

THE GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink. CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1951

Declaration Of Human Rights

A brief presented to Prime Minister St. Laurent supports the recommendation made by the Senate last year that a Bill of Rights be written into the constitution.

The merits of the latter proposal are to say the least questionable. For Ottawa to lay down rules for subjects which are nearly all matters within Provincial jurisdiction would be itself a violation of the prime right of free men, the rule of law.

There has been a steady transfer of real power from the Provinces to the central Government and there is little doubt but that Ottawa could go a long way in imposing its ideas of human rights on the various legislatures.

Australia Remembers

Like the Battle of Britain, whose tenth anniversary was observed in the United Kingdom and Canada last year, the Battle of the Coral Sea was a turning point of World War II.

The battle was fought from May 4-9, 1942, after months of retreat before the Japanese. It made naval history, since the Japanese and Allied forces covered 400,000 miles of sea, but kept about 100 miles apart.

The Budget In Retrospect

The Business Review, monthly bulletin of the Bank of Montreal, describes the Federal Budget as one which, "while fiscally adequate, modestly refrains from over-preoccupation with its economic effects."

That Bank of Montreal economists believe the Budget to be inflationary is apparent from The Business Review's observation that the sales and excise tax imposts will emerge as increases in the prices of the articles affected.

That taxes, and especially sales taxes, are a penalty on spending is a truism that at once becomes apparent when one seeks to purchase any of those commodities to which the new taxes have been made to apply.

If we accept the premise that sales taxes are a penalty on spending, and it is difficult to come to any other conclusion on the matter, then it becomes of par-

amount importance that the penalty be confined to non-essentials. It would, for example, be grossly unfair and discriminatory to impose a turnover tax on retail sales, for retail sales are made to rich and poor alike and include such essentials as food, clothing and household supplies, things which can in no sense be regarded as luxuries.

EDITORIAL NOTES

While Charlottetown was squabbling over a site for its new Federal building, Summerside was pushing on with erection plans, with the result that their new building is completed and almost ready for occupation, while ours has not yet reached the first base.

A minor general election is slated for June 25, when voters in Queen's, Winnipeg South Centre, Waterloo South (Ont.) and Brandon go to the polls for the purpose of filling vacancies—two caused by the deaths of Islanders, Mr. Douglas and Mr. Matthews.

Unlike the situation in Provincial elections, it is quite in order for people from off the Island to assist in the Federal by-election campaigning. Those who visit us for that purpose should be persuaded to stop over for the Festive Week.

Madame Recamier, French politician, died this date 1849. She married a Parisian banker and her salon became the resort of the leading men of the day.

It's an ill wind that blows no good. The light lobster catch at the start of the season may well have helped to prevent a disastrous break in the market, and with good weather setting in as the first over-supply is used up the prospects are brighter than seemed possible.

A Festival of Sacred Music will be held from May 13 to May 20 in London's Roman Catholic Cathedral at Westminster. Works of the great composers from the 13th Century to the present will be played and sung daily.

The Torquay trade agreements represent a compromise between a wholesale lowering of trade barriers with the United States and the gradually declining principle of Empire Preference.

Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey is being suggested as successor to Viscount Alexander when his term of office as Governor-General expires. Possessed of an outstanding record of public service, culminating at the moment in heading the Royal Commission on the Arts, Mr. Massey also has another qualification for the post, the private means without which an incumbent cannot maintain the standards expected.

An Ottawa correspondent writing to the Gazette says Progressive Conservative, M.P.'s were concerned over the reverse which the party suffered when Prince Edward Island went to the polls recently.

Seven years ago, on May 11, 1944, the Allies launched a terrific offensive in Central Italy to break the Gustav and Hitler Lines. Canadian troops participated and, with British troops, carried out below the shell-torn town of Cassino a thrust across the Rapido River toward the Liri Valley.

A serious situation has arisen over our Nova Scotia ferry service which demands the urgent attention of the powers-that-be, both Provincial and Federal. Our commercial truck and tourist trade development are being held up for want of co-operation by the Canadian Maritime Commission.



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.

HOCKEY AND THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Sir,—I grew up on skates, but not until the winter of 1950 had I seen a game of hockey. In that closed-in rink I saw nearly all the games, and enjoyed them immensely.

Hockey is one of the finest sports we have. It lends itself to the cultivation of the best in men, physical and moral. Its contacts are more frequent than in football and it can be just as violent.

Another fine asset in hockey, it can rub off the rough edges of prejudice and cultivate a broader fellowship. Teams and spectators meet on a common level of fun and good-will. Creed, class and race are out. All that counts are strength and skill; and yet, these may rate too highly. Some one must lose, and to take defeat gracefully, may be a greater victory than to win the game.

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

The Land Of Green Gables Today

(J. L. in Ottawa Citizen)

Too few Canadians have seen with their own eyes Prince Edward Island. The rest of us have used the eyes of Lucy Maude Montgomery's Anne. Perhaps we have all seen the same Island.

The picture of the island which the Geographical Journal's camera saw in April, 1951, is the same one that L. M. Montgomery drew with words long ago. True, there is a golf course now on the property of Anne's uncle. And there are tourists in the parlor of Green Gables.

But the setting is the same. The birches are painted silver by the same magician whose work Anne admired. The turf is as thick and green as when only a few feet walked upon it.

The Age-Old Story

Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all his angels; praise ye him, all his hosts.

The government of the island cares for them. Cleverly catering to the sentimentality of tourists, the government is scrupulous to keep the setting of L. M. Montgomery's story the same as it was when she wrote it.

Yes beyond the bounds of Green Gables, where the government cannot legislate on matters of setting and atmosphere, the island still is Anne's. If the pictures which the Geographical Journal took this year were used to illustrate L. M. Montgomery's book, there would be few anachronisms in them.

As the Canadian Geographical Journal comments, the world of the Islanders is "removed from the bustling exhaustion of modern industry and mechanization." The main street of Summerside, the Island's second city in size, is wide, the buildings are low, and none of the telephone poles has been removed.

Nature was in a gentle mood when it planted a garden in the gulf. Throughout the island, the landscape is undramatically beautiful. There are no wildly rushing rivers. No raw grey cliffs rise steeply from the water.

From the land to the sea is only the width of a beach. So the sound of the surf is the lullaby of most Islanders. None of the beaches ever is crowded. For they stretch mile upon mile, smooth and sun-warmed.

But although the sea is always close, most of the Islanders, like Anne's ancestors, are farmers, for the red soil is fertile. The farms are not large and spectacular, like prairie farms; they are as tidy as the parlor at Green Gables.

Even the lobster traps piled high on a fishing wharf are neat. For the people, as if conscious of the fact that the charm of their island lies in its snugness and small size, are careful to avoid clutter. As Anne was taught that neatness is a virtue, so her children must have been taught. They keep their island in the same way that a good housewife keeps her house.

The land of P.E.I. is still as peaceful as Anne's island. That it is the same for those who know only the Babbling Brook, the Lake of the Shining Waters, and the Haunted Wood and those who have seen it with their own eyes is the wonder of everyone but the Islanders.

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Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) GLEBE LANDS

From an address to His Majesty King William IV. from the Legislative Assembly, relative to the Glebe Lands, or Clergy Reserves, in Prince Edward Island, April 26, 1830:

"By the terms and conditions of the original grants from the Crown, one hundred acres of land in each Township in this Island was reserved for the support of a Minister of the Gospel; and although no particular denomination is specified or referred to, the Episcopal Church claims an explicit right to the lands so reserved, to the prejudice of every other denomination.

"We would humbly beg leave to represent to your Majesty that when the British Government first resolved on the settlement of the Colony, it appears to have been then contemplated to settle the Island with German Protestants. This measure, however, was eventually abandoned. Circumstances occurred which entirely changed the situation of the country. The original proprietors, or grantees, disposed of their possessions indiscriminately to persons of various descriptions.

"The first British emigrants who arrived consisted chiefly of Roman Catholics, from the Highlands, and Presbyterians from other parts of Scotland. At the close of the Revolutionary War in America, numbers of Loyalists, expelled from their native country for their attachment to the cause of their legitimate Sovereign, were encouraged, by various inducements held out by Government, to settle in this Colony. The families and descendants of these persons form a considerable portion of the present population. There are also several large settlements of Acadian French, the descendants of those who remained on the Island at the time of its conquest. These, since the passing of the Catholic Relief Bill, are now placed on the same footing, with respect to civil and political privileges, with your Majesty's Protestant subjects.

"The adherents of the Church of England compose a very small proportion of the population, and have only two small churches in the whole Colony, to one of which the members of the Church of Scotland possess a joint right. On the other hand, there are numerous places of worship, scattered throughout the Province, erected and maintained for the accommodation of the various persuasions of Christians who are unconnected with the Established Church.

"Enough, we humbly presume, has been shown to make it obvious to your Majesty that, from the present state of society in this Island, the granting of the lands in question exclusively to any one particular denomination of Christians could not fall to be viewed as a very partial measure, and one which would inevitably produce a very general feeling of discontent throughout the Colony. It must be equally evident that any attempt at a subdivision of the lands among the various and discordant claimants, for the purpose for which they were original-



Notes By The Way Back from an extended tour of the United States, Mr. Clarence H. Smith says that ever so many persons do not know where Ontario is. They did not realize that Ontario is a Canadian province. That may seem absurd to most people in Ontario, but anyone who has motored to the more distant states appreciates how true Mr. Smith's observation is. Ontario-Canada would look allright on the licence plates. The same goes for the plates of other provinces. The different provinces are licensing plans now for their 1952 licences. They could help advertise the Dominion by adding Canada to the plates. — From Windsor Star.

Canadians must arouse themselves to fight the proposed constitutional amendment which would allow the provinces to levy an indirect 3 percent sales tax, or "turnover tax" on retail sales. At any time such a tax should be resisted as a bad tax, a hidden tax, a tax that is open to abuse. But after Mr. Abbott's budget in which the federal sales tax went up from 8 to 10 percent, and special excise taxes were hoisted substantially, a hidden turnover tax could drive some small retailers out of business and boost the national cost of living a few more points. — Vancouver Province.

In these last ten days, aside from differences bearing upon military operations in Korea and adjacent China, General MacArthur reserved for his Chicago visit and tumultuous welcome, the most important utterance of his home-coming. This appeared in the news columns: "The crowds cheered wildly, the Chicago Tribune Press Service said, when he declared intereference with the American Far East political policy by nations with only token forces in the field." It could be that in those words, General MacArthur put his foot in his mouth. Their implications are unmistakable. It was a crack — a rather bitter crack—directed against America's partners in the United Nations. Well, we can go it alone, in the same tracks that we made at the close of the first global conflict, the isolationism of the Chicago Tribune brew; or if we enter into a partnership, we can recognize that in the case of our associates, the covenant calls for silence on their part. If we are to be a part of the United Nations, we cannot call all of the shots, make all of the decisions, define every step in policy, and have our own way about everything that is done. We must give some consideration to the opinion and the desires of our associates. — Lincoln (Neb.) Star.

The Poet's Corner FROM THE CHINESE Chuang Chou in a dream became a butterfly. And the butterfly became Chuang Chou at waking. Which was real—the butterfly or the man? Who can tell the end of the endless changes of things? The water that flows into the depths of the distant sea Returns anon to the shallows of a transparent stream. The man, raising melons outside the green gate of the city, Was once the Prince of the East Hill. So must rank and riches vanish. You know it, still you toll and toll,—what for? —Li-Po, 8th Century A. D.

Advertisement for 'Turret' cigarettes. It features three packs of 'Turret' cigarettes. The text says 'The makings of a GREAT SMOKE!' and 'PREVENT FIRES'. Below the packs is the text 'Fine Cut CIGARETTE TOBACCO'.

Advertisement for 'PROFESSIONAL CARDS'. It lists several professionals: BYRON J. GRANT O.D. OPTOMETRIST, J. A. CARRUTHERS R.O. OPTOMETRIST, MacPhee & Trainor BARRISTERS, JOHN P. NICHOLSON, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Dr. A. L. MacIsaac DENTIST, and H. R. DOANE & CO. Chartered Accountants.