

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 1953

The Legislative Forecast

Among the important measures forecast in the Speech from the Throne read by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor in the Legislature yesterday is provision for stricter highway traffic control, with a view to curbing the alarming number of fatal accidents which have occurred in the Province in recent years. It is safe to say that not only will the proposed measures receive the general indorsement of the House, but they will be welcomed by the public at large.

Rural electrification receives more attention in the Speech than it has done for a number of years. The need for immediate expansion of this service is emphasized, involving some form of government intervention or assistance. Estimates are to be submitted for a sum sufficient to promote this expansion, and legislation will be proposed to facilitate the Government's policy. This is a very live question, and here again, in principle at least, there will likely be no opposition.

Other measures of interest will include further assistance in the construction of druggers for the offshore fisheries, legislation authorizing the payment to municipalities of substantially all fines collected through their officers under provincial statutes, provision for effecting a change in Grade XI in high schools, for restricting damage to property and preventing the dumping of rubbish in undesirable locations, and for setting aside Memorial Field in Victoria Park for athletic purposes.

Hope is expressed that in Trans-Canada Highway operations it may prove practical to cross the tidal estuaries with causeways, which will require some two million yards of stone and fill and provide a large measure of local employment.

Fitting reference is made to the forthcoming Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, to the passing of former members during the year, and to other matters of interest. The Speech takes it for granted, however, that our members are all aware of the manifold blessings we enjoy in this favoured Province and country, in contrast to the flood disasters which have occurred in England and the Netherlands and to war conditions, hardships and persecutions experienced in less fortunate lands.

Farm Improvement Loans

The Farm Improvement Loans Act of 1944 is now being extended by Parliament for a further term and with a larger three-year "pool" (\$300 million) at the disposal of borrowers. Under this legislation, the Federal Government guarantees the banks up to 10 per cent of the loans they make for the purchase of implements, trucks and livestock, and for general improvements and repairs to buildings, including construction of farm homes.

By far the greatest use of this scheme has been made in the three Prairie Provinces, with aggregate loans of \$264 million out of the Canadian total of \$337 million. Mr. Jean Lesage, parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Finance, offers the explanation that Western farms are newer

and bigger than in most other parts of the country and that they usually face a much higher investment in implements. Mr. Lesage adds, however, that increasing numbers of farmers outside the prairies are now obtaining farm improvement loans, for which the individual ceiling is set at \$3,000.

Questions have been raised in the Commons as to whether Eastern farmers are well enough acquainted with the farm improvements measure. Mr. Lesage seems to think publicity is adequate. It is still difficult to understand, unless farmers have their credit needs adequately taken care of in other ways, why more recourse to the act has not been taken in these provinces. For mechanization, the main cause of a high level of farm improvement loans in the West, is also an increasing factor in Eastern agricultural operations.

International Kidnappers

The proposal of Communist Hungary to exchange an imprisoned British businessman for the release of a Malayan woman convicted of being armed with a grenade indicates that Communist thinking is that of gangsters operating on an international scale. Prime Minister Churchill very properly declined to interfere with the course of Malayan justice while appeals on behalf of the prisoner remained pending.

It is a strange world in which we find ourselves. Nazi Germany introduced the practice of reprisals against an offender's fellow villagers but it has been left to the Communists to revive the ancient practice of seizing hostages to apply pressure on other countries. Conventional ideas of law and justice have gone by the board and what we now see is the application of naked force.

The real danger in all this is that in countering such tactics the non-Communist world may be manoeuvred into giving up its own principles and induced to adopt the primitive methods of the other side. It would be small consolation to have the nations outside the Iron Curtain survive, but so changed that their people would be living under totalitarian rule.

The present times call for us all to maintain the principles and practices of democratic and constitutional government at the highest possible level. That requires effort and enthusiasm by the individual citizen, self-restraint by our public servants, candour and confidence in the people by politicians.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky is slightly inconsistent in criticising the United States for turning over the task of defending Korea to the Koreans. The previous line was a reiterated request for Americans to go home.

The crash of the Canadian Pacific Airlines Comet jet airliner at Karachi comes as a shock to this country. In addition to the loss of eleven lives there is the unfortunate circumstance that the jet aircraft was to have inaugurated a new service between Canada and Australia.

Trade Minister Howe has a considerable staff of trade envoys but he is the first to acknowledge that personal contact by businessmen with those in foreign countries, particularly South America, is essential to the full development of our potential foreign trade.

Perhaps the most striking thing about the now-lifted ban on Canadian meat shipments to the United States was the demonstration of how slight was the importance of that market to the Canadian meat industry. Prices in Canada, in fact, showed a strong tendency to remain higher than in the United States.

The prediction of the British Minister of War that Britain, Belgium and Canada would soon be producing a cartridge acceptable to the armed forces of all the North Atlantic Treaty countries is a feather in the cap of this country which has concentrated on that problem while efforts to achieve a common rifle were getting nowhere.

Saladin, one of the best-loved sovereigns of the Middle Ages, died in Damascus this date 1193. He spent his life defending Islam and won Jerusalem back from the Crusaders. Even his enemies were impressed by his qualities of generosity, mercy, political wisdom and military prowess. He fought the kings of Germany, France, and England, amongst others. He is remembered by Islam as a magnanimous Sultan, a model of chivalry, a friend of the sciences, a protector of scholars and a great builder.

Taking The News Quite Calmly



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 SERVICE

Sir,—I have lived in this district for over fifty years, and have been amazed at the disgraceful service at Rocky Point. The ferry boat was taken off early last spring and spent her holidays at Picton when the farmers did not have half of their fertilizer hauled. When she got dried out on the slip at Picton she came back leaving like a basket; then when the Fall came she came off the service before the ice was fit for a man to walk on, and there has been no crossing yet. Why this boat has not been running all winter is a mystery. Now is the time for our farmers to rise up in protest against such service. This boat is not fit for the service anyway; you can't take a full load on a truck; if you do you are met at the wharf on both sides with the notice: "At your own risk". This means that if the trucks want to take a full load they have to drive around by West River Bridge to get their produce to market. What have we got a Minister of Public Works for, also a Deputy Minister? Is it to travel to Holland and spend the farmers' money in the best hotels, then come back and tell us all they saw, which we knew before they got there?

I am, Sir, etc., DANIEL N. TAYLOR Nine Mile Creek.

RURAL TELEPHONE SERVICE

Sir,—In 1906, during the term of office of Hon. A. Peters as Premier, the Legislature of the day passed a Statute entitled "An Act respecting Telephone Communication." The legal title being 6 Edward VII Cap. 25. Today, forty-seven years later, the Act makes interesting reading from beginning to end. On perusal it is evident that the Government of that day was partial to, in fact desirous of, furthering the extension of telephone service in this Province. In order that there be no lessening in the service then being supplied the Act authorized payment of an annual subsidy to the Telephone Company of Prince Edward Island for fifteen years. Other sections of the Act made provision for extension of rural services. Section 6 of the above named Act made special reference to independent services as it authorized the setting-up and operation of the individual rural companies as we have them today.

This legislation made possible the provision of telephone service to the whole Province, a real necessity even at this late date.

In the year 1909 the Government instituted a policy of assistance to rural telephone companies in the form of an outright grant of \$25.00 per constructed mile of line. This no doubt provided an incentive for groups to furnish the necessary requisites to provide telephone service in their respective communities. There were only two little strings attached to this \$25.00 grant, the construction had to be cedar poles and two line wires must be run, formerly some construction had one line wire only. Some idea of the value of this grant was that it more than covered the cost of all wire and other hardware used in constructing lines on the highways. As a result fifty-three rural companies were formed and supplied service in as many different localities.

If my information is correct the first company to furnish service did so in 1910. Others followed in rapid succession until 1925 when the fever gradually subsided. It is not quite clear just when the grant was discontinued, but the fact that it was discontinued, no doubt took away some of the incentive toward further extension. Of course the economic conditions of the late twenties and early thirties contributed their part to

The Age-Old Story

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. . . . And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. . . . And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

The lack of interest at that time. It was also Government policy, in addition to the grant, to protect its own stake in the project, as well as the individual companies, by granting them charters on request. Here is where the first little mis-step was made, as a charter could easily have been a special requirement before payment of the grant. As a result of this oversight, many years in some cases, elapsed before some companies acquired their charters. Even today we have telephone companies operating without a charter, while others keep up-to-date and amend their original charters in order to further extend their telephone service.

The forty-three charters granted were very similar, in fact, so much so as to suggest very strongly that they all copied shall we say, draft Bills of earlier date. Slight differences here and there were due to local whims and fancies. The copying and modifying led to the repetition, in many cases, of errors unwittingly made by others. A uniform Act for use by all companies would have overcome considerable misunderstanding that has since plagued many rural companies as well as the power that be. Of course we can all see past mistakes and could or should profit by them.

As stated earlier, fifty-three individual and completely independent rural companies commenced service. Of that number forty-two are in operation today, eleven of them, over the years, going through a voluntary winding-up process and silently stealing away, several have discontinued service during the past five years.

In Nova Scotia it is not so easy to fold up a utility as in that Province any telephone company that has been granted a charter and commenced service is considered to have quite a responsibility to its customers that service, and if necessary, to improve the situation.

In our own Province there are many areas which had telephone service during the depression years that now are deprived of even that everyday convenience. This state of affairs could not be classed as one of the modern improvements of which we boast today.

I am, Sir, etc., BRUCE JUDDSON Alexandra, P. E. I.

PREPARE FOR EASTER

Sir—A well educated adult advised me to write something easily understood and that would not require people to "think hard". It has been said that a sermon prepared for children gives most interest to both old and young. So I will speak of what is said in the geography about the sun and our earth. This is what the middle grade scholars are studying. Anything that leads us to think about God the great Creator is a religious subject, and should be taken up with reverence.

It is very interesting to learn that the sun is stationary and does not move. Our earth and eight or 10 other heavenly bodies are just revolving on their own axis. We think the sun is moving from East to West, but it is we that are moving from West to East. It is wrong to say that the sun is rising in the East. We should rather say that we and our Island Province is just arising out of the darkness of West and getting a glimpse of the sun that we have

The Poet's Corner

BELLE ISLE

The fog drifts damply on the bitter sea, Some of the droning breakers far away, With a roar like thunder, seem to say Mute things in ageless sentences to me. The waves in wind-swept spaces rank and roll Their wild foam from the ice on Greenland shore, And cold clouds hurry down the Labrador With messages of winter from the Pole. The lonely rocks of turreted Belle Isle, Where sea-marks hold their imprint ribbed and cur'd, Behold the blue bergs southward drifting file, As when the Norse Gods with their sails unfurled Came crowding down the sealanes mile on mile And traffick'd on the highways of the world.

—Alfred Goldsworthy Bailey.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

LAMPLESS STREETS

From a letter appearing in the Colonial Herald, Aug. 14, 1841: "Being a resident of this Town, and having (with much regret) observed the great inconvenience arising from the very little, or rather, at times, no light, at night, from the hours of 8 till 10 o'clock, during which time many persons are obliged to walk home-wards from their respective avocations—especially when the moon forbears to shed her beams on the inhabitants of this part of the globe—I am desirous that the evil should be remedied. I think there ought, and might be, with very little expense, a sufficient remedy for this.

"Suppose a small number (to begin with, until the benefit be derived) of Oil Lamps be obtained, at the voluntary expense of each inhabitant of the Town, and one placed at different corners or places most suitable for the purpose. A boy might be hired to light these, and, of course, each person who subscribed to this could see if he discharged his duty both in lighting and extinguishing the same. I know of no places more in want of this than the Market and other Squares, where (to the annoyance of the public at large) cattle are continually lying."

not seen for 12 hours. We move at a fairly rapid rate. Somewhat faster than a jet plane. Much faster than sound, but not nearly so fast as light travels. In round figures 1000 miles per hour. Our Creator in this way of the earth turning over and over, gives us day and night, which He considered the best for us. He planned it just for us a long time before the earth came to be fit to live on. You may have learned already how He planned the seasons of the year and such a variety of climates over the earth. This is our solar system.

But if you look at the Milky Way you'll see a thousand suns such as ours and all their systems of movement. So we stop and say—someone has made all this. He is all powerful and all wise. But we may ask—Is He kind? We find proof that He is, in the sacred writings, both old and new. But in His coming as a man, He showed us what He is like. Make a study of the four gospels before Easter. Make a list of all the events recorded that showed that He loved people. You'll find many in the O.T. such as—Be not afraid. I have called thee by thy name. Thou art mine. I have redeemed thee. And so forth.

I am, Sir, etc., ARCH MACKENZIE Kennington.

Notes By The Way

The army has changed. In an advertising layout for the recruiting of personnel as members of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps four clerks are shown in uniform, not one of them wearing glasses. Being able to see must be one of the requirements now—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Ontario's Minister of Highways, Mr. Doucett, says there will be no compulsory insurance for motor car owners or drivers because it would be too expensive. That is a matter for argument, but if insurance is out, the minister ought to see that something equivalent is in. There is more than one way of keeping irresponsible drivers, young or old, off the roads and it is high time the government began taking an effective step in this direction.—Brantford Expositor.

A Canadian soldier just returned with his Japanese war bride says there will be more like him, because Oriental girls are more attentive to their husbands. "You ask them to do something for you and they'll do it," he said. "You ask a Canadian girl and nine times out of ten she won't." We don't care to comment on this soldier's theory, but we certainly admire his courage. With men like that in the ranks, it's no wonder the Canadians have such a fine record in Korea.—Cornwall Standard-Freelander.

A recent one-sentence story dated Seoul, Korea, read: "The United States Air Force retired its last propeller-driven P-51 Mustang from the Korean war today." That was all. The complete obituary of a grand old fighting machine that took on the best the enemy had in the Second World War and usually came back to "buzz" its home base and do a "victory roll" was covered in 17 words.—New York Times.

Children in the Akha tribe of China, reports Ripley, are all pipe smokers at six months of age. While we don't advocate going quite that far, we do feel constrained to point out that for the second time in a row Doug Abbott has discriminated against pipe addicts and brought down a cigarette smoker's budget—and at that a tailor-made-smoker's: four cents off a pack of 20 tailor-made but nothing off makings.—Hamilton Spectator.

The pendulum swings from one extreme to the other, in education as in other things. It may be on the way back from somewhat profuse spending on equipment and from over-ambitious attempts to teach practically everything. The community has not unlimited funds for education. If it spreads them too thin they may well be wasted. It is essential to secure for well-trained and competent teachers and to pay them well enough to keep them in the profession. But savings should be made wherever possible.—London Free Press.

Scientists are trying to find out what makes maple syrup have the flavor it does. The factor that brought the question out in the open was the realization that the sap from the maple tree has no maple flavor. Seemingly the flavor is acquired in the process of making the syrup. This is quite understandable since maple syrup is not the only product in which the taste is brought out in the process of boiling. Even a potato tastes different after it is boiled than it does in the raw state. And we think that that pretty good imitation maple syrup can be made from the v.a.e.r in which potatoes were boiled with their jackets on. Sugar has to be added, of course, and gives further boiling.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

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