

THE GUARDIAN

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President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, MAR. 21, 1953

An Enormous Saving

It is an arresting thought that if we did not have the free Red Cross blood transfusion service in operation in each of the eight hospitals in this Province, the 2,883 blood transfusions given last year would have cost those who received them in the vicinity of \$72,000. This is calculating the price at \$25.00 per bottle which is the rate charged, for instance by the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal which operates its own blood bank. This represents an amazing saving to the people of this Province and is only one of the twelve different services provided by the Canadian Red Cross in Prince Edward Island from the funds collected at campaign time each year and for which a minimum of \$33,000 is required.

Each succeeding year more and more residents of the Province benefit as the result of this one service alone. All who subscribe to the Red Cross provide it for one another by their donations of both money and blood. Thousands of Islanders can say today that because of the blood transfusions they received when undergoing a serious operation, or after a severe accident, they have made a much quicker and more comfortable recovery than they could otherwise have done. In this way too, thousands of dollars have been saved because these people have lost less time from their employment than they would have before the advent of this free Red Cross transfusion service.

This is a very expensive service to maintain and is only one of the reasons why the growing needs should be met with larger contributions at campaign time. It is to be hoped that the donations will match the needs.

A Federal Responsibility

The Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) states that all who are familiar with the history of the Transport Board (formerly the Railway Commission), and the Railway Act will be "surprised and dismayed" by Prime Minister St. Laurent's statement in the House of Commons on the seven per cent increase in freight rates.

The Transport Board handed down this decision on March 6. It is so obviously unjust and uncalled for that the Governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland at once protested. Their protests having proved unavailing they have served notice of direct appeal to the Governor-in-Council.

This system of raising rates was condemned after a full dress inquiry with the railways present by the Turgeon Royal Commission. A fair and proper alternative method of raising rates was recommended by the Commission—rates should be raised individually and not en masse. But although Parliament and the Government endorsed the Turgeon Commission, the present Transport Board—"being evidently stiff-necked and not responsive to the wishes of the Government, Parliament or the people of eight of the Provinces"—has chosen blandly to carry on just as if no recommendation had ever been made.

Mr. St. Laurent says he doubts if the Government has any right to suspend or interfere with this judgment of the Board except after an appeal has been heard. He made this statement despite the language of the Railway Act and the history of freight rate control in this country. Section 52 of the Railway Act gives the Cabinet power, without petition or application, to vary or rescind any application, decision, rule or regulation of the Board. The language is unqualified:

"The Governor-in-Council may at any time, in his discretion, either upon petition of any party, person or company interested, or of his own motion, and without any petition or application, vary or rescind any order, decision, rule or regulation of the Board, whether such order or decision is made inter partes or otherwise, and whether such regulation is general or limited in its scope and application; and any order which the Governor-in-Council may make with respect thereto shall be binding upon the Board and upon all parties."

In the past, notes the Free Press, the Cabinet has never hesitated to instruct the Board or to change its decisions by order-in-council. And why not? The Transport Board is not a court. It is merely a body

set up by statute to deputize for the Cabinet in regulating freight rates. Prior to 1904, the Cabinet itself regulated freight rates. The work was done by a committee of the Cabinet. There never was any suggestion when the original Railway Commission was created that it was free of Government direction and control. The Prime Minister apparently, thinks otherwise.

"When Mr. St. Laurent talks in this way," concludes our Winnipeg contemporary, "he speaks contrary to any reasonable interpretation of Section 52 of the Railway Act and in a manner which, considering the record of the present members of the Transport Board and their immediate predecessors, will send chills of anxiety down the spines of all the people in this country outside of Ontario and Quebec."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 5th Sunday in Lent, Passion Sunday.

It will probably be a long time before everyone in the Province has the opportunity of being tested and, if necessary, vaccinated with B. C. G. In the interests of cutting down on the incidence of tuberculosis, however, those who do have the chance should not let it slip by.

Robert Southey, English poet, died this date 1843. He was in early years an enthusiastic admirer of the French Revolution. He received the laureateship on the refusal of Scott and his laudatory estimate of the king, "A Vision Of Judgment", provoked Byron to write the magnificent satire bearing the same title.

For years the operating staffs in the Dominion Civil Service have been trying to get overtime and at last they have succeeded. An Order-in-Council provides that overtime will begin at 44 hours. Starting times, compensatory leave or the equivalent in cash are provided for. For over 48 hours time-and-a-half payment is provided.

For a long time it was considered that air transport would have to be confined to relatively small and light-weight traffic. Such aircraft, however, as M.C.A.'s new Bristol 170 have changed all that. These latter day beasts of burden could readily carry some of the ships in which earlier generations crossed the ocean.

Parkdale and Spring Park are much concerned about sewerage and water supply. Mr. Walter Hyndman, speaking at the West Kent Home and School Association, draws attention to the equally pressing, if not basic, requirement of parks and other open spaces. If they are not provided before a community grows it is almost impossible to get them later.

"The keeping of cattle," says the P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture brief to the Legislature "is the best insurance for maintaining the fertility of our types of soil and . . . there is need in this Province for: first, better cattle; and second, more cattle." This is, perhaps, the most important argument for taking steps to maintain and increase the dairy industry.

The forthcoming retirement of Professor J. George Patterson after twenty years of teaching at Prince of Wales College calls for special observation. Professor Patterson has been an outstanding mathematics teacher, able to impart some of his own wonder at the patterns into which natural phenomena fall when viewed by the mathematician. At the same time he proved a good friend to successive generations of students, an educator in the fullest sense of the word.

The London Times comments on the fact that Stalin's coffin was left open at the funeral. This, it says, was the practice of the Czars, followed for many generations. Why? "The coffins of the Tsars", says The Times, "were left open for the people to see that they had died peacefully and were not the victims of foul play." It will be agreed that there is as much, indeed more, reason to continue the custom under the new Dictatorship as under the old.

The recommendations submitted yesterday to the Government as to ten other Canadian Governments, by the Canadian Welfare Council is the result of a two-year study of the problem of unemployment. Major conclusions are that existing legislation is inadequate, both as to who can qualify for assistance and the length of time for which benefits can be drawn. The Council now advocates Provincial administration with Federal backing and lays emphasis on preventive measures to avoid unemployment. Coming from the source it does, the brief should repay careful consideration.

Sadly Neglected



The Poet's Corner

FROM MAESIA'S SONG

Sweet are the thoughts that savor of content, The quiet mind is richer than a crown . . . Sweet content, such minds, such sleep, such bliss. . . Beggers enjoy when princes oft do miss. . . The homely house that harbors quiet rest. . . The cottage that affords no pride nor care. . . The mean that greets with country music beat. . . The sweet consort of mirth and modest fare. . . Obscured life sets down a type of bliss: A mind content both crown and kingdom is. —Robert Greene (1560).

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

AGRICULTURE PROSPERING

"Two thousand immigrants have arrived at Charlottetown during the past season, others at different ports. Our future prospects are cheering, and show that, while the culture of the earth is the most happy, independent, rational, natural employment of man, the productions of the soil are the safest staples he can produce or traffic in. . . Inquiries for our products multiply. Our markets increase. One vessel which arrived late in the season carried away 7280 bushels of oats, which she obtained at the Queen's Wharf, and completed her loading in the unprecedentedly short period of six days, thus showing the greatest advantage resulting from the use of threshing machines, as that large amount of grain was threshed out during the six days. Another vessel is expected at Three Rivers, from Britain, when the navigation opens, to take back a cargo of oats, which are said to be in request in the London market for seed. Barley is sought for in the United States, etc. Shipbuilding, at present, does not wear a very prominent aspect, nor lumbering. The decline of these may induce farmers in general to devote more of their time to the improvement of their farms. . . Very many respectable persons have come among us to enrich us by their intellectual attainments, by investing their capital, or spending their income. We have room for a great many more, and your committee would rejoice to witness the tide of immigration, of immigrants of a superior class, set in more abundantly to the shores of this Island. . . From the annual report of the Central Agricultural Society, Jan. 5, 1842.

The Age-Old Story

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth.

Notes By The Way

The Dean of Canterbury thinks some tribute should be paid to Stalin for improving living conditions of people under Soviet rule. Does this include those who have been given jobs in Siberian labor camps? —Ottawa Citizen.

Oldest veteran of the American Civil War is dead, aged 111 years. Only a handful of men are left who fought for North or South back in the eighteen-sixties. They were soldiers in their early teens, and now are centenarians. —Ottawa Journal.

The interplay of wit and repartee, the barbed criticism couched in adroit phrase, can be decorations of a parliamentary forum. At their best they lend spice and color to legislative proceedings. Let us have thrust and parry in the legislature by all means. But let's not reduce these interchanges to the status of children's mud fights. —Victoria Times.

In 10 days of racing last year, the Ontario Jockey Club made a gross profit of \$425,798 before taxes, depreciation and other charges. To put it another way, a number of patrons who went to the race track to make money had a gross loss of \$425,798. —Fort William Times-Journal.

Two Canadian fishermen are to teach the Ceylonese how to obtain maximum possible efficiency in fishing operations. This is a development program, carried out under the Colombo Plan. A relief program would consist of sending fish to Ceylon caught by Canadians. The Ceylonese obviously stand to gain far more from development than from relief. —Ottawa Citizen.

Under any circumstances it is difficult enough to get witnesses when a motor accident occurs or their testimony is needed in some other matter. They disappear quickly from the scene rather than lose time attending court. That is easily understandable. But if they are to be deprived of their fees when a case is dismissed, they will be more reluctant than ever. —Toronto Star.

Insurance companies in Canada did a record of \$2,287,028,644 sales business in 1952, up 14.9 per cent from 1951. That is a fine achievement and illustrates the value Canadians put on this form of savings. This tremendous volume of business, however, is a sidelight on the campaign of insurance companies to scuttle government annuities, so they would get a strange

it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

AGRICULTURE

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STUDENT NURSE RECRUITMENT WEEK

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

"WORTH AND GENIUS"

Educational matters, especially as they concern the public school, are much to the fore these days. This could be a healthy sign which will perhaps make up in some measure for the many unhealthy ones. Widespread criticism, even if some of it is uninformed, is better for the schools than general lack of interest.

Now and then among all the trivial pros and cons one comes across an opinion that commands attention and respect. Such an opinion has recently been expressed by an eminent educator who for some years has been executive head of one of the oldest institutions of learning in America. He says that one serious fault of the public schools is that they proceed on the assumption that every pupil is a prospect for higher education in the arts and sciences.

This he considers to be a mistake as the record shows that even in America only 20 percent of the youth eventually find their way to college. In England and other English speaking countries the figure ranges from 7 to 10. His idea is that the public schools should spend more time and effort in locating young people who appear to give promise of "worth and genius". Once found, these should be isolated from the less promising ones and assured of a full college education. Presumably, those of the favoured group who might be unable to afford the money necessary to put them through would be financed by the state as a public service.

The less promising ones and the downright slegsh would not be altogether abandoned, however. After the regular High School program they would be given two extra years of general education, with perhaps some vocational training of one sort or another thrown in.

This idea is not of course new. It is, in fact, quite old. The Greeks way back in the days of Aristotle followed a somewhat similar plan. But it is a new idea for a democratic society. Equality of opportunity is, for better or worse, regarded as a democratic social tenet. In practice it may not always work out satisfactorily. Even so, its official denial would be pretty generally frowned upon as likely to endanger the whole democratic concept of society.

All theoretical considerations aside, there would be practical obstacles in the way of distinguishing between the sheep and the goats or, more literally, the bright and the not so bright in matters academic. That these two groups exist in every school is a fact that will not be disputed. Every teacher is well aware of it and at one time or another has found it a stumbling block in the way of efficiency. This is especially the case in smaller schools where the same teacher is responsible for both the budding "genius" and the chronic dullards. Many a teacher has grown "old and grey" while waiting for a miracle that never seems to happen.

The strange thing is, though, that such miracles do happen. The biographies of the great and near-great provide plenty of proof that there is no sure way of predicting the course of events for either the bright boy or the dull one. Many a lad who outran everybody in his class began to slow down as soon as he was out of school and ended up far behind his class-mate who was always a thorn in the flesh (a "pain in the neck" to his teacher. It is a fact that the great ones sometimes reach the goal ahead of the hare. Creative ability often has a way of lying dormant until long after adolescence has passed and then asserting itself vigorously.

Shakespeare himself, according to all the evidence, was no genius in his grammar school days. Mark Twain, so the story goes, had no liking at all for school. Some of his biographers say he stopped at the third grade. Others say it was the fourth. Our own incommensurable Mr. Churchill, whose skill in English phraseology is fast becoming legendary, makes no bones of the fact that as a boy he was anything but good in English composition. As for Latin, so he says, it was useless for anyone to try and teach him anything about the subject.

It will be suggested by some that the three I have mentioned and others like them were born geniuses and that nothing could have stopped them from attaining distinction, not even the edict of some bureaucratic committee intent on picking out the most gifted. That of course is true. The point is that their genius did not show itself until school days had gone by. It is not true that worth and genius are like the wind "that bloweth where it listeth; we hear the sound thereof but we cannot tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth?"

At the same time it would be foolish to assume that every boy and girl now in public school has a vocation for advanced academic training. Nor would such a state of affairs be at all desirable. Higher institutions of learning have their place, an important place, in our complex society, but they have no monopoly of worth in either an intellectual or a social sense. If a boy in elementary or High School shows a clear aptitude for farming, let us say, there is no compelling reason why he should spend a lot of time in languages or ancient history against his wishes. He may cultivate a taste for these things later on (that is by no means uncommon) but, meanwhile, let him be encouraged to do the best of which he is capable and leave the rest to whatever it is that "shapes our ends".

LONDON, (CP)—Current statistics show Britain is the largest oil refining country in Western Europe, with a capacity of 28,000,000 metric tons annually. An additional 4,800,000 tons is scheduled to be provided this year.

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