

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1953

Festival Of Music

The place of music in modern life is different from any previous period. Without effort one may hear almost any desired music at any time. Whether that music is enjoyed or not, however, depends as it always did on one's acquaintance with it.

A major factor in bringing back musical appreciation has been the Musical Festival, now in its eighth year in this Province. Each year has seen more entries and a higher standard of attainment and in consequence the public has been the better able to appreciate the artistry of first rate performers.

Its very success, however, brings problems and the Prince Edward Island Musical Festival this year extends over more than a week. The time has obviously come when more regional festivals should be organized and that representatives only from each region take part in the Provincial Festival.

Most classes, however, are kept well within bounds and the citizens of Charlottetown are fortunate indeed to have here the Provincial Festival of song, music and dancing which represents the best talents of our Island community.

For Safer Driving

The Canadian automobile industry is launching a traffic safety campaign to be directed at every car owner and driver in the country, according to an announcement by J. L. Stewart, general manager of the Canadian Automobile Chamber of Commerce.

In the announcement, Mr. Stewart has touched on a factor that has been largely overlooked in traffic safety campaigns in the past. He points out that increasing mechanical efficiency of cars has eased the task of driving so much that drivers indulge in excessive speed and unnecessary risks without realizing the danger.

One of the reasons that traffic statistics show a high ratio of teen-age and early twenties drivers might be found in that very fact. They have never driven cars where a tire blowout was a threat at speeds above 40 miles an hour, or the fear (usually needless) of the mechanical failure of steering gear or wheels provided the need for caution.

The incorporation of more and more safety factors in automobile construction has inspired confidence in drivers, and, as Mr. Stewart points out, it can be said that the great mechanical improvements have put ease into the task of driving.

Every new effort toward traffic safety merits the commendation of all people interested in reducing the death and injury toll on the highways, and the automobile industry which has done so much to make motor vehicles mechanically safe now earns additional merit marks for the promotion of a public safety campaign.

The British Liberal Party

The decline of the Liberal party in Britain is deplored even by many who never supported it, and its loss of strength in the British political scene is mystifying to those who recall the days when that party was a power in the land. Some light is thrown on the subject by Robert Miller writing from London to the Toronto Globe and Mail:

"What finally caused its doom was the merciless quarrel between Asquith and Lloyd George during the First World War. Lloyd George, it will be remembered, forced Asquith out of the Premiership and formed an alliance with the Conservatives. The Liberals who supported Asquith never forgave Lloyd George and the quarrel went on years after the war was over. . . Rudeness and divided, it was inevitable that

the party should decline." Watching the recent annual Liberal conference, Mr. Miller kept wondering why the party is so ineffective: "It still has some of the best speakers in the country. No one in politics can be quite so witty and devastating as Lady Violet Bonham-Carter, Asquith's daughter and one of Mr. Churchill's closest friends. Mr. Clement Davies, the present leader of the party is so eloquent that it is a constant marvel he does not disappear into the stratosphere when he is speaking. As for Mr. Philip Fothergill, the chairman of the party organization, no one has more experience than he of handling difficult people."

In wondering why the British Liberal party flounders from one ignominious defeat to another, the writer thinks one reason may be that no one really knows what the Liberals stand for. "A more important one is that the political system in Britain does not really allow for a third party. The Liberals are being ground out of existence by their two rivals. Many people, who agree with the party's general attitude, do not vote Liberal because they know there is no chance of their candidates getting returned. . . A number of the reforms the Liberals have thought out during the past thirty years or so have been adopted by their rivals."

Sugar For Britain

In accordance with the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, the United Kingdom Ministry of Food is buying all the sugar available from Commonwealth countries. Although supplies from this source are continuing to increase they are not yet sufficient to enable sugar rationing in Britain to be brought to an end this year. The Ministry of Food has therefore made a special purchase from Cuba of one million tons, for delivery over the next two years, at a price which is likely to work out on the average at rather under three cents a pound.

It has been made clear to the Cuban authorities that the sugar is exclusively for use in meeting additional consumption in the U. K. Derationing will require at least an extra 500,000 tons of sugar in each of the next two years. Taking into account in addition the requirements of other parts of the Commonwealth, which import Commonwealth raw sugar direct, there can be no question of this special purchase affecting the ability of Commonwealth exporting territories to market their exportable surpluses during the next two years. The market guarantees given under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement will in no way be jeopardized.

This special purchase is a purely commercial transaction. There has been no question of undertaking to buy minimum quantities in future years or otherwise negotiating concessions in return. But in view of the benefit this means to the Cuban economy it is to be expected that the Cuban Government will do all they can to assist the United Kingdom's export trade to Cuba.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The labour situation seems to be several weeks ahead of last year as are the roads and land.

The recent modest advance in pork prices may well save the consumer a lot of money in the fall. As pointed out by Mr. H. W. Clay, if breeders are not encouraged to expand production now, prices would be "out of sight" later.

Scallops, apparently, have an unaccountable way of appearing and disappearing whether fished or not. It is to be hoped that the bed off North Point will yield a rich harvest to the two Alberton druggers before vanishing from the ken of fishermen.

Franz Lehar, Hungarian composer, was born this date 1870, son of a military bandmaster. He achieved distinction in the field of the operetta or the "musical play." His best productions of this kind are, "The Merry Widow", "Gipsy Love", and "The Land Of Smiles". He also wrote operas, sonatas and dance compositions. He is best remembered, perhaps, for his charming melodies and waltzes.

The end of the final exercise of the final specialist navigation class of the R. C. A. F. air navigation school at Summerside seems to put fins to an association which the Town and Province enjoyed and of which they were very proud. The air navigators in future will get their training while based at Winnipeg. We hope that those who spent time in this Province will recall their visit here with pleasure as we know they profited by the very high quality of instruction.

Spring Tonic



The Poet's Corner

THE HAPPY LIFE

How happy is he born and taught That serveth not another's will; Whose armor is his honest thought, And simple truth his utmost skill! Whose passions not his masters are; Whose soul is still prepared for death; Not tied unto the world by care Of public fame or private breath; Who envies none that chance doth raise; Nor vice; who never understood How deepest wounds are given by praise; Nor rules of state, but rules of good; Who hath his life from rumors freed; Whose conscience is his strong retreat; Whose state can neither flatterers feed, Nor ruin make oppressors great; Who doth not late and early pray More of His grace than gifts to lend; And entertains the harmless day With a well-chosen book or friend: This man is freed from servile bands Of hope to rise, or fear to fall; Lord of himself, though not of lands, And having nothing, yet hath all. —Henry Wotton (1568)

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

EARLY ISLAND HISTORIAN

The following obituary appeared in The Royal Gazette of June 24, 1834: "Died at Mount Stewart, on Sunday, the 22nd Inst., John Stewart, of Mount Stewart, Esq., in the 76th year of his age. Mr. Stewart was a native of Kintyre, in Scotland, but came to this country sixty-eight years ago. He had scarcely attained the age of manhood, when he took an active part in the struggle between Governor Patterson and the Proprietors, which then agitated the Island. Fifty years ago, we find him Speaker of the House of Assembly, which office he also filled at a subsequent period, during the years 1795, 1796, 1797 and 1798. "In the year 1800 he left the Island, and was in London in 1806, when his 'Account of Prince Edward Island' made its appearance: a work now becoming scarce; but which, from his knowledge of the subject, and the talent he displayed as an author, leaves room for regret that he did not often appear in that character. "Having been appointed Paymaster General of the Forces in Newfoundland, he resided in that Island until the office was abolished in 1817, soon after which he returned to this Island, where, though occasionally absent in other countries, he has chiefly resided ever since. In the year 1823, when meetings were convened in the different Counties for the purpose of petitioning His Majesty for a redress of grievances, Mr. Stewart was appointed Agent for the Island, to carry home the petitions, which were attended with such effect, that both the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Justice were dismissed from their offices. "Having returned to the Island with the new Governor, Colonel Ready, in the fall of 1824, he was once more chosen Speaker of the House of Assembly, which situation he held till the House was dissolved on the death of George the Fourth. Since that period, he has taken little or no part in public life, but lived retired at his beautiful residence of Mount Stewart, where he terminated his earthly career. At the time of his death Mr. Stewart held the situations of Marshal of the Court of Vice Admiralty, at St. John's, Newfoundland, and Collector of His Majesty's Quit Rents for this Island."

Notes By The Way

The newspaper carrier boy is not involved in stories of juvenile delinquency which fill many newspaper columns these days. This was the gist of a report to the American Newspaper Publishers Association, meeting in New York, by the newspaper boy committee headed by Howard W. Stodhill of the Philadelphia Bulletin. "This boy," said the report, "with his route and his customers and his gradually increasing knowledge of business methods and operations, is going on his way, saving his money, developing his ambitions, and gradually making himself a citizen to be honored and respected." — New York Times.

One thinks of Mr. Churchill in terms of a militant cigar. Joseph Stalin was never more inscrutable than when seen through the choking haze of his pipe smoke, and Franklin Roosevelt's persuasive charm was probably at its greatest when he had a cigaret-holder between his teeth. President Eisenhower, of course, is a non-smoker and people therefore think of him as a forthright straight-from-the-shoulder sort of chap who doesn't go around blowing smoke in people's faces. Now we find that Marshal Tito has his own distinctive tobacco idiosyncrasy: he smokes a cigaret from the bowl of a pipe. This may be a common practice in the Balkans, but in this part of the world it is unusual enough to give Tito an individuality all his own.—Hamilton Spectator.

Canada is coming to grips with a problem that has troubled some of us for a long time. Should we abolish the death penalty for murder? Justice Minister Garson has told the House of Commons that the government is prepared to set up a royal commission or parliamentary committee to study the question. This is undoubtedly the best way to go about deciding such a complex problem — a problem that involves our consciences, our emotions, our sense of humanity and our desire to retain the greatest possible deterrent to the taking of human life. — Vancouver Province.

It is understood that the White House is still studying the question of televising Presidential press conferences. The television people probably regard this suggestion as eminently sound. It is only human that they should. The spectacle of six cameras with their crews and their accompanying lights focused on a President and a group of correspondents would make any normal person in the TV industry as happy as a lamb in spring. But one does hope that no such plan will be carried out. The press conference at its best is spontaneous, unselfconscious and full of ginger. Let us keep it so. — New York Times.

The Age Old Story

And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

ENTRY FORM Rural Beautification Competition 1953 1. Name of Contestant (or School or Community) 2. Address 3. School District 4. County 5. If School or Community, name sponsoring body, i.e. Women's Institute, Trustees, Community Club 6. If School or Community, name Sec'y. sponsoring group 7. Underline whatever items in the contest you wish to enter for: Home Improvement Competition, Travel Bureau Prize, Flower Gardens, Outstanding Home Competition, School Improvement, Community Improvement, Veterans' Contest, New Settlers' Contest, Rural Cemetery Improvement. 8. Fee enclosed \$1.00 (yes or no) Mail to: Rural Beautification Society, c/o P. E. I. Libraries, Charlottetown.

The Passing Scene

By Observer CONCERNING TRADITION

History is almost certain to record that of all the British statesmen who have received high honour at the hands of their Sovereign none has been more worthy than the latest recipient of the Knighthood of the Garter, Mr. Churchill or Sir Winston as he is now, stands in line with the greatest of those who have rendered outstanding service in peace and war. It is safe to say that no one, except perhaps the few who are chronically opposed to everything that savours of heraldry, will begrudge the new knight the reward that has come to him in his old, but by no means decrepit, age. It is encouraging as well as interesting to note that former Prime Minister Atlee had recommended his chief political opponent for the distinction shortly after the Labour victory in 1945. It was a gracious act of magnanimity and one feels that only in England, where chivalry never seems to be lost in the rough and tumble of political strife, would such an act be likely to occur. It suggests one more reason why the deeply rooted institutions of British history have been able to withstand the social and political changes of modern times.

No country is in grave peril so long as sportsmanship prevails in the councils of its politicians and statesmen. In elections and parliamentary debates opponents fight one another with every legitimate weapon at their disposal but there appears to be the most complete absence of the personal bitterness and vindictive tempers which, unfortunately, feature political battles in the newer nations. Anything that touches the career of Prime Minister Churchill, even a little piece of blue ribbon on his left knee, is a matter for world concern. There will be general satisfaction that the Garter and not a peerage was the gift of the Queen to her first minister in Britain at this time. Had the latter been offered and accepted it would in all likelihood have signified the withdrawal of the Prime Minister from office. And that, one cannot help feeling, would have been a loss not only to Britain but also to the whole free world.

It is, of course, true that "the path of glory leads but to the grave." And Mr. Churchill, like all other mortals, must "await the inevitable hour." At the same time it is reassuring to know that in his case the "awaiting" period is not a long one. The strength of tradition is not something that can be computed in terms of common measurement. It is, in fact, an imponderable substance far removed from the methods and systems which regulate our affairs. Nevertheless, it is one of the forces which history has chosen to do its work with. It is a long distance from Edward the Third to Elizabeth the Second. In between, the growth of power and influence and usefulness

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