

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, SATURDAY, FEB. 16, 1952

Their Finest Hour

A sombre but magnificent page of British history was turned yesterday. All the pomp and pageantry of a Royal funeral seemed for once in perfect harmony with the occasion. Millions of his former subjects throughout Canada and the Commonwealth participated in spirit with the mourners assembled in London and Windsor to pay tribute to a beloved sovereign, whose passing has evoked more sincere expressions of grief than perhaps that of any ruler in the long procession of his predecessors.

Let us remember him as he lived, and for the noble example he set of faith and fortitude. Britain needs these virtues today. The people of Britain, like those of Canada and the rest of the Commonwealth, pray that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's reign may be long, prosperous, and peaceful, or if that may not be, victorious. The reign of King George VI, of blessed memory, saw in its all too brief span both wars and depression but those very misfortunes enabled the British people and the King to rise to their finest hour.

No one wants hardship and danger but that heroic response of a whole people to the challenge of Hitlerism, inspired by his late Majesty's example, will long shine in the pages of history. It is to be fervently hoped that such hardihood will not again be necessary either by Her Majesty's subjects in the British Isles or elsewhere, but should the need unfortunately arise it will be met.

A Fuzzy Age

Intending to show that even the experts do not understand what abstract art is all about, a Vancouver youth submitted a "masterpiece" to the Toronto Art Gallery with a request for "some constructive criticism." The work of art actually was cut from a piece of cardboard on which artists and engravers had cleaned their brushes and spray-guns. It was christened "Melancholia in a Swamp."

The dead-pan reply from the Gallery told exactly what it was, making use of some words of more than two syllables. The humourist was delighted, thinking that it was a serious attempt at criticism, as, seemingly, did large numbers of other people.

The Gallery has the last laugh in this little episode but it is far from funny that inability to understand the English language should have become so general.

Serious Student Shortage

Noted with some concern in an Ottawa exchange is the fact that the number of students attending Canadian universities this year is 5,000 less than in last year's enrolment. The 1952 graduating class is smaller than its predecessor by about 1,500. And the trend is toward even smaller classes. In 1954, only about 10,000 young, university-trained Canadians will be available to replenish the personnel of business, industry, the professions or the government service. And of this number, possibly 2,000 will be lured to the green pastures of the United States.

In a period of great industrial expansion, industry and business need more engineers, scientists and technicians than ever before. Yet the prospects are that they will not be able to fill their normal minimum requirements of professional personnel. The reasons for this situation are, of course, fairly obvious. The birthrate of the depression years was low; consequently the number of Canadians now in the fresh-man-age group is below normal. Moreover, the high cost of tuition fees, books, board and clothing probably prevents many from taking university training.

In this connection it is encouraging to note the recent decision of the Government to consider the establishment of national bursaries, scholarships and fellowships, in accord with the decision of the Federal Government to provide financial aid to Canadian universities, and the consideration being given to establishment of national bursaries, scholarships and fellowships. This plan will enable Canadian universities to enrol the best students, irrespective of their financial resources. It is expected that within a year such a scheme will be put into effect. In the meantime, however, the immediate problem involved in the continued decline in student attendance

at our universities is one of grave importance. One of the branches of higher education most seriously affected has been the humanities. Such studies do not promise financial reward, nor do they attract financial aid, as readily as the natural and social sciences. Yet, to quote the words of the President of the University of Toronto, "they are in very truth the essence of our Western civilization, the loss or neglect of which would vitiate our entire educational process and make us unworthy to be ranked as a civilized country."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, Sexagesima.

Now "business as usual", and more of it.

Constitutional monarchy never got a better testimonial than in the death and funeral of George VI—it was magnificent.

Mr. Vincent Massey, Governor-General designate, is scheduled to fly to this country today.

Our exports for the first month of 1952 showed a considerable decrease in quantity, but a substantial increase in value—the law of supply and demand.

It is hard luck for the lighthouse keepers on the St. Lawrence but on the other hand the Maritime ports of Saint John and Halifax must be relieved that the ice-breaker Lady Grey was unable to get through the river ice.

It is now generally recognized at Ottawa that the Government will not go to the country for a new mandate until 1953. They enjoy a substantial majority, and their experience in the by-elections last year has shown them the necessity of carefully mending all their fences before making a general election appeal.

"The Happy Time" play is now at St. James's, London. Sir Laurence Olivier began his season at the St. James's Theatre, London, Jan. 30th with Samuel Taylor's dramatization of Robert Fontaine's "The Happy Time"—chronicle of a French-Canadian family living in Ottawa in the '20's, previously broadcast by CBC.

George Macaulay Trevelyan, English historian, was born this date 1876. Educated at Cambridge, he was Commandant of the 1st British Ambulance Unit in Italy in the First World War. His publications combine great scholarship with readability. His "English Social History" was an outstanding best-seller.

The decision of nearly all Nova Scotian municipalities to go on Daylight Saving Time together from April 27 to Sept. 28 removes one of the most serious objections to the practice. The confusion of having different dates for the change-over is eliminated by the uniform dates proposed by the Canadian Railway Association.

Dr. George Fisher, Director of Veterinary Services, has been advising a class of young farmers at the Vocational College that individual farmers should be able to determine whether or not veterinary services are required for particular troubles encountered in their live stock. They should themselves recognize symptoms without calling in experts.

Yesterday's issue carried a despatch from London in which the BBC was criticized as having wrapped the nations in gloom. Most listeners in Canada very much appreciated the quiet music of the CBC as housewives were not in the mood for gaiety. The different soap operas usually carried during the women's working hours were considerably withheld.

Parliament resumes within the next fortnight under a new Governor-General, and with a heavy programme before it. The redistribution legislation alone will be good for a month or six weeks' discussion. Several leading members will lose their seats in consequence of the shifts of populations and will have to seek pastures new, not an easy matter, especially in a province like Saskatchewan, mostly agricultural.

Holiness, writes Commissioner Samuel Bengle, D.D., in the current "War Cry", is not absolute perfection, which belongs to God only; nor is it angelic perfection; nor is it Adamic perfection—for, no doubt Adam had a perfect head as well as a perfect heart before he sinned against God. But it is Christian perfection—such perfection and obedience of the heart as a poor fallen creature, aided by almighty power and boundless grace, can give. It is that state of heart and life which consists in being and doing all the time—not by fits and starts, but steadily—just what God wants us to be and do.

Patients Waiting



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.

POTATO MARKETING

Sir.—The Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture in their recent public letter pleaded for economic freedom for the farmer. All thinking persons will agree that political and economic freedom are the foundation of our civilization, and until this state was reached farmers were but serfs to the land.

It is therefore passing strange that the leaders of the Federation should attempt, through the agency of a Marketing Board armed with autocratic powers, to force all growers to come under their views of quota marketing through a board monopoly, with added taxation by decree; thus taking from the farmer the right to market his crop when and where he feels to his best advantage. The intention may be benevolent, but the long history of such actions in areas similar to ours has resulted in the end in an economic loss to the producer who stuck to the ship, and the failure of the planned economy. Every effort of any locality to buck the trend of a potato market has always ended in disaster.

The desire and hope for a better future market has always been with both the agency and the grower, and it does effect the thinking of the trade. The small operator can follow his experience, but if there is only one big monopoly, that organization must of necessity keep stock moving; and the result is that the lower price market will prevail. For economic freedom and economic welfare, keep away from a potato dictator.

The Marketing Board have gone to great lengths to justify their expenses during the past seasons. It can be pointed out however that in other years of surplus, advantageous plans were worked out. We remember the British order which helped in 1947, and the 92c per 100 lbs starch program for both the fall and spring operations of the factories, also the year when the Government purchased potatoes from the farmers, and let them remain on the farm for feed. When the present purchasing value of the dollar is compared with the 1945-1946 value, no Board should pat itself on the back for last year's arrangement.

The older growers remember the Eastern Canada Marketing Board for potatoes in 1934, and the great fiasco that it turned out to be. That Board had all five Provincial, and the Dominion Government behind it—and yet 1934 was the worst year the potato grower ever experienced.

Those who have been in the produce business over a period of years, and have survived its hazards, are quite aware that all potato market forecasts are far more likely to be wrong than the forecasts concerning the weather, and if amateurs are expressing official opinion, and the public pay attention to them, disastrous results will surely follow.

The potato dealers feel that the future of our industry is in doubt, as other producing areas have doubled their average yield in the last 10 years, and we have lagged behind. Last year the average yield of Certified Seed Potatoes in Maine was 483 bushels, compared with 210 bushels here per acre. Others are lowering the cost per bushel produced, while our cost is increasing.

If the new variety, Canso, proves out as it is forecast to do, and provides a large yield of good potatoes without spraying, small growers near consuming centres can deliver so much more economically by truck than we

The Age-Old Story

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread; and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

can by rail, that we will be shut out of all Tablestock Markets, and have left to us only water shipments and Southern seed requirements.

These are the type of problems which require the most urgent attention of our Department of Agriculture, and all others interested in the welfare of the Prince Edward Island Potato Industry. We are, Sir, etc., POTATO DEALERS' ASSOCIATION

IS THE WARD SYSTEM OBSOLETE

Sir.—An analysis of the figures revealed as a result of the civic election presents some strange contrasts. For example, we find a defeated candidate in Ward 5 polled two votes more than the combined vote of the elected and defeated candidates in Ward 2.

Similarly, in Ward 4, a defeated candidate received ten votes more than the vote of the elected and defeated candidates combined in Ward 3. Finally, one candidate in Ward 5 received 115 more votes than the combined vote recorded for the four Councilors elected outside Ward 5.

When the lower Wards of the City were more residential, the Ward system was not without significance; but today, when only Ward 5 has room for expansion, with a city population exceeding 15,000 and growing rapidly, some change appears to be desirable. Perhaps a Council of eleven, elected by the City as a whole, would be an improvement; certainly it would "bring out the vote" which appears to be a difficult matter under the present system. The interest in the City will be sustained, pre-election promises invariably read "I will do my best for the city as a whole" which would still apply.

All too often, members of the Council are unable to attend important meetings because of urgent engagements in connection with their own business. The business of the City is increasing by leaps and bounds. The two additional Councilors would definitely ease the burden. Future planning and spending make no provision for "absent treatment."

I am, Sir etc., OBSERVER.

The Poet's Corner

AT THE END

A late lark twitters from the quiet skies; And from the west, Where the sun, his day's work ended,

Lingers as in content, There falls on the old grey city An influence luminous and serene, A shining peace.

The smoke ascends In a rosy-and-golden haze. The spires Shine and are changed. In the valley Shadows rise. The lark sings on. The sun,

Closing his benediction, Sinks, and the darkening air Thrills with the sense of the triumphant night— Night with her train of stars And her great gift of sleep.

So be my passing! My task accomplished and the long day done, My wages taken, and in my heart Some late lark singing, Let me be gathered to the quiet west, The sundown splendid and serene: Death. —W. E. Henley.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

TWO FEW REGULARS

House of Assembly, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 1825: Mr. Hodgson presented to the House the draft of an address as follows, which was read and agreed to:

"May it please your Excellency, "We his Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, beg leave to call your Excellency's attention to the present unprotected state of this Colony. Whilst a large number of regular troops are constantly quartered in the neighboring Provinces for the last seven years, there has never been more than thirty men, at one time, within this Island, although in none of them can soldiers be more comfortably lodged and cheaply subsisted.

"We entreat your Excellency to make known in the proper quarter, these our wants, and use your influence for their remedy."

HERTFORD, England — (CP)

— When John McKee underwent an operation here surgeons recovered five shotgun pellets from his stomach. It is believed McKee shot a bird and then ate it without removing the pellets.

SAVINGS PLAY A VITAL PART

In the battle against inflation

BUY LIFE INSURANCE AND SAVE YOUR MONEY

It is good business to buy Life Insurance, Pension or Endowment.

The Great-West Life Assurance Company is the Champion of Thrift and the Guardian of thousands of Canadian Homes. We will be glad of an opportunity to serve you.

HYNDMAN & CO. LTD.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Notes By The Way

A piano-playing French poodle in Hollywood has been awarded a union card. The next step, we suppose, is to get his views on a third term for President Truman. —Windsor Star.

The first month of this year provided evidence why this province is called "Sunny Alberta" — at least by those of us who live here. In Edmonton, the official count of hours of sunshine during January totaled 86.3, which is three hours more than the average 83.4 hours for the first month of the year. By contrast, Vancouver last month had only 8.9 hours of sunshine, the least ever recorded in a month. Normally, Vancouver can count on something like 47.2 hours of sunshine during January. —Edmonton Journal.

There are reasons, aside from national temperament, why Canadians are the most life insurance conscious people in the world; chief of which is, of course, that not one dollar entrusted to a Canadian life insurance institution ever has been lost. It is questionable whether a similar claim can be made for the business in any other country in the world. In the light of the public confidence engendered by such a record, the pre-eminence of Canadians as owners of life insurance protection is understandable. —Montreal Financial Times.

Canadian Communists have instituted a major change in their activities. There is no change, of course, in their strategy, which is to weaken Western democracy by every available means so that someday it will lack the strength to block the aggressions of Soviet Russia. But in their tactics, the method of reaching their final objective, the Communists have turned a sharp corner. It used to be that their major attention was toward the trade unions but most union men have now recognized these fake friends of labor for what they are and have kicked them out. So now the party faithful have undergone a quick change. They have doffed costumes and donned ballet slippers and artists' smocks. The stage properties and scenery are shifted accordingly. Out go the lathes and in come the typewriters and pianos. The clean-cut diction of the drawing room asserts itself. The soiree replaces Market Square. Cultural activities have now become the chosen instrument for Soviet policy in Canada. —Winnipeg Free Press.

Curling is more than a sporting contest. It is a way of life, because the lessons learned in a fraternity are basic principles without which the fullest circle of citizenship cannot be attained. Curling contributes much to the game of life. It teaches good sportsmanship; it teaches that victory is not worth the candle if grace and courtesy are lost in the contest; it engenders a spirit of mutual trust and understanding, and it cements friendships and brotherhood which are lasting. These are the lessons which can come out of a bonspiel well played. —Medicine Hat News.

There was a day when women looked like women with their latest coiffures. There was even a distant day when men looked like men and wore the curly wigs of the cavalier era. And of course, back in the early '20's, women cut off their hair and even faintly assembled the male of the species. But today—today the women look like animals! One has only to pick up a recent issue of any of the latest women's magazines, turn to the fashion pages and there they will see the hair-dos for women advertised as either "horse tails" or "poodle cuts." And they are just exactly the way they sound. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for J. A. Carruthers (Optometrist), Frederic A. Large (Barrister), Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister), J. S. Taylor (Optometrist), M. Alban Farmer (Barrister), Dr. W. R. Carson (Chiropractor), MacPhee & Trainor (Barristers), Palmer & Haslam (Barrister), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), Allison M. Gillis (Barrister), H. R. Doane and Company (Chartered Accountants), and William A. Reddin (Barrister).