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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WED., MARCH 14, 1951

"Little Man, What Now?"

The various Provincial politicians are enthusiastic about the proposed sales tax, though ours are not whispering it above their breath in view of the anticipated election.

Merchants and consumers alike need to take a good, hard look at this latest bit of financial legerdemain. Especially in Prince Edward Island, where a large proportion of consumer goods sold are imported from the mainland.

The catch, of course, lies in the fact that the proposed sales tax is to be calculated on the price after, and not before, the cost of freight has been added.

Prince Edward Islanders will, therefore, find that the sales tax will be a lot heavier burden for them than for those living and doing business on the mainland.

"The Sneaking Death"

Latest horror to haunt the minds of men is known by the sinister phrase, "the sneaking death." This weapon, dredged up from the putrefying depths of the minds of German scientists during World War II but never used, is now believed to be in the hands of the Russians.

Guarded comment on this monstrous offering to Mars comes from points as distant as Copenhagen and as close as Ottawa. The Danish Government is so concerned that it has made available the sum of \$250,000 to enable Professor Haakon Lund, noted Danish scientist, to produce it and devise means to combat it.

Officials in Ottawa say investigation of the potentialities and uses of "the sneaking death" gas have been going on for some time. The only comforting aspect of the whole grim business is that both Russia and the western democracies have large quantities of the lethal concoction, seized from the Germans at the end of World War II.

Mount Everest Expedition

The first expedition to the south face of Mount Everest has returned to New Delhi after a pioneering investigation into mysteries of the earth's highest peak that will be a future source of material to mountaineers everywhere.

Oscar R. Houston, of New York City, was the leader of a group of climbers who had tried conclusions with great peaks in many parts of the world. The others were his son, Dr. Charles Houston of Exeter, N. H., who has climbed Nanda Devi, 25,645 feet, and until this year was the highest peak ever scaled by man afoot; Maj. H. W. Tilman, a British veteran of two Everest expeditions who is credited with defeating more major summits than any other man; Mrs. E. S. Cowles of Colorado

Springs, Colo., one of America's most famous women Alpinists; and Anderson Bakkwell, formerly of St. Louis and now at St. Mary's College at Kurseong in West Bengal.

Dr. Houston and Maj. Tilman alone made the first reconnaissance of the great mountain's south face. They climbed to between 18,000 and 19,000 feet to determine the feasibility of attempting to conquer Everest's untouched summit from this side which lies in Nepal.

The Houston expedition was not trying to climb Everest's virgin crest this time. Their scouting of the south slope however was an important contribution to Everest lore and to knowledge of one of the most inaccessible regions on earth where white men had never been before.

EDITORIAL NOTES

For the first time since 1939 the manufacture and sale of cream in Britain is to be permitted. Cream will also be imported.

Summerisde heads the Island in benefiting from Federal spending. They know what they want and don't pull in opposite directions until Ottawa decides there is no use trying to please them.

According to the Montreal Gazette Mayor H. W. Wedge of Summerside, P.E.I., wrote Dinty Moore's asking for samples of their coasters, which he had admired on a visit.

Evening sessions may be all right for legislators desirous of getting their political views "off their chests," but it is a different story with reporters who have to condense and edit these views for installation in next day's newspapers.

Chosen by the Scottish Association to go on a three-month tour of Canada, Miss Anne Christie, treasurer of the Stirling Young Farmers' Clubs, hopes to study milk production methods.

The famous oak tree in West Grinstead Park, near Horsham, Sussex, under which Alexander Pope is said to have written his "Rape of the Lock," has been made the subject of a Tree Preservation Order by Hugh Dalton, Britain's Minister of Local Government and Planning.

Johann Strauss, Austrian composer, was born at Vienna this date 1804. He founded a band of his own and made highly successful tours throughout Europe. His waltzes—of which he wrote 152—are his best known compositions, and their charm of melody and brilliant instrumentation raised this form of music incalculably.

Britain's Royal Air Force—today twice as strong as in 1939—is a major factor in current Kremlin calculations. The R. A. F. will be soon reinforced by ten extra squadrons. These will be manned by the nation's "week-end" airmen—the pilots, observers and mechanics who leave their civilian jobs for full-time training with the auxiliary squadrons every year.

It is a pity we had not more wool to dispose of, or we might have had a new industry here. Trade Minister Howe told the House of Commons recently that most of the raw wool purchased outside Canada, to meet the needs of the armed forces, will be processed in Canada. He told the Commons a committee has been established under the Canadian Commercial Corporation to purchase the wool.

Guest speaker at the annual meeting

dinner at Ottawa of the Fisheries Council of Canada will be David L. Thomson, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.C., Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research at McGill University, who has a high reputation as an educationalist and scientist, as well as being much in demand as an "after-dinner" speaker. Born in Aberdeen, Scotland, Dr. Thomson was educated at the University of Aberdeen and at Cambridge University, England. He also studied at Plymouth in England, Grenoble and Roscoff in France, Zurich in Switzerland and Graz in Austria. On the staff of McGill University since 1928, his special field is biochemistry—one in which he has won much honour. A fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Chemical Institute of Canada, he is a member of several other professional and scientific groups, including the Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

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.

ROCKY POINT LIQUOR

Sir,—I resent strongly the solution offered by our Premier to the people of Rocky Point, that the establishment of a liquor store there might solve their transportation problem. Is that all he has to offer?

There is beyond doubt plenty of revenue going to the Government treasury from the liquor stores, but why pick on Rocky Point? 20 percent of the liquor that leaves the vendor's store in Charlottetown finds its way across the Hillsboro Bridge.

Moreover, I am informed that of all the liquor carried to Rocky Point (legally), 80 percent is taken over by good Liberals. Therefore should not the Premier be delighted to improve the service, and not bite the hand that feeds him?

I am, Sir, etc. P. J. M.

SENATOR GRANT'S REPLY

Sirs—My attention has been drawn to a letter which appeared in The Guardian of March 7th, signed "Reader" of Montague.

The title of the letter referred to is "Senate Reform," but the subject matter which reminds me of a lawyer whom I once heard pleading a case in Court and, at no time during his bisterous harangue did he refer to the question involved.

Referring to a statement in my maiden speech, which was on the Draft Address, and not on the question of Senate Reform, and in which I said that I was the last person in fifty years from King's County to be appointed to a position in the Charlottetown Post Office, "Reader" said, "Perhaps Senator Grant will explain the reason fully."

I was a school teacher fifty years ago and in the annual report of the Superintendent of Education my name was mentioned as one of the six best teachers in the inspectorate of King's County. Since that time I have not lost the art of making my point of view perfectly clear to my listeners, and if "Reader" has at least the intelligence of a child, all he has to do is read my speech again, to get the information he has evidently overlooked.

It is hard to understand the mentality of a person like "Reader" who would glaringly and wilfully misconstrue the honest effort of a Member of the Senate, who, after all, is a public servant, to be of assistance to his fellow man, as was my sole intention when exposing the back-door manner in which Civil Service appointments have been made for the past number of years.

I intend to continue my efforts on behalf of those ambitious young men and women who wish to compete at impartial examinations, for positions in the Civil Service of Canada, and if I do nothing else during my time in the Senate than to accomplish this task, I feel that I shall have earned my indemnity.

"Reader" is wrong in inferring that the chairman of the Civil Service Commission makes appointments on a competitive basis, in the same manner as Rhodes Scholarships and other goals are won. Those who make the highest marks, and are otherwise best qualified are supposed to get the jobs, or the honors, as the case may be. It is quite different in the case of Senators and Judges. In such appointments the past record of those who consider themselves eligible is taken under careful consideration, and they are appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Federal Government. They are supposed to be honest, intelligent, sober individuals, and, last but not least, consistent supporters of the Party in power.

I am, Sir etc. Thos. V. Grant. Ottawa, Mar. 12, 1951.

The Poet's Corner

ONLY THE DREAM IS REAL

Only the dream is real. There is no plan transcending even a rose's timid glory, A cricket's summer song. The ways of man Are stupors of the flesh, and transitory. There is no truth but dreams; yet man must spend His gifts of quiet days in storm and stress, Unheeding that a single breath will end With one swift stroke the hoax of worldliness. Only the dream will last. Some distant day The wheel will falter, and the silent sun Will see the last beam leveled to decay, And all man's futile clangor spent and done. Yet after brick and steel and stone are gone And flesh and blood are dust, the dream lives on. —Anderson M. Scruggs.

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Notes From Another Island

by "Anson"

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SHIPBUILDING DAYS

"Launched at Rustico, on the 16th inst., from the shipyard of Mr. Robert Auld, for F. Longworth, Esq., of Charlottetown, a very fine barque of 320 tons, called the 'Thomazine'; at Grand River, Lot 14, on the 18th, a fine brig of 100 tons, a juniper vessel (to class six years) called the 'Darnley'—launched by James Yeo, Esq., for Mr. W. Keale, of London; from the shipyard of Mr. Francis Auld, at Rustico, a few days since, a superior brigantine of 180 tons, built expressly for the Newfoundland market, called the 'Dorothy'; on the 18th inst., from the shipyard of Wm. White, Jr., a brigantine of 166 tons, called the 'Jane White'."

lan enemy. Not since 1938 had we beaten them at cricket until a great day dawned in Melbourne last month, and we heard on the radio and read in the papers "England beat Australia." Faces were brighter everywhere; men spoke to their wives before breakfast on this day, and even to strangers on the trains to the city. What of strikes, rumours of war, income tax, ten-pennyworth of meat a week, rising prices and falling rain; who cares, "England beat Australia."

It's not important, of course, with the world in its present state. We know that well enough. It won't influence the Russians one little bit, and it won't solve a single one of our problems. But to the ordinary man here it is a symbol. It is something he can appreciate at his own level, as an indication of a change for the better; a fact so much easier to hold on to than all the talk about Sterling Balances, Dollar Gaps and all that stuff.

WEYBRIDGE, England — (CP)

—Only sour note at the policemen's ball in this Surrey town was the complaint of a woman dancer that someone had stolen her purse.

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Notes By The Way

Leader of the Sons of Freedom Donkhorst sect declares his people are "at the end of their rope." Those who suffered from their depredations would be willing to see them at the end of any rope. (Windsor Star.)

Bridge House, New York City's center for treatment of alcoholics, reports that it had to turn away 408 applicants for treatment last year because of lack of facilities. "Would it not be an improvement if such institutions could report a reduction in number of patients due to lack of facilities for getting drunk?" (Christian Science Monitor.)

Why do people get on long shots in horse races, or why do fans continue to support teams which the experts do not think have a chance? Because nothing in this life is a sure thing, except the forces over which man has no command. In other words, the sun will rise tomorrow morning, but who can even be positive that a hitherto unbeaten hockey club will win its next game? And, furthermore, there are a lot more important things to worry about than the success or failure of a hockey team. (Lethbridge Herald.)

Time was when a farmer enjoyed the rights of ownership and there were few who had any desire to challenge them. The farmer could ruin his land or improve it; he could farm well or badly, but above all he could kick trespassers off his land with the full authority of the law. He enjoyed that right because no one, or very few at any rate, was authorized by the state to enter upon or disturb the owner and those who did trespass were scallawags with whom the neighbors, or society in general, were not in sympathy. The so-called progress of the last two decades has so altered or abolished the rights of ownership that the land owner scarcely knows who to welcome to his premises or peremptorily dismiss. The Ontario land surveyor can go where and when he likes. Documented representatives of railways, highways, telephone systems and hydro can enter upon the farmer's land through the gate, or in a more destructive manner, destroy crops, erect barriers and behave in an insolent or irritating manner, with full protection of the law. Now, in Ontario the Conservation Authorities Act grants further additional privileges to enter upon, to expropriate and otherwise disturb the security and independence of those who were formerly associated with the ownership of an acre or a section of land. (Farmer's Advocate.)

Something new has been added to the English language by the Department of National Health and Welfare. In its annual report, the department refers to what it calls the "deratization" of ships arriving at Canadian ports. Apparently this means the elimination of rats. The trouble is that when those in some sort of authority start taking liberties with the language, the public is very apt to adopt the word or phrase under the mistaken impression that its paternity makes it correct. So it is that American radio announcers and public speakers still talk of "normalcy"—an abomination attributed to the late President Harding. There is a great difference, however, between coming a phrase and merely spawning a vulgarism. The coiner of striking phrases almost never invents new words; rather does he take simple, familiar ones and use them in an unfamiliar way. Much of the power of Winston Churchill's speeches and writing lies in his extraordinary aptitude for coining phrases—"iron curtain," being about the best known of all. And then—unfortunately—there are people and things like the "Institution of National Health and Welfare," who prefer to make up their own words. This they do often out of ignorance of the proper word, but sometimes because they feel that the established diction is a pallid thing beside their own inventiveness. So we get such things as "deratization" (which somehow suggests the tearing-up of treaties more than anything else), to describe a process which the simpler school would merely refer to as "rat control." Incidentally, how could they possibly have overlooked "derodentification"? (From the Fort Erie Times-Review.)

The Age-Old Story

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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