

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, DEC. 4, 1953

Inner Strength

Much is being said and written these days about the need for great military and economic strength on the part of the nations of the free world to discourage aggression, if that be possible, or to combat it successfully should war be forced upon them.

Equally important is the inner strength of the nations, strength which cannot be calculated in military and economic terms. One of the builders of this inner strength is an informed, free, and open-minded public opinion, without which no democratic institution can function well.

Political freedom, if it means anything, must mean the right of the individual to disagree with majority opinions or indeed with any opinions but his own. This latter would be a very foolish judgment, to be sure, if persisted in at all times and in all circumstances, but no one has the right to deny its validity.

Scouting Pays Off

The following account appeared in the R. C. M. P. Quarterly and was reprinted in The Scout Leader. It points a moral which is well worth publicizing throughout Canada.

"A small boyish figure, standing on the highway directing traffic, was the first object that caught the eye of two R.C.M.P. members of Kamloops Detachment, as they rushed to the scene of a near-fatal traffic accident last January 15. As the Police car came to a stop—it was about 3:30 in the afternoon—13-year-old Phillip Robinson ran up and quickly gave the Police a first-hand account of how a 7-year-old schoolboy had 'failed to use his eyes' in crossing the highway after alighting from a school bus and as a result had been struck and run over by a passing truck.

"During the investigation it became apparent from witnesses' remarks that Robinson had acted in a cool, clear-headed manner immediately following the tragedy. He himself had been a passenger on the school bus, and had seen the accident through the window. He had calmly left his seat and directed the bus driver to leave the vehicle standing in its present position, pending arrival of the Police.

"This decision created a traffic hazard, so Robinson calmly instructed older boys to take positions some distance down the highway and direct traffic around the injured boy. Having administered first aid in the form of hot water bottles and blankets, Robinson removed his own jacket and used it as a pillow for his injured schoolmate. Then despite a bitterly cold wind, he supervised the direction of vehicular traffic on the busy thoroughfare and prevented a congestion at the scene. He counselled others to remain calm, and not to panic, and directed a number of schoolgirls into the bus, speaking encouragingly to the ones who had been sickened by the sight. He made a note of all persons available as witnesses, had obtained the name of the driver of the truck and had preserved intact the scene of the accident.

"Such actions on the part of a boy caused inquiries to be made and it was learned that Robinson was a Boy Scout of the 1st North Kamloops Troop. During his Scout training he had passed a course of elementary first aid and had developed the happy faculty of handling the public, both young and old alike. This, together with his basic Scout training, had proved of value not only to Robinson himself, but to those of the public, with whom he had been thrown into contact in a sudden emergency. He thus was able to step into a position of responsibility quickly, and with the Scout Motto of 'Be Prepared' in mind, proved of value and service to the investigators, and possibly averted further serious injury to the stricken boy who has since shown marked improvement towards recovery from what might well have become a fatality."

The Farmers' Plight

The newsletter of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce for November sees fit to contrast the high level of business and industrial activity in Canada with a very evident decline in farm purchasing power, and comments: "Very careful consideration should be given to a situation where wages and salaries increase but farm prices decrease." It quotes Mr. Gilbert McMillan, president of the Dairy Farmers of Canada, as worried about the trend away from farms, the growing number of abandoned farms and the difficulty farmers are experiencing keeping hired help, more and more attracted to city and town jobs where pay is better and hours shorter.

This, notes the Ottawa Journal, is from an organization not given to espousing the cause of farmers, but evidently worried about the effect of lower farm income on urban economy. Almost every rural speaker at the agricultural conference expressed a similar worry, but few ventured a solution. The key, of course, is that we are blessed with an abundance of crops and meats and that, for a wide variety of reasons, the "have not" countries cannot take the surplus. For many farm products the surplus is small but still sufficient to cause price declines and a sluggish market here—in the case of wheat and grains the surplus is so large at present that no easy solution is in sight.

"The tendency is to say this is good for a majority of Canadians—who can look forward to an era of cheaper food and continued high wages as industry and business expands," concludes the Journal. "The average Canadian is not inclined to worry too much about the farmers' plight. That could be a very short term view. Some see a time, if the present trend away from the family farm continues, when agriculture in Eastern Canada could become a business competing with industry for help and gradually growing into larger units. Then the dollar sign of actual costs could rule food prices."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Not sharp tongues but dull knives are blamed by an English master cutler for the breaking of homes. The Manchester Guardian reports him as saying that Britain is full of dull knives with which it is a struggle to cut tender meat. The wife's cooking takes the blame.

Finance Minister Abbott says the secret of his success is his ability to relax and not take himself too seriously. The taxpayer might do well to take a leaf from his book. It might be a very good thing to relax as April 30th approaches and not take the Minister too seriously.

An English clergyman, president of the Methodist Conference, has criticized the Duke of Edinburgh for Sabbath polo playing. He in turn is accused of Sunday swimming and even going to chapel with a swimsuit under his clothes. Presumably his objection is not so much to Sunday sport as to the sportsman being a Duke.

The proposals made by the Canadian mayors to the Federal Government amount only to the claim that municipalities be regarded as branches of government as are other corporations such as the C. N. R., The C.B.C., and Provincial Crown corporations. Such status would automatically free municipalities from sales tax and the cost of servicing property of other Government departments would, as a matter of good book-keeping, be charged against the department concerned.

John Gay, English poet, died this date 1732. He enjoyed the life-long friendship and patronage of Pope and was welcomed into his company of wits. All loved and helped the simple-hearted, improvident and mediocre poet. His poems were unsold and his plays unsuccessful, although his "Fables" are little masterpieces of their kind. All was redeemed by a lyrical drama, "The Beggar's Opera", produced by Rich in London which "made Gay rich and Rich gay."

Possible Unforeseen Developments



The Poets Corner

FROM LUCRETIOUS

No single thing abides: but all things flow, and all things change. Fragment to fragment clings — the things thus grow. Until we know and name them. By degrees, they melt, and are no more the things we know.

Globed from the atoms falling slow or swift I see the suns, I see the systems lift. Their forms, and even the systems and the suns Shall go back slowly to the eternal drift.

Thou too, oh earth—thine empires, lands, and seas— Least, with thy stars, of all the galaxies, Globed from the drift like these, like these thou too. Shalt go. Thou art going, hour by hour, like these.

Nothing abides. Thy seas in delicate haze Go off; those mooned sands forsake their place. And where they are, shall other seas be born. Mow with their scythes of whiteness their bays.

Old Charlottetown

(Apt. P. E. L.)

NEWSPAPER ITEMS

From The Examiner, July, 1888: Mr. Francis Stanley, Fishery Warden, today seized a cartload of small lobsters that were being sold on the Market Square, and very properly had them sent out and distributed amongst the inmates of the Poorhouse.

The fish have been very scanty this year—and no wonder. A large fleet of seiners is on the watch for them. Within the last few days a few good catches have been made. A correspondent at Malpeque says that a large number of seiners were in that port seeking shelter, and that the schooner James and Ella took 100 barrels on Tuesday. Several schools of mackerel were seen.

The Salvation Army has opened a service in the town of Souris. Their meetings are well attended. The Hall being packed every night. American fishermen, when in port, are quite regular in their attendance. Possibly after this they will have a little more regard for the three mile limit.

At the conclusion of ten o'clock service Sunday in St. Dunstan's Cathedral (15th). His Lordship Bishop McIntyre preached a very impressive sermon on temperance. His Lordship announced his intention of introducing, at an early day, a branch of Cardinal Manning's famous temperance organization, which was doing such splendid service in the cause of temperance in England, and which was known by the name of the League of the Cross.

The corner stone at the Waterworks pumping station was successfully laid yesterday (17th) at 5:30 p.m. The work, under the able superintendence of Mr. Byfield, is rapidly progressing. W. H. Fraser, Esq., the contractor, is bent upon pushing the work forward. He has some forty-five hands employed.

Ten dollars reward is offered for "a bundle of Railway plans, lost somewhere between Tignish and Charlottetown, the above reward to be paid to any person returning the same to the Superintendent's Office, Charlottetown." A. MacNeill, auctioneer, announces the sale by auction on the 24th inst. at 12 o'clock noon, of the Revere Hotel, "with or without the two adjoining lots fronting on Water and Great George Streets, at the head of the Steam Navigation Company's wharf, close by the Railway Station and near the Post Office and other public buildings, with a fine view of the Harbour and the benefit of cool breezes from the spit of water."

The Public Forum

MORE HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

Sir,—Last week was Education Week here, and this is National Book Week in the U. S. A.; and I believe Young Canada Book Week in our sister country. An article in the "Alberta Home and School News" (November) informs me that ninety out of one hundred Canadian children are without adequate library service. Also almost no Canadian living outside of cities have access to a library capable of giving really good service, and only four percent of rural people in Alberta have library service. However, I note the Provincial Government grant to public libraries in Alberta is the second lowest in Canada, so other Provinces must fare better.

Prince Edward Island I feel sure has no such dearth of library facilities, as I remember, even many years ago, in our little rural community, we had rather a fine library and Literary Society. The latter met twice a month, or every two weeks during all but summer months. For a nominal fee of fifty cents per year we could have all the books we could carry home, and believe me we did just that, and devoured them avidly! We read Scott, Dickens, etc., and the great masters of verse at a much earlier age than children of today. We did not lack lighter reading either—all our little rural community, we had rather a fine library and Literary Society. The latter met twice a month, or every two weeks during all but summer months. For a nominal fee of fifty cents per year we could have all the books we could carry home, and believe me we did just that, and devoured them avidly! We read Scott, Dickens, etc., and the great masters of verse at a much earlier age than children of today. 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