

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, FEB. 28, 1950

The Legislature Opens

Nothing to indicate that the session of
the Legislature opened by His Honour the
Lieutenant Governor yesterday will be of
unusual length is contained in the Speech
from the Throne. The new measures men-
tioned specifically are legislation to allow
a special type of incorporation for villages,
to provide for a small beginning in marsh-
lands reclamation this year, and to amend
the Workmen's Compensation Act. It is also
indicated that at Prince of Wales College a
dormitory will soon be provided for students
obliged to live away from home, that more
Government office space in the old Y. M.
C. A. premises will be available when the
new Federal Building is completed next
year, that progress in rural electrification
is being made by the extension of a high
power line from Charlottetown to the Sum-
merside area, and that a further satisfactory
increase in the annual Federal payment on
the basis of gross national production in
Canada will be forthcoming.

Progress in developing the trade along
the south and southwest coasts of New-
foundland is referred to, as well as plans
for developing, with Federal and Provincial
assistance, the facilities at the Provincial
Exhibition, aiding the fisheries industry by
quick-freezing and storage equipment, mak-
ing available shortly a large number of
trees and shrubs at nominal prices to our
farmers, highway improvement and ex-
pansion of health and other services. Im-
portant also to our fishermen is the refer-
ence to installation of factories which freeze
and package fillets and to a fishing fleet
of dragners which is being considered.

Following time-honoured procedure, the
Speech will be formally debated and doubt-
less a good deal of additional information
will be supplied in the speeches of the Pre-
mier and other portfolio members of the
Government. The Opposition has also an
important role to play, in calling attention
to Government sins of omission or com-
mission, and it has among its spokesmen
some of the ablest and most experienced
members in the House.

It is to be hoped that time-wasting pro-
cedure will be reduced to a minimum at
this session. Long speeches are usually the
result of inadequate preparation on the
speaker's part, and so is the thrashing of old
political straw. Newspapers formerly used
to report verbatim these marathon ora-
tions, but today the emphasis is on brevity,
which Shakespeare long ago defined as be-
ing the soul of wit. One can read Lincoln's
famous Gettysburg speech in a couple of
minutes, and the whole story of Creation as
recounted in the Book of Genesis occupies
less than one newspaper column. These are
worthy examples for emulation by newcom-
ers in the House, and even the reading of
them before making a speech would, we
believe, have a beneficial effect.

Last year we suggested that work could
be expedited by the prompter tabling of
bills and answering of questions on the
order paper. Opposition members particu-
larly are entitled to this courtesy, and every
effort should be made to meet their wishes
in this respect.

Childhood Diseases

There was a time when parents regard-
ed it as inevitable that their children should
take all or most of the childhood diseases,
and even felt that it was best to "have them
over" at an early age. Some even went so
far as to deliberately expose youngsters to
infection with that in view. Such ideas now
seem to be a relic of the Dark Ages and
parents co-operate willingly with their doc-
tor and health authorities in preventing the
spread of disease. An outstanding service is
rendered by the Department of Health in its
annual protective programme which started
yesterday for Charlottetown and vicinity.
The protection offered to children under five
against diphtheria, whooping cough and
tetanus means life to many little ones and
ease of mind to parents.

Experts Sound Warning

The new miracle drugs for the treat-
ment of arthritis and related diseases are
"two-edged swords that can be as danger-
ous as they are wonderful." This timely
warning is sounded by a group of top-rank-
ing research scientists at the University of
Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Diabetes, high blood pressure, brain in-
volvements and a curious distortion of the
body's normal functioning known as Cush-
ing's syndrome are among the undesirable
possibilities that lurk in the unwise use of

cortisone or the pituitary hormone, ACTH.
Heading the Philadelphia group was Dr.
Joseph Stokes, Jr., professor of pediatrics
and chief of the Children's Hospital of Phila-
delphia. Their findings are based upon the
study of eight cases. While this is a small
number, it must be remembered that corti-
sone and ACTH still are so difficult to pro-
duce that trials on larger numbers are not
yet possible.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Royalty of Charlottetown seems to
occupy the role of skeleton at the feast so
far as the Legislature is concerned.

It will be a brisk time the next month,
with Legislators, their wives and families,
constituents, and politicians generally visit-
ing the City.

The main population of the Province
will be in annual session all over the three
counties this evening to discuss their agri-
cultural prospects.

The five-year expansion plan of the Pro-
vincial Exhibition Association should prove
a good investment for the Association, the
Dominion and Provincial Governments and
particularly for the farmers of this Island.

City readers are reminded it is their
duty to keep their footpaths clear of snow
and free from ice. There is a civic law
to this effect. Next best thing is to use a
little sand or ashes.

The present Legislature, like its pre-
decessors, has power to amend its own
constitution except as to the office of Lieuten-
ant-Governor. It seems likely that the next
one will also have a voice in amendments
which go beyond that limitation.

Quebec has a Red Man who seems to suffer
from the same mistake as did Columbus.
Assuming that he is an Indian, he is follow-
ing Ghandi's practice while in prison and is
on a hunger strike.

Commentators who see Britain's left wing
Socialists as being a determining factor
in forcing further nationalization are as-
suming, without perhaps making it clear,
that the large body of moderates will force
the Government to follow a Fabian policy.

Statutory Orders and Regulations (Part
II Canada Gazette) are now a major part
of the law of the land. When first published
as S. O. R.'s it was intended that at
each year's end a consolidation would be
issued of all orders in force. Until now
such a collection and revision has not been
forthcoming but the King's Printer has
announced that by April 1st a six-volume
consolidation will be issued containing all
orders remaining in force at the end of last
year.

Congratulations are due to the St. Dun-
stan's University debaters who have scored
their first Maritime Intercollegiate Debating
League championship and with it the right
to represent the Maritime Universities in
the Dominion finals to be held at Ottawa
next month. St. Dunstan's was the only
Maritime college to win all their scheduled
debates, their victories being gained over
the University of New Brunswick Law
School, St. Thomas College and Dalhousie
University. Eleven colleges participated in
the debates and this victory for an Island
institution places us very definitely on the
map.

Michel de Montaigne, French essayist,
born this date 1533; made an early acquaint-
ance with Etienne La Boetie, who contrib-
uted greatly towards forming his mind, a
model friendship which only ended when La
Boetie died in 1563; he started writing his
essays in 1572; later travelled extensively
through Switzerland, Germany, Italy, being
recalled to become Mayor of Bordeaux. His
Essays are a fine piece of moral philosophy,
which showed new spaciousness of mental
outlook. "Que sais-je?" (how do I know?)
was the motto assigned to him after his
death; his style is characterized by the
freedom and ease of the Renaissance.

Coming events seem to be casting their
shadows before. The Federal Liberal lead-
ers did not always see eye to eye with the
Jones Government ever since the Premier
turned down Hon. Mr. Howe's plan to run
Provincial affairs from Ottawa instead of
Charlottetown. At last election Mr. Jones
did not get much enthusiastic support from
the Federalists, indeed the electors were told
in Belfast his personal defeat would
not be a great loss, but he came out on top
notwithstanding. The powers-that-be at Ot-
tawa would now like to make amends for
their blunder by constituting him a Senator
and chief provincial official adviser in
place of the late Senator Sinclair. Noth-
ing succeeds like success.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the
discussion by correspondents
of questions of interest. The
Guardian does not necessari-
ly endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

OLD ISLAND COINS

Sir,—I have read lately in the
Public Forum about old coins
dated 1858 and 1857. I have in
my possession one dated 1855 with
the words "Prince Edward Island"
on one side and "Self Govern-
ment and Free Trade" on the
other. I have been wondering if
there are any coins older than
this one bearing the same names.
I am, Sir, etc.
MRS. STANLEY COLES
Stanley Bridge, P.E.I.

POTATO GROWERS' ASSN.

Sir,—There is no doubt in the
minds of those members who have
supported the P. E. I. Potato
Growers' Association since 1932,
that without the sincere, out-
standing leadership of the late J.
W. Boulter, it would not have
been possible to continue the busi-
ness.
At that time the Association had
liabilities of ninety thousand dol-
lars, and but a small percentage
of the membership it enjoyed,
just previous to financial reverses.
Appealing to the members for
continued loyalty, Mr. Boulter
promised that when the Associa-
tion was out of debt, he would as-
sert his influence to have it so
re-organized that those members
who had made this possible by
patronage and good-will would
receive the whole credit in share-
capital.
Mr. Boulter kept his pledge in
as much as it was humanly possi-
ble.
Those members who had loaned
money without security were re-
paid in full, members who had
shipped potatoes for which they
received not a penny, were paid
fifteen years later, and the same
to all who had a claim against the
organization.
Annually the membership received
a renewal of Mr. Boulter's
pledge and the encouraging word
that the day was drawing near
when re-organization as a true
co-operative would be a reality.
Shortly before being stricken
with a fatal illness, Mr. Boulter
invited the writer into his office
and informed him that the Associa-
tion was at last financially
sound and the next step was to
re-organize as a Co-operative, un-
der a scheme that would assure
to those who had remained loyal
since the gloomiest days of the
Prince of Wales Auditorium, con-
trol of the organization.
The majority of the present di-
rectors heard the expressed inten-
tion of Mr. Boulter at all annual
meetings but have not kept faith
with a man Divine Providence re-
moved before his pledge could be
fully implemented.
In spite of these facts, the di-
rectors are opposed to re-organiza-
tion as a co-operative, and have
gone so far as to advertise that
only debenture-holders are entitled
to vote.
In other words only those who
shipped potatoes to Britain in
1946, are legal members.
It might happen that after an-
other year, the assets of the P. E.
I. Potato Growers' Association
would be confiscated, as were those
of the Livestock Marketing Board
and held for disposal by the govern-
ment.
What a tribute to a man who
gave so much!
I am, Sir, etc.
R. E. CONNELLY.

MORE ABOUT THE MARCO POLO

Sir,—I have read with interest
the various letters appearing in
The Guardian from time to time
about the wreck of the Marco
Polo. In 1946 the late John An-
derson of Charlottetown, under-
took the task of collection data
on the wreck of this vessel and
the daring rescue of a salvage
crew by a rescue boat during a
violent storm. Only one man of
the salvage crew was drowned
during the rescue.
Mr. Maynard Schurman, Dr.
John MacNeill and I were asked
by Mr. Anderson to help him
compile the necessary information
for his proposed booklet.
Considerable data was collect-
ed at the time regarding the
wreck of the famous clipper ship
and it is regrettable that the in-
formation Mr. Anderson gather-
ed was never printed as he died
before completing his work. Some
of the data collected by Mr. An-
derson cannot be replaced, such
as a full list of names of the res-
cue crew.
While making inquiries re the
wreck of the Marco Polo I was
directed to a gentleman in Cay-
endish who told me he was work-
ing in his field on the day of
the wreck, and saw with surprise
the great ship coming in straight
for the Cavendish Capes. My
informant although an old man,
was mentally alert and had a
wonderful memory and was able
to describe in detail the wreck
and rescue of the salvage crew at
a later date. He said he ran to
the edge of the Capes to watch
the approach of the ship. When
it seemed to those watching that
she was about to strike the coast
about and sailed up the coast and
was beached off what is now
known as Cawnpore, quite near
where the sandhills join the
mainland.
The day of the wreck was fine
with a moderate wind blowing,
but there was a heavy sea run-
ning due to the storm of the pre-
ceding days. The ship was under
heavy sail and when she struck,
her masts were broken like pipe
stems, and sails and tackle went
over the side. The crew, which
was Norwegian, came ashore later
in their small boats and be-
fore proceeding to Charlottetown
were paid off in the kitchen of
John F. MacNeill, uncle of L.

His Premiership To End Like This?



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

LOFTY REQUIREMENTS

"A person desirous of a seat in
the Legislature must be conscious,
one would imagine, of pos-
sessing some intellectual endow-
ments to distinguish him from the
common herd of mankind, that
by means of a liberal education
his mind would be enriched with
the treasures of ancient learning,
that he has at least made some
progress in the science of political
economy, in short that he is sat-
isfied in his own mind of being
thoroughly qualified for the con-
scientious discharge of the lofty
and arduous duties of a legisla-
tor. Would it be believed in the
Nineteenth Century, that men are
to be found, who without any pre-
tensions to these qualifications
have presumed to take their
seats in the Colonial Assembly;
the history of our Island is preg-
nant with proofs of the lamentable
consequences of ignorant and un-
skilful men rashly attempting to
legislate on matters far beyond
their reach."
—Prince Edward Island Regis-
ter, Nov. 20, 1824.

M. Montgomery.

The money was
counted out to them on the
kitchen table in pounds and shil-
lings.
Although I had heard the cur-
rent report mentioned by Mr. W.
L. Green in his letter of the 9th
inst., that the Marco Polo sailed
up and down the coast looking
for a place to beach, I received
no information during my search
which would verify this statement.
It was generally believed at the
time of the wreck that the crew
was more anxious to save their
lives than to collect the insur-
ance. It may be of interest to Miss Hol-
man and others who are desirous
of seeing an Island Museum to
know that the nameboard of the
Marco Polo is in Cavendish in
good condition, together with
several other relics of that famous
sailing ship.
When the celebrated traveller
Marco Polo, after twenty-six
years of travel in what were
then unknown countries, returned
to his native city of Venice in
the year 1295 and told his na-
tive townsmen of the wonderful
things he had seen and done he
met with incredulity, and in Eng-
land at a later date the phrase
"It's a Marco Polo" was coined
to describe a falsehood.
Capt. Read in his recent let-
ter in The Guardian points out
that many of the stories told
about the Marco Polo are found-
ed on hearsay and gossip, and
states the necessity of establish-
ing facts.
Capt. Read goes on to say that
the master of the Marco Polo
found that he was well into the
night formed by North Cape and
East Point and after unsuccessful
attempts to keep off shore the
master found that he could not
extricate himself and to save his
crew was forced to beach his
ship. What Capt. Read has fail-
ed to make clear in his letter is
the fact that the Marco Polo was
far off her course, that she had
sprung a leak, and was regarded
by her crew as unseaworthy.
And with regard to insurance, has
it ever been definitely establish-
ed that she was insured?
It would seem to the writer
that if all of the facts re the
beaching of the Marco Polo are
known it is time that they were
brought to light. It is less than
seventy years since the Marco
Polo came ashore at Cavendish—
well within the memory of our
oldest citizens and witnessed by
some of them—yet no two ac-
counts, either written or verbal,
seem to agree.
If hearsay and conjecture con-
tinues to be the basis of accounts,
the public in future may well be
inclined to dismiss all tales of
the Marco Polo with "It's a Marco
Polo."
I am, Sir, etc.
E. W. JOHNSTONE
Burlington
Feb. 24, 1950.

The Poet's Corner

SNOW IN THE SUBURBS

Every branch big with it,
Bent every twig with it;
Every fork like a white web-foot;
Every street and pavement mute;
Some flakes have lost their way,
and grope back upward,
when
Meeting those meandering down
they turn and descend again,
And palings are glued together like
a wall,
And there is no waft of wind with
the fleecy fall.

A sparrow enters the tree,
Whenson immediately
A snow-lump thrice his own weight
size
Descends on him and showers his
head and eyes.
And overturns him,
And near turns him,
And lights on a nether twig, when
its brush
Starts off a volley of other lodg-
ing lumps with a rush.

The steps are a blanched slope,
Up which, with feeble hope,
A black cat comes, wide-eyed and
thin;
And we take him in.
—Thomas Hardy.

The Age-Old Story

He healeth the broken at heart,
and bindeth up their wounds.

Mr. Brown's Watch

(Ottawa Citizen)

When Mr. Ronald Brown, of Hull,
England, finished his walk to the
railway station, he saw his train
pulling out. He took out his watch
and found that, by it, he should
have caught the train with two
minutes to spare. In such a predic-
ament, most people would have
grumbled at the watch and accept-
ed, with annoyance resignation, the
necessity of waiting for another
train. But Mr. Brown is an English-
man, a man of action, and one who
has faith in his watch. He rang up
the railway control office, gained
an admission that the train actual-
ly had left two minutes ahead of
time, and persuaded the rail auth-
orities to send an automobile for
him. He reached his office only a
few minutes late.
In these days of nationalized
railways and other services in Eng-
land, the story of Mr. Brown strikes
a responsive chord in English and
other hearts. It is better to be
right when one undertakes to stand
up against a large and possibly
soulless corporation. But to have
the right time on one's side may
not be enough. Mr. Brown obtained
action, and he has doubtless be-
come a hero in his neighborhood.
He admitted his watch is an old
one. But it has never been wrong.
He has always been confident that
he could reach the station with
time to spare. The real test for
Mr. Brown, though, having estab-
lished a person's right to be pro-
tected against the trains running
ahead of time, is whether he will
now allow himself an extra five
minutes to be sure. If this routine
of rising, breakfasting and walking
to the station remains precisely as
it was, his victory over the British
Railways will be complete.

FIGHT IN CHINATOWN

VANCOUVER, Feb. 27 — (CP) —
A fight in a Chinatown night club
today left one man dead and an-
other charged with murder. Dead
is Mah Foo, reported to have been
struck with a chair. Charged with
the slaying is Yu Nip. Police said
a charge of murder has been laid
against Yu Nip, but refused to dis-
close details of the fight. The club
was locked and placed under guard
as hundreds of Chinese, attracted
by the police, milled about in the
street.

Notes By The Way —
The sort of labor law we really
need is one that will keep the
modern kids from working their
parents to death. — Saskatoon
Star-Phoenix.
A big rash of counterfeiting is
noted in the United States. Maybe
they figure it's an easy way to
make money. — Calgary Alber-
tan.
Every one seems to lose money
producing and selling food. But
it's pretty hard for the consumer
to feel he's the profiteer when he
buys lamb chops or bacon. —
Hamilton Spectator.
During the Christmas season
the Christmas seal campaign
makes almost everyone conscious
of the great struggle being waged
against tuberculosis. But in be-
tween times many of us forget
about the danger of TB. Tubercu-
losis is a threat the year
round. Make sure you are not
a TB victim. Have a free chest
x-ray today. — National Health
Department.
A teacher of my acquaintance
who, until recently, was a lee-
turer in English at Cairo Uni-
versity, tells me of a remark-
able example of incentive to educa-
tional endeavour that came to
his knowledge. One of his Egyptian
students pestered him to
reveal before the due occasion if
he had passed in his exam. The
student was so insistent that the
lecturer said to him: "You seem
inordinately anxious — why?"
"Well," said the young Egyptian,
"my father promised that if I
passed he'd get me a wife." —
Glasgow Evening News.

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