

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 1953

Deadlock Broken

With fewer than four days left before the Monday deadline, the threatened railway strike has been declared off and Canadians everywhere are breathing a sigh of relief at the welcome news.

Within a few minutes of this announcement, the Railway Association of Canada lifted its embargo on freight and express shipments, which went into force on Tuesday at midnight.

No doubt Government intervention was an important factor in averting the strike. It would have been calamitous had it stood aside in such a crisis, and not exercised, if necessary, and to the fullest extent, the emergency powers with which it is vested.

Raising The Birkenhead

The news that an attempt is to be made to salvage the "Birkenhead" recalls a link between the heroic military commander of the vessel and this Province. Col. Seton, before the fateful voyage, gave a flint-lock gun, a fowling piece, to a friend, one Captain Cleary.

The Birkenhead was a steam troopship built of iron which sailed from Queens-town, Ireland, January 7, 1852 for Cape-town. The night of February 26, 1852 she struck a pinnacle of rock off Simon's Bay, South Africa.

Now the modern salvage vessel Twyford is inspecting the wreck and those of three vessels sunk by submarines. The Birkenhead and one of the other vessels is said to have carried a large amount of gold and all of them had valuable cargoes.

Token Exports

Earlier this month, the British government announced its intention to set aside some of its precious dollars to buy Canadian cheese. It now follows with a further sum earmarked for Canadian bacon.

"These purchases," remarks the Ottawa Citizen, "are but pale shadows of the enormous demand for Canadian cheese and bacon during and after the war. Bacon exports used to be particularly spectacular, rising to a peak of 695 million pounds in 1944, but falling steadily away thereafter.

"The British government has shown that it is just as anxious as Canada to revive agricultural imports from this country. The only product to maintain its position in the British market is wheat. The fact that an effort is being made to keep some other farm products in the picture as well is an encouraging sign.

Canada is capable of producing, orders for some five million pounds of cheese and a million dollars' worth of bacon are mere flea-bites and are much more likely to cause false optimism than help our overall marketing situation.

Waste In Education

A programme to allow the best students to finish secondary school and college a year earlier is proposed in a report published by the Harvard University Press.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Alan R. Blackmer, instructor in English at Phillips Academy, Andover, proposes an integrated study schedule which would eliminate duplication and at the same time permit students to make progress appropriate to their capacity.

The report criticizes language training both at school and college levels and notes that the great majority of students do not carry any foreign language to the point of real usefulness.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The report of a schooner being loaded in ice-free Georgetown harbour is a reminder of the potential usefulness of that port. If developed, it would serve the Island practically the year 'round.

It is regrettable that no funds are provided in the estimates for the improvement of the airport at Charlottetown. There is still the hope, of course, that it will be provided for in supplementary estimates but to all appearances Charlottetown will remain incapable of handling powerful modern aircraft.

Accustomed as we have become to leading Canada in the matter of the quality of Yorkshires, the comparative figures for the first half of 1952 are still astonishing. The first quoted in yesterday's story, that out of the 11 in Canada scoring 90 and over in a slaughter test no less than 9 came from this Province, illustrates the outstanding quality of Island bred swine.

Charles I, king of Great Britain and Ireland, was beheaded this date 1649. He had managed to fight with France, Parliament, the Scots and establish a military tyranny in Ireland. Although his right to levy "ship money" was upheld in the great Hampden case, he was forced to concede its illegality and the abolition of the court of Star Chamber.

For the first time in the history of motion pictures the Coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey will be filmed in full Technicolor and will be shown in Canada within a few days of the actual event taking place in London, England.

Doctors in medical laboratories in Toronto have started work in processing blood collected by the Red Cross Society during the Second World War, into the first gamma globulin serum produced in Canada. They expect to have between 4,000 and 5,000 doses of the serum ready by the first of July.

It is undoubtedly stretching the metaphor a bit far to suggest that he called the time the dealer sang when he sold those cars more than a dollar apiece, but the situation does open up possibilities. Especially in view of the car FREE with every gallon!

"No Letter Today--"



Notes From Another Island

By "Amson"

LONDON, England:— Somebody sold a couple of used cars the other day. Nothing remarkable in that — the used car business has been very active since the war — but what did make us raise our eyebrows were the prices.

One went for five shillings and sixpence (about eighty cents), the other for a shilling less than that. Both were claimed to be in "drive-away" condition, and we must assume, in the absence of complaint from the purchaser, that they were. True, at those prices, he would have little room for complaint anyway, but even so a sales point is expected to be reasonably accurate whatever it is you are selling, and as far as cars are concerned, when you say "drive-away condition" there's no two ways about it. Either you can drive the things away, or you can't.

Two cars, then, for ten bob. Less than the price of, say, three packets of twenty regular size cigarettes, a seat in the stalls at many of the West End shows, or a pair of good nylon. Small wonder that the transaction caused consternation among used car dealers.

They condemned it as a stunt, and of course they were almost certainly right. The cars would have fetched a good deal more than ten shillings even if they had been sold merely for scrap — and they were, after all, some twenty years old.

So maybe it was a stunt, but it is not the kind of stunt that would have been undertaken lightly only a few months ago, when the used car business was a much more lucrative line to be in. The bottom has not yet fallen out of it, but it has sagged conspicuously.

For a time, when new cars for the home market were so scarce as to be almost fictitious, an old model for sale was a sure-fire money maker; and human nature being what it is, money was made, not always with strict regard for scruples. Demand, not value, fixed the prices, and the scales were heavily weighted against the purchaser. Then, recently, the wheel of fortune began to turn. More new cars were available, and there occurred one of those demonstrations of "buyer resistance" that all the sales talk in the world cannot break down.

Many people who had ordered a new car years ago and had since marked time until their name came to the top of the waiting list decided, when they finally got an option on delivery, they would not accept the offer. As if by magic the waiting lists shrank; for some models they disappeared completely, and even for some of the more popular cars the waiting time was cut from years to weeks. And at once the prices of used cars came tumbling.

A Crocodile On The Green

(Hamilton Spectator)

There was a letter in The Times of London recently in which a retired Army officer recalled a golf game in Africa. He had found his ball lying on a crocodile's back and he had had to shoot the creature before he could play his next shot, a rather rarefied case, but still it illustrates a peculiar and little-noticed form of guerrilla warfare in which man and the beasts are perpetually engaged.

The peculiar quality comes from the fact that it is an indirect war. The beast does not fight man himself; it fights the physical symbols of his civilization.

At an extreme (ignoring such esoteric cases as the elephant trampling down houses or the giraffe ripping out telephone wires with his long neck) there is the highly active mouse which takes a dislike to a car, charges it, staves in the radiator and presents the insurance adjuster with a tricky problem. At the other extreme there is the passive fly whose tiny body, adhering to the wing of a jet aircraft, breaks the air-flow and plays hob with the aerodynamics.

The determined termite eternally eats away the timbers of man's houses; the teredo chews the piling of his docks; the cow, attracted by the cellulose dope at a cat by catnip, placidly munches the fabric of aircraft; the mouse, gnawing at electrical insulation, burns the house down.

All this is disgusting. We humans think we own the world; but the harrying animals are there to remind us how fragile is the equipment with which we so proudly stake our claim on its surface. We, stripped of our houses and machines, could vanish tomorrow; they would remain.

The Poet's Corner

TO A SNOW-FLAKE What heart could have thought you?— Past our devious (O filligree petal). Fashioned so purely, Fragility, surely, From what Paradisaal Imaginest metal, Too costly for cost? Who hammered you, wrought you, From argentine vapor?—"God was my shaper. Passing surmised, He hammered, He wrought me, From curled silver vapor. To lust of his mind:—"Thou couldst not have thought me! So purely, so palely, Tintly, surely, Mightily, frailly, Insculpted and embossed, With His hammer of wind, And His graver of frost." —Francis Thompson.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

From a despatch to Lieutenant Governor Sir Charles A. Fitzroy from Lord Russell, Colonial Secretary, Downing Street, Oct. 13, 1840: "The Act numbered in the records of this Office, 530, intitled 'An Act to amend the Act now in force regulating Apprentices in Prince Edward Island,' although obviously designed to remedy a real grievance, might, I fear, in its present state give occasion to abuses still more serious. It is very fit that the children of destitute apprentices should be taught some business, by which they can become useful members of society; and with this view it is fit that such children should be placed out as apprentices, with persons who are at once willing to undertake, and proper to receive the charge of them. But in a country where there is a scanty population, and a great demand for manual labour, such apprenticeships—especially in the case of children who have passed the age of puberty—will often be regarded by the master as a valuable interest; and great care should be taken to prevent their being contracted, without the consent, either of the parent or guardian of the child, except on an evident and well-established necessity.

"Now, in this Act, I find no such precaution. On the contrary, a youth of fourteen may be apprenticed till the age of twenty-one, by two Justices, on proof of a single witness, or by the certificate of eight householders, that the parents of the proposed apprentice have been in the habit of soliciting alms, or of receiving alms, or allowances, from any charitable association; and that they had no other means for their necessary and permanent support. This is, in effect, to declare that every person who has been in the habit of receiving alms, or of receiving alms, or allowances, from any charitable association; and that they had no other means for their necessary and permanent support. This is, in effect, to declare that every person who has been in the habit of receiving alms, or of receiving alms, or allowances, from any charitable association; and that they had no other means for their necessary and permanent support.

"The habitual receipt of alms is not the proper criterion of culpable pauperism, nor is it desirable that the law should impede the judicious exercise of almsgiving, whether public or private. The receipt of alms, in order to escape from the duty of honest industry, is the practice against which such laws should be directed; and even when such abuse arises, the object of the law should be to stimulate the activity of the pauper rather than to discourage and prevent. This Act will therefore require the revision of the Legislature, and in the meantime, Her Majesty's decision on it will be suspended."

The Age-Old Story

And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor. And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly: is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no? But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me? Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's. And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things which are God's.

Notes By The Way

"A solid mass of muscle and ligaments so tightly bound together they can hardly be dissected" turns out to be a description of an elephant's trunk, not a restaurant steak. — Edmonton Journal.

Far better for a man or woman to jump, thinks The Toronto Telegram, which comments: "Pedestrians, a high court judge has ruled, are not supposed to jump out of the way of cars. Still, those who, on impulse, have adopted that course, usually have no cause to regret it." — St. Catharines Standard.

The Communist Party newspaper in Berlin had a misprint, and all the papers that had been run off the press were hastily gathered up. An article referred to the Communist youth organization as "Fascist bandits." We'll wager the printer did not leave a forwarding address. — Fort William Times-Journal.

Latin students throughout the world will no doubt be overjoyed by the publication in Rome of a magazine written in the "dead" language. Edited by one of the world's leading Latin scholars, it may be helpful in demystifying to students how modern ideas can be expressed in the ancient idiom — if there are any really modern ideas. — Brantford Expositor.

When Napoleon called the British a nation of shopkeepers he overlooked Nelson and Wellington, Blake and Byron. When present-day critics paint England in terms of drabness and frustration they overlook the old Churchillian fire and the new Elizabethan color, the soaring achievements in radar and jet-propelled aircraft, and the dazzling contributions of stage and screen. — Christian Science Monitor.

During the past thirty years the field of glaciers in the far north has receded many miles and new lands and water have become available. Growth of vegetables has become possible in areas which were formerly covered with snow the year around and where now there are three or four months of frost-free weather, while ships are able to use channels which were formerly ice-bound. In our own province the average temperature during the winter months is from twenty to thirty degrees higher, with the average of forty or fifty years ago, while many parts of Ontario have little snow. — Muskoka Herald.

The man with a house and family, who is in the lower wage brackets, cannot find the money to pay the present cost of having an envelope cover that and food and clothing too. As a result, he is doing his own work with the aid of the average of forty or fifty years ago, while many parts of Ontario have little snow. — Muskoka Herald.

Some 30 companies in the United States are now manufacturing these rollers. In 1952, one of these companies had a business turnover of two and a half million dollars in rollers alone. — Fort William Times-Journal.

A reporter went to interview a local celebrity who had reached his ninety-ninth birthday. As the interview concluded, the reporter complimented the near-centarian and added: "I certainly hope I can return next year and see you reach 100." "Can't see why not, young man," the old timer replied, "you look healthy enough to me." — Victoria Colonist.

Old Victorians, people living here before 1910, recall the days when they could buy salmon from Indians on Government street near the Inner Harbour. There were two prices: 15 cents for a small fish of four pounds, "two-bits" for a larger one of six pounds. Old Victorians compare those prices to the 55 cents a pound they pay today. — Victoria Times.

For the next six weeks many of the 60 men and women on the current Assize Court jury panel will be financially punished for performing one of democracy's highest functions. Most panel members will be required to sit several days to several weeks on juries. They'll be paid only \$5 a day for representing all citizens in this key function of justice. When even common labor demands up to \$12 a day in Vancouver, a miserable \$6 is a real hardship to most jurors. — Vancouver Sun.

Immigrants who settled in Ontario during 1952 brought a total of \$24,000,000 of new capital with them, says the Ontario planning and development department. This is merely one of the assets these newcomers have brought with them. Others are their strength, skill, experience and will to make good. It is impossible to calculate to the full the worth of an immigrant. It takes so many forms and it extends into the second and third generations. — London Free Press.

The cartoonists' delight, the St. Bernard with brandy cask attached, is being retired from active service in the Alps. His place reportedly is being taken by German Shepherds or Alsatians, breeds which are supposed to be more rugged. Yet charm, no less than endurance, has its place, and the prospect of meeting an amiable St. Bernard amid the snow-blown passes must have encouraged many a weary traveller to go on. A get-together with an Alsatian, on the other hand, is less of an incentive to continue. The reception that dogs of this breed accord wayfarers is on occasion brusque. It is not too much to anticipate that with the retirement of the St. Bernards, the popularity of Alpine activities will suffer a sharp decline. — Ottawa Journal.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

- J. A. McGuigan BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. NOTARY, Etc. Currie Building
- Chas. R. McQuaid BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. NOTARY, Etc. Eastern Trust Building
- A. Walthen Gaudet, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. 111 Grafton Street
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