

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1950

Welcome to The Press

Today members of the Maritime Region of the Canadian Press will be visiting us on an excursion from Pictou where the annual get-together is being held under the hospitable roof of Pictou Lodge. The arrangements are under the direction of Mr. Harry Sutherland, of the New Glasgow News and Mr. J. M. Murphy of the Truro News, two active and rising representatives of Canadian Press membership.

Freight Assistance Payments

Money paid out on freight assistance for western feed grains to this Province last year, according to returns tabled in Parliament, amounted to \$3,174,603 on 368,209 tons, or an average of \$11.20 per ton.

In the House of Commons last week, a \$5,000,000 vote for freight assistance was put through. Agriculture Minister Gardiner explained that this amount was necessary to cover the cost down to the 31st of July.

"This vote," Mr. Gardiner emphasized, "has been renewed from year to year. We said a year ago, and I think the year before that, that it was the intention to have the whole question of discrimination in freight rates studied by a Commission and a report made upon it."

The freight rate on western grains average \$8.40 per ton, the average Federal payment being \$6. This represents an increase over previous years, due to the increase in freight rates. The rate increase granted this year by the Board of Transport Commissioners will doubtless add further to the payments per ton by way of reimbursement — that is, provided the policy is continued.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Gracie came, saw and conquered. The Kiwanis deserve congratulations.

School is out, to the joy of youngsters. Their mothers' enthusiasm for the holiday season has probably already waned.

Newspapermen are notoriously forever faced with a deadline and the Maritime regional meetings at Pictou and Dalvay should make them feel that everything is normal.

The public and private gardens of this city are at their best, but can hardly be seen to advantage amid a maze of fencing. If only the other fellow could be depended upon to respect lawns without the necessity of barricading them.

Welcome to the Maritime Library Association delegates. They will find that on the Island their two distinct divisions, college libraries and public libraries, are here fused into an extremely valuable combination.

In Windsor, N. S., the Retail Merchants Association at a special meeting asked the town council to have parking meters removed. The merchants said tourists were by-passing the town rather than pay as they parked.

Notwithstanding the objections of Senators, the bill providing for a residence for the Prime Minister has passed, including the clause providing that the Prime Minister must contribute \$5,000 per annum for board, etc.

H. R. H., the Duke of Windsor born this date 1894. He succeeded to the throne as King Edward VIII January 20, 1936; abdicated December 1936; he married June 3, 1937, Mrs. Wallis Warfield; was Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahamas Islands, 1940-1945. Since has resided abroad.

Prince Edward Island has an honourable record of foreign missions which Miss Vodia Mackay of Albany is to carry on. She is to teach at a junior college in Japan under the auspices of the Missions Board of the United Church of Canada.

This summer some 400 University students from Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes are training with the Royal Canadian Navy at Halifax as Cadets, R.C.N. (R). Their summer training program is divided into 12 weeks of classroom and parade ground work at HMCS Stadacona and four weeks' training afloat in one of two frigates operating out of Halifax.

An effective way of combating bush fires, where water and firefighting equipment are not available, was demonstrated in a case recently reported in The Guardian. The fire broke out in the Martinville area in King's County, and threatened to sweep through the whole community.

U. S. newspapers notoriously disregard the speeches of Canadian statesmen; disregard in fact almost everything Canadian, says The Gazette. Indeed, apart from the New York Times and perhaps the New York Herald-Tribune, Canada has to produce quintuplets, or have a flood or some other sort of disaster to be noticed in American newspapers.

Britain's chief agricultural research scientist, who studied as a young man in Guelph, Ont., and Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que., comes back to Canada this week for a refresher course. Sir William Ogg, 58, heads a six-man team of British agricultural scientists and administrators who will spend eight weeks in Canada studying Canadian methods of farming.

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.

THE BOOZE REVENUE TREND

Sir,—That letter in your June 3 issue dealing in a colorful and forthright way with those booze barons and the hunt for additional liquor outlets, is the impulse behind this reader's desire to get a commenting word or two into the record.

As a rural Canadian I confess I—and those near and dear to me—get along nicely with an absolute minimum of the product of "those booze barons". On the other hand I must say that it is decidedly disheartening to see this anti-social traffic becoming increasingly a revenue pillar of the State. This latter trend can hardly avoid giving an aura of respectability to the whole shady business; to make drinking alcoholic beverages the normal and essential element in the lives of our people; and, as "W. I. G." points out, to implant in the minds of young Canadians that "to drink... is a fine social habit".

Moreover, the fact that the Canadian people had \$780,000,000 to spend on alcoholic beverages during the single year of 1949, has not escaped the notice of the nation's farmers, whose revenues have been cut into by the production of 80 million pounds of margarine in that same year, in an effort to "save" (?) \$20,000,000 to urban consumers by way of the margin between the price of butter and that of the substitute "spread".

Maybe the following story from real life will garnish this little letter: I met a couple of my urban friends the other day and over the tea and coffee cups the discussion turned to the butter vs. margarine problem. The temperatures increased visibly and audibly. It was two to one in favor of butter. There is no room here to particularise, but it seems worth recording one conclusion unanimously arrived at and acknowledged, namely, that our margarine friend expended more cash on beer during June than he will "save" on margarine during 1950!

I am, Sir, etc. W. D.

MP's As Orators

(Herb Surplis in the Ottawa Citizen)

Now that the session is nearing its close and most of the members have had their say on one or several topics, some assessment of their abilities as public speakers can be made.

Who is the best speaker in the House of Commons?

The honest answer is that there is no "best". Commons debates take so many forms, the opportunities and occasions are so varied, that no single criterion can be applied. It can be said, however, that there are few orators of the old school in the House, and occasions when the florid verbiage of the past is in order are rare. The leaders of all the parties speak well. The Prime Minister is at his best when his "Irish" is up. Opposition Leader George Drew has a more sonorous, impressive voice, but he too frequently spoils a good speech by saying in 40 minutes what he could say in ten. M. J. Coldwell has a reasoned, persuasive style, but his schoolteacher days have left their influence. He has a tendency to lecture. Solon Low gives smooth, well-balanced presentation but he has something of the nasal twang so common to all Western members of Parliament.

The two best rough-and-tumble speakers in the House, are Agriculture Minister James Gardiner and Art Smith of Calgary West. They both love a fight and they are equally deadly in the clinch. Most members, and certainly backbenchers, studiously avoid a tangle with either. An initial, brush encounter is likely to be a bruising experience.

John Diefenbaker (Lake Center) and Ernie Hanson (MacLeod) speak clearly and well. Hanson has the happy knack of illustrating his points with down-to-earth experiences and incidents. Diefenbaker has a ring of sincerity that adds greatly to the weight of his arguments.

A good many others are deserving of mention. H. W. Herdridge of Kootenay West and Owen Jones of Yale invariably give reasoned, logical presentations. Jimmy Sinclair of Coast-Capilano doesn't speak often, but he can hit with some effective punches when he does. Gordon Graydon of Peel is another effective speaker, but he suffers from the same prolixity as his leader. E. T. Applewhite of Skeena makes occasional but well reasoned speeches. Donald Fleming of Elton has a challenging, almost truculent style that attracts attention.

One of the regrettable features of the House is its wretched acoustics. Consequently, some logical and witty speakers — that is, judging by Hansard — are almost inaudible in the galleries. Jim Macdonnell of Greenwood is, perhaps, the best example. He has an incisive, analytical mind, garnished with a delightful, dry Scotch humor. To read him in Hansard is a joy; but to hear him in the House is next to impossible. In fairness, it should be said that ability to speak, or even the inclination to make speeches, is not the sole test of a good member. There are several senior members who rarely, if ever, speak, but they do tremendously valuable work in committees. And with temperatures as they are in Ottawa at this time of the year, the House owes them a debt of gratitude.

—And Now Children's Day



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

FIRST LOCAL FAIR

"By a notice in another column, published by the Central Agricultural Society, it will be seen that in addition to cattle shows and ploughing matches, the intention of establishing Fairs, to be held twice a year in Charlottetown, has been resolved upon. Wednesday, the 2nd of October next, being the day of the cattle show, has been selected for holding the first Fair. As we have reason to believe that the greatest anxiety is felt by the committee and officers of the Society to provide the most ample accommodations both for sellers and buyers, we trust the experiment will prove beneficial, not only to our farmers, by affording a ready mart for the disposal of their superfluous agricultural produce and of replenishing their stock from the most approved breeds, but also prove a great convenience to persons from other countries who may have occasion to make extensive purchases, which could then be done at little comparative trouble."

—Colonial Herald, August 10, 1939.

(It appears from a subsequent report that the number of cattle exhibited fell short of expectations, although the novelty of the occurrence attracted "a vast concourse of persons, in pursuit of business or amusement. At an early hour of the day they began to pour in, and for several hours boats and vehicles of all descriptions, crowded with passengers, continued to arrive. Never before, we believe, were so many persons of both sexes, and all in holiday attire, assembled in Charlottetown; indeed, it was remarked by more than one, that the best part of the show was the spectators of it.")

Quoted From Hansard

Question by Mr. Diefenbaker, M.P.:

- 1. How many copies of "2 Minutes of Employment Facts" are issued, and how often?
2. What is the cost per issue (a) for printing; (b) for distribution?
3. Is the distribution franked?
4. What would be the cost of postage if not franked?
5. What would be the saving in cost if issued quarterly?
6. What would be the saving if printed in one colour only?

Answer of Department of Labour:

- 1. "2 Minutes of Employment Facts" is issued semi-monthly. The total distribution of each issue fluctuates to a certain extent, but the average number is around 24,000 English and 4,700 French.
2. (a) The cost of printing each issue is: (i) for printing \$322.38 (ii) for paper \$88.96. (b) The cost of distribution is based on the salaries of those engaged in such work together with the number of hours involved. It has been estimated that each issue costs about \$20.00 to distribute.
(3) The publication is not franked. It is sent by metered mail which is not charged for by the Post Office.
4. If the publication were sent by first-class mail, it would likely cost the Department about \$900.00 per issue.
5. On the basis of a quarterly issue, the saving in printing costs would be approximately \$5,970 per year.
6. The saving in printing costs, if the publication were printed in one colour only, would be approximately \$100.45 per issue.

The Age-Old Story

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction, but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

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Studying Press Freedom

(Ottawa Citizen)

At a time when the relation of the press to the state is being re-examined in several countries, the simple fundamental of press freedom is worth recalling. Freedom is the absence of restriction. The test to be applied to proposals affecting the press is whether these increase or diminish restrictions on the press. But the letter of the law is often not half as important as the spirit in which the press is regarded by the public. It is better, as Lord Burnham, the publisher of London's Daily Telegraph suggested at the Commonwealth Press Conference in Ottawa this week, to err on the side of freedom rather than of repression. The British tradition has a bias in favor of freedom, and that goes a long way to explain why freedom of the press flourishes in Commonwealth countries.

It also goes a long way to explain why there is a degree of reserve among newspaper men of the Commonwealth toward proposals for establishing formally the freedom of the press. That is a task to which a sub-commission of the Human Rights Commission of the United States has been applying itself. The admission of governments as partners in regulating the press, even for the avowed purpose of maintaining the freedom of the press, would be unwelcome. Honest reservations therefore exist among many British journalists, towards the proposal for a British Press Council, as recommended by a royal commission on the press last year.

A somewhat similar proposal is found in a draft law now before the French National Assembly. It would provide France with a Press Council consisting of two groups; the publishers, editors and press association managers on one side, and journalists nominated by colleagues in the trade on the other, all under a presiding judge.

Whether professional standards would be heightened and whether any gain would not be at the expense of a loss of independence, are questions that such a proposal raises immediately.

An independent press means a press that is independent of the government. Without it, a free society can hardly be expected to exist. A Press Council, of the sort envisaged in the recent British and French proposals, would tend to bring the government into active custodianship of the conscience of a free press. And that, judging by the basic test to be applied to schemes of the kind, leads in the direction of restriction, not freedom.

The Poet's Corner

ON THE BENCH

The benches in a park are made in such a way as to dissuade, one must in honesty admit, The sifter from too long a sit.

Consider how the slatted seat Dooms tender flesh to quick defeat, And how the back, curved very fine, Precisely hits each bump of spine.

If one sits to the rear, it's found, The feet just fail to reach the ground.

If one sits up, to meet this lack, One very soon slips slowly back.

But this is what the builders sought, And well indeed they planned and wrought, For otherwise incumbents might Sit on through morning, noon and night.

And those who came by later, wearier, Have no place for their own posterior. —Richard Armour in the New York Times.

Notes By The Way

The indeterminate sentence should never be used as an act of mercy or clemency but should be based entirely on the criminal's conduct and merits and extended to him when he has earned it, and simply as his due. The indeterminate sentence has won its way in a large number of countries, and while it has been criticized in Canada from time to time, there is no question of its success in Ontario, proof of the value of the parole system in dealing with prison inmates.—Timmins Press.

Perhaps Toronto has it, and in a lesser way than this City. The Toronto Telegram notes that a common form of discourtesy of motorists, both male and female, is on approaching a stop street to draw up across the intersection in such a way as to completely block pedestrian traffic or to force it out into the line of cars on the through street. This not only a discourtesy but also a breach of the Highway Traffic Act which requires cars to come to a full stop "immediately before entering the nearest crosswalk."—St. Catharines Standard.

Like many other issues, the pensions question is obscured by the confusion between what is desirable on moral or sentimental grounds and what is practical on economic grounds. Too little attention has been paid to the amount of earning power which must be withheld from the working force to provide maintenance for the pensioner. As a result, many of the arguments being put forward are like a man blundering around in a pitch-dark room and knocking over all the china ornaments. It's time the Government got down to business and switched on the light.—Calgary Herald.

Take smoking, which is a filthy habit, no doubt, scattering ashes over the newly cleaned rug and of no earthly use except comfort. It is good to break that habit now and then, partly to show it who is the master, and partly because smoking is so much better after a short period of not smoking. If, for example, the high point of any day is the first cigarette in the morning, taken with the second cup of coffee and the sports pages of the newspaper, then wait until later before lighting up. The hour represented by later may very with the individual taste, sometimes being even so far away as the third cup of coffee and the financial pages, but the particular hour does not matter. What is good is that the habit has been broken, that it no longer is holding the reins. New York Times.

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