

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, FEB. 6, 1954

Federal Building Vote

It is reassuring to note that a \$400,000 vote has been placed in the Parliamentary estimates, tabled yesterday in the House of Commons by Finance Minister Abbott...

Our representatives at Ottawa, particularly Messrs. Neil A. Matheson and J. Angus MacLean, representing this County in the House of Commons, are to be congratulated on their efforts in bringing the Charlottetown Federal Building project to an early start...

With this added assurance that the Government means business, our citizens have good reason to feel that the earlier efforts of the late Mr. Lester Douglas and of Mr. W. Chester S. McLure, combined with the activities of their successors and the representations made by the Provincial Government both under Senator Jones and the present Premier, Hon. Mr. Matheson, will now come to fruition.

Educational Standards

Judging by our Forum columns, there is keen public interest in the question of academic education in this Province. This is as it should be, for the question is of vital importance.

In his current annual report as president of the University of Toronto, Dr. Sydney Smith warns that universities "should make sure that the energies of able teachers are not dissipated in the effort to stimulate and develop students who are unfitted for membership in the community of scholars."

Discussing the educational problem in Ontario, the Brantford Expositor recommends, as an important objective, the measuring of academic aptitude and the weeding out of the academically incompetent from the secondary schools.

"For the former," says our Brantford contemporary, "incarceration in class rooms is a waste of time and a postponement of opportunity. They should be working at what they can do. For the lazy ones, the sooner they are made to find out, the harder, that life is real and life is earnest, the better."

"The notion that a young man or young woman should complete a high school course, come what may and no matter when, is based on a faulty and dangerous concept of privilege. To require a boy or girl to go to school until completion of the public or grade school course is all right. To give a deserving boy or girl the privilege of continuing free (the term is rel-

ative) education in the secondary schools is commendable. But to make such attendance 'routine' or compulsory for those who do not appreciate the privilege is to make a bad mistake in a fundamental lesson in responsible citizenship."

It would be an even worse mistake to adjust the curricula of our institutions of higher learning to suit the requirements of the unqualified. The continuance of our democracy depends, most of all, on enlightened leadership. By all means let us equalize the opportunities for advancement in this direction, as the surest way of building permanently for the future.

Evidence Of Greatness

Most people probably think of Albert Schweitzer as the 20th century's most renowned medical-missionary, one of its outstanding philosophers, and a humanitarian as great as any in modern history. These appellations are, of course, justified; indeed, they fall short of describing the worth and distinction of a man who has been called "the world's first citizen."

A few months ago Dr. Schweitzer paid a short visit to the small Alsatian village of Gunsbach where he was born. While there he sat down at the little organ in the parish church and played a number of selections from both Bach and Mendelssohn. As he played, tape recorders went to work, and another album of immortal music was released for the enjoyment and inspiration of music lovers the world over.

EDITORIAL NOTES

New Zealand Day. Tomorrow, the 5th Sunday after Epiphany. Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952. As from today, Canadian statutes will be dated "3 Elizabeth."

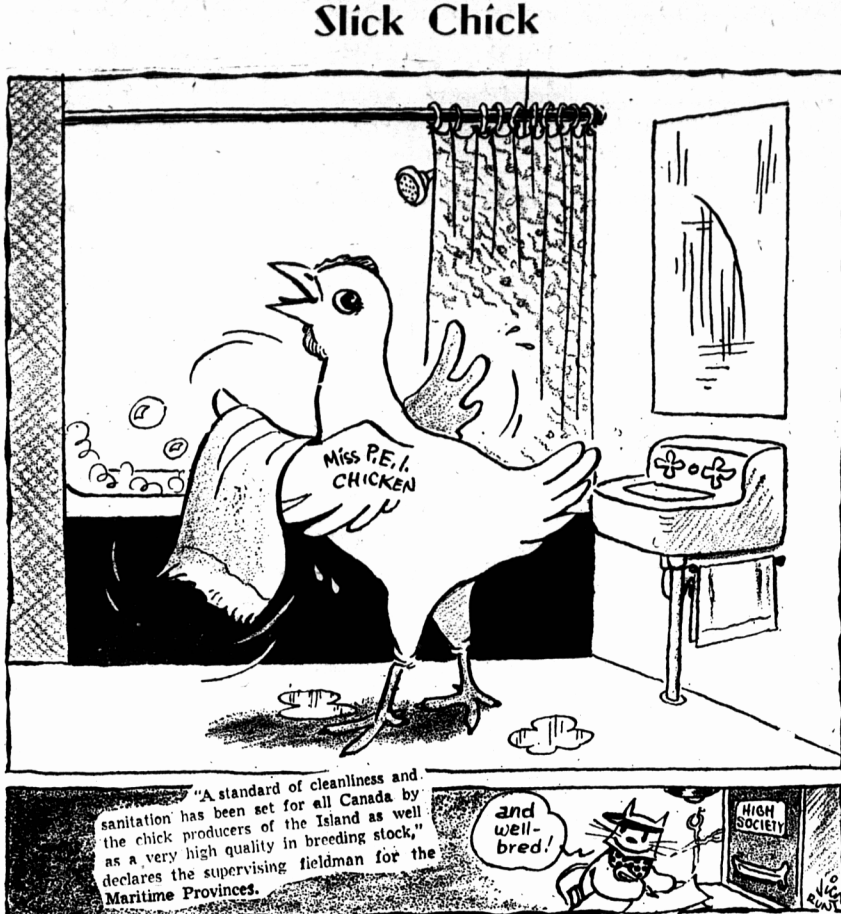
Now that nominations are complete in the Civic Elections it is up to Mr. and Mrs. Citizen to get out and vote Wednesday next.

No one act or series of acts could do more to cement Commonwealth relationships than that being performed by Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh. Their present tour is reaching a climax in Australia. The deep affection held for the Throne is everywhere in evidence.

Christopher Marlowe, English dramatist and poet, was born this date 1564. He found English drama crude and formless but left it a mighty force in English literature. He took large serious subjects for dramatization, that appealed to the popular imagination, and converted the old stiff blank verse into a medium of delicate and plastic beauty.

Evidence that Canada is moving forward in jet aviation is found in a report from Ottawa that, for the first time, the Canadian aircraft industry last year built more jet aircraft than piston-type planes. During 1953 Canadian manufacturers delivered nearly a thousand military aircraft at a price of about \$300 millions.

Masculine dignity was a sign of masculine authority, and much has now been lost, notes "The Printed Word". It was being undermined as the emancipation of women began and they were able to earn their own livings. Then along came Mr. Gillette with his handy little invention. De-lilah-like, the women began to praise its advantages to their men-folk, and the men swallowed the propaganda, hook, line and sinker. The authority of the beard was a bulwark of masculine authority in all walks of life.



"A standard of cleanliness and sanitation has been set for all Canada by the chick producers of the Island as well as a very high quality in breeding stock," declares the supervising fieldman for the Maritime Provinces.

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.

CHANGING A NAME

Sir,—"You nor I nor nobody knows how oats, peas, beans, or barley grows". So no one seems to know just when the town of Kensington first got its present name. It is like one that Albert Edward Prince of Wales would suggest, having been to our Province in 1860. Let us suppose that 1862 would be the year for dropping the old name of "Barret's Cross" and adopting the present name.

BEAUTY

I have seen dawn and sunset on moors and windy hills. Coming in solemn beauty like slow old tunes of Spain: I have seen the lady April bringing the daffodils, Bringing the springing grass and the soft warm April rain.

Old Charlottetown

From the Royal Gazette, July 12, 1836: "An important Special Jury case, relative to the validity of a codicil to a will made by the late John Stewart, Esq., of Mount Stewart, the trial of which was commenced in the Supreme Court on Monday the 4th instant, not terminated until yesterday evening seven days."

A FAULTY SYSTEM

Sir,—I have read with much interest the many letters about the sad state of our educational system and where we should put the blame. It is only too true that this state does exist. So far the concern is about those entering college—the seemingly bright ones. What of the vast majority of our children who never reach even this goal? They too are deserving of some education.

AN INTERESTED MOTHER

money spent. The Government doesn't hesitate to boost their own salaries at our expense and are they one-half as important as the ones who are training our children? Morell, P. E. I.

The Poet's Corner

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Old Charlottetown

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ROADS SCHOLARSHIP

OTTAWA, (CP)—A scholarship for study in the United States will be awarded this year by the Canadian Good Roads Association to a Canadian highway engineer, the association's headquarters here announced Wednesday. The scholarship is made available by the International Road Federation for one year's study in some field of highway engineering in the United States.

The Passing Scene

By Observer THE BATS OF STEEPLE BUMSTEAD

Bats are not the most attractive animals in the world but they do have intriguing ways. Many times when I have been fishing a stream at dusk I have marvelled at the way they appear suddenly as if from nowhere, frolic around a bit, and then, as quickly as they came, disappear into the unknown regions of the night. They have the distinction of being the only mammals which are capable of flight.

I myself, have never seen a bat in the day time, but I have been told by those who have that they spend the daylight hours in utter indolence. When they do come out they are as quick as anything that flies. They flit and dart in perfect safety in spite of the fact that their eyesight is so poor as to be practically non-existent. What they miss in vision they make up in hearing which is extraordinarily acute. Absolutely silent themselves, they like nothing better than to circle around and listen to the quiet melodious sounds that fill the air. The hum of the mosquito is especially welcome for, in addition to providing soft music for the mind, it leads to good succulent food for the body. As bats' well as people know, mental nourishment is doubly stimulating when it is accompanied by physical well-being.

Bats, however, do not like loud, ear-splitting noises, like those that come from a running motor-cycle, for instance. At least, that seems to be the kernel of a little story that has just come out of the village of Steeple Bumstead, Eng.

It seems that last fall several hundred of the creatures, presumably looking for suitable winter quarters, took up residence in the village church. Some, following the proper tradition, climbed into the belfry; others took over the pews; a few, with evident homiletic propensities, ventured into the pulpit.

Quite understandably the strange invasion caused considerable alarm among church officials, especially when a falling-off in church attendance became noticeable. It wasn't as had on Sunday mornings when most of the invaders were hanging upside down in silent repose; but so few people ventured into the church after dark that the evening services had to be cancelled. Like all other citizens, Steeple Bumsteaders had their share of a few ecclesiastical ones; this was the first time in their long history (Steeple Bumstead is an old village) that they were called upon to make war on bats.

Fantastic

(Montreal Gazette) Some heat but little light has been shed upon the question of what will happen to the pensions of members of Parliament, now that their indemnities are to be doubled. The most assurance the Prime Minister was prepared to give in reply to questioning by an honorable gentleman of the Opposition was that if the honorable gentleman wishes to have the Banking and Commerce Committee of the Commons consider the actuarial implications, he may do so.

It seems curious that the matter should be left so vaguely in the air. It is beyond reason that members of Parliament should receive pensions of about \$6,000 a year for life, only by being elected for more than two Parliaments and paying into the pension fund a sum of about \$8,000. But this possibility has not been denied. The increase in the indemnity of members appears reasonable. But to combine this increase with pensions on this incredible scale gives an inevitable impression that those elected to serve the public have been willing to abuse their power, and that the abuse has been sponsored by the Government.

This is not a position in which members of Parliament should have been placed. The proposal to increase their indemnities ought to have been accompanied by a clear indication that this would not involve pension scales that would draw fantastically upon the taxpayers' money. Parliament should undoubtedly receive its due rewards. But there are other pensioners in the country. They, too, have served their country well—many of them on the battlefield. Their rewards can hardly be described as fantastic.

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