned for protection, by laying injunctions on land proprietors against the oppression of the inhabitants, until justice can be obtained.

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