

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co.

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1953

From The Dead

After fifteen months of silence a Canadian soldier has been repatriated by the North Korean authorities in the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war.

It is not to be supposed that it was for any deep and sinister purpose that the Communists concealed the fact that Lance Corporal Paul Dugal of the Royal 22nd was their prisoner.

The Communist armies, however, are not by any means primitive. They are maintained at a high state of fighting efficiency.

Sales Tax On Hospital Drugs

Sales tax on drugs used in hospitals was the subject of an interesting discussion in the House of Commons last week.

Finance Minister Abbott and Revenue Minister McCann both spoke on the subject. Mr. Abbott pointed out that where drugs or any other taxable products are purchased by a hospital for use by the hospital, they are free of sales tax.

"My point," said Mr. Abbott, "is that everybody should be treated alike. If the drugs are subject to sales tax, because a man is able to be treated in his own home by a doctor without going to a hospital, why should he pay a higher price there than if he were in the hospital."

Opposition members maintained that this argument was fallacious. If a hospital used drugs at all, they must use them on patients. Why then draw a distinction between those drugs which are put on the bill, and drugs included in the general hospital service?

where a patient specifically gets a bill of goods for drugs that are used in his treatment in the hospital, or to take home, the sales tax is either added or included in the general bill."

Both Ministers declined arguing the more important point, namely, whether drugs prescribed by physicians should be subject at all to a sales tax.

Wheat Market Complications

Canada's economic position may well be jeopardized by the unsatisfactory results of the International Wheat Agreement concluded at Washington.

Canada signed the pact last week, the Minister of Trade and Commerce announcing the agreed price range as being the best that could be secured under the circumstances.

But if the new price was disappointing to the growers, it was something more than that to Britain. The United Kingdom, a signatory nation to previous pacts, is not subscribing to the new one.

In the House of Commons in London, the Minister of Food has officially confirmed Britain's position taken by its delegate at Washington. For Canada, notes an exchange, the situation could be serious for more than the Prairie wheat farmers.

EDITORIAL NOTES

H. M. Queen Elizabeth II was born this date 1926. In Canada, however, the Queen's birthday will be celebrated May 18th.

Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery has improved on the conventional "No comment" to reporters. The deputy supreme commander of N.A.T.O. forces, instead of answering Washington reporters' questions said, "I want you to tell me things."

Jean Racine, French dramatist, died this date 1699. He went to Paris and made the acquaintance of La Fontaine, Chapelain, Boileau and Moliere. His first play was acted by Moliere's company at the Palais Royal in 1664.

The double drowning tragedy at Marshall's Pond, coming at the outset of the fishing season, will be felt the more keenly in view of the fact that both the victims were young men of promise and ability, well and favorably known in their community.

The R. C. A. F. and the Canadian Army have adopted the R. C. N.'s system of paying a uniform allowance to the troops rather than merely issuing a kit as needed. After an initial issue, personnel will be credited with \$10 a month kit upkeep allowance against which any purchases from the quartermaster stores will be charged.

The Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office is concerned about news reports and editorial comment to the effect that compulsory car insurance premiums have been doubled. It is pointed out that although premiums for some categories of motor vehicles have doubled, other categories range from no increase, up. The announcement, it is stated, made it clear that both the rate and coverage was changed.

Planning The Garden Now



The Poet's Corner

VILLAGE TEACHER

Walking tonight past the drifted square While the store-lights gleam on the snowed square.

I pause to gaze at the Honor Roll At the names of the rascals I used to know.

Some three spirals, some passed notes To their pigtails love across the aisles.

Waggers, whisperers, gigglers, imps, Wearers of freckles and gap-toothed smiles.

Shy or bold or quick or slow, Merry and small and ruffled of hair.

They held my heart in their grubby fists, And they hold it still, no matter where.

They fought—in mud or sand as deep, Steaming jungles, or on the sea.

Or in the mad and screaming air, Those names on the Honor Roll will be.

Forever my despair and pride: And strangely, I can hear them still.

Yelling and laughing as they come coasting, Belly-bump down School House Hill.

—Frances Frost

Old Charlottetown

(And P. K. L.)

GOVERNOR INTERVENES

From a letter in the Royal Gazette, Aug. 7, 1832, by "A.F.L." Nail Pond:

"There are perhaps few men of any moderate share of discernment and impartiality, who were attentive observers of the public character and conduct of the late Governor of this Island, S. . . ."

"A person who was settled on a back pasture lot in the Royalty of Charlottetown felt much aggrieved at the manner in which the world-time laboured under great inconvenience and loss, by not having free access to the town or main road.

"On coming to the spot, he found a fence run across the road. 'Here is an illegal barrier,' said he; 'pull it down.' He then coolly took hold of the top rail and threw it down, desiring his orderly to remove this public nuisance out of the way. This was done to the poor man, but some grapes to somebody else. Presently out comes a servant to see who was pulling his master's fence down (who by the bye was a Crown officer). 'Whose fence is this?' demanded the governor, in a very commanding tone. 'It belongs to William Johnston, Esq.," replied the servant. 'Go tell William Johnston, Esq., that if he presumes to put this fence up again, I will order the Attorney General to prosecute William Johnston, Esq. for it was his duty to remove it.'"

"The reference in the above letter was apparently to Lieutenant Governor Smith, although it was his successor, Governor Ready, who was in office from 1824 to 1831."

Notes By The Way

We in Canada have too many eager heavers bent upon putting their competitors out of business, not by honest competition, but by a process of pressure legislation hung upon the shoulders of politicians who are the goats in the whole deplorable business.

In these days too many people are thinking only of security, not the security won by effort, saving, sacrifice, work, etc., but the security which, on the contrary, surrenders to laziness, to waste and to the intervention of the State to rescue them when the time comes, —or even before that. It is not a question, as will readily be understood, of security in the form of old age pensions, help to widows, to orphans, to the unemployed, to the blind, to all those who, temporarily or permanently, cannot make a living by normal means.

Malan's Victory (Ottawa Journal) No need to take too tragically the victory of the Malan Nationalists in South Africa. Actually, between the party of Malan and the United Party (the party founded by Smuts) under Strauss, there was no difference so far as treatment of Negroes was concerned.

Malan, a Boer heading an almost exclusively Boer Government, had adopted a rigid policy of race segregation called "apartheid" under which Negroes are banded off from normal social, political, and economic contact with "Europeans." As a consequence, 10,000,000 of 13,000,000 of South Africa's population do not count as citizens, and only 1,500,000 are entitled to vote.

Years ago when we used low-powered rifles, wildlife had a chance. Today with high-powered weapons the animals have none. Hunting has become the murder of animals. L. D. Taylor, a Californian who went to Lilloet, B. C. to kill "coronation" bears returned home in disgust. They killed seventeen bears in two days. What we used to call sportsmanship has been reduced to mass assembly slaughter. Civilized man has killed off many types of animals in the past century. If he maintains his present rate of slaughter he will one day have the world to himself — save in parks and preserves.—London Free Press.

The days of the Czars and Czarinas fast are fading into history.

The Age-Old Story

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

Malan himself has never been notably anti-Commonwealth. A greater likelihood of republicanism will come when Malan is succeeded — as he almost surely will — by Johannes Gerhardus Strijdom, a powerful Nationalist leader in the Transvaal, described as a ruthless political fighter of vast energy who is both anti-British and fascist in his tendencies.

The irony and perhaps tragedy of all this "apartheid" business, plus republicanism, plus revival of the old Boer grudge against the British, is that within perhaps half a century the political victory of the black man over the white in South Africa will become inevitable. The census figures, should tell that to Malan, or to anybody else.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer A BELATED GLANCE AT THE LEGISLATURE

Towards the end of the recent session of the Legislature a correspondent suggested that I should put down in this column my impressions concerning it. While I appreciate the compliment, I am under no delusion that my opinions in this respect are worth very much. The request, however, does give me a good excuse for a few random observations on certain phases of our political behaviour.

It is only now that I have been able to work these observations mainly because of the opening of the fishing season, a subject which I felt was entitled to priority, with out, of course, intending any discourtesy to our law-makers. This delay was perhaps fortunate, for it is always easier to arrange one's thoughts after the event, whatever it may be that one has in mind to discuss, than while it is actually in progress. At least, that has been my experience.

Here I recall a conversation I had some years ago with a gentleman mainly because of the opening of history in it well known in Canadian college. He was also a keen student of political affairs. During the course of the conversation he happened to say that in his opinion this Island was much too small to have its own Legislature. In fact, it would be much better, he thought, if all the Maritime Provinces (Newfoundland had not yet given up its Dominion status) were merged into one big political unit.

I do not remember now whether or not he converted me to his way of thinking, and it does not matter anyway. At the present moment I am of the opinion that it would be a pity to dislodge our Island Legislature, for I believe it is the quietest, most agreeable political institution in the entire democratic world. And that, I submit, is a distinction worth preserving. Some day it may come in useful.

I am told there was a time when some quite lively encounters took place in "the House." Tempers flared in the best parliamentary tradition and bitter exchanges flew from one side to the other. Apparently, present day members have no liking for that sort of thing. If one may judge from appearances, they now make up a happy, harmonious family. Like all happy families there are minor differences of opinion but hardly ever any serious ones. The few skirmishes that took place this year seemed to be more in the nature of play than anything else.

Mr. Bell tries hard to fill the traditional role of chief critic but only, it would seem, because fashion demands it. I detected no real bitterness in his criticisms, nor in the way in which these were received by the Government benches. Some day, in the natural course of events, Mr. Bell's star will wane. When it does he will be assured of the same gentle treatment that he and his colleagues are now enjoying. It seems to me most unlikely that any heavy storm will hit our Island Legislature for many years to come, regardless of who "may sit in Moses' seat."

No doubt there are political theorists who would view all this peace and quietness with great misgivings. They may even see it as a deterrent to the proper functioning of democratic order. But Island legislators are well aware that islanders generally pay little attention to theorizing in any branch of social relations. They are satisfied to have their Legislature remain a calm, little spot sheltered from the rough seas of political animosities. It is a bit unusual to be sure, but I cannot but think it has in it something valuable to the cause of true democracy which must surely have room for other things besides rhetorical earthquake, wind, and fire.

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