

THE GUARDIAN

Published Daily (Founded in 1843)
Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office
Department, Ottawa
The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
Editor and Managing Director J. R. Burnett
Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1950

P. W. C. Convocation

Today's closing exercises mark the nineteenth anniversary of the establishment of Prince of Wales College, and from the past list published in today's Guardian it will be seen that the students, as in other years, are representative of all parts of the Province. This year the institution is under a new principal, Dr. Frank MacKinnon, whose predecessor, Dr. G. D. Steel, will be the chief speaker at today's function.

Students and teachers alike are to be commended upon their efforts during the year, and the graduates particularly upon reaching the goal of their immediate ambition. The road ahead will be easier for them by reason of the practical knowledge they have acquired, still more so by the lessons in self-discipline, concentration, and the art of making the most of their talents which it is the prime function of education to impart.

Prince of Wales yields place to no institution of its size in Canada for its success in turning out students well equipped for the battle of life. Many parents have made sacrifices in order that their children may avail themselves of the advantages thus afforded, and it is not infrequently these students who make the most brilliant use of their opportunities.

On The City's Doorstep

Few cities are so blessed with natural opportunities for recreation for their citizens as is Charlottetown. The harbour offers excellent boating, the Hillsborough and North Rivers provide beaches and warm waters for bathing even within the city limits. An even superior resort, however, is available at Rocky Point which combines the pleasures of a ferry trip with those of the open country, unpolluted waters and clean sand.

The value of such a resort is great and the people of Charlottetown make use of it, but they have a responsibility to those who come after. The continued building of private cottages along the shore front warns of the day when all the property there will be so occupied, and holiday-makers from the city will be everywhere met with the familiar sign, "Private Property—No Trespassing."

In assuring such facilities for the public time is all important. An ideal spot for picnic grounds is in danger of being lost and, once lost, can never hope to be regained, except, perhaps, at enormous cost to the taxpayer. It is not a case of speculating in the acquisition of something which may or may not prove of value. It is a matter of preserving for the future the splendid recreational opportunities we now enjoy.

Party Convention Planned

An essential part of our system of democratic government is His Majesty's Loyal Opposition, never more important than at the present time when Government operations, both Provincial and Federal, are extending into new fields involving greater expenditures in every department. It is an encouraging sign of the times to note that in this Province the Progressive Conservative Party is about to take stock of its responsibilities and opportunities, and that a Provincial convention for the purpose of ratifying a new constitution drafted at a recent meeting of the Party executive, and of settling the question of leadership, will be held on June 27.

The convention will take place in The Forum and will doubtless comprise morning and afternoon sessions, with probably a leading Federal Conservative speaker participating. There is no doubt that the attendance will be large and representative, and it is expected that the event will mark a milestone in the rejuvenation of the Party activities in this Province.

Four Flood Factors

The latest precipitation figures for the Red River Valley, as compiled by the Searle Grain Company, show one important reason for this year's excessive flooding in Manitoba. This was the advance in abnormal precipitation from April 1 to May 15, which amounted to 2.38 inches over the average rainfall. Other causes were the unusually heavy snowfalls during the winter over all the land in Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba that drains into the Red River; the fact that spring opened quite late, so that instead of the snow melting gradually and flowing into the river over a period of a month or six weeks, melting occurred quite suddenly; and the fact that heavy

rains from the previous Fall saturated the ground with moisture so that when the spring run-off occurred the land could not absorb any more moisture and so most of the run-off flowed into the river. The three latter causes were foreseeable, but not the first-named cause—the abnormal precipitation occurring since April 1 which sent the river far above predicted levels.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Monday, June 5, will be the next public holiday generally observed. Following that will be Canada Day, Saturday, July 1.

The Red River is in retreat but the red mud and destruction it leaves behind will only now be seen with all its ruin and hideousness.

Prince of Wales College convocation this morning, like those of its sister colleges, marks not an end but a beginning, the beginning of careers which will leave their mark on this and other lands.

An Albertan has been fined \$25 and costs for speeding to tell his boss, an oil producer, that a new well had come into production. The sentence seems definitely inadequate. He will probably repeat the offence next time he strikes oil.

The British Army, like American scientists, has developed a method of making a hard surfaced roadway utilizing the soil of the roadbed. If some such method should prove feasible here, it would go a long way towards making it possible to keep our secondary roads open at all seasons.

The U. N. B. government and industrialists there are at variance over what should be included in the Duncan report recommendations on freight rates. The N. B. Government would have the reduction include incoming freight from Ontario and Quebec whereas the industrialists and Maritime producers wish only the exports to benefit. Hence the protests by the manufacturing interests recently wired to Ottawa.

Now Associated Press, which should know better, reports a jet-propelled locomotive in Britain. Without further information, it is safe to say that a gas turbine provides the motive power, but the reporter felt that jet propulsion had more popular appeal. Because steam is injected into cylinders we may expect at any time to see the old time iron horse described as jet propelled.

One of the much ignored rules mentioned earlier in the week by Chief MacArthur is for drivers to yield the right of way to pedestrians at regular street crossings. In almost every case the driver, secure behind his weight of metal and with a powerful engine, takes it for granted that the pedestrian will consider prudence the better part of valor.

A new definition. A man's automobile is his kingdom when it comes to drinking, a British Columbia Supreme Court justice has ruled. Mr. Justice H. S. Wood ruled that in British Columbia a man may legally take a drink of liquor in his car, allowing the appeal of Ford McLeod, convicted of drinking in a public place at Ladysmith, B. C. "Suppose a man gets intoxicated in a house or pub and is taken home in a taxi," he said, "would you say he was drunk in a public conveyance?"

Concern was voiced by Mr. G. H. Hall, retiring president of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, over frequent "unfortunate statements in the press and other publications, advocating the destruction of predatory birds without regard to their values and functions." Mr. Hall told members of the society at the annual meeting that the board had purchased a publication on this subject to be given members, so that they may better understand the matter. He also told the members that an invitation had been sent the American Ornithologist's Union to hold their 1951 meeting in Montreal. An increase in membership to 510 was noted.

Queen Mary, the Queen Mother, born this date 1867; she was the only daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Teck, and was originally engaged to H. R. H. the Duke of Clarence who died unexpectedly on the eve of his wedding. After some time had elapsed, the Duke's younger brother, the Duke of York, proposed to Princess Mary, was accepted, and the subsequent marriage was one of the happiest in the history of the Royal Family, George V and Queen Mary having an exceptionally fine married life. An ideal mother, devoted to her family, and to her people; deeply interested in the social and moral welfare of the community; a gracious, sympathetic, and high-minded woman, who has won the warm esteem and affection of British Commonwealth subjects throughout the world.

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.

PROMOTION OF TEMPERANCE

Sir,—On May 20th, The Guardian carried a full page advertisement headed Highway and Traffic Safety Week, May 21 to 28, and sponsored by the leading automobile dealers.

I was interested in the nine "Tested Reminders", and particularly the sixth which said: "Don't drink and drink." You may not feel that BEERS but your reaction time is dangerously slowed! This truth cannot be overemphasized when liquor is so easily obtained from the Government Stores and through illicit traffic.

It has come to my attention that there are endeavours to form and have incorporated new clubs, and efforts are put forth to obtain permits for club canteens, and there is considerable pressure that such be granted. If this became common practice there would be a great many outlets for liquor at all hours of the night and day, and the hazards of accidents would be greatly enhanced. It should be remembered that the Temperance Plebiscite gave no indication that canteens would be given to clubs and organizations, and if tested in the courts may be found illegal. As Christian Citizens we want less outlets and correspondingly we would have less accidents and less crime.

In view of the fact that it is difficult to control the number of permits when some influential organizations have the use of them, I am wondering if these organizations would add to the citizenship spirit of encouraging safety by asking to have the permits cancelled, thereby eliminating the canteen privilege. This would be a noble example to others—a wonderful citizenship suggestion, and an argument against giving permits for canteens to new clubs or any clubs.

WM. T. MERCER
Promoter of Temperance.

Old Charlottetown
(Market House Petitions)

From the Journals of the Legislative Council, 1860:
Thursday, March 8: Hon. Mr. Palmer presented a memorial of the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Charlottetown, praying "that this House concur with the House of Assembly in granting from the public funds a sum sufficient to purchase a site for the erection of a Market House, in lieu of the site originally reserved for that purpose on Queen Square, and further praying that an Act may pass guaranteeing the payment of the interest upon such sum as the City may find necessary to borrow for the erection of a suitable building."

Friday, March 30: Hon. Mr. Palmer presented a petition of divers inhabitants of Charlottetown, praying "that Water Lots, Nos. 21 and 22, extending southwardly from the breastwork of Major Beale's property to the channel of the Hillsborough which lots are still in the possession of the Government—may be granted to the City as a site for a Market House. Petitioners also suggest Hillsborough Square as a suitable site for the said Market House."

Wednesday, April 4: Hon. Mr. Swaby presented a petition of divers inhabitants and owners of real estate in Charlottetown, requesting the House "not to sanction, in any way or under any pretext, any measure calculated to have the effect of establishing a public Market for Charlottetown on any other site than Queen Square, as its central position and direct connection with the principal streets of the City and the main roads leading to and from the country afford facilities to buyer and seller for the transaction of the business of a market superior to those possessed by any other portion of the City, and praying this House to concur with the House of Assembly in passing an Act authorizing the Government to make a legal and valid transfer to the City authorities of a portion of Queen Square for a site for the proposed Market."

The Age-Old Story
Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth.



Notes From Another Island
By "Anson"

LONDON, England.—Recently a few veterans of the Boer War celebrated the anniversary of the relief of Mafeking; also recently, the anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in Europe after World War II were practically unnoticed. The one is a single—albeit heroic—episode in a far-off land in a war that seems quite minor to a generation which thinks of war in terms of atom bombs, germs and other items of mass destruction of life and property; the other is a momentous event, the culmination of almost six years of desperate endeavour and frightful struggle. Yet hardly anyone seems to think it strange enough to warrant comment that the first should be recalled so steadfastly whilst the second goes almost unheralded and by many quite forgotten.

Countless other incidents in history—our own or the world's—are remembered year by year. Some date from centuries ago, others are so recent as to be brought to mind as a personal memory by all but the very youngest of us. In the nature of things human memory recalls them for as long as the participants live, then tradition and history take over, to perpetuate the scenes for the generations which follow.

Perhaps, in due time, VE Day will take its own rightful place in the annals of mankind's progress, but for the present, at least, it seems to be overlooked. Far be it from me to attempt to explain the anomaly; I can only offer a suggestion that maybe, after so long and wearying an ordeal, people were glad to forget. Perhaps there is a common, unwritten yet explicit agreement to be quietly glad that the Thing did come to an end, and to leave it at that; even to try to forget those parts of the war which are forgettable, and to try to go back to the best of the way we were before.

I began to think along these lines when I read the other day an essay written in 1943 in which the author posed the question: "What kind of London do we wish to rebuild?" Well, before we consider the problem in its broad sense, I would suggest that "rebuild" is not quite the proper word to use. Rebuilding to my mind implies a starting all over again from nothing, or at least from bare bones. It suggests that London was so badly injured in the war that she died and has to be born again. Not so, London is so vast, so powerful an organism, that her wounds were quickly healed and, miraculously it seemed, she was fighting fit again. All she needs now is a little patching up, a skin grafting here and there to hide the ravages of war.

It would be more opportune to talk of rebuilding some of our provincial cities, many of which suffered devastation far greater in proportion to their size and strength than many Londoners imagine. But even these provincial cities retain their own original characters and individualities. Even the most severely hit, proud of its scars, would scoff at the notion that it had died of its wounds.

However, we are thinking of London, and London, for all its mauling is still, in spirit and body, London. Which is the way most of her population like to see her. They would like her to be properly patched up, new buildings erected where old ones were demolished, or the areas cleared and made tidy, perhaps laid out as gardens or parks. But not, I fancy, "rebuild", with the implication of an entirely new city with an entirely new outlook to its citizens as awkwardly as a top hat and tails to a man who has lived all his life in overalls.

Notes By The Way
When we read a good novel, you do much more than merely make the acquaintance of the imaginary people in the story. You meet the author. And many of us, I'm sure, feel that we know our favorite authors from their books as if we had been in the same room with them. — MacDonald Hastings on BBC Broadcast.

We must ask ourselves honestly if we are not too smug in our attitude toward the minority groups in this melting-pot called Canada. The other night at meeting of Queen Mar. School Parent-Teacher Association, representatives of six minority groups told us bluntly that they feel Canadians discriminate against them. They reported race prejudice at every turn. — Vancouver Province.

Perhaps we are reaching for the moon. Perhaps this Spring madness to screw fish and chip containers and lunch bags on green grass is as natural as nesting and nothing can be done about it. But surely it is not too much to expect an enlightened generation of park enthusiasts to keep their recreation ground clean. No sensible bird will foul its own nest. — Vancouver Province.

As soon as a boy is 14, there is nothing to prevent him from buying an air rifle if he has the money. When he has purchased it, another instrument of injury or damage has been turned loose on the public. A marked sense of responsibility, care and foresight are not usually characteristics of the average 14-year-old boy; the one who offends in this manner may well be less to blame than the law which freely permits them to acquire these dangerous weapons. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

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