

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink" CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, MAR. 30, 1953

A Federal Obligation

Hard-pressed municipalities will find a gleam of hope in Finance Minister Abbott's admission in the House of Commons on Friday that the tax allocation formula may stand in need of revision. The question was raised by Mr. Gordon Graydon, who claimed that there is not very much justification now for the Federal Government not paying taxes in a municipality "the same as anyone else." Municipalities had to pay excise taxes on what they bought, yet the Federal Government was not contributing its share of municipal taxes. The municipalities, he emphasized, have a tremendous load to carry, "and some cannot bear it." The Finance Minister replied that the present formula for federal payments to municipalities in lieu of tax on government property appears "reasonably fair." However, he conceded that it might be due for review. It provides for payments to municipalities where federal property makes up more than four per cent of the assessment roll. This formula, adopted in 1950, set a precedent in that no attempt had previously been made by Ottawa to compensate municipalities for untaxable property.

While giving due credit to Mr. Abbott for this innovation, members do well to point out that it is still far short of being fair and acceptable to a large number of municipalities where the extent of Federal property falls under the four per cent assessment roll ruling. Revision of the present system is certainly in order, and it is to be hoped the Minister will give further consideration to it without delay.

Life And Times Of Atlantic Fish

The young of many of our salt water fish constitute part of the plankton on which larger fish, including whales, live. To learn as much as possible about the habits of fish it is essential to study the plankton and the National Geographic Society and the Marine Laboratory of the University of Miami, as well as other American and Canadian researchers are engaged in such research. They are conducting a long range investigation into the lives of pelagic (ocean-going) fishes; both those pursued by sportsmen and those of interest to commercial fishermen.

Working with fine silk nets in the Gulf Stream and off the coast of Florida these scientists have added immensely to mankind's knowledge of the tiny planktonic life with which the sea abounds and on which all animal life in the sea depends. The young of the fish in which we are interested are presumably to be found in the plankton but their life histories are almost completely unknown.

An immense amount of work will be required merely to identify the larvae. It is this study, of deep-water ocean fish from the egg to the table or the sportsman's hook, that is now being undertaken. Several Caribbean governments are co-operating to supply the Society and University with additional plankton samples.

For Safer Driving

Emphasizing the alarming increase in motor accidents in Canada in recent years, the Montreal Gazette points out that from 40,000 in 1939 they now amount to 200,000. In an average year 30,000 Canadians are injured in traffic accidents, and 2,700 are killed. It is estimated that one person is killed in Canada in an auto accident every four hours, while one is injured every 15 minutes. A fender is smashed every two minutes. The claims paid out by Canadian auto insurers during the past year amounted to \$65 million. This is about the same as the cost of Canada's participation in the two years of the Korean War.

This does not merely mean that more cars are now insured than before, with the result that the total is larger. It means also that the cost of each accident claim is higher. For example, the cost of medical care has increased 165 per cent since 1939. Similarly, the costs of reimbursing Canadians for "lost time" due to accidents have jumped. The average Canadian wage today is about 150 per cent higher than it was before the war. The courts, in giving judgment in accident cases, have been taking into consideration the higher costs of medical care and of "lost time." Then there

are the higher costs of repairing damaged cars. This is illustrated in so common and simple a thing as repairing a smashed fender, which costs three times as much as it did in 1939.

While insurance rates have gone up since 1939, they have scarcely kept pace with rising costs. The average cost to the insurance company per claim has in the last five years alone jumped from \$134 to \$166. Last year the margin of profit calculated by the auto insurance companies in Canada turned out to be a \$6 million loss. "Since a further upward revision of insurance rates seems justified," says the Gazette, "it becomes highly important that the burden should be eased as far as possible in the case of the driver who had proved his regard for safety. The insurance companies of Canada have already tried to avoid the 'blanket' rate by setting insurance rates according to districts, thereby taking into consideration the regional accident risk. Furthermore, Canada is one of the few countries of the world where automobile rates are reviewed annually.

"The new provision of allowing a preferential rate to safe drivers carries the same principle further. At present the preference will be confined to particular classifications of insurance. But it may be hoped that the principle may be carried still further in the future, so that the incentive for safe driving may be increased and insurance rates themselves may be subject to fewer upward pressures than prevail at the present time."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Cattle ranching is reported to be becoming popular in the South Sea Islands, from Tahiti to New Guinea. Future tourists are indeed in for a shock when they hear the equivalent of "yipee-hi-yi" in Polynesian or something similar.

Eggs are now "off the ration" in Britain for the first time in twelve years. There must be general rejoicing in the Old Country despite the fact that rationing still applies to meat, bacon, sugar, butter, cheese, margarine and cooking fats.

More than conservationists will be glad that Sherwood Forest, Nottingham—home of Robin Hood—is being replaced. The great oak trees and elms of the forest were slowly disappearing but are now being replaced. The world would have been the poorer had the greenwood haunts of the outlaw band been permitted to vanish.

Canada is now the fourth greatest industrial power in the world, notes a former British Labour Minister. Canadians sometimes need to be reminded of that fact also. The United States took far too long to realize its position and responsibilities in the world. It is to be hoped that the same fault will not be laid to Canada's door.

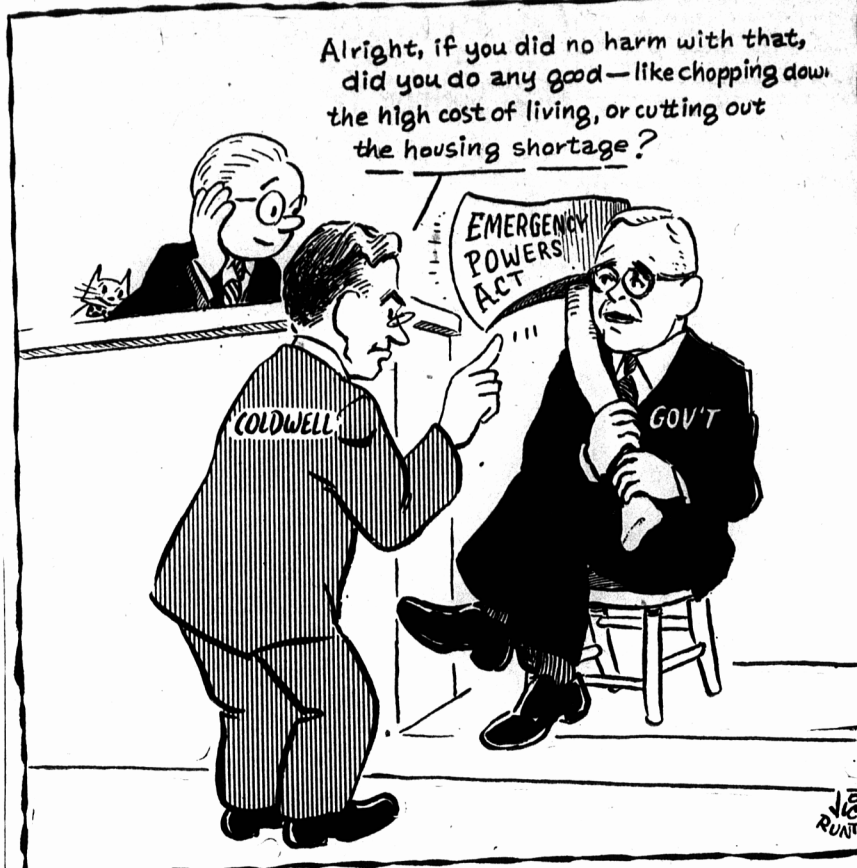
Vincent van Gogh, Dutch painter, was born one hundred years ago today. Many of his paintings have been frequently reproduced and are widely familiar. Their brilliant light, their sometimes ecstatic, sometimes pathetic quality, enthuse amateurs as well as connoisseurs. At the time of his death, by suicide, only one of his paintings had been sold.

The 50 m.p.h. speed limit, 30 m.p.h. when meeting another vehicle at night, may be irksome to some drivers and is a very rough gauge indeed of careful driving. At the same time it has been demonstrated that such limits have a most beneficial effect on highway safety. Reckless drivers who happen to be operating within the maximum limit can still be dealt with as at present.

There is little popular interest in the law of inheritance; in procedure in the courts; or in the Sale of Goods Act. It would be almost impossible to get the public to attend meetings to discuss amendments in the law on these important matters. That does not relieve the Legislature of the responsibility for keeping the law as just and reasonable as possible. Nor does popular indifference make it right to ignore objectionable features of the Election Act.

Like other seasons of the year spring-time has its hazards which very often lead to accidents. Children's eye accidents occur more frequently at this time. Playthings such as bows and arrows, air rifles, sling shots, bean shooters are in common use by children. If these playthings were properly handled painful and permanent injuries would not be endured. The files of Canadian National Institute for the Blind contain grim stories of eyes being lost and total darkness brought to many who began by enjoying seemingly harmless sport with these weapons.

From Another Angle



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.

COUN. JOHNSTONE REPLIES

Sir—Kindly allow me space in your Public Forum to comment on a letter which appeared in Saturday's Guardian and was signed "Unfortunate Taxpayer."

The writer of this letter says, "The City Council took good care not to hold their meeting and increase this tax percentage rate until after the Appeal Board concluded."

I would like to explain to "Unfortunate Taxpayer" that the rate of taxation is dependent upon the total assessed value of all city property. Therefore the rate can be calculated only after the Appeal Board has functioned. The City is not allowed to budget for a deficit.

"Unfortunate Taxpayer" also says: "For the City Council to think that the taxpayers can pay all the expenditures of the city is a mistaken idea. There are other sources of revenue." I am sure that all citizens as well as the Council will be forever grateful to him if he will tell us about any source of revenue which we are at present overlooking.

It is painfully evident that much more revenue will be required in 1954. Under the present system the burden falls mainly on the owner of real estate. The Council felt that some of the anticipated increase in 1954 could be borne by car owners, many of whom do not own real estate. Apparently "Unfortunate Taxpayer" agrees with the members of the Legislature who do not favour placing any burden on car owners in order to lessen the load on the owners of real estate.

The Council is holding a special meeting Tuesday, March 31st at 7 p.m. to discuss taxation in the hope that some system can be devised, whereby, the full burden of the next increase will not fall entirely on the property owners.

If "Unfortunate Taxpayer" or any other taxpayer is interested in his own business he should attend this meeting and I am sure I speak for every councillor when I say he will be most welcome and any suggestions he may care to offer will receive full consideration from the Council.

I am, Sir etc. UNFORTUNATE CHAIRMAN OF FINANCES

GOOD OLD TIMES

Sir—Quite interesting to read in the "Old Charlottetown" column about the 96 Roman Catholic totalers, men, women and boys, who marched from Morell to St. Andrew's to be received by their parish priest who had another 14 ready to take the pledge. It showed a great enthusiasm for the cause of total abstinence, to walk seven miles on the 30th of March, 1842, or on any date.

The Age-Old Story

And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

The Atom Keeps Time

The other day the Washington Academy of Sciences awarded a prize to Dr. Harold Lyons of the National Bureau of Standards because he had invented a clock which will neither lose nor gain more than a second in ten billion seconds and which is unaffected by changes in temperature and pressure or by aging. Dr. Lyons' clock is a thirty-foot copper tube filled with ammonia gas. With its aid the accuracy of astronomical observations, long-range navigation and communication systems, surveying, map making and radio tuning will be increased.

For generations the rotating earth has been the world's standard clock. When the astronomers consulted old tables they found the earth was slowing down because of the braking action of tides in shallow seas. Other causes also contributed to the causing error. In the early Eighteenth Century the day was shorter than average by a few thousandths of a second; about 1900 it got a little longer; in 1920 it began to shorten. On the whole, the day is lengthening about 0.001 second in a century. This may seem a negligible error to most of humanity. An astronomer is as disturbed by it as much as we are when we discover that our watches gain or lose a minute or two in a week. When the astronomer calculates the time of total eclipse of the sun twenty centuries ago he has to make a correction of several hours.

Just why is ammonia a better time-keeper than the earth? All atoms in molecules vibrate, and their vibrations appear as lines in the molecular spectrum. Each line indicates a specific frequency of vibration, just as a tuning fork emits a note of a particular pitch. It is possible to measure these atomic vibrations with precision. Here is a clock so much more accurate than the slightly erratic earth that henceforth much time-keeping trouble will be avoided. It looks very much as if the very high frequencies used in radar, television relays and microwave equipment will be controlled by vibrating atoms. This ought to be a boon to broadcasting companies, for it will be possible to establish radio channels so exactly that tuning can be made as automatic as the dialing of a telephone number.

It is known by the name of Billie Graham. Quite recently, in conversation with Dr. Bennell of Fifth Ave. Presbyterian Church, New York, he was asked—What does the Protestant Church stand most in need of at the present time? Dr. Graham replied—"Commitment, commitment."

I am, Sir, etc. ARCH. MACKENZIE Kensington, P. E. I.

OVER TIME

Sir—In a recent issue of your paper I noticed in your Editorial Notes a reference to overtime pay granted members of the Federal Civil Service. Might I ask who has received this overtime grant? In Charlottetown there are two organizations of civil servants, I understand—a branch of the Civil Service Federation and an Agricultural Civil Servants Association. Possibly either could supply the information. I am, Sir, etc. ENQUIRER Charlton.

LAMBTON, England, (OP)—Last of the ancestral homes being converted to other uses is Lambton Castle, seat of the Earl of Durham. The castle, nestled in 1,200 acres of woodland, will become an adult co-education college.

The Poet's Corner

ACCIDENT IN ART

What painter has not with a careless smutch Accomplished his despair? — one touch revealing All he had put of life, thought, vigor, feeling, Into the canvas that without that touch Showed of his love and labor just so much Raw pigment, scarce a scrap of soul concealing! What poet has not found his spirit kneeling At the sound of such or such Strange verses staring from his manuscript. Written he knows not how, but which will sound Like trumpets down the years? So Accident Itself unmasks the likeness of Intent, And even in blind Chance's darkest crypt The shrine-lamp of God's purpose is found.

—Richard Hovey.

Churchill's Tribute

Following is the text of Prime Minister Churchill's broadcast to the Commonwealth on the death of Queen Mary: I have been, my friends, asked to say just a few words upon the sad event, which fills our thoughts this evening. Men and women of all ages, in all the lands owing allegiance to the Crown, have sorrowing hearts tonight. Queen Mary was loved and revered far and wide, as perhaps nobody has been since Queen Victoria.

During six reigns, far longer, that is, than most people can remember, she has moved among us with the poise and the dignity which, as age drew on, made her a figure of almost legendary distinction. How few of you listening to me tonight can recall a time without Queen Mary, and even those who never saw her will feel a deep and sincere pang at the passing of this last great link with Queen Victoria's reign.

When she was born, Napoleon the Third ruled in France and Palmerston had only recently ceased to be Prime Minister of this country. Railways were comparatively new; electric light and the internal combustion engine were unknown. She knew Gladstone and Disraeli; her grandfather was the son of George the Third. Yet she lived into this atomic age, through the two fearful wars which cast almost all the throats of Europe to the ground but also transformed the world. The chasm which scientific invention and social change have brought between 1867 and 1953 is so wide that it requires not only courage but mental resilience for those whose youth lay in calmer and more slowly moving times, in order that they may adjust themselves to the giant outlines and harsh structure of the 20th century.

But Queen Mary did not cling to the insubstantial shadows of what had been. She moved easily through the changing scenes. New ideas held no terrors for her. Dispassionate in judgment, practical in all things, she was also far too much interested in the present to be unduly prejudiced by the past. She died in the knowledge that the Crown of these realms worn so gloriously by her husband and by her son and so soon to be set with solemnity on the head of her granddaughter, is far more broadly and securely based on the people's love and the nation's will than in the sedate days of her youth, when rank and privilege ruled society. I hope that she realized that her sympathy, her influence and her example played a notable part in all this, and it was for these services to the British peoples, that our race all over the world and in this island, with their keen and seldom erring instinct placed her

Notes By The Way

They have a way with words in Buffalo. A while ago a came across a back street with a sign describing it as "Certified Unexpedient to Repair," and now we discover that it is the Division of Environmental Sanitation which is investigating the mass death of fish in Lake Erie. — Hamilton Spectator.

Here in Winnipeg, members of the City Council have so far made no move to procure special robes of office. If they do, it is to be hoped that they will not follow the example of some regimented centers in which all aldermen have to wear the same kind of outfit. Winnipeg aldermen should hold out for individually designed robes to match their moods, personalities and achievements. —Winnipeg Tribune.

According to Dan Kennedy, an Assiniboine Indian chief born in the Cypress Hills before the treaty was made with the tribe by which they took up residence on the Assiniboine reserve, the Indians gave the name "Moose Jaw" to a place on the creek, because of a bend in its course shaped like a moose's jaw. Mr. Kennedy saw the name of Moose Jaw in 1888, a year after it had been founded by the party of five from Winnipeg who sought to locate where the railway would make a divisional point. —Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

There seem endless possibilities of humor in the story from Markfield, England, about the huntman searching through one of Britain's heaviest fog for a missing pack of hounds. There will be conventional quips about the aristocracy going to the dogs — and going unsuccessfully. There will be others about the pack misled in the mist. There may even be suggestions that dogs be used to hunt hunters hunting dogs. But to some Canadians who have never appreciated the significance of riding to hounds, there will be an element of sense in the report from Markfield. At least on that occasion the hunters were actually hunting. —Victoria Times.

If the restless shade of Erwin Rommel ever glances at the news, it must be chucking at what has come to pass in Egypt. Rommel, as commander of the German armies in Africa, strove mightily and resourcefully to win Egypt for the Nazis, but was outmaneuvered and outthought by Alexander of Tunis and Montgomery of Alamein, and went home to take part in misadventures which ended in his death. But now the Germans are moving quietly into Egypt as the British move out. The Germans are coming in as industrialists, as financiers, as merchants, as transportation experts and as administrators. —Vancouver Province.

and held her so high in their affections. Queen Mary will long live meek and gracious in all our memories, and in the annals of these tumultuous times. We pray that she may now rest in peace.

Why there should be New Canadians, or DP's (which is an objectionable and outworn term) any more than well-placed persons, we don't know. A man is a Canadian not by virtue of some ticket from Ottawa, or because of his accent or lack of one, but by the way he acts and lives, and most of all by what he contributes to the nation. —Hamilton Spectator.

It is difficult to imagine a person of 21 years of age being unable to read or write in this present age, but such a case was revealed when an uneducated man was involved in a murder charge in Kitchener. If it had been a backwoods community with no school facilities, this lack of education might be more readily understood. We can't help wondering where the truant officer was when this man was between the ages of six and 16! —Brockville Recorder and Times.

A sixpence, given in change by a London bus conductor, split edge-ways as the passenger was about to put it into her purse. An official at the Royal Mint said later that during the manufacturing process a small bubble of air must have been imprisoned in the cast. This had developed into a blister and, with handling in the course of circulation, it had split the coin in two. The coin, the official added, was worth sixpence to the Mint. —London Times Weekly.

Let the infant Macaulay move over and the infant Mozart hush up. Another three-year-old wants to do some quiet reading. Actually, Lance Kerr of Los Angeles is four now, but he learned to read and write when he was three. The other day he walked into the public library, asked for a card, read several passages aloud to prove he could read, got the card, signed his name, and walked out coolly with six volumes under his arm. His father has an explanation for it: Television reception is poor in the area where the family lives, and the boy wanted a substitute form of entertainment. Simple, isn't it? — Christian Science Monitor.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) ILL-FATED PASSAGE "On Friday, the 14th ult., a boat which left Cape St. Lawrence, in the Island of Cape Breton, with about 12 or 14 persons on board, mostly women and children, bound for Prince Edward Island, was blown off to sea, and after undergoing great deprivations, having no provisions on board except one oaten cake, she got into Cow Bay, in the former island, on the Tuesday following. One man and two of the children had died, chiefly from want of water — the others, though in a very exhausted state, were recovering." —Royal Gazette, July 16, 1833

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