

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1951.

The Mayoralty Issue

The issuing of a writ of mandamus out of the Supreme Court to the City Clerk and Council to require the holding of an election for Mayor is a matter of keen constitutional interest.

Lawyers, apparently, are divided on this question, but the point is that the situation is an anomalous one and should have been clarified immediately following Mayor MacDonald's election.

A Warm Scottish Welcome

All classes of our citizens, but particularly those of Scottish birth—and more particularly, of course, those bearing the honoured name of MacLeod—will extend a cordial welcome to Flora, Mrs. MacLeod of MacLeod, 28th hereditary chieftain of her clan, whose brief visit is one of great interest, personally and historically.

Her ancestral home, Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye, must have been a familiar landmark to the 800 settlers who arrived here under Lord Selkirk in 1803 in the ships "Polly", "Dykes" and "Oughten".

Until comparatively recent times, Gaelic was spoken more fluently than English in many of our Scottish settlements, and the old traditions are perpetuated even today in such events as our annual Scottish gatherings.

An Improved Storage Battery

One of the most significant discoveries of recent times is an improved version of that humble but extremely useful invention, the storage battery.

A new principle in the construction of grids enables lead to be replaced by aluminum, brass, iron or copper with very great saving in total weight.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Everybody is more-or-less a MacLeod when the Chieftain visits us. Hail to the Chief!

Even as variety lends enchantment to the view, so multitudinous sport and other engagements make this holiday season more enjoyable.

Drowning accidents are so often avoidable by simple precautions that it is surprising so many bathers continue to take unnecessary risks.

Victoria Nyanza, the source of the Nile, was discovered by John Hanning Speke, English explorer, this date 1858.

Our July weather was abnormal both as regards rainfall and heat, the former 5.82 inches compared with an average of 2.98; the latter was 67.6° against an average temperature of 66.3°.

It is interesting to note that a new memorial to Members of Parliament and officials of the U. K. House of Commons was dedicated at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster—Parliament's parish church—last Sunday.

The question of the hour in Washington, London and Ottawa is the choice of the .300, .303 or .280 rifle.

The release this week of the itinerary for the tour of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh will inevitably cause many heartburnings but although it is physically impossible for the Royal couple to visit every community, there should be a reasonably good chance of every citizen being able to see them within this Province.

Good taste is not an inheritance, though antecedent influence may, and often does, count. One must first discover what gives him pleasure and delight, and then refine and discriminate his experiences.

While the bridegroom may refuse to believe there is an "average" bride, jewelers are being taught otherwise. According to Modern Bride magazine, the bride has five major characteristics:

His Majesty's brother-in-law, Lord Harwood, has taken up musical journalism. His appointment to the Board of Directors of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, was announced recently.

Sport Of Kings -- Or A La King?



Overheard in the stable

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussions by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

CONCEIT & THE MODERATE DRINKER

Sir,—Only recently have I come to know the chief reason why young men are caught in the meshes of drink. It is their self conceit. When warned by conscience or a mother they reply, "I can take care of myself."

The majority of drinkers are more or less moderate; and upon them the liquor traffic is built and depends. The alcoholic is a shame to the trade; and everything possible is done to encourage drinking but always in moderation.

I am here reminded of the great Scottish poet Burns. In several of his poems he praises Scotch whisky to the skies; but in his biography we find that many a time drink made a fool of him and lost him good friends.

Oh, if only our boys and girls could be taught in school from a model book that alcohol is a narcotic poison, a dangerous drink, that had better be left alone!

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

The Poet's Corner

SPARROWS ON THE WIRES

Sparrows alight on these taut wires Silver in the evening sun, their eager speech A tangle of insignificant desires.

State Is Given Burnett Castle With Ghost

(Edinburgh Scotsman)

Sir James Burnett of Leys, Bart., has handed over to the National Trust for Scotland his historic Kincardineshire home, Crathes Castle, with an endowment for its upkeep.

Originally the family occupied a "lake dwelling" in the now vanished Loch of Leys, and the present castle was not founded until 1633.

The main door of the keep, unused for many years will be kept open to admit the public next year. It is, at present, guarded by an ancient "yeti" of interlaced iron bars, and directly above, three storeys high, is the aperture from which earlier retainers of the family poured boiling oil and pitch to discourage uninvited visitors.

In this room is preserved the most treasured possession of the Burnett family, the famous Horn of Leys. Corneage, or the service of the Horn, was employed in early days to mark the handing over of lands.

A green silk baldric, preserved with the Horn, dates from the time of Charles II, and is now so fragile that it would crumble to dust if touched.

Probably the most vivid spectacles in the entire castle is the brilliant decoration of the ceilings in the rooms of "The Muses," "The Nine Nobles," and "The Green Lady." These painted ceilings date back to 1580, and were rediscovered towards the end of the last century when layers of lath and plaster were removed.

Lady Burnett states that there are almost certainly more paintings of this kind hidden in other rooms.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

VICTORIA PARK PROJECTS

The first forty acres of the present Victoria Park were transferred by the Legislature to the City of Charlottetown in 1873 for the sole purpose of a public promenade and pleasure grounds for the use of its citizens.

"We shall here mention a few of the objects of interest and ornament which may, through time, find a place in our Victoria Park; these which we consider too costly and on a scale beyond our reach and space, at least in our present inceptive state, we shall leave for some future writer to describe or recommend.

4th, the fancy pond; 5th, the museum of arts and curiosities; 6th, the children's summer house; 7th, the boys' playground; 8th, the esplanade or green; 9th, the mall; 10th, the music stand; 11th, trees planted by notable visitors; 12th, theinery; 13th, the casino or ladies' refectory; 14th, the lake to be formed at the west end by admitting the waters of the York River; 15th, the boat house; 16th, the fountain; 17th, the labyrinth; 18th, the public flower garden and shrubberies; 19th, the nursery and green house; 20th, the various game and play grounds.

"The Green Lady's Room" takes its name from the family ghost of Crathes—a legendary figure of a woman in a green shroud with a baby in her arms.

Although Sir James and Lady Burnett refuse to believe in ghosts they admit that the skeletons of a woman and baby were found when alterations were being made to the fireplace of that room in Victorian times.

In the gardens, massive yew hedges, planted in 1702, now stand 12 feet high in their ridged tops, partitioning the grounds to the south of the Castle into a number of separate and spacious gardens.

There are a Camel Garden, with its small hump in the middle, the Trough Garden, laid out round an old stone farm trough; the Fountain Garden, the Rose Garden, the Upper Pool Garden, the White Border, and the June Border.

Although Crathes is now under the ownership of the Trust, Sir James and Lady Burnett will continue to live there, and the gardens will still benefit from their wide knowledge and experience.

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Notes By The Way

A Columbia U. survey reveals that the pig is smarter than the horse and much smarter than man, who really isn't smart at all or he wouldn't bet on horses.

It costs the American people \$2,536,000 to pay President Truman and run the White House for a year. It costs the British people \$1,731,600 a year to pay the King and the royal family and to operate all the royal establishments.

We cannot but admire the attitude of William (Red) Hill toward the matter of going over Niagara Falls in a barrel. We must commend the rejection of a suggestion which would put his projected trip into the class of a circus stunt.

Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me; for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

ANNOUNCEMENT DR. J. L. F. BURGE will open an office for the practice of Medicine and Surgery on MONDAY, AUGUST 6, AT 123 KENT STREET, Charlottetown. Phone 266

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