

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1950

Government Middleman

Trade Minister Howe has announced the setting up of a new Crown corporation to handle defence purchasing. The new organization is to be known as Defence Construction Limited.

No doubt Mr. Howe's purpose in creating this new agency of government reflects his desire to handle defence purchasing with the utmost efficiency and economy. Certainly Mr. Johnson's qualifications are such as to suggest that, under his direction, Defence Construction Limited will do a good job.

Defence Purchasing Limited will require a staff. The staff will have to be paid. Taxes will be the source of the salaries. Those salaries will not be subject to civil service requirements, nor will appointments to posts in the new organization come under the civil service commission.

The tendency of the Federal Government to meet what appears to be a continuing crisis through the practice of setting up ever more Crown corporations is open to question on a number of counts. The better part of wisdom and sound administration would be to have all purchasing done by the departments of government concerned, without the added financial burden of an official "middle-man" not responsible to Parliament.

Seven Year's Ago

Seven years ago on December 5, 1943, troops of the 1st Canadian Division in Italy began their offensive across the Moro River in the drive to Ortona and engaged in what Major General Chris Vokes, then commanding the Division, described as "the most intensive fighting that the Canadians had yet engaged in."

Tests For Drunk Drivers

The Canadian Temperance Federation has urged upon the Federal Government the need of amending the Criminal Code to recognize scientific blood tests for alcohol. The case made out by the brief, says the Ottawa Citizen, is bolstered by shocking statistics.

Then why not increase the severity of penalties against drivers who are not in control of themselves? The Canadian Temperance Federation recognizes that this policy would make convictions more difficult. It advocates more effective enforcement of existing law. This would require authority for the police to prove by scientific meth-

ods the degree to which an accused driver was influenced by liquor. It would require acceptance by the courts of such evidence as sufficient for conviction if driving ability was impaired, whether or not the accused person was technically drunk.

It is not because of perversity that the courts do not automatically accept the findings of the "drunkometer" or its ilk. Like almost everything else under the sun these tests are subject to error of various kinds and degree. The Canadian Bar Association has taken considerable interest in the matter and has decided to ask the National Research Council to determine the reliability of such tests and the technique of applying them.

Finger-printing as a means of identification is sometimes compared with the present problem, as being slowly and hesitantly accepted by the courts but now universally recognized. It took time to demonstrate convincingly that the chances of ten characteristics of any two fingerprints being identical is at least a million to one and two completely identical prints almost an impossibility.

In any case it would not have increased the probative effect of finger-prints to have them legislated upon, nor can an act of Parliament make mechanical tests for drunkenness more persuasive to the judicial mind than does their inherent reliability.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The tractor-drawn trailer is becoming a common sight on highways and streets. Lacking the comfort of a car or truck cab, the combination does the job of transportation and reduces farm overhead.

The Brandon Sun reflects that in our more youthful days few were ashamed of their means of transportation. "They didn't bring out a bigger, shinier horse every season." Has Brandon so soon forgotten the rite of horse-trading?

British Prime Minister Attlee will visit Ottawa on his way home from Washington to assure Prime Minister St. Laurent that he meant what he said at the Washington Press Club—there would be no voluntary appeasement over Korea, and more troops are necessary.

Running an institution like the P. E. I. Hospital requires a man at the head of the directorate with vision, patience and stick-at-it-iveness, otherwise it may be run on the rocks. P. E. I. Hospital is fortunate in having such a one in Mr. N. D. MacLean, successor to a long list of able men who devoted time and money to make the Hospital the success it is today.

This year marks the beginning of a new system of examinations at Mount Allison University. The annual mid-year examinations, formerly held approximately two weeks after the Christmas vacation period will be written this year in the last four class days before the Christmas recess, allowing students to worry over the outcome before rather than after the vacation.

Livestock producers are lucky to have their Federal subsidy of \$6.00 per ton on Western feed grains continued till March 31; whereas the potato growers are unfortunate in having to absorb their loss with little prospect of Ottawa coming to their assistance. On the other hand, we are fortunate in getting a contract for 1,600 machine gun chests which has gone to Schurman's of Summerside, and will benefit labour there.

The Saskatchewan law society is asking the provincial cabinet to remove crown immunity to actions in the ordinary courts of the province. They claim all the people of the province should be liable for acts of damage to property or persons committed by government employees or departments. Under present law, it is possible to sue a government department but first a permissive fiat must be applied for by petition of right to the government. Granting of a fiat is at the discretion of the government.

Thomas De Quincy, English essayist, died this date 1859. While at Oxford he became a victim to the opium habit, which had disastrous effects on his future career. About 1807 he made the acquaintance of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Lamb and others and settled at Grasmere, edited a local newspaper, and contributed to "Blackwood". He subsequently settled at Lasswade, Midlothian where he spent the remainder of his life, and wrote Confessions of an English Opium-Eater, and brilliant essays for various magazines. His reading was very extensive, and he had great individual endowments. He was one of England's greatest stylists, and excelled in impassioned, ornate prose; but his work is marred by the depression induced by his opium indulgence.

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.

OLDTIME FARM MACHINERY

Sir.—I noticed in The Guardian of Dec. 5th a letter from Mr. J. A. MacKenzie of Kensington, describing the farm machinery used by our forefathers in the pursuit of their agricultural occupation.

I remember my father using that article when I was a very young boy, but I do not remember enough about it to be able to describe it. If Mr. MacKenzie or any other gentleman remembers this instrument I am sure many of us would be pleased to have him describe it through your Public Forum.

By all means let us have a P. E. Island Museum where such articles could be displayed. I remember some few years ago of selling an old single plow, iron, made by the late Duncan MacGillivray of Churchhill. The splendid workmanship displayed in that plow, if it is still in existence, would entitle it to a place in such a museum.

I am, Sir, etc., JOHN H. MYERS Hampton, P. E. I.

POTATO PRICES

Sir.—Will you please publish the following letter in The Guardian in your Forum: I am, Sir, etc., MURDOCK DAWSON, Albany, P. E. I.

(Enclosure) Montreal, Dec. 1, 1950. What is your Marketing Board doing?

No Board is needed to sell or give away potatoes at the present ridiculous low figures. When will your Board have enough courage to take the bull by the horn and use drastic measures to check drastic conditions?

The price of a normal crop should bring to growers cost of production, plus a reasonable profit. So why does not your Board work from that point on and eliminate the factors that are blocking this normal course of events?

Yours very truly, POTATO DISTRIBUTORS LIMITED.

LIVESTOCK FEED COSTS

Sir.—One of the most important factors in growing livestock and one that affects the profit and loss complexion more effectively than anything else, is the cost of feed. It assumed it follows, then, that this phase of the work calls for particular attention. Once the facts are recognized, no time should be lost in making a survey and taking action.

The cost of blended feeds so universally used, is based mainly on the price paid for Western grain, — the basic ingredient — and that seems to apply to local blending as well as the imported. With the price of Western grain approximately 50% higher than the locally grown, there should be a difference in cost, favourable to the consumer where island grain is used in the blending. Quality of Island grain this year is exceptionally good on the average, and it can be converted into just as potent a balanced ration as any imported brand, more so than in some instances where low grade Western grain has been used in the blending. A considerable saving in cost can be effected.

The following figures based on present costs of protein concentrates and mill feeds will indicate the possibilities with home grown grain, grinding, and mixing. The figures submitted concerns the production of hog grower but applies to other blends of feed with equal advantage, and includes an allowance for custom grinding and mixing if a feeder prefers having the job done that way. The first figure gives the value placed upon the farmer's grain. The second the protein content of each feed. The third the cost of the feed including all charges.

The difference between the quotations given and the price asked for imported feeds does not necessarily indicate dealers' profits but includes unnecessary freight charges and other handling expense as well, all of which can be eliminated if the feeder wishes to do so.

Table with 3 columns: Grain Value, Protein Content, Feed Cost. Rows for 2.10 cwt, 2.25 cwt, 2.50 cwt.

I am, Sir, etc., J. A. GILLIES

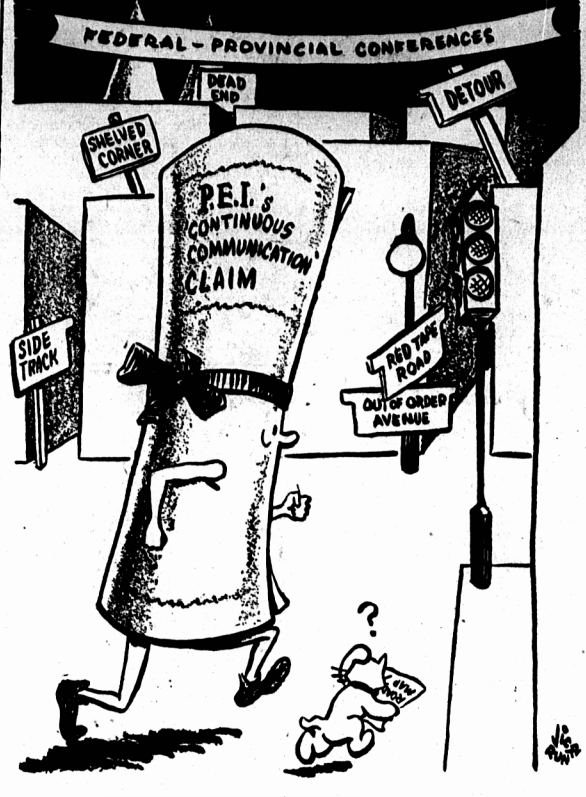
The Age-Old Story

Surely He scorneth the scorners; but He giveth grace unto the lowly.

THISTLETON, RUTLAND, ENGLAND.—(CP)—With a population of 100, this village has had no funerals for four years, and no weddings for the last two years.

DARTFORD, ENGLAND.—(CP)—Kent county officials have estimated that road repairs this year cost the county authorities \$1,023 per mile.

Difficult Route



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

Fossil Remains

Reference has appeared in this column to a fossil found many years ago at New London, and subsequently deposited in the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia where it is catalogued as "Bathynathus Borealis, an Extinct Saurian of the New Red Sandstone of Prince Edward Island." It was the second authentic specimen of saurian bones ever found in the New Red Sandstone Formation of North America, the first being found in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and named "Epeysaurus Pennsylvaniaicus." The discovery of the New London fossil — which was purchased for ten or twelve pounds and could perhaps be recovered when the Provincial Museum materializes — is thus reported in the Haszard's Gazette of March 12, 1853:

"We were shown, the other day, a very interesting curiosity, discovered on the farm of Mr. Donald McLeod, senior, French River, New London, which when examined by a scientific geologist, may throw some light on the formation of this Island. The following extract of a letter is a description of it, and how it was found:

"When he had descended to the depth of 21 feet, 9 inches — 9 feet of which was solid rock — he discovered the jawbone of an animal embedded in a solid rock. The piece which I examined was 7 1/2 inches in length, 3 1/2 inches wide at the small end, and 5 inches at the larger end. It contains eight teeth of a round form approaching to oval, and inclined back; the teeth are from 1 to 2 inches in length; the part which contains the marrow, both in jaw and teeth, is completely petrified. From the formation of the teeth the animal evidently subsisted on fish, and belonged to that class denominated carnivorous. No person that has seen it ever saw a jawbone like it; and what the animal was I think will puzzle the naturalist, but it is evident the class of animals to which it belonged is not now to be found in any of the provinces. It is my opinion that it was an inhabitant of the sea."

Francis Balm's more lively description of the creature as "a moderate-sized alligator scaled and crested, mounted erect on a pair of powerful posterior limbs which enabled it to leap with the agility of a frog," appeared in his "Natural History of Prince Edward Island," 1890.

'Rights' To The Air

"The general manager of the association of commercial broadcasting stations in Canada is busy travelling around asking for sympathy for them in their effort to be freed from control by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation," says the Ottawa Journal. The privately-owned stations want to be treated like the railways, given a Government Commission with jurisdiction over all broadcasting including CBC. Their publicity complaints of the unfairness of the present law under which they are regulated "by a rival."

"It seems necessary to repeat not once but many times, because the argument is one that does make an appeal to the good sportsmanship of business men such as those of Pembroke to whom it was thus presented last week—necessary to repeat that the private commercial stations have no 'right' to the air and are merely permitted to operate on a licence that may be cancelled at any time. They exist by courtesy, and that is as it should be."

"The whole campaign of the broadcasters is founded on their desire to obtain 'rights' to something that they have grabbed. As 'equalizers' they have made money out of their use of the air. This is evidenced by the juicy sums at which certain stations have changed hands; and, be it noted, future 'rights' to television operation are the luscious plum coveted. "The commercial stations have not been treated unfairly by the CBC—indeed many private stations

The Poet's Corner

FROM "LOLLINGDON DOWNS"

I could not sleep for thinking of the sky. The unending sky, with all its million suns Which turn their planets everlastingly In nothing, where the fire-haired comet runs. If I could sail that nothing, I should cross Silence and emptiness with dark stars passing; Then, in the darkness, see a point of gloss Burn to a glow, and glare, and keep amassing. And range, into a sun with wandering planets, And drop behind; and then, as I proceed, See his last light upon his last moon's granites Die to a dark that would be night indeed; Night where my soul might sail a million years In nothing, not even Death, not even tears. —John Masenfield.

China's Millions

(H. L. MacPherson in The Windsor Star)

Events having reached their present pass, it's in order to stop a moment and examine the muscles of that country, China which suddenly has begun to toss so much weight around. A great deal is being heard of China's 450,000,000 population, its inexhaustible manpower, all of which may be true within strict statistical limits. But when faced with the Hsu-Chuan of the Red Chinese delegation attempts to size up and smoke like a dragon at Lake Success, there is one fact his belligerency can't conceal and it's this: China, for all its millions, is not a first-rate power. It may not even be a second-rate power. It can raise mighty armies, but in those forces there will be a low percentage of military effectiveness; and there's no substantial industry to maintain them.

Even its tens and hundreds of millions are, when you consider them in their true light, a liability. Cut or contained by the water supply in a score of Chinese cities, and within days they'll become vast, reeking graveyards.

Never before has there been a country so vulnerable. When Mao Tseung and his Kremlin advisers threaten to push China into war, their acts become maniacal. Britain and Canada should know, if some other countries don't what a city crowded with Chinese is worth when an unnumbered enemy closes in. Hong Kong is an example. Once the Japanese sneers came under Japanese control in December, 1941, defence of the crowded colony of 1,750,000 became impossible.

Just how strong militarily is have been materially helped by CBC—and the idea is fantastic of setting up an independent commission at a cost of at least \$100,000 a year to do something already being very well done for nothing. "The CBC obtains its authority direct from Parliament; its operations are from time to time investigated by a Parliamentary Committee; and, if CBC is not doing properly the monitoring job assigned to it, Parliament can and should change the composition of the Corporation. "The air belongs to the people and there ought to be constant watchfulness that it is not appropriated by private interests under the disguise of 'free enterprise', or any other disguise."

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Notes By The Way

All it means is that we are paying more than a year ago for the things we must buy, and so that they can meet those higher prices most people are getting more than a year ago in wages and salaries. We handle more money, but save perhaps even less of it. We build up a vast sum in cheques cashed, but this means no more than the adding up of a great number of fictitious values. A house built for \$6,000 twenty years ago now may sell for \$12,000, but it still is just one house, its facilities are no greater than two decades ago, and that extra \$6,000 represents no measurable value.

In its eight years of sporadic warfare with Japan, China claimed military losses of 1,800,000 officers and men killed, with 1,700,000 others wounded and missing. The Japanese casualty lists give these figures for the China theatre: Battle dead, 126,000; permanently disabled, 126,000; captured, 1,059, Total, 283,059. To the extent that these statistics are reliable, they show that Japanese losses were less than one-tenth of the Chinese total. This casts its own reflection on that sprawling mass of manpower that served as a Chinese army before and during World War II. Figures on the manpower Chiang Kai-shek mobilized are not available. In 1947, however, the strength of the Chinese army was given as 5,750,000. But the same sources say only 1,500,000 of that total could be considered military effective. The Chinese Communists at that time were understood to number about 1,500,000, but there was no breakdown separating the effective from the "agrarian reformers."

With its air cover and high armored content, an Allied Western Front army group of 1945 probably would slash the total Chinese land power to pieces in a few weeks, if it could be met on suitable terrain. Given time and enough second-hand Russian equipment, the Communists may be able to whip a formidable Chinese army into shape. By that time, too, they may be able to produce the armament to sustain it. But there is nothing on record to show that greater strength has yet been achieved.

The toughest job dad could have — giving kids all the spankings mother has said they were going to get.—London Free Press. The statistics show that whether a hunter is out for mountain lions or red squirrels, his chances of shooting a human being by mistake are about equal. But rabbits are probably the greatest troublemaker. In the frenzy of getting his rabbit, many a man will shoot his best friend or even himself. One rabbit in Pennsylvania scampered up a hunter's leg. What happened is not mentioned in the official report, but the hunter bagged his own pet. Two other hunters, stationed themselves at the two ends, and fired simultaneously. The rabbit got both hunters.—Atlantic Monthly.

The United States finds itself at a crisis in its diplomatic affairs with confidence in officials responsible for foreign policy at a dangerously low ebb. The officials themselves may not be entirely to blame for this, but they will certainly be culpable if they do not recognize the situation as it exists and take strong steps to deal with it. The plain and obvious need is for a restoration of bipartisan agreement upon the chief plank in our foreign policy platform. To alter our policy of another so as to appease critics of the Administration, to exact the resignation of some individual as a scapegoat, cannot get to the heart of the problem.—New York Herald Tribune.

We can't help feeling sorry for the young London electronic technician who's looking for what he imagines would be the perfect wife. So far he's spent \$20 advertising for an attractive young woman interested in astronomy, psychology, electronics, hydroponics, molecular energy and thinking machines. The tragedy of our young man is that he may know all about electronics but he knows nothing about dimples. Some empty-headed little redhead with a big dimple is going to make him forget what an electron looks like. That, of course, will be the tragedy of our young man but it is also the salvation of our race. When election time comes dimples will be all over for all of us.—Vancouver Province.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Grid of professional cards including: J. A. McGuigan (Barrister, Solicitor), Bell & Matheson (Barristers, Solicitors), A. Walthen Gaudet (Barrister, Solicitor), MacPhee & Trainor (Barristers, Etc.), Gaudet & Haszard (Barristers and Solicitors), Dr. W. R. Carson (Chiropractor), Matheson & Peake (Barristers, Etc.), John P. Nicholson (Barrister, Solicitor), J. A. Carruthers (Optometrist), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), H. R. Doane & Co. (Chartered Accountants), and McDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).