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

CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, MAY 29, 1950

Slate of Officers

It is a familiar wonder how much duplication there is in the membership and officers of various societies. Anyone who has done any work in community enterprises knows that it is largely the same individuals who promote clean-up drives, Christmas boxes, amateur theatre and fraternal organizations.

There is occasionally some "beefing" about this situation, particularly when the glory of office is enhanced by some form of power or influence but the fact is that these people are in office very largely because others shun responsibility and work. There are very few holders of an assortment of offices who would not gladly turn most of them over to successors if only potential successors did not prove so elusive.

It requires an abundant energy to assume responsibilities not connected with the immediate task of making a living, and it takes firmness of character to carry on in the certainty of criticism and small hope of reward. There is no doubt that any society could be better run if its members could concentrate their energies on its behalf, but until we train up a generation in which the sense of public duty is more widespread than is now the case, we may thank Providence for those who fill the breach in promoting charity, sport, education, health, trade, patriotism and morality.

Mr. Churchill's Analogy

In the United Kingdom, the tax on large incomes runs as high as 19 shillings 6 pence to the pound. That is just 6 pence short of 100 per cent. Mr. Churchill has been questioning the wisdom of eliminating highly successful business men by this means. In doing so he drew the following analogy, as quoted in The London Times:

"Late in life I have taken to keeping a herd of cows. I found a different principle prevails in dealing with cows from that which is so applauded below the gangway opposite in dealing with rich men. It is thought a great advantage in a dairy to have cows with large udders. You get more milk out of them. These exceptionally fertile milch cows are welcome. Anyone would be thought foolish if he got rid of the best milkers, just as he would be thought foolish if he did not milk them to the utmost limit compatible with the maintenance of their number. He was sure the Minister of Agriculture would look in a very different way upon the reduction of these thousands of his best milkers from what the Chancellor looked upon the consideration of the most fertile and profitable sources of taxation."

Level Crossings

Few measures passed by Parliament this session, says an Ottawa exchange, should receive more public acclaim than the bill to place additional money at the disposal of the Railway Grade Crossing Fund administered by the Board of Transport Commissioners. Succeeding Parliaments might well have dealt more generously with the fund, which provides federal assistance for the removal of level crossings. From the time the fund was established in 1909 it had to get along with an annual grant of \$200,000 supplemented by some special votes—until three years ago when the grant was increased to \$500,000. A report tabled this year shows the fund paid out only \$12,098,047 during the 40 years it has been operating. The new legislation will boost the annual federal grant to \$1,000,000, beginning next April. In its vast railway systems, Canada has about 30,000 level crossings.

When the fund was established the object was to spread this Federal assistance as widely as possible because every Province has dangerous crossings. One existing restriction limits to \$100,000 the amount the fund can provide for a single undertaking. The legislation changes this to \$150,000, beginning next April.

Another clause limits the fund to 40 per cent of the cost of any grade separation work. The remainder has to be provided by the railway and the province in the case of provincial highways and the railway and the municipality on other roadways. Several House of Commons members urged that the fund's percentage be increased. The Transport Commissioners have to pass on any application for aid and can be depended upon to refuse help to less urgent undertakings. As Mr. Chevrier said, however, there will be no change at present in the 40 per cent.

EDITORIAL NOTES

College students are very largely through with classes for the season. Now it is only school pupils and all grades of teacher who remain at their lessons.

Care and thought given to the improvement of town and country property is a form of investment that yields pleasure as well as profit to the occupier, his neighbours and the whole community.

The Senate reform effort was probably doomed to failure from the start but it at least brought out some interesting expressions of opinion about the Upper and Lower chambers of Parliament as held in the other place.

Summerside is to have a new Legion home when present plans materialize. The plan should not only serve to arouse wider interest amongst the Town's returned men but, if past experience is any indication, the example will encourage branches elsewhere to go and do likewise.

Notwithstanding the return of our war sons and the institution of baby bonuses, our population is not on the increase. Canada's birth rate declined to 27.3 per 1,000 population in the first nine months of 1949 from 27.5 in the corresponding period of 1948, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

The winner of the Canadian Navy League diamond medal for the best essay on the Navy, Roger Clark, was both a naval cadet and St. James Boy Scout. His father, Mr. Arthur M. Clark, is a member of the staff of the Maritime Air Line. It is a great honour and distinction to head the whole of Canada in such a competition.

Who will be Dr. MacMillan's successor as Progressive Conservative leader? Both Queen's and Prince have aspirants, and from now till the annual meeting June 27, the claims of candidates will be informally presented to Poll Committees. It was noticed that just before the Doctor's resignation was announced, that veteran politician, Mr. Roy Holman visited Charlottetown from Toronto where he is now resident.

Dr. L. W. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Education made good use of his opportunity of impressing the importance of education on the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. If we would only reflect that every individual comes into the world more ignorant than the most primitive man imaginable, it would not be difficult to realize that education is the sole barrier between each generation and barbarism.

Sir Humphrey Davy, English chemist, died this date 1829; he devoted most of his talents and investigations to agricultural chemistry. His main researches were in electro-chemistry, which won him the medal of the French Institute and other scientific honours. He investigated the alkalis and sodium, also borax and other elements. He proved that diamond is pure carbon. In 1816 he invented the miner's safety lamp which is still in use all over the world.

If one sends a soft shirt of whatever brand to the laundry why does it come back stiff as a board? Shirt manufacturers are taking the first concrete steps to meet such problems created in the laundering of men's shirts by the growing diversity of styles and fabrics offered. The National Association of Shirt, Pajama & Sportswear Manufacturers has set up a committee to make an initial study of the problems and assign various phases of it to sub-committees. The rapidly increasing proportion of sports shirts handled by the laundries, the increase in the number of nylon shirts, the difficulties encountered with French cuffs, zipper closures, the mixtures of rayon, cottons and silks characterizing today's production call for urgent study, it is claimed.

What is the new nickel to look like? Seven members of a nine-member board of judges are busily sorting more than 10,000 entries that Canadians have poured into the Royal Canadian Mint in the nickel-designing contest announced last January. Each of the entrants is seeking the \$1,000 first prize the Government is offering for the best design for the back of the Canadian five-cent piece. The new nickel will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the isolation and naming of the metal known as nickel. Besides the big first prize, the board of judges—eight men and a woman—will award \$250 each to the four entrants whose designs are judged to merit honorable mention. Designs have been entered from every province in the Dominion, with a particularly heavy entry from Ontario and Quebec. The suggestions for the new nickel range from the Dionne quintuplets to the Pope, from typical Canadian fish like the Mackenzie King. A large number of designs are similar to the present ones, containing such things as maple leaves and beavers.

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.

TREASURES ISLAND MEMORIES

Sir—My mother-in-law was born in Charlottetown, I think in 1837 and she loves the memory of the good people there and often tells us of its beauty. Many times my husband and I hoped to drive through Canada and take mother to her home town. We never made it though, as we had much sickness and operations between us.

I am, Sir, etc., MAE PERRY, Care of Mrs. Eda Perry Ford, Saratoga, California

SHUT-INS' DAY

Sir—The Shut-Ins' Day Association has requested me to again help publicize Shut-Ins' Day, so I again beg space in your paper to first acquaint your shut-in and disabled readers with this association which is operating in their interests.

The association is now of international proportions; both the International and Canadian headquarters are at Goderich, Ont., and there are chapters or representatives in all the provinces.

By this way, it is my hope that a chapter may be formed here in the near future, because it could promote activities throughout the year and do so much that it is utterly impossible for one shut-in individual to do, hence I would appreciate the learning of anyone who would help or cheer.

The organization is a non-profit one, its object is the active remembrance of the physically handicapped. It sponsors Shut-Ins' Day, held annually the first Sunday of June. This is a day set aside to encourage the public to take thought of the less fortunate among us, by remembering them either by calling on them, or by sending a letter, a card or other token of one's thoughtfulness.

It is hoped if people enjoying good health will remember the shut-ins and bring them some extra cheer and fellowship on one particular day, that they will also be more mindful of them throughout the year.

I am, Sir, etc., DANIEL GASS, P. E. I. Representative, Cornwall, P. E. I., May 27, 1950.

Potato Bags Stopping Red River Rampage

(Harley Potter in the Financial Post)

A shortage of used burlap bags may be an aftermath of the Manitoba flood. The millions of sand containers used to hold back the Red River created a bit of a hoist in bag stocks.

One trade source told The Post prices of used bags might advance. Dealers across Canada were pretty well "cleaned out," he said. Others were optimistic, saw supply catching up in reasonable time.

Used burlap bags—that's what most bags shipped west were—constitute a distinct industry. The bags are a commodity unto themselves, so to speak, because of lower price have markets of their own, share some markets with new bags, leave other markets almost entirely to new bags. Some bag businesses devote themselves exclusively to reconditioning used bags.

For the Red River dikes they were just what was needed. Dealers speeded up movement of the bags to help get them to the river workers as soon as possible. Ample supplies were available as dealers were laying in stocks for the vegetable season a little later this year.

Mainly affected by the flood are bags for potatoes and small feed bags. Ordinary demand has been brisk enough for the season, bag men say, though it was fortunate the demand from the flood area came in the post-harvest, bagging season. "If they had wanted the bags in September or October, it would have been a catastrophe. We've swamped them in any case," one dealer said.

The Federal Government sent about 1.5 million bags West; the Ontario Government, almost 500,000. Some eastern companies supplied quantities of more than 100,000 bags to the Government. Some new bags were shipped, but most of the total were used.

The flow of bags to the West has pretty well stopped. Winnipeg bag factories—there are three of them—have been working seven days a week and, according to one eastern trade source, 24 hours a day. Estimated capacity of Winnipeg plants is about 150,000 bags a day. The bags are needed to bolster dikes as long as high water levels continue.

The new bag market will not be affected at all by the flood, bag men say. Only an indirect result, they say, is an Army request for tenders for one million new sand bags.

Price of used bags might advance two or three cents, one dealer estimated. Prices vary with weights, sizes. Some believe the supply will have caught up by July when potato harvests get under way.

Used bag reconditioners vacuum clean the bags under high pressure, sort them for sizes, weights, mend

Climbing Together With Confederation Ties



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

NEW PICTOU PACKET

"The new schooner 'Peri', Daniel Davies, master—the vessel hired by the Government of this Island for the purpose of carrying mails between this port and Pictou—arrived at Pownal Street wharf from Orwell Bay yesterday, and will make her first trip to Pictou tomorrow."

"The 'Peri' is a very handsome coppered and copper-fastened clipper built schooner, tastefully fitted up, with commodious apartments. The ladies' cabin is neatly and substantially furnished, with every convenience for the comfort of passengers, and the saloon, about twenty feet in length, is also fitted up in a manner that cannot fail to give general satisfaction. An experienced steward and cook have been engaged, which will also add much to the comfort of travellers."

—The Islander, May 5, 1943.

Navy Loses Its Song

(Globe and Mail)

When a Royal Commission report spurred Canadian Naval heads to discourage young officers from cultivating a borrowed English accent, there was everything to be said for the reform—on aesthetic grounds alone. But when official steps into the realm of music and banishes a fine old song because it does not satisfy the vanity of little Canadians, then it is time to protest.

"The substitution of 'O Canada' for 'Rule, Britannia' as a salute piece for naval bands may please those who are forever insisting on sovereignty that ought to be taken for granted. It will not please those who know the value of tradition and who also know how music, like everything else, can fit or not fit the occasion."

"O Canada" is a national anthem, for which the stately measure of its music recommends it. There are times when, it exactly suits the mood and circumstances of a meeting or a ceremonial. But it has nothing to do with the sea or ships or sailors. "Rule, Britannia," by contrast, has everything to do with navy men and naval doings.

It expresses a long and glorious sea-going tradition. It gives the historical association of the Canadian Navy's beginning—a direct line is no reason to be ashamed of that. And, quite incidentally, it is not, as often supposed a boastful claim to sea supremacy. The words, "Rule, Britannia, rule the waves," are a call to Britannia to accept a responsibility—as Britannia did for many generations with immense advantage to Canada and other lands.

But history and the fitness of things are of no consequence to the unimaginative Ottawa official mind when it sees another opportunity to assert Canada's sea supremacy over Britain. No good reason for the change has been advanced. It is a display of stuffy provincialism which in no way enhances Canada's dignity. It moved Mr. Winston Churchill to express deep regret and to say it was a great pity to sever links with the past.

holes, if any, and print brand names of prospective users on them. For many uses, the bags are quite as satisfactory as new ones, and of course are cheaper. Average price difference is 7/16 to 10c bag.

Life of a used bag is two or three uses, The Post was told. Some use once used bags that are portion of total bags used that are used bags would be difficult to estimate, one bag expert said.

Used-bag processors used to have a good sized export market, including Belgium and the West Indies. Exports have been cut by currency shortages abroad.

Besides feed mill and farm use, bags are used by industry. Used bags are bought by foundries for holding heavy castings.

Burlap, the textile used, is imported from India and Pakistan. It is made from jute grown in those countries. Political and economic troubles over there have cut shipments of burlap and raised prices,

The Poet's Corner

THE PRIZE CAT

Pure blood domestic, guaranteed. Soft-mannered, musical in purr. The ribbon had declared the breed. Gentility was in the fur.

Such feline culture in the gads No anger ever arched her back— What distance since those velvet pads Departed from the leopard's track!

And when I mused how Time had thinned The jungle strains within the cells, How human hands had disciplined Those prowling optic parallels;

I saw the generations pass Along the reflex of a spring, A bird had rustled in the grass, The tab had caught it on the wing;

Behind the leap so furtive-wild Was such ignition in the gleam, I thought an Abyssinian child Had cried out in the whitethroat's scream.

—E. J. Pratt.

Books Received

CAPT. JOSHUA SLOCUM. The Life and Voyages of America's Best Known Sailor. 384 pp. Toronto, George J. McLeod Ltd. This might better be called the life and voyages of a Bluenose. Captain Slocum was born in Brier Island, Nova Scotia and became famous as a result of his book, "Sailing Alone Around the World" (New York, 1900). The present salty volume is his eldest son's chronicle of the voyages and events which preceded that remarkable feat of seamanship.

NEWFOUNDLAND 10th Province of Canada. 157 pp. London, Linnem-Prager (Publishers) Limited. 10/6. This is a useful little book on a subject of topical interest to Canadians. The author is an Englishman and realizes better probably than would a Newfoundlandian the kind of information which people want to lay their hands on about this Province. Admirably indexed the volume comes complete with the latest oil company road maps secured within its boards.

The Age-Old Story

Turn ye at My reproof; behold I will pour out My Spirit upon you; I will make known My words unto you.

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Notes By The Way

In Hoboken, a Rutgers professor won this year's Irwin (he awarded for assemblage) by forgetting his car was aboard a Forty-second street ferry and stranding off aboard a suburban bus. Ten minutes later he frantically dashed back to find the crew towing his car off the ferry and owners of the vehicles stalled behind it arming their vocabularies. "Hey, that's my car," cried the professor. A policeman stared at him open-mouthed, tore up a report he was compiling, and called up to the pilot house, "Stop worrying, Captain. Here's the body." —Curt in Saturday Relew.

We recall the periodic blasts of U. S. editors against the hordes of propaganda agents — so-called public relations men — in federal government and then we read the press agents on the municipal payroll there. We realize that public relations men do perform some useful functions in big organizations by helping reporters get information from the right people. But when a municipal police department has 25 public relations men, a fire department 12, and the water and power department 20, as was discovered in Los Angeles, then there is a suspicious aroma of press agency designed only to get a favorable press to perpetuate incumbents in office. —Editor and Publisher

As the game of golf has progressed and developed, so has the care of the course. There was a time when only the greens were cut with a mower, but now the whole course has to be clipped to the over-all average of a "crew-cut" and the motor-driven lawnmower does the job. In all probability the motor-driven bag-rack vehicle will be the next sensation, either that or a noiseless scooter on which the player will ride with his bagful of clubs. It will speed the game up and make it possible for even the beginner to put 36 holes behind him and get home on time for dinner, lunch, or to drive the children to Sunday School. There will be no more blistered heels and tired feet, and the golfer will not be so exhausted that he will be unable to take the little woman to the neighborhood picture show. A motorized vehicle for player and his bag of "sticks" will be a great boon to family life. Hasten the day! —Moore Jaw Times-Herald.

The Quebec Liberal Party, for better or worse and seemingly for worse, decided to direct its future destinies along the highly experimental road of party leadership by remote control. The new leader is Mr. Georges Emile Lapalme, 43, Joliette lawyer and the publisher of a weekly newspaper there. We

have nothing against Mr. Lapalme personally, but, nevertheless the plain facts still remain that he is a Federal MP at Ottawa that he has no seat in Quebec Provincial Legislature and appears to have little chance of trying his luck at winning one in the relatively near future, and that his leadership qualities are not only untried but unknown. —Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

The city of Peterborough has given a dinner to the Prime Minister and Mrs. St. Laurent. It was a much different affair from the first civic dinner Peterborough held a hundred years ago. The town was incorporated in 1850. In the next year the corner-stone of the town hall was laid and on the evening of that event, "all and singular" were invited to the marriage to accept the hospitality of the town. For the feasting an ox, was to be roasted whole. It was, while revolving on its spit, the best was cut away by some hungry churls or belled wits, perhaps they were not included among the all and singular invited. But all an singular took place at the "Commercial Hotel" after this too-handy p'ferring, and a good time was had. Be it remarked that at the time all hotels provided spirits and there were more taverns in the town than churches. —Peterborough Examiner

There is one eventually which might have been feared at the end of the war. The weakness and impoverishment of England were of a nature to discourage the imperialism which had survived up to that point in Canada and which had even got a revival during the war. The danger was of seeing that imperialism transformed overnight into annexationist sentiment. The colonialism which had habituated our governments to taking directions from outside might have inclined them to throw themselves into the arms of the United States in view of British powerlessness. And Anglo-Saxon solidarity might have favoured the annexationist sentiment among the English groups that hold commanding positions in Canada. It appears that Canada has happily got around that difficult situation. If events do not too greatly disturb us it would appear that the transition will be made happily enough. Canadian sentiment which seemed feeble and vague enough during the last days of the war has stiffened up remarkably in the last few years. —Le Devoir, Montreal.

VALUABLE HERDS The total value of milch cows in the United States on Jan. 1, 1949, was \$4,723,110,000.

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