

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, 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 TUESDAY, DEC. 1, 1953

Montague High School

The new Montague High School has already given more than half a year of service prior to its official opening today. That, perhaps, is typical of the way public-spirited citizens of that Town go about things. No effort was spared to have the school ready for use and there was not a moment's delay in making use of it when ready. The formalities could very well wait.

There is a place, however, for the formalities. A school has far more significance to a community than its physical structure might indicate, although in this case the appearance is well in keeping with the importance of its purpose. The school has a very large share in the making of the men and women of the community. The community reflects the school as accurately as the school reflects the community.

It has been said, with some truth, that a university could consist of a log with a teacher sitting on one end and a student sitting on the other. The great objection to such an organization is that it would be too expensive to provide enough teachers to make it work. The object of modern school organization and construction is to enable the teacher to be as effective with a whole class as the unaided teacher would be with a single student.

The object of extended facilities is to make the teacher's work more effective. Sometimes we are carried away by enthusiasm and introduce "improvements" for their own sake. They should, if we are to get value for the effort put into education, be put to the test of whether they make the teacher a more effective teacher or merely provide something to do to while away the long hours of school.

Object Of Education

Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, former chancellor of the University of Chicago and one of the noted scholars of America, has recently written a book entitled "The Conflict In Education In A Democratic Society". In it he suggests that "the prime object of education is to know what is good for man." By that he means that education, from the elementary school right up to the university and beyond, should be based on ethical considerations. He feels that unless this is done it can actually develop into a moral deterrent.

It may well be that in stressing education as a means of helping the individual "to make a living" we of this generation have somehow lost sight of the fact that knowing how to live is of infinitely greater importance. For some time now the trend has been in the direction of more and more technical training and less and less emphasis on the need for hard intellectual discipline which, while it is not a cure-all by any means, is at least a help to proper ethical understanding. Learning by doing has become a virtual fetish, and learning by thinking has been relegated to the attic of forgotten things.

Within proper limits technical training in its various forms is a very fine thing. There is much need for it in this highly industrialized age. But what does it profit a man to know all the mechanical answers if, in the search for them, he has been neither trained nor encouraged to seek an intelligible philosophy concerning the fundamental issues of life? It cannot be stated too often that for the tradesman in his shop, as for the farmer in his field and the scientist in his laboratory, life is essentially a matter of moral and ethical adjustment, not of mechanical know-how.

The Franking Privilege

Again complaints over an alleged abuse of the free mailing privileges of MP's is being heard, says the Ottawa Journal. This free mailing right for MP's, known as the "franking privilege", was established many years ago when postage was more expensive than now, the idea underlying it being that there should be as few barriers as possible between a member and his constituents.

As often happens, abuses crept into the right. The Journal states that, up to the beginning of World War I, it was well nigh impossible to find anybody around the Parliament Buildings who was not "franking" mail; MP's threw about the right to use their "frank" as generously as the Department of Railways issued passes

over the Intercolonial. And more than letters were "franked". One member, it was disclosed, actually used his free mailing rights to send his laundry home, while another "franked" a bag of seed oats all the way to his farm in the West.

Those were the days, of course, when the perquisites of MP's were much greater than now. For example, up to the second or third parliamentary session of World War I, all MP's, senators and members of the Press Gallery received expensive leather trunks (usually filled with stationery) at the beginning of each new parliament. More, the members receiving these trunks had the right to take an equivalent, and one farmer member once exercised this privilege by taking a harness instead.

After two years of World War I and its costs, Sir Robert Borden's Government eliminated the leather trunks (none came with the new Parliament of 1917) and later the practice of boxes of embossed stationery for members and the Press Gallery at the beginning of each session disappeared also.

Whether and to what extent the "franking" privilege is abused now, the Journal admits that it is used more honestly than 20 or 30 years ago.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The "grass-roots" or school district meetings of the P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture are being held throughout the Province this evening. On the extent to which these meetings are attended and the character of the delegates elected depends the effectiveness of the Federation.

Early next year Nova Scotia is to have a survey made of the Province's industrial potential by a firm of industrial research consultants. With the knowledge so obtained both private enterprise and government encouragement can be directed towards practical development.

Zostera marina, eelgrass to the uninitiated, disappeared in the '30s but reports have been coming in for some time of its renewal in Maritime waters. Formerly used only for fertilizer and to bank houses, the product is now being dried and made into quilted sheets as a fire and insect proof insulating material.

A visiting Hungarian soccer team has defeated England's national team 6-3 in a hard-played game. It is notable that the English crowd cheered almost every Hungarian move, particularly those of the visiting captain, an army officer whom they promptly nicknamed the "galloping major". Sportsmanship is no respecter of political allegiance.

The advance of medical science is illustrated by a comparison between the Second World War in Burma and the fight in Malaya against Communist terrorists. While hundreds of allied and Japanese troops died of scrub typhus, the present campaign under similar conditions has not resulted in a single loss of life from that disease.

The Treaty of Locarno was signed this date 1925. It was to come into effect only on the admission of Germany to the League of Nations and guaranteed the frontier of both France and Germany in the west. Later attempts to extend the frontier guarantees to the east failed and the treaty was denounced by Germany in 1936. She then openly moved troops into the demilitarised Rhineland.

A Fredericton, New Brunswick, magistrate has ruled that control of the sale of fireworks is governed by the Explosives Act of the Dominion Parliament and that Provincial and civic legislation on the matter is consequently ultra vires. This is a ruling on which it is important to have higher authority and it is to be hoped that either by appeal or reference it can be brought before a superior court.

The bells of St. Clements, a church built in 1681 by Sir Christopher Wren, were badly cracked in the great fire raid on London in 1941. Only the oldest bell escaped damage. It was made in 1588, the year of the Spanish Armada. It is hoped that the bells can be recast and sound again over London. They have been returned to the firm that made them to see what can be done.

Deploring New Brunswick's lack of a Provincial motto, the Fredericton Gleaner notes that "only two Provinces of Canada are without floral emblems, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island." We hasten to assure The Gleaner that the Lady's Slipper, Cypridium Hirtutum, is the floral emblem of this Province and, as they are probably aware, our motto is "Parva sub Ingenti."

Hamlet Up-To-Date



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.

THE BEAUTY AND STRENGTH OF INDIAN WOMEN

Sir—I have been amazed and delighted by the fact that Madam Lakshmi Pundit was chosen as chairman over the Eighth General Assembly of the United Nations. It is a tribute to Indian womanhood. She is now in her early fifties, a handsome, slight woman with soft wavy white hair, large brown eyes, olive skin, and delicately moulded features. Her dress is the simple white jacket and flowing pastel sari of her native land. Her voice is low. She speaks rapidly, and clearly in perfect English. She presides with grace, dignity and good humour over the General Assembly sessions.

May I tell you that India has thousands of such women. They have a natural grace and dignity, especially when dressed in their native costume, and can take their place beside their educated white sisters in any assembly. In the Indian Parliament there are more women proportionately than in any other parliament in the world, and this is the more remarkable when only about two per cent of the women are educated.

Indian women are beautiful, but their beauty is never paraded before the world. That would not be dignified. They have queenly looks and queenly ways but one never hears of a beauty queen. That would not be tolerated in India. The glamour aspect of womanhood does not appeal to India. They say that is American and we are Indian.

Indian women are ambitious to serve their country. Madam Pundit has served three prison terms in British jails for the part she took in civil disobedience in the Ghandi campaigns for independence. Her husband, Soyvit Pundit, the lawyer-scholar was imprisoned for a total of ten years for his part in the civil disobedience campaigns, an experience which caused his death. That suffering has brought the beauty of quiet self-control into the life of Mme. Pundit.

I have been amazed at the ambition and courage of young East Indian girls who leave home to go to college in strange cities in America and in Britain and stay away for four or five years until they are doctors or teachers and return to give their services to their country. And those girls have made a splendid impression upon all with whom they have come in contact. In the greater future of mankind when the World Parliament is organized, East Indian womanhood will play a leading role.

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

FOR CASH OR FAT CATTLE

"George Coles most respectfully returns his sincere thanks to the public for the very liberal support he has received since his commencement in business, and still hopes from good articles and reasonable prices, to merit a share of their patronage."

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—Royal Gazette, Jan. 13, 1835.

Notes By The Way

The tale that sailors love to tell of seals that follow a ship for miles when music is being played on deck seems to have been played of an old sailor's yarn that is generally supposed. At least, the beach officials at Humberstone are beginning to think so. Recently they were wondering why their customary invasion of seals had increased, and why baby seals chose to come ashore on one particular stretch of the foreshore. Then they discovered that an electric organ, newly installed on the sea-front, is directly opposite the beach where the seals gathered. The answer, it seems, was music, as any old tar could have told them. This is certainly one up for those who still believe that music can soothe the savage beast, a theory which has had such eminent supporters as Shackleton, who charmed penguins with a gramophone in the Antarctic, and Thomas Hardy, who owned a musical dog. (From The Manchester Guardian.)

It is highly desirable that Canada should be better known in the United States. So it is a heartening development that the University of Rochester, in New York State, is initiating something bound to be of benefit to both nations. It is an ovation in matters educational. University of Rochester plans to become a centre of information about all aspects of this country and its people. A Canadian studies program is being set up under the direction of Dr. Donald W. Gilbert and it is hoped that this will lead in time to the creation of an institute of Canadian affairs at the university. A further step would be an annual conference at Rochester of experts in various aspects to Canadian life. Although the two countries share a common boundary and a good deal of history and have almost similar cultural roots, there are few who would maintain that we know enough about one another. (Moncton Transcript.)

The Poet's Corner

GOD'S ACRE I like that ancient Saxon phrase, which calls The burial-ground God's Acre! It is just; It consecrates each grave within its walls, And breathes a benison o'er the sleeping dust.

God's Acre! Yes, that blessed name imparts Comfort to those who in the grave have sown The seed that they have garnered in their hearts, Their bread of life, alas! no more their own.

Into its furrows shall we all be cast, In the sure faith that we shall rise again

At the great harvest, when the archangel's blast Shall winnow, like a fan, the chaff and grain.

Then shall the good stand in immortal bloom In the fair gardens of that second birth,

And each bright blossom mingle its perfume With that of flowers which never bloomed on earth.

With thy rude ploughshare, Death, turn up the sod, And spread the furrow for the seed we sow:

This is the field and Acre of our God, This is the place where human harvests grow!

—W. H. Longfellow.

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The Passing Scene

By Observes

ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER

If it isn't one thing to keep Anglo-American relations in a state of uncertainty, it's another. For some time now there has been a good deal of serious and half-serious difference of opinion flying back and forth between London and Washington, sometimes stopping at Ottawa enroute. All very healthy, no doubt, and perfectly understandable since of course, no two democratic countries are going to see eye to eye on every little thing that crops up from time to time. Or, on the big things either, for that matter. At the same time we can be sure that the Communist leaders are watching every little disagreement as it comes up and chuckling over it. If they could only get the British and the Americans into a really bitter family feud they might, in the resulting confusion, be able to get on with their own game, whatever it is, without too much interruption. They are not the first by any means to try this strategy. It is, in fact, one of the older diplomatic games in the history of nations.

We in the English speaking world like to believe that nothing could ever divide Britain and the United States or weaken their wills to resist, if need be, a common foe. Common sense would seem to justify that belief. History, however, which has not always run in common-sense grooves, gives no actual guarantee that friendly nations will for ever remain that way.

I suppose it could be said, without carrying the analogy farther than is seemly, that two powers are much like two neighbours. So much give-and-take, especially if they happen to be on good terms generally, is alright. When it passes a certain point and becomes mutually irritating there is likely to be trouble. Nations, like individuals, ought not to count too much on common aims and a more or less common heritage.

Vancouverites are observing the largest migration of birds in many years. The birds are heading south in record numbers, and some people who have an inclination to make long-range weather predictions, forecast a hard, old-fashioned winter. Whatever may happen in British Columbia, an old-fashioned winter here in Southern Ontario would be a change. True, it would cost us more to heat the house, but it would be refreshing to have bright sunshine, and sub-zero nights, and "sun dogs" again, and cutter rides and jingle bells, and to see our breath on the air. We might all be stimulated and healthier. —London Free Press

It is no secret that Prime Minister Churchill's suggestion that he and President Eisenhower sit down with Premier Malenkov for heart to heart talks was well received by the people of Britain regardless of party affiliations. It is just as obvious that most people outside the United States could not understand why the American authorities felt obliged to throw cold water on the proposal. Whether or not it would have done any good is a question for which even Sir Winston himself, apparently, had no ready answer. It was the dramatic approach more than anything else which appealed to the British people.

Despite American criticism that the time was not ripe for it (a criticism which no one could say was unjustified) and what hard to see how any great harm could have issued from a meeting at the highest level. However, Mr. Eisenhower and his advisers thought otherwise and, for the sake of peace in the family, the matter was shelved. One English newspaper commented editorially that "were Sir Winston ten years younger he would not have taken no for an answer."

Well, on this view there will be differences of opinion among Sir Winston's admirers. Some will say that, all things considered, it is perhaps just as well that he is ten years older than he used to be. Others will say that it is a real pity.

Now comes Premier Malenkov's announcement that the Soviet Union is ready to take part in the Four-Power Conference on the Foreign Ministers' level, Britain and the United States have been trying to arrange that kind of a meeting for some time. In fact, they sent several notes to Moscow about it. One would have thought that there was a subject on which the two countries would agree with alacrity. But not The first reports were anything but encouraging. According to the British Foreign Office "Her Majesty's Government welcomes the acceptance of the proposal for a meeting which the Western powers have renewed several times." According to Washington officials "the State Department views the note as an obvious effort to slow down Western efforts to unite Europe."

There is more than an even chance that the American State Department is correct in its appraisal of Russia's intentions. There are many things about the timing of the note that would indicate that. And we may be sure that the British Government is no being humbugged by any soft words that are coming out of Moscow at this time. But, after all, if you have been trying for months to get a fractious neighbour to talk things over with you, you finally consent, you don't go around asserting all sorts of bad motives to his belated assurance of co-operation. That would be rudeness. Things might even be a lot worse. But, at least you will have had the satisfaction of knowing that you kept your good manners. In ordinary social relations that is considered to be important. I cannot be less so in relations between nations.

In United Nations debates and elsewhere the Russian leaders have been charging all along that American Government officials do not want to come to an understanding with Russia. This, of course, is plain nonsense but we may be sure that hundreds of millions of people in Communist dominated countries, and even other millions in countries which are now on the Communist fringe, believe every word of it. The scepticism which the State Department is now expressing so freely will certainly provide Communist leaders with a ready-made excuse for shouting: "We told you so!" More serious than that is the plain fact that on still another issue the strength of Anglo-American friendship is being tried in a somewhat irritating manner and, or so it appears, a little unnecessarily.

The Age Old Story

For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else. I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

The Italian seaport of Brindisi was a flourishing community when Virgil died there in 19 BC.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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