

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, 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 TUESDAY, FEB. 2, 1954

Civic Elections

The election today for Summerside Town Council and Sewers and Water Commission sees very few seats contested. It is to be hoped that Wednesday, Nomination Day for the Charlottetown civic election, will see a larger field of candidates for the various elective offices.

There will be an election for mayor, Mayor J. D. Stewart and Councillor M. Alban Farmer, having both indicated that they are prepared to enter the contest. Councillors G. R. Keefe, Elmer MacDonald and P. R. McCormac have all indicated that they will seek re-election, as has Water Commissioner Bevan. Mr. E. E. Clawson has also announced that he will seek election as a water commissioner.

It is to be hoped that the names of other present members will go forward on Wednesday and that sufficient others will nominate to assure a contest in every ward. A great deal of interest has been shown in the business of the City recently and it should be reflected in a wide choice of candidates for the electors to choose from.

Those who offer themselves for civic office do so at considerable personal sacrifice. They deserve the thanks of their fellow citizens even when the thanks are coupled with criticism for particular aspects of their administration. The present Council has a particularly good record for keeping the public informed of City business, a fact which should tell in their favour even though from day to day it provides the ammunition for criticism.

Lax Indemnity System

It is to be hoped that when increasing their indemnities at Ottawa this year our parliamentarians will take steps to remedy the present antiquated system under which absentee members would be enabled to draw handsome bonuses in sessional allowance. A check reveals that a chronically absent member of Parliament would have been able to draw \$6,100 during the 1947-48 session of Parliament, for example, had the proposed new pay scale prevailed at that time.

Here, according to the Montreal Gazette's Ottawa correspondent, is how an absentee member of Parliament would have actually fared during the 1947-48 session. The calendar length of that session was 209 days. But M.P.'s do not suffer pay deductions for being absent on days when the House of Commons stands adjourned, such as week-ends and the Christmas and Easter recesses. The total number of sitting days was 119. But members of Parliament are permitted to be absent on 15 sitting days, on a penalty-free basis. This reduces the total number of days for which a member could be penalized for absence during the 1947-48 session to 104. The penalty for non-attendance is inflicted at the rate of \$25 per day's absence.

If the absentee member of Parliament had been absent on each one of these 104 sitting days, his penalties, at that rate, would total \$2,600. But his sessional pay on the basis now proposed would total \$8,000. So his net pay for failing to attend the session would have amounted to \$5,400. In addition, he would lose \$12.50 of his \$2,000 expense allowance for each day's absence. The penalty here would total \$1,300, leaving another net bonus for absenteeism of \$700. The total absenteeism bonus would be \$6,100.

The real difficulty is that the \$25 per day penalty for absenteeism is no longer large enough to put much of a dint in parliamentary pay. It dates back to a period more than 30 years ago, when indemnities were much smaller and when such a penalty had a much greater impact. Professor Norman Ward, of the University of Saskatchewan, drew attention to the "fantastic" indemnity regulations in a study which he made three years ago. He noted that even with parliamentary pay scaled to a total of \$6,000 annually, absenteeism bonuses were available. But they were much smaller than those which would be available under the new legislation—under which the most conscientious of M.P.'s attending every day of a session, would draw \$10,000, while the laziest of his colleagues, never in attendance, would be en-

titled to \$6,100.

Said Prof. Ward: "A private business which paid its employees on such a basis could be expected to go bankrupt; but... Parliament has paid itself like this for 80 years. Furthermore, the larger the indemnity becomes, the greater is the premium on poor attendance in the Commons; and the longer and more arduous the sessions, the greater is the temptation to members to take advantage of the lax indemnity laws."

A Timely Suggestion

It is to be hoped that some concrete action will follow the request of the Canadian National Railways for the setting up of an advisory council representing the Provinces, the railways and large municipalities to co-ordinate proposals for the solution of the railway-highway crossings problem.

In a brief submitted to the Board of Transport Commissioners, the Railroad stated that the present method of dealing with grade crossing improvement or elimination is not satisfactory. "There is no over-all planning directed at using the available resources at points where public need is the greatest and where, consequently, they will produce the best results," the brief states. "Many municipalities fail to press for needed improvements due to lack of interest in the problem, or of funds to bear their share of the cost. The Provinces or municipalities which are better off financially are the ones which make the most requests. As a result, it isn't always the most dangerous or congested crossing that gets attention."

The brief urged that the Federal Government—through appropriate amendments to the Railway Act—declare its policy toward the grade crossing problem. The co-ordinating body envisaged by CNR would establish a system of works priorities, promote uniformity of legislation on traffic rules at crossings, and plan public education measures to prevent accidents.

In view of the annual death and accident toll on our rail-and-highway crossings, a measure of this kind is long overdue, and it is particularly important that it be not confined to the larger municipalities but made applicable to the whole of Canada, wherever the need exists.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Purification. Candlemas.

Election Day, Summerside for a single Town Council seat, a water commissioner, also taking of water commission plebiscite.

Women will be allowed to compete in the Irish National Ploughing Championship which will be held at Cahir, County Tipperary, in February, for the first time since the championships were started in 1931.

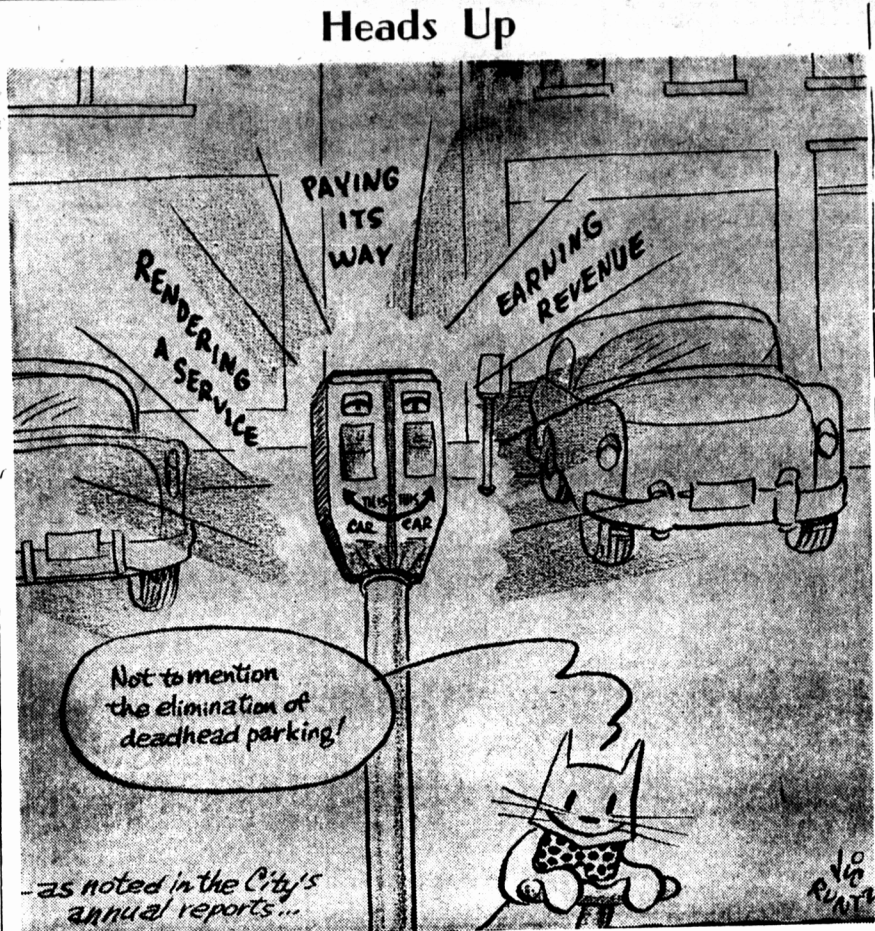
Sir Owen Seaman, English poet and journalist, died this date 1936. He began to write for the Observer and in 1897 joined the staff of Punch, of which he became assistant editor in 1902 and editor four years later. He wrote a great deal of humorous verse and parodies.

The move to have existing welfare organizations in this Province organize a joint effort to do the work of the Canadian Council of Crippled Children is to be applauded. It is to be hoped that the attempt will prove successful and make it unnecessary to form an additional and overlapping organization.

There is a particular satisfaction in the increasing success of Maritime Central Airways in the company's freight and passenger business. Air transport, despite its fifty years, is essentially a young and growing service and it is particularly encouraging that in such a field we should have the third ranking company in Canada.

Inspection and protection officers of the Federal Department of Fisheries held their annual meeting recently at Halifax, discussing departmental problems and reviewing regulations. There is a certain amount of opposition amongst fishermen to particular regulations but practically unanimity for effective enforcement.

Despite an impressive increase in the number of dwellings started and completed in the first eight months of 1953, Canada, notes the Ottawa Citizen, has again failed to keep pace with new housing needs, let alone clear up the backlog of old demand. At the end of August, 69,460 units had been started, an increase of 30 per cent over the same period in 1952. At the same time, 53,760 had been completed, an improvement of 31 per cent over last year. But at the end of June, net family formations for the year had reached 79,200. Clearly, insufficient homes were being built to accommodate new families; the backlog of demand was growing, instead of declining.



PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

WATER HYDRANT

Sir.—With reference to a recent public statement alleging that no action has been taken by the Summerside Water and Sewerage Commission in response to requests for the installation of a hydrant at the corner of Upper Central Street and Highland Avenue, I wish to advise that in respect to this matter the Water and Sewerage Commission had the Fire Chief and the assistant engineer of the Water and Sewerage Commission survey this area, and the Water and Sewerage Commission have their report to the effect that the hydrants that are placed in this area are ample protection at present, to take care of any fires.

I am, Sir, etc., ROBERT B. DEWAR, Chairman, Summerside Water and Sewerage Commission.

EDUCATION AND PHILOSOPHY

Sir.—It has been suggested by sincere people that the modern pedagogues who would fain turn the classroom into a playpen and the teacher into a daytime baby-sitter, are not accurate in their interpretation of Dewey's philosophy. A man, Dewey, they say, would never condone, let alone recommend, the practices that have been bootlegged into the present day schoolroom.

Be that as it may, there is no gainsaying the fact that progressive education is "Deweyan" in its philosophy — if philosophy it is. Etymologically philosophy means love of wisdom. One wonders how much wisdom there is in a code of life-governing principles that excludes God. "The fool hath said in his heart: There is no God."

How can an educational system that is heathenish in its foundation, that is master-minded by an atheist, give congenial orientation to Christian children? "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" Limpid water cannot come from a stagnant pool. Or, as the old Latinus used to say: "Nemo dat quod non habet." But, then, the old Latinus were clumsy in their way of expressing things. How much smarter, the same thing in English: "A feller" can't give what he ain't got.

Christian parents should have the right to ascertain whether the underlying philosophy of the current educational system tends to foster or frustrate their children's belief in the reality of the unseen. They should also be able to ask why the rule of three is now "passed" and the use of the globes labor.

Even if "So Little For The Mind" does nothing else but show Canadian parents the potential dangers of their not keeping track of the educational score, it deserves better than to be branded as "an unfortunate book."

I am Sir, etc., W. J. ENRIGHT

WINTER ROADS

Sir.—I have read with considerable interest some letters recently appearing in your column regarding the clearing of snow from highways. The writers, on both sides of the question have, in my opinion, submitted good reasons to support their convictions. Since the advent of the snowplow on the secondary roads of this Province, to plow or not to plow, has been the subject of much controversy. It would seem to me that our Province is in a transition period between horse drawn vehicles and those of a motor driven type, with regard to winter transportation. Under these conditions, it is natural to expect conflicting theories

The Age Old Story

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

regarding the best mode of winter travel. The snowplows do a pretty good job in keeping our paved highways open to motor traffic. With the snow removed the pavement makes a good motor road in winter if it's not broken pavement.

But I fail to see the wisdom in plowing the snow off a frozen dirt road which is rougher than a plowed field. With the cost of new cars and truck what they are, and repair work costly as it is, a person must have a lot of money or a big income to want to put his motor vehicle over such a road. Unless plowed pavement were available I should be inclined to advocate the use of horses during the snow months for those who have and can use them. Good horses are becoming scarce, and good horsemen, even scarcer. For persons unable to handle horses there is the caterpillar tractor which can be used in either snow or mud. This machine is capable of hauling several sleighs or wagons at one time.

The use of either the horse or caterpillar would dispense with the plowing of snow from dirt roads. Moreover they would be doing the job they were intended for, they would at all times be under control, safe for the owners and safe for the people they met or passed on their journey. On the other hand the automobile or truck on a rutted, frozen, icy clay road is unsafe for its occupants because its steering is not accurate and its brakes at times are useless, it is thereby rendered unsafe to its occupants and a menace to those it meets or passes. And costly to its owner because it is being made do a job for which it was never intended, thereby deteriorating much faster than would be the case under more favorable driving conditions. So in the interest of safety and economy I still fail to see the wisdom of plowing the snow off a clay road.

I would think the money spent on snowplowing clay roads would be better allocated to the laying of more pavement in our Province which when cleared of snow would afford a safe winter road for trucks and cars.

Until such time as paved highways are available to all in the Province, which I believe to be a mighty long way in the future, the horse is still necessary on Prince Edward Island.

I am, Sir, etc., F. G. SHIELDS, Clermont, P.E.I.

The Poets Corner

HILL NEWS The snow told the hill and the white hill glistened The hill told the pines and the tail pines listened.

The pines told a fox and the red fox barked, "Great news! Great news! Wood creatures, hark!"

The fox told a rabbit and the rabbit said, "Well!" He told a wood mouse and the mouse said, "Swell!"

The mouse told the bird and the bird said, "Chick-a-dee!" Have you heard the great news? The Boy's learned to skill

—Frances Frost in the Christian Science Monitor.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) From The Examiner, Sept. 22, 1883: Georgetown and Cardigan are now connected by Telephone.

An effort is being made to have the Phonograph shown at the Toronto Exhibition brought here in time to be a feature of our Exhibition.

Building improvements: D.O.M. Reddin, Jr., is erecting a neat cottage on Water Street, near the Railway Station. The outer wall of the new Parsonage of St. Paul's Church is rapidly approaching completion. The handsome two tenement building at the corner of Hillsborough and Easton Streets is about finished.

Yesterday morning Capt. Sencebough launched from his shipyard a handsome brigantine of 150 tons burden. She was christened Aquila. While the launch was going on, Mr. Charles Owen's son, a lad of about 12 years, had his arm badly bruised by falling off a ladder which was standing against the new brigantine.

The first annual session and excursion of the Maritime Press Association, which began at Moncton on Friday afternoon last, was concluded at Fredericton on Wednesday night. It was a splendid gathering, and cannot fail to be productive of much good by the newspaper men of the three Provinces. The Examiner and Herald were the only Island papers represented.

A concession to mine gold in Nova Scotia was granted by Louis XIV in 1684 to the French trader Nicolas Denys.

THE INCOME PROTECTOR

A VITAL LINK IN THE CHAIN OF PROTECTION Two important links in the vital chain of income protection are life insurance and pension plans, for they provide protection against premature death and old age. But the chain is not complete without the third link—protection against loss of income due to disability—for disability is one of the greatest hazards of all, a hazard which men face every day. Consult the Great-West Life man.

HYNDMAN & CO. LTD.

Provincial Managers Offices: CHARLOTTETOWN - SUMMERSIDE - MONTAGUE ALLISON P. McLEAN—District Manager at Summerside CYRUS A. R. SHAW—District Manager at Montague THOMAS McAVINN—Special Representative. FRANK L. MacNUTT—Representative at Kensington. E. T. MYERS—Representative at Elmsdale. EARLE S. JELLEY—Representative at O'Leary. J. FRANK STERN—Representative at Souris. DONALD J. MacDONALD—Representative at Augustus Cove. J. C. SUTHERLAND—Representative at Charlottetown.

The Passing Scene

By Observer CONCERNING A TOOTH

The Queen's tour of the Commonwealth and Empire is, apparently, going along according to plan. Schedules are being met with precision; royal trains and ships are arriving at this place and that with surprising punctuality. Nevertheless, the tour is not without its anxieties and problems. The unpleasant goings-on in Spain over the impending visit to Gibraltar constitute one source of anxiety although, according to reports, the British Government is not anticipating any serious trouble. It is a matter of purely political concern in which the Queen herself has no personal involvement.

It seems more than probable that by the time Her Majesty has arrived at the Rock the majority of the Spanish people, noted for their ill-advised anger and prepared to keep their grievances from getting out of hand. There is, of course, always the possibility that some over-wrought fanatic will attempt something extreme; it may be safely assumed that this contingency was considered long before the first anti-British demonstrations in Madrid.

A far more serious problem, because its roots are religious rather than political, is shaping up in Ceylon; unbelievably, it has to do with a tooth.

It is quite an ordinary tooth (whether incisor, canine, premolar, or molar, the record doesn't say) but it is not the tooth of an ordinary man. It is the tooth of Siddhartha Gautama, known to history as Buddha, by many millions of people as Buddha, "the Enlightened". This tooth, so Buddhists believe, is enshrined in Kandy, Ceylon, and it has a temple all its own. Into the inner sanctum of this temple no one goes but a faithful Buddhist; even he, unless he be very high in the Congress of the monks, is not permitted to go near the sacred tooth.

The Queen, not being a Buddhist, and therefore unlikely to have any yearning to look upon Buddha's tooth, would not, one might suppose, feel hurt at being excluded from the Temple. There will be plenty of other matters to engage the royal attention. It isn't, however, quite as simple as that.

It so happens that, attached to the Temple building, is another building which is government property, and this is where the official welcome was staged. In orthodox Buddhist thinking this would place the Defender of a Faith younger than Buddhism and, in the opinion of many of her subjects in Ceylon, inferior to it, nearer to the sacred tooth than she has any right to be.

Already the President of the Buddhist Congress has requested the British High Commissioner to see to it that Her Majesty is excluded from the Building. Naturally, this has caused quite a stir in Ceylon. The people are not throwing stones and bottles through the windows of the High Commissioner's office; for some strange reason Buddhists don't work off their indignation in that way. At the same time there is little doubt that, in the event of a controversy among the Queen's advisers and Buddhist leaders, popular feeling—among the Buddhists, that is—will try out for the safety of the tooth.

A Buddhist editor, with an obvious flair for diplomacy, has suggested a way out of the apparent impasse. He says that since thousands of non-Christians followed reverently the Christian rite at the Queen's coronation, it would be only a reciprocal act of courtesy for the Queen to deposit a tray of flowers at the door of the Temple of the Tooth. If such an undertaking were promised in advance, he thinks there would be no objection to the Queen's standing in the adjoining building for the welcoming ceremonies, speeches, handshakings, etc.

This, at first glance, would appear to be a reasonable solution. Nobody would lose any prestige; it might prevent a lot of unpleasantness later on. There is nothing in a tray of flowers to compromise anybody's faith. That's one view, and there is a report that the British High Commissioner was about to adopt it when the few Christians in Ceylon got very angry that such a thing would even be considered. That's another view and, after all, the Queen is a Christian, not a Buddhist. She cannot very well offend her Christian subjects just to appease the Buddhists.

The hope is that some way will be found to ensure the comfort and usefulness of the royal visit to Ceylon without having to do violence to the sanctity of Buddha's tooth. Some will say this whole controversy is a joke; it isn't really. Oriental beliefs and legends run very deep; the slightest seeming disregard for them on the part of Western officialdom on any level could, conceivably, have serious repercussions wherever the memory of Buddha is held in awe and his tooth in reverence.

PUSSY IS CULPRIT

SYDNEY, N. S. —(CP) — Only the cat was at home when fire destroyed a small cottage occupied by Mrs. Dolly Clarke, her son and daughter. Firemen said the cause of the fire was not established, but it was suggested the cat caused the blaze by overturning a lamp.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

- J. A. McGuigan BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. NOTARY, Etc. Currie Building MacPhee & Trainor B. F. MacPHEE, B.A., Q.C. E. SOMERLEIGH TRAINOR, B.A. Barristers, Etc. Dr. W. R. Carson CHIROPRACTOR Palmer Graduate CHARLOTTETOWN Dial 6432 201 Prince St Gordon E. MacMillan, B.A., LL.B., BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc., 154 PRINCE ST. — Charlottetown DIAL 8223 Frederic A. Large, Q.C. Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Royal Bank of Canada Building Charlottetown, P. E. I. Loans on City and Farm Properties Palmer & Haslam A. J. HASLAM, B.A., LL.B. Barrister, Etc. Bank of Nova Scotia Chambers Charlottetown, P. E. I. MONEY TO LOAN Matheson, Peake & Nicholson A. W. MATHESON, Q.C. A. H. PEAKE, B.A., LL.B. JOHN T. NICHOLSON, LL.B. Barristers, Etc. Collections — Money To Loan 175 Grafton Street J. S. Taylor, R.O. OPTOMETRIST Eyes Examined, Glasses Fitted Corner Kent and Queen Sts. Office Phone 9133—House 4756 Dr. A. L. MacIsaac DENTIST Dental X-Ray GLORIA BUILDING 179 Grafton St. Phone 291 Dr. K. A. MacEachern DENTIST Dental X-ray Above Charlottetown Clinic 282 Queen St. Dial 4841 McDONALD, CURRIE & CO. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Saint John, Sherbrooke, Vancouver, Kirkland Lake, Moncton, Hamilton, Charlottetown, Edmonton. Currie Bldg., Charlottetown. Dial 4738 H. R. DOANE & COMPANY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS 148 Great George St., Charlottetown Phone 6547 - 6548 RANDOLPH W. MANNING, C.A. ERMA P. MacPHERSON, C.A. KEVIN J. McKENNA, C.A. Other offices at Halifax, Moncton, St. John's, Amherst, Dartmouth, Kentville, Liverpool, New Glasgow, Truro and Corner Brook.