

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. CIRCULATION Total City Zone 3,464 Retail Trading Zone 8,420 All Others 851 Total Net Paid 12,745

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, JAN. 28, 1952

Human Rights

The social committee of the United Nations has proposed two covenants on human rights for consideration by the general assembly, one on economic, social and cultural rights and another to cover civil and political rights.

In this country the whole question has a somewhat academic air for the Federal Government, which is engaged in the negotiations, does not have jurisdiction over many of the matters involved.

Oddly enough the British North America Act provides for Parliament to have power to give effect to treaty obligations but the courts have ruled that these powers are limited to treaties binding on this country but entered into on its behalf by the British Government, which just does not happen any more.

Canada's constitution requires revision of the section dealing with power to carry out treaties and bring it into line with present day diplomatic practice.

Whither Drifting?

We are passing through strange times, changes taking place occasioning hardly more than momentary notice, and yet with consequences that may prove revolutionary, patriotically and internationally.

Take, for instance, the innovation of a native-born Governor-General. Irrespective of the fact that a better choice could hardly have been made than the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, it is a momentous departure from precedent, and has been brought about without the consultation and approval of Parliament.

There can be but one answer—the government for the time being. It may all be for the best but that is not the point at issue. What is at issue is the right of the executive to bring about such a radical departure from use-and-wont without consulting the representatives of the electorate, and even while Parliament was prorogued.

It is admitted an emergency had arisen. The Government of the Mother Country was in desperate need of a highly competent Minister of Defense and found him in the person of our Governor-General. To enable him to transfer his services from Ottawa to London a successor had to be found. Up till now the powers-that-be in London selected the prospective new holder of the office, and submitted several choices for the approval of the powers-that-be in Ottawa.

At the present juncture the Ottawa authorities evidently indicated the time had come to inaugurate a Canadian Governor-General, and so Rt. Hon. Mr. Vincent Massey became the choice. This, however, was done without the House of Commons and Senate being consulted or even asked "by your leave". Surely that is a departure from our system of democratic representative government that should not be allowed to pass without comment!

The long arm of the law is exhibited in the theft of a three-cent newspaper in Lewiston, Maine, 22 years ago, and is worrying a man about deportation to his native Canada. Delphia Rheume has petitioned for pardon. Rheume was convicted in 1930 of stealing one copy of the Lewiston Daily Sun, then sold at three cents. He paid costs of \$5.50. The petition said that Rheume recently visited Canada and was told by United States immigration officials that he can be deported because of his record. Hearing was set for Feb. 7.

According to Montreal Gazette the Agriculture Department expects that the Canadian farmer will do fairly well for himself during 1952. Domestic demand for agricultural products will continue strong. Total cash farm income will likely exceed the 1951 figure. Receipts from livestock, dairying and other income producers may not show much change. But receipts from the sale of grain will probably rise due, mainly, to the important part of the 1951 crop to be marketed this year.

We now appoint our own ambassadors with the right to deal with foreign nations without reference to the Mother Country. Our plenipotentiaries attending conventions in Europe can pledge our country's support of plans and policies that have never even been discussed by parliament.

We are on the high road to becoming an absolutely independent nation with no internal restraint to our dictatorship. But we cannot carry on in this way without having the means of defence from outside attacks at our command, and this we have not got. Were we to become involved in war with, say, Russia, what army or navy have we for our protection? They are practically non-existent, so that we are playing the part of a free and independent

nation without being in a position to defend ourselves if attacked. Hitherto the British Navy has been our first line of defence, but that Navy, unfortunately is no longer able to assert its authority, and has given first place to the United States which "has got the ships, and got the men, and got the money too", as the old song put it. Are we going to make a deal with Uncle Sam to become our protector, and if so, what return do we promise to give him? These are serious questions we must face almost immediately. The Prime Minister says we are grown-up, and must get rid of colonial ideas and idealism. Granted. But what does the Government suggest should be substituted? In losing our Imperial Governor-General we have dropped our pilot, as Germany did when she dropped Bismarck in favour of Emperor William I, and we all know what the outcome was. If we are to drop our British connection what is to take its place, and who is going to pay the piper for the new alignment? That is the burning question of the day.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Candidates for civic honours will have plenty data to discuss with all the reports now published concerning the operations of the last two years.

The story, naturally, bears a Detroit dateline. A junk man charged with driving through a stop sign blamed his troubles on the horse. The testimony indicated that it was colour blind.

Today Parliament meets and prorogues, the new session starting tomorrow. Having given full attention to domestic problems in the two sessions last year it should be ready to deal with this country's position in a disturbed world.

The Provincial Boy Scouts Association opens their annual campaign for funds today. The objective of \$5,000 for the Province is a most modest one. The purpose should commend itself to all who have an interest in seeing boys become men.

We have got to be thankful for small mercies these high taxation days, and therefore we are appreciative of the fact that the Board of Transport Commissioners have exempted potatoes from the proposed four-and-one-half per cent increase in rail rates.

General Charles George (Chinese) Gordon, the hero of Khartoum, was born this date 1833. He fought in the Crimea, joined the expedition in China, 1860, headed the Emperor's "ever-victorious army" and put down the widespread rebellion. Charged with evacuating Egyptians from the Sudan, he and one other British officer led a prolonged defence but Khartoum fell into the hands of the Mahdi two days before the arrival of relief and Gordon was murdered in the subsequent massacre.

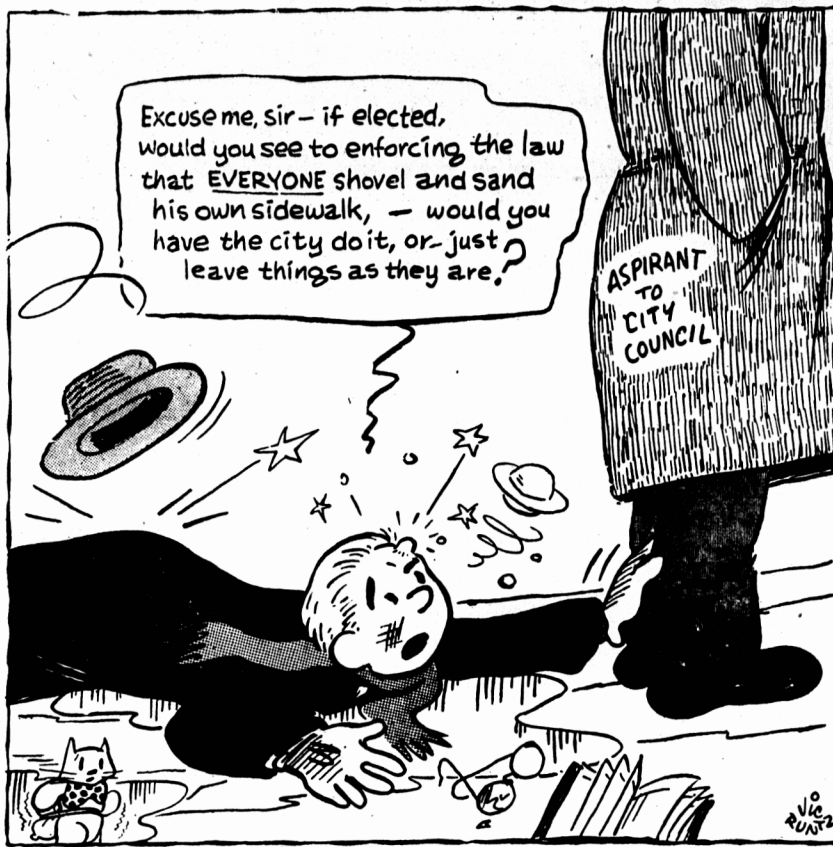
The excessive excise taxation of cigarettes has lost the Federal Government very considerable in revenue, the consumption having dropped a billion-and-a-half up to date, besides encouraging a huge traffic in smuggled cigarettes. Home industry has been made to suffer and illegal entry of cigarettes stimulated.

There was no sudden rush as anticipated in flooding the market with cut prices in goods from which the controlled floor price had been removed. Instead the Government has found it necessary to launch a survey of the retail prices of nationally known brands to find out what the actual effect of the new legislation has been.

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Timely Question



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.

GETTING OUT FROM UNDER

Sir,—I have recently been gently rebuked by an old friend of mine in King's County for having (as he thought) participated in an interview with the Postmaster General along with Mr. Kichham, Hon. Dougald MacKinnon, Mr. Brenton St. John and others, regarding the Kings County Mail Service.

Now, in case there should be others of the same opinion as my good friend, I wish to say that the fact of the matter is, I didn't take part in the interview referred to, as I had another appointment at the same time and, as the others who remained for the discussion can testify, I excused myself and went about my business.

The only interview that I took part in with the Postmaster General was some weeks previously or very shortly after the new system was started when Mr. Gaudet was complaining about the way his paper was being treated. His "Current Comments" would not reach the people of Kings County while they were fresh; and, as nobody could judge how the new system would work until it was tried out, there were no other complaints that I knew about.

At that meeting we all felt that Mr. Gaudet could be satisfied, all would be well for the time being at least, so it was unanimously decided that Mr. Kichham should write Mr. Gaudet suggesting to him that he publish his early edition of the Patriot a few hours earlier, in order to get it away on the truck along with The Guardian, and I understand Mr. Kichham conveyed this proposition to Mr. Gaudet, but it appears that the message fell on deaf ears and did not materialize.

Soon, however, the real defects of the new service began to show up, as indicated by complaints from Mr. George Saville, M.L.A. and scores of others, and the bottom fell out of the new truck service. Indeed, before the delegation of Provincial cabinet ministers came to Ottawa (on other business) the Department had decided to revert to the train service. So nobody need blame these gentlemen for influencing the Postmaster General because he knew before they came that the experiment had proved to be a failure.

I was not consulted by Mr. Kichham or the Postmaster General before the change was made from train to truck service, but after it happened I told the Postmaster General and others that it would be a miracle if a mail service that had been built up and continually improved over fifty years, could be changed for a better one overnight by a new and radically different service.

I went to work as a civil servant with the Post Office Department in the capacity of a Railway mail clerk fifty years ago and, although I remained in the service only seven years, I have watched with admiration the great improvements that have taken place over the years until today almost everybody in King's County has a mail box at his or her door, and during the last fifteen years I know a great many people who will be glad to say that their mail boxes have been placed near their doors through my efforts, in the performance of my duty as a Member of Parliament.

In conclusion, let us be frank about this matter, and admit that although the truck service was apparently a good thing for a few people living in certain centres, it fell down on the job because it did not reach all the people at the proper time, as did the old reliable mail train with mail clerks and mail courier service, and, incidentally to make our mail delivery in King's County still more perfect, we should have a mail clerk on the Georgetown train, providing station-to-station service from Mt.

The Age-Old Story

How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed to the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street. The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!

Stewart to Georgetown and Montserrat has been in practice on the St. John's and Murray Harbor train for a number of years.

I am, Sir, etc., THOMAS V. GRANT, Ottawa, Jan. 24.

A FAIR FRONT

Sir,—The stores in Charlottetown put on a fair front. The window dressing is very attractive. Everything is displayed to attract attention and what the desire to buy; but if one has occasion to go to the back of some of those stores the prospect is not so attractive. There is a lack of care as though the look doesn't matter. In Summerside it is the same. One day I had occasion to look behind one of my churches and was surprised to see that no paint had been applied. The church, that summer, had put on a fair front.

This fair front look is all right so long as we do not carry the idea into our moral life and conduct; but unfortunately the habit of paying great attention to the front look is not unknown. There are individuals and groups of people who seem to care more about appearances than about what is hidden from the eyes of the world.

One does not need to go far to find examples. I have listened to a good many political campaign speeches, and I have read some more. One party is white and the other, the other, well, the result is that some of the best of our citizens have come to mistrust all politicians, which, of course, is a great calamity to any country.

This fair front policy becomes a tragedy when we come to deal with people who are devoid of truth and honour, such as the Communists seem to be. In Korea the motives of the Chinese cannot be trusted. It seems they don't want peace but only a chance to gain advantage. They have completely abandoned moral principles, but they always try to put on a fair front.

No form of evil so deeply corrupts life as hypocrisy. It blights the intellect, kills faith and poisons the whole life. No person is so dangerously bad as a hypocrite. The Pharisees, as a class, put on a fair front; but Jesus saw through them, and because he exposed them they hated him. Did Jesus love them? He wept over them, but one cannot love a hypocrite. He is the most despicable wretch of human kind.

Durably society is built upon honest men—"the noblest work of God", men who live and deal with their fellow-men with no ulterior motives. In every walk of life, in politics, business, industry, the professions, they are found. They are the salt, the preserving element in our civilization, largely the product of the religion of Jesus. This saving principle is hardly found where the Gospel of Jesus has not been accepted. Jesus loved little children and said, "For of such is the Kingdom of God". He loved them for their ingenuous honesty. When He came upon Nathaniel he exclaimed, with delight, "Behold an Israelite, indeed, in whom there is no guile". If we can be honest with ourselves and with all others, that would indeed, please God and build confidence and peace in the midst of the earth.

I am Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

BIBLICAL RIVER

Palestine's largest river, the Jordan, flows 160 miles and in parts is 15 miles broad at certain times of the year.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

WOOLLEN FACTORY COMPANY

The annual meeting of the Charlottetown Woollen Factory Company was held on Tuesday last in Scott's Hall. The attendance of shareholders was good. The directors' report showed that there are 430 shares held in the Company on which the calls paid amounted to \$2918. Of this sum, \$2889 have been expended, leaving a balance in hand of \$2929. The meeting was strongly in favour of immediate effort to set the factory in operation in good time for this year's wool. In order to provide the directors with necessary funds for this purpose, 76 new shares were subscribed on the spot. It was resolved that after 600 shares have been taken in the Company all new shares holders be required to pay 1/2 per cent, in addition to the amount subscribed.

"On the ballot being taken, the old directors were declared elected as follows: Henry Longworth, James Laird, D. R. M. Hooper, David Laird, Alex McMillan, Charles Gregor, G. R. Beer. After the general meeting, the directors met, when H. Longworth, Esq. was re-elected president, and D. Laird, secretary and treasurer."

—The Islander, Feb. 3, 1951.

Stand And Be Counted

(Ottawa Journal)

The Spring session of Parliament can be one of the most interesting in history if full-scale debates on dropping "Dominion" and "Royal" from official terminology and the selection of a Canadian as governor general are arranged and given the attention they deserve from members of the House and Senate.

It is no longer sufficient for the St. Laurent Government to announce casually when a bill is proposed the House that it is proposed to make "Dominion" into "Canada" wherever it appears in the text. The Prime Minister and some of his Cabinet colleagues may say with all the vigor they possess that such changes are in accord with the wishes of Canadians; the fact remains that they still have to prove that statement.

It may well be that, in the comfort of their Ottawa offices, many in the knowledge of a large majority in Parliament, Cabinet ministers are completely out of touch with the wishes of the majority of Canadians on these subjects.

What The Journal would like to see, when the debate has taken place and the pros and cons have been heard, is the members of Parliament rise and cast their votes in a "free" division. It should be a division on a plain question or questions—"Resolved that the name 'Dominion' shall be dismissed from Federal Government terminology", for instance.

We would then know where the members from British Columbia and Quebec, from Alberta and Nova Scotia, from Ontario and New Brunswick stood on the question and how they felt they best represented their own views and those of their constituents.

Unless such a frank and open discussion takes place, bewilderment and dispute will continue. There is bewilderment first, about what elements are bringing pressure on the government for changes and why they want them. There is dispute because many Canadians feel that "Dominion" and "Royal" and governors general selected wherever he wishes by the King they represent should continue as part of the Canadian scene.

The whitening process has gone far enough and it is time for members to rise and be counted, showing exactly where they stand and declaring themselves for or against changes that affect the constitutional foundations of the nation.

PACIFIC MONSTERS

Pacific Ocean sturgeons have been known to reach a weight of half a ton, with a length of 15 feet.

Ships And Weather By A Father Of Confederation

The Diary of Hon. A. A. Macdonald January to April 1870

The following diary heretofore unpublished, is from manuscript notes kept by the Hon. Andrew Archibald Macdonald, of Georgetown, one of the Fathers of Confederation, during the period January to April, 1870. The period covered the sitting of the Legislature in that year, and there is reference to some acrimonious discussions over Confederation.

The diary was written in ink on the blank pages of "The Prince Edward Island Calendar for the Year of our Lord 1870, New Series, No. 19, Published and sold by D. Laird, South Side Queen Square, Charlottetown." On the reverse cover is written: "A. A. Macdonald's diary, as a member of the Legislative Council at Charlottetown, 5 Jan. 1870."

Born in 1829, Mr. Macdonald carried on a successful mercantile business at Georgetown during the years 1851-73 under the name of A. A. Macdonald & Bros. He was elected to the House of Assembly, 1853-54, and to the Legislative Council, 1863-73. In the latter year he was appointed Postmaster General and Postmaster at Charlottetown. He became Lieutenant Governor of the Province (1884-89) and subsequently was appointed to the Senate. He attended the 1864 Confederation Conference at Charlottetown and Quebec as a Prince Edward Island delegate.

References to "Dibble" in the diary are to his wife, the former Elizabeth Lee Owen, daughter of Thomas Owen, Postmaster General of the Island, 1842-60, and a sister of Lemuel C. Owen, Postmaster General, 1860-66, and member of the House of Assembly, 1866-72. The "Wally" Owen referred to was another brother; and a sister, Mary Louisa, was wife of the Hon. David Laird.

The Guardian is indebted to Mr. George Leard, of Souris, for the labour of deciphering and transcribing the diary from the original, and for the above biographical notes.

Jan. 1st: A beautiful morning, wind west; some frost last night, being the first for several days. The past month has been one of the finest ever known here, especially the last fortnight. Some people were ploughing on the 31st, and although the roads are hard today from the frost last night, there is no ice on the river, even St. Mary's Bay being clear to the very head. The 'Arrow' had left here on the 20th Dec. for Halifax. The Athlete left the Gut about the same time for Cork and the Amateur left there on the 21st for Halifax. The Aerolite was to leave St. Mary's for Georgia.

Jan. 2nd: Wind S.E. and clear. It began to snow in the afternoon and got very thick. Came to rain about 9 p.m.

Jan. 3rd: Monday: Thaw had taken away all the snow and ice before daylight. I came up to Charlottetown, roads very soft and muddy. No ice at all at Charlottetown. Wind S.W. The Arrow arrived at Halifax today.

January 4th: Very slight frost last night but streets as soft as ever. Meeting of the Bd. of Works today occupied all day.

Jan. 5th, Wednesday: Some frost last night, and streets harder. The Executive met today, full board, and were engaged all day in ordinary routine business. Steamers left for Pictou.

Jan. 6th: Somewhat harder. Heard of arrival of 'Athlete' at Cork in fourteen days; ordered O. Bristol. 'Theresa' arrived also. Council sat till 8 o'clock at ordinary business.

Jan. 7: Hard frost last night. The day was soft and some rain. The Council considered the terms proposed by the Canadian Govt. for a union of the Island with Canada, but did not consider them favorable, or not sufficiently so, to warrant them in recommending their acceptance to the people. Wind around to the N.W. at night and blew very hard for an hour or two. A Sch. arrived at Georgetown from Halifax.

Jan. 8, Saturday: Getting my own business done all the morning; and left for home at one o'clock; roads hard and rough. Got home at 8 1/2 o'clock, night mild and fine till 10 p.m.

January 9th, Sunday: A great snow storm last night. This morning very wild but not very cold at 10 a.m. The wind was N.W.; must have been S.E. last night. Did not go out of the house all day.

Monday, January 10th: Some ice on the river today, it being calm last night. The ferry boat crossed thru it without much difficulty about six inches of snow on the ground but so light as to be of no service.

Tuesday, Jan. 11: Snowing in the morning. Wind which had been blowing strong from the southwest last night is west today, the lolly going out of the river with it. In the evening it was quite clear. Austin came round with a sleigh and in the evening we were busy balancing accounts between the two stores. No mail from town this morning, it being probably detained by ice on the ferry.

Wednesday, Jan. 12th: Opens fine, wind S.W. and day mild although there was a pretty hard frost last night which made a slight skin on the river, it being moderate. Wind came in to the south with a good deal of snow and a little rain. Mail only got in today from town. Could not get across the ferry yesterday with ice. Steamer left Charlottetown on Monday for Pictou but returned owing to ice outside, although a sch. got in the same day. Settled accounts with the Montague store today. Good sleighing. Bought 4 carcasses pork, av. wt. 230 lbs. @ 55¢. One over 100 @ 4 One 175 @ 4

Thursday, 13th: Morning mild. Wind north. No ice in the harbour, ferry boat crossing. The 'Fanny Gordon' loading oats and finished today. A good lot of snow on the ground now. Oats 2¢. Wind north to north east all day and night.

Friday 14th: Wind still north. The 'Fanny Gordon' sailed today at 10 o'clock a.m. Harbor quite clear of ice. Road heavy. Mail got in at dark but brought nothing except Island mail, our last mail dates being to the 4th from Halifax. Had a letter last night dated 6th from Captain of the 'Arrow' at Charlottetown. He must have come home by vessel on Monday or Tuesday last.

It got very calm at night and on the morning of Saturday the frozen river appeared to be broken over. The morning calm and frost slight. Wind N.W. became milder in afternoon and at 10 o'clock raining, wind south. On the morning of Sunday, the 16th river was clear of ice up to Brudenell Point except a little on the shore. Wind S.W.

Monday, 16th: A beautiful day, morning bright and warm as spring, harbour clear of ice to Brudenell Point. In the afternoon the wind came in to the Southeast and some ice came up from Albion Bay and filled up the harbour. Drove up to Cardigan to see Mrs. Owen in the evening on a rather bar of snow. Opened the Institute this evening with select readings by A. C. Stewart, McKenzie, Archd. and self.

Tuesday, 18th: A thaw last night, streets muddy again today, river clear except a little ice about the wharves and ferry boat crossing. Both sleighs and wagons running; a little frost at night.

Wednesday, 19th: Wind west, beautiful and bright as spring; had boat race today on the river. No ice. Telegraphed to Capt. of the 'Arrow' at Halifax to bring vessel home if no freight as there was no ice on the way.

Thursday, 20th: Last night being quite calm a skim formed half way across the river and today, there being but a light breeze from the W. and S.W., it remained. The ferry was still crossing, wagons running. A meeting held this evening at Aitken's resolved to ask for a grant of 200 pounds a year for a steam ferry boat. Also for extension of the telegraph wire to Georgetown and subscribed \$80.00 to assist in extending it there. 'Amateur's' crew got home by the cape from Halifax.

Friday, 21st: Morning soft, appearance of a storm; day fine, beautiful, wheeling. Crossing town ferry on foot and ice bad; none here. Wind came round to the N.W. at night and froze pretty hard.

Saturday, 22nd: Day bright and cold, no ice. Ferry boat crossing, roads hard; not calm at night and made a good deal of ice but on the morning of Sunday, 23rd, the wind being south with snow and rain soon broke it all up. The day continued soft and unpleasant. Blowing a good breeze from the south until dark when it came around to the west. Still raining.

On Monday, 24th, the wind was north; day fine and moderate, not much frost last night. Good wheeling today. In the afternoon I sat as one of a commission to try a seduction case. M. McCa. vs. McCa. and awarded \$100. Went to Montague and back with the horse and wagon before tea. Heads of the rivers open for a little way down. Went to a meeting of the Institute and read a piece for them.

Tuesday, 25th: The wind E. or E.S.E. this morning and snowing some but not cold; continued snowing thickly all day till dark and blowing hard. Arrive with town with horse and sleigh today. Begun to rain at 10 p.m.

(To Be Continued)

The Poet's Corner

THE DEAD

Ye that have heven from death's dark stubborn son, Immortal frescoes, lovelier than light, And given to sacrifice a roser night, Than this unstable Autumn's wealth unknown, And unto Life such terrible return, And unto Love a loss so sweet and white, That purer than the stars he stands tonight, Smiling serene, unspcakably alone— If sight of earth can reach into mortal years, May truth's white bird of rumour mounting high, Bring you the secret of our hidden tears, And the proud falsehood of the tearless eye; Fill in the heavy wrappage of the years, Death's self be hid and sad truth seem a lie. —Willoughy Weaving

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION and ANALYSIS G. F. HUTCHESON & SON Optometrists 53 Grafton St.