

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, DEC. 26, 1952

Her Majesty's Broadcast

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's voice, reaching her subjects in all parts of the world yesterday in her first Christmas Day broadcast, provided a thrilling and heart-warming experience.

In carrying on the tradition of a Christmas Day broadcast Her Majesty followed the example set by her grandfather and father, and in fact spoke from the same room—the study at Sandringham—in which the previous broadcasts were given.

It was a wonderful address, springing directly from the heart and reaching out to the hearts of all her hearers. For our neighbours to the South, and millions of others among our friends and allies in the United Nations elsewhere, must like us have been moved by the sentiments expressed with such warmth and sincerity by the Queen.

Questioned Divorce Jurisdiction

There are few more important branches of the law than those dealing with marriage and the family. It is of the first importance that doubt should not be cast on the marital status or on the legitimacy of children.

Marriage and Divorce are, of course, Dominion matters, as the solemnization of marriage is a Provincial one. The Dominion Parliament, however, has followed a hands-off policy with the consequence that the Provinces are left, for the most part with the law on marriage and divorce as it was before Confederation.

In this Province we have a pre-Confederation Court of Divorce as well as Divorce law, dating from 1835. Only Parliament at Ottawa can amend the law but on the principle that the Province can set up courts of law and confer jurisdiction on them, the Prince Edward Island Legislature in 1949 put through an Act authorizing the Supreme Court to deal with matters coming under the jurisdiction of the Court of Divorce.

It is now being objected by at least one respected member of the Bar that although the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island confirmed the jurisdiction conferred on it in an opinion delivered on Dec. 11, 1951 it is possible that at some future time an appeal might go to the Supreme Court of Canada which conceivably might come to a contrary decision.

The arguments against validity of the legislation relate to the difficulty of differentiating between substantive law and procedure. If the designation of a particular forum is a matter of substantive law, then it could only be determined by Federal legislation.

International Affairs

Reviewing events of the past year, the annual report of the Council of the Royal Institute of International Affairs draws attention to the fact that those events have helped bring home to the individual the effect of international relations on his own affairs.

The report of the Institute goes on to say that there had been no shortage of subjects worthy of study during the year and their difficulty had been mainly one of selecting the subjects which would most repay further study within the limits imposed by its budget.

The Institute is an unofficial and non-political body devoted to research and the dissemination of information on international affairs. It is dependent on subscriptions and donations for its expenditures, but the books published during the year and the long list of studies initiated under the directorship of Professor Arnold Toynbee testify to the scope and value of its activities.

The Institute and its affiliated organizations, of which the Canadian Institute of International Affairs is one, continue to bring to the general public, through the activities of members and through publications, the results of research which are essential to the fuller understanding of current problems.

Good Work In Senate

Turbulent debate in the Commons over the famous Currie report, says the Ottawa Journal, has diverted public attention from a great deal of fine legislative work being done by the Senate.

And some of the Senate's work, while not spectacular, was certainly distinguished, notably its amendments to the Government's proposed changes in the Criminal Code. In this the Upper House, not the Commons, became the champion and protector of what a famous member of the U. S. Supreme Court has called "the ultimate values of all democratic living."

"The truth," concludes our Ottawa contemporary, "is that in these past three weeks of Parliament, the public had an opportunity of glimpsing not only the Senate's usefulness, but its vital need, and also an occasion for realizing what injury is being visited upon our parliamentary and constitutional setup when, through some lack of understanding or sheer carelessness or perversity, one-fifth of the membership of such a body is left unfiled."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Boxing Day. . . . Festival of St. Stephen.

It is scarcely noticeable yet but the days are steadily lengthening. Come what may in the way of weather, at this point the winter can no longer be excessively long.

True liberty is a tender thing, like the down on a peach. The United States, by over-harshly upholding it is in some danger of destroying the very thing Americans prize.

Mount Allison University and Maritime education will be the gainers by the principal legacy left by H. S. Sharp of Summerside. Twenty-five annual scholarships should go far towards seeing that students with character and ability are not denied an education by lack of funds.

"Live a day at a time and don't worry about the little things," seems like good advice for living a long and happy life. The authority, at any rate, could not be better—Mr. Alexander "Sandy" Cameron of Elmsdale, who yesterday celebrated his 101st birthday.

A dozen lives lost by fire during the year calls for greater attention to the common fire hazards around the home. Inflammable material, faulty heating equipment, careless habits and lack of fire-fighting equipment can all be corrected to some extent.

Alonso de Sandoval, Peruvian nobleman and early ethnologist, died this date 1652. He gave up court life to live amongst Indians working at forced labour and then amongst African slaves in Columbia. His work, "The Nature, Sacred and Profane Rules, Rites, Habits and Superstitions of the Negroes" describes the diversity of the Negro peoples, their language, tribes, classes and religions.

Aftermath



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.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Sir,—May I make a few comments on your editorial in the Dec. 18th issue of your paper, entitled: "Proposed Health Insurance?"

Your quotations from the Vancouver Province did not strike me as strong arguments against a comprehensive health service for all citizens. The first objection is that "the cost of health insurance must be met and there is no where from which to draw the revenues to meet the costs except the pockets of the people."

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimated that in Canada the private expenditure for medical health and dental care in 1951 was 496 million dollars. The provincial and federal governments spent about 175 million for public health services in 1951.

At present this expense, or much of it, is not fairly collected. I know of dental workers, thrifty, dependable citizens who have used all of their savings and all that they could borrow and have been financially ruined by long and expensive sickness in their families. That does not seem fair or right.

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The Age-Old Story

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not; behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you.

Notes By The Ways

One who certainly knew her pronouns was the girl who answered the ancient: "Haven't I met you somewhere before?" query from a masher by replying: "I don't know your name but your phrase is familiar."—Toronto Star.

Classified under "Dramatic Talent Wanted," Toronto Telegram carried an ad. for "Well-aged manure, bushel, load or yard." And it's the Peterborough Examiner that says: "As a comment on Canadian talent, we think this goes too far!"—Ottawa Citizen.

Solon E. Low, Social Credit leader in the House of Commons, got in a jibe at two Liberal speakers when he said: "They made what is virtually a bag of dry bones look like grain-feed Western label beef."—W. L. Clark in the Windsor Star.

We notice by the map that a township on the southern border of the District of Sudbury is named "Stalin." We don't know for sure, but we have a hunch the township assumed the name during World War II when this country's feelings towards Joe Stalin were somewhat friendlier than they are today.

There are now 19 vacancies in Canada's Senate. If the Prime Minister wanted to carry out some reform, now would be his chance. If there is no real desire on the part of the government to start the top-to-bottom structural upsetting which is needed, at least the Prime Minister could undertake reform in the criterion for appointments.

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The Passing Scene

"Search and look," the wise men of the day said, "for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet." But they were wrong, which goes to show that very wise people are sometimes lacking in good judgment.

The logical place for the start of a new era would have been Jerusalem, the centre of religion and culture. But great events are not always governed by logical considerations and it has often happened that the apparently foolish things of this world have confounded the wise.

Nazareth is, of course, the supreme instance but there have been many others. An itinerant playwright in a small English village goes on to set eternal standards for the literatures of the world.

And so one might go on to give instance after instance of power and mighty influence proceeding from humble, obscure sources. The hand of destiny touches where and whom it will.

New Testament readers cannot escape the patent fact that many of the heroes and heroines of that Book are not the "best" men and women according to ordinary standards.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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