

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, JULY 21 1953

Business Tax

How Charlottetown got into a situation requiring higher tax collections is of interest to citizens and highly important to Councillors, past and present, but the hard fact is that the city needs many things but is already as deeply in debt as other communities which have their physical requirements fully modernized.

The money must be forthcoming and the only question is how it is to be raised. It is to be presumed that the Council will to all in its power to increase receipts from Federal and Provincial sources but with all reasonably anticipated funds from these there is still the necessity of higher taxation.

Councillor Edwin C. Johnstone, chairman of the Finance Committee proposes, among other things, that a business tax be levied, rather than an occupancy tax. The objections to the latter are that the value of rented real estate does not necessarily reflect the volume of business transacted and that the tax discourages firms from becoming properly established within the city.

There is no painless solution to the problem of civic finance. On principle, however, those who benefit from services should pay for them so far as possible and taxes should be designed to encourage rather than discourage the development of the city.

Adulterated Butter

The seizure of "hundreds of thousands" of pounds of butter in Montreal alleged to have been adulterated by the addition of vegetable oils gives point to the argument of dairymen that such practices would become common if margarine were readily available. Margarine is prohibited in Quebec as it is in this Province and consequently there was a risk involved in its possession even before its use to mix with butter.

In this case detection was made by chemical analysis by the Federal Health Department but not every lot of butter that reaches the public can be so examined although legitimate dairies are subject to regular inspection.

Dairymen conduct their operations under strict regulations as to purity and quality. They may use no preservatives except salt and very little of that. Margarine, on the other hand, is free from such restrictions in the Provinces where it may be sold. Consequently it can be made to keep without refrigeration and can be shipped or stored at much less expense than butter.

Even with these competitive advantages for the substitute there are many dairymen who do not fear legitimate competition, feeling that the public will generally prefer the dairy product. Even these optimists, however, are deeply concerned about the possibility of margarine or mixtures of margarine and butter being passed off as the real thing.

World Scout Leader

Appointment of Maj.-Gen. D. C. Spry, Canadian scouting's chief executive commissioner for the past seven years, as director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau is being hailed as a signal honor for the commissioner, and for the 150,000-strong movement he has headed and for Canada.

The country's youngest general at 31—he is now 40—Major General Spry served for 15 years in the Canadian Army permanent force. An adjutant when he went overseas in 1939 and later personal assistant to General A. G. L. McNaughton, he was promoted to major in 1940, brigadier in 1943 and major general in mid-1944. He won battle awards in the Italian campaign, distinguishing himself particularly for the brilliant handling of his brigade at Ponte-

corvo. At the age of 33, he was made vice-chief of the Canadian general staff.

Winnipeg-born, he rose through the ranks of scouting as well. Beginning as a cub and then a scout, he became a cub leader and a scout leader. He assumed the duties of chief executive commissioner of the Boy Scouts Association in the summer of 1946 after leaving the Army.

Major General Spry was a prime figure in the work which culminated in the first giant Canadian Scout Jamboree at Connaught Ranges in 1949. The 2,500 scouts who arrived there last week-end from the country's ten provinces to participate in the comradeship and education of the second such jamboree owes much to his initiative.

The Commissioner, who has been deputy director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau on a part-time basis since 1951, now moves into a post which, in effect, makes him chief executive of the world scouting movement. His job is to suggest, recommend and plan program for scouting in the 55 countries in which the movement is established, then implement that program once it has been approved by a 12-member international committee and a biennial conference.

Britain's Lord Baden-Powell, founder of scouting, was fondly but unofficially known as the world's "chief scout". At his death in 1941, the title was vacated. The Ottawa Citizen suggests that in a very real sense, the far-flung scope and responsibilities of Major-General Spry's new job give him just claim to "B-P's" mantle.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Belgium Independence Day, 1831.

A surprising aspect of the employment situation is that no less than 125 of those listed as unemployed at the Charlottetown Office are residents of country districts. Considerable numbers of our country people have become dependent upon work in town and when that is not available they are unemployed.

A great British union has overwhelmingly defeated a resolution deploring acceptance of knighthoods by Labour leaders. Very properly they consider that the nation can as properly honour distinguished labour representatives with orders of chivalry as distinguished representatives of commercial interests.

If George Bernard Shaw were alive in Canada today he would probably comment that the Department of National Defence is our most important cultural institution. Certainly there is no other body, governmental or other, which makes it possible for so many young people to take advantage of higher education.

Salvator Rosa, Italian painter, was born this date 1615. He took part in an unsuccessful insurrection, sang and acted in the Carnival at Rome and wrote trenchant satires, including "Babylon", in addition to painting historical pictures of sterling merit, portraits and romantic and picturesque landscapes. He was threatened by the Inquisition for his "Wheel of Fortune".

The Department of Agriculture is older than Confederation, having had its origin in 1852 in the Bureau of Agriculture of the Province of Canada, and in 1867 its scope and jurisdiction in the Dominion were laid down by the British North America Act. At one time the Department of Agriculture embraced Immigration and Emigration, Public Health and Quarantine, the Marine and Emigrant Hospital at Quebec, Arts and Manufacture, the Archives, the Census and Statistics, the Registration of Statistics, Patents of Inventions, Copyright, and Industrial Designs and Trademarks. All these multifarious duties and extraneous services were eventually dropped and the Department devoted itself to making Canada one of the foremost agricultural countries of the world.

Next month marks the 120th anniversary of the first Atlantic crossing of a ship propelled entirely by steam. This memorable achievement was due to Canadian enterprise. The ship was the Royal William, built at Quebec at a cost of 15,000 pounds and launched in 1831. A memorial tablet in the Canadian House of Commons commemorating the first trans-Atlantic voyage by steamer reads: "In honour of the men by whose enterprise, courage and skill the 'Royal William', the first vessel to cross the Atlantic by steam power, was wholly constructed in Canada and navigated to England in 1833. The pioneer of those mighty tests of ocean steamers by which passengers and merchandise of all nations are now conveyed on every sea throughout the world." Two years previous to this epoch-making trip the Royal William on her first voyage from Quebec called at Charlottetown.

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.

FORMAL GRAMMAR AND BETTER ENGLISH

Sir—Who has slipped? Mr. D. C. Williams, "A Former Teacher" or "Minor Saxon"—"Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" That is the question (here the word which is understood—see quotations from Shakespeare, Shelley, and Scott in postscript) this letter has to do with. My July 2nd letter met little fate in the printing. Your proof-reading usually so competent somehow on that occasion overlooked the omission of some lines which were in the last two paragraphs of my manuscript. Of course this omission made me appear to say things which were nonsensical; quite enough to make Minor Saxon's opinions seem ridiculous to such capable readers as "A Former Teacher". I trust this letter will have better luck.

In your issue of July 13th, "A Former Teacher" treated the status of our educational system fairly, with commendable reserve, and positively in my humble opinion. None the less I am sorry to say he misconceived the tenor of my extended comments on a nine-word sentence of Mr. Williams. This sentence I reduced to eight words and changed the verb has to have. It was here "A Former Teacher" connotatively became entangled in an old bewhiskered fallacy; rhetoricians call it ignoratio clench or mistaking the question. This long-haired highwayman has been driven from ambush by every outstanding advocate and debater since Cicero's day. The great Daniel Webster won many a legal and legislative battle by an alert attack against this weak spot in his opponent's armor. For instance in his rejoinder to Hayne on Foot's Resolution Webster calls for a reading of the resolution and then shows that Hayne ignored the real question.

We do not mean to imply that "A Former Teacher" deliberately used an artifice to deceive. Not at all. Giving the Better-English in the heading of Minor Saxon's July 2nd letter more than the newspaper departmental significance might easily cause a troublesome misconception. It is headed "Has Mr. Williams Slipped?" I think "A Former Teacher" would have grasped its limited implication. If "Better English" slips only once in a dozen moons that's a pretty good record for Mr. Williams. My attitude on this point was made clear by my praise of the educational system on the whole.

No system is perfect. All of them have their Queen Mabs in stately coaches "drawn with a team of little atoms". And in our own educational system you will find a few so dogged they would rather die than to ever change (ah! a split infinitive) anything W. D. G. Co.'s grammar crowns as good usage. Petrified stand a pair of standing on guard with drawn sword in hand; wherever a split infinitive pops up in their presence it is tantamount to a red cloth being waved in a bull's face. Them I criticized in somewhat exaggerated language. But, did not some of Milton's combatants so frown "th' hell grew darker at their frown"?

The multiplicity of hair-splitting distinctions to which these devotees dedicate their talents would make almost anyone applaud the satirist's lines and wrongfully exclaim: "All their bla-w-sted rules Teach nothing but to name their tools." I am, Sir, etc.

MINOR SAXON P.S.—(a) Antecedent of relative pronoun omitted: "Whom the gods love, die young." "Who steals my purse steals trash."—Shakespeare. (b) Relative pronoun omitted: "There breathes not clansman of my line." "But we have given his life for mine."—Scott. "Men must reap the things they sow."—Shelley.

With these classical authorities it seems the word "over" performs the function of a preposition even if the relative is not expressed but understood; whether I say, "here are a few pertinent facts over which to ponder" or "there are a few pertinent facts ( ) to ponder over." Or this, "I don't think Shelley, Scott, or Shakespeare would pick out this sentence as an example to quibble over."

Old Charlottetown (And F. E. L.) THE SOUTHPORT RAISED "We are pleased to be able to state that the 'Southport' has been successfully raised from where she was sunk at the Ferry Wharf. Early on Saturday, the precaution was taken of sending to Pictou for a diver, who arrived by the 'St. Lawrence' that evening. After encasing himself in his diving suit, he went down to examine her hull from the outside, but, owing to her peculiar shape and position, and the darkness, he could accomplish nothing.

"During the day preparations were made by Mr. A. Kelly, of Southport—who is very successful at such work—for drawing her more out of the channel when the tide rose, by which means she was taken about thirty feet up. The next morning the diver again went down this time inside. He soon found the dead-light by which the water entered, and closed it. There being no other places visible where water would enter, he again came to the surface to await further emergencies. With this tide, Mr. Kelly again

The Neighbors By George Clark



"It's nothing serious. His legs are stiff from sitting in front of television too long."

Notes By The Way

—Chimpanzees, says a naturalist, can recognize photographs of themselves. Where they differ from humans is that they don't blame the photographer. —Hamilton Spectator.

The Rev. Dr. Albert Doodheer, a former Dutch refugee who, after the war, was adopted as a candidate for the ministry of the Church of Scotland, has been ordained and inducted by the Presbytery of Mull as the first minister of the united Gaelic charge of Tiree and Hylipol, on the Argyll island of Tiree. Mr. Doodheer, who is now learning Gaelic, is a theological graduate of Trinity College, Glasgow, and formerly taught history in Holland. He is also a graduate of the University of Utrecht, where he specialized in Indonesian literature. —Edinburgh Scotsman.

British sport specialists certainly went into a rave over the performance of Marlene Stewart in winning the British women's amateur championship in Wales on Thursday. "To look at this wonder girl one could not imagine in her tiny hands a golf club becomes lethal to her opponents," wrote The Daily Mail expert. "Nothing so coldly calculated and correct as this child," wrote The Daily Express, and this was added: "We have seen a girl who surely become the great-

The Poet's Corner

SONG OF THYRSIS

The turtle on yon withered bough, That lately mourned her murdered mate, Has found another comrade now— Such changes all await! Again her drooping plume is drest, Again she's willing to be blest And takes her lover to her nest.

If nature has decreed it so With all above, and all below, Let us like them forget our woe, And not be killed with sorrow. If I should quit your arms tonight And chance to die before 'twas light, I would advise you — and you might — Love again tomorrow. —Philip Freneau (1752-1832)

The Age Old Story

Now there is at Jerusalem in the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda. . . . And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. . . . Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And on the same day was the sabbath. . . . Afterwards Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

The Passing Scene

By Observer CHIROGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

Considering all the gloomy things we are obliged to read about these days it is exhilarating to come across some item that has to do with cheerful reconstruction of some good thing that has fallen into disuse. In this category I put the announcement that a group of educators are trying seriously to restore to its ancient prestige the fine art of chirography. They are assuming a tremendous task for they will be hard pressed to find a nucleus with which to work. In fact, good handwriting appears to be a thing of the past; a past, moreover, which goes back a long, long way. There is some evidence that the early Greek philosophers used their quills with some degree of legibility. And even as late as the first Elizabethan period there were a few, including England's Shakespeare, who took pride in "writing a good hand".

However, the decline in legible penmanship had started long before then. Hamlet is quoted as saying, "I once did hold it as the statista do, a baseness to write fair". From then on the decline became more and more accelerated until by the beginning of the present century the only places good writing was likely to be found were children's copybooks and the samples sent out by correspondence schools. Even the copybook influence didn't last too long. So far as I can recall, girls usually remained faithful for two or three years after the books had been put away. Boys, being by nature more anxious to emulate their elders in all things, wise and foolish, were likely to show evidence of disdain immediately they had laboriously written the last maxim, sometimes even before that.

As for the special penmanship schools, it must be admitted that they gave promise of a new and brighter day, chirographically speaking. Their championship of the artistic and quiet flourish was noble and courageous, but it could not withstand the strange form of sophistication that regarded fair writing as a sign of social baseness. Indeed, there was some feeling among the proponents of better writing, so the historians say, that the flourish itself was to be decreed as much as the degeneration it was supposed to remedy. I have never seen any psychological explanation as to why plain legible penmanship came under a social ban in the first place. In all other arts men have tried to reach perfection. Only in this one thing have disarray and downright slovenliness been hailed as marks of honor.

Whatever the reason or reasons, that may have been the turning point; I can't say exactly. I do know that in the last few years my handwriting has tended to follow a somewhat less crazy pattern. I can read it now without too much trouble, but I am not sure that anyone else could. For that reason I use the typewriter for almost everything. My chief ambition now is to be able to write as well as I could when I was ten, but I have little hope of achieving it. I only wish the thought had come to me earlier, for the older one gets the harder it is to carry out new resolutions and realize new dreams. One thing is certain. Never again will I accept the foolish dictum that it is a baseness to write fair. And I say "good luck" to the hardy souls who are trying to encourage people to write better.

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