

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1952

Divorce Court Again Subsides

As a result of the Reference to the Supreme Court confirming the validity of the Act of the P. E. I. Legislature, 1949, 13 George VI, c. 10, which conferred divorce jurisdiction on the Supreme Court of the Province, it is generally expected that the Court of Divorce will cease to deal with these cases.

In 1835 when the Court was established here it had no English law of divorce as a guide. In fact until 1858 a divorce in England could only be obtained by Act of Parliament.

The 1835 Court has an unusual composition, being presided over by the Lieutenant Governor and consisting of five members of his Council. In practice the Chief Justice sits as deputy of the Governor and rules on points of law and evidence.

It was determined in the recent Reference that the Court does not make law as in the case of Parliamentary divorce but applies the law as it exists.

New cases will come before a Supreme Court Judge and his rulings will be subject to revision on appeal.

Of Vital Concern

Gasoline consumption in the United States for the first two months of 1952 is up 10 per cent over the similar period last year. This figure is generally used by the National Safety Council in computing highway travel.

Noting this fact, the Moncton Transcript points out that since the death and injury curve tends to follow the travel curve consistently, indications are that we may be in for new high in motor traffic accidents across the country.

The House Of Lords

Noting a London despatch to the effect that Mr. Churchill intends carrying out his pre-election pledge to reform the House of Lords, the Ottawa Journal recalls that this promise amounted to little more than an undertaking to call an all-party conference on the Upper Chamber's future.

Such a conference, if or when it is called, adds the Journal, could have trouble making headway. To begin with, the Liberals want to reduce the 860 hereditary peers to a handful of representatives, distinguished men from the professions, such as law, medicine, the universities and the churches.

Labor's position is not clear. Some of its leftist members might want to abolish the Upper House altogether, but when in last October's election Mr. Bevan came out for something of the sort, a Conservative paper noted that Mr. Attlee had created scores of Labor peers, and added that these gentlemen would fight being abolished.

The House of Lords, unlike Canada's Senate, does not rest upon a written constitution. The British North America Act made the Canadian Senate a branch of Canada's Parliament, defined its place and pow-

er. The House of Lords, dating from the middle of the 14th century, rests in a legal way today mainly upon the Parliament Acts which limit its powers. Under those acts all Money Bills (so certified by the Speaker of the House of Commons) if not passed by the House of Commons in two successive sessions, and rejected each time or not passed by the House of Lords, may become law without their concurrence on the royal assent being signified.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Maine grocers are asking \$1.35 a peck for potatoes, but the producers have no share in this, having disposed of their crops early in the season.

In exploratory drilling for hard rock suitable for the Hillsboro causeway the drillers should also provide a great deal of valuable information about the sub-soil in this Province.

Northern Ireland has a disposable surplus of potatoes and the high prices ruling here and in U. S. A. have induced her to approach Ottawa with a view to finding a market in Canada.

Halifax is seeing for the first time the "spudnut", a doughnut apparently which contains potato flour in addition to other ingredients. Perhaps a whole new market for potato products may be opened up.

The date of the Coronation, June 2, 1953, may precipitate a general election here late in the Fall, alternately not till 1954. All four national parties are not taking any chances of being caught napping after the six by-elections fixed for the 26th inst.

The record P. E. I. nurses graduation ceremony tonight indicates a promising revival of interest in the "queen of professions" for girls. For a time there was a considerable falling off of students, or apprentices, but through organization this has seemingly been overcome.

The three-way agreement for Canadian meat to go to Britain and New Zealand products to go to the United States may well result in a profit for the southern Dominion but the United Kingdom's part in the transaction is purely a good-will gesture towards the Canadian exporter and breeder.

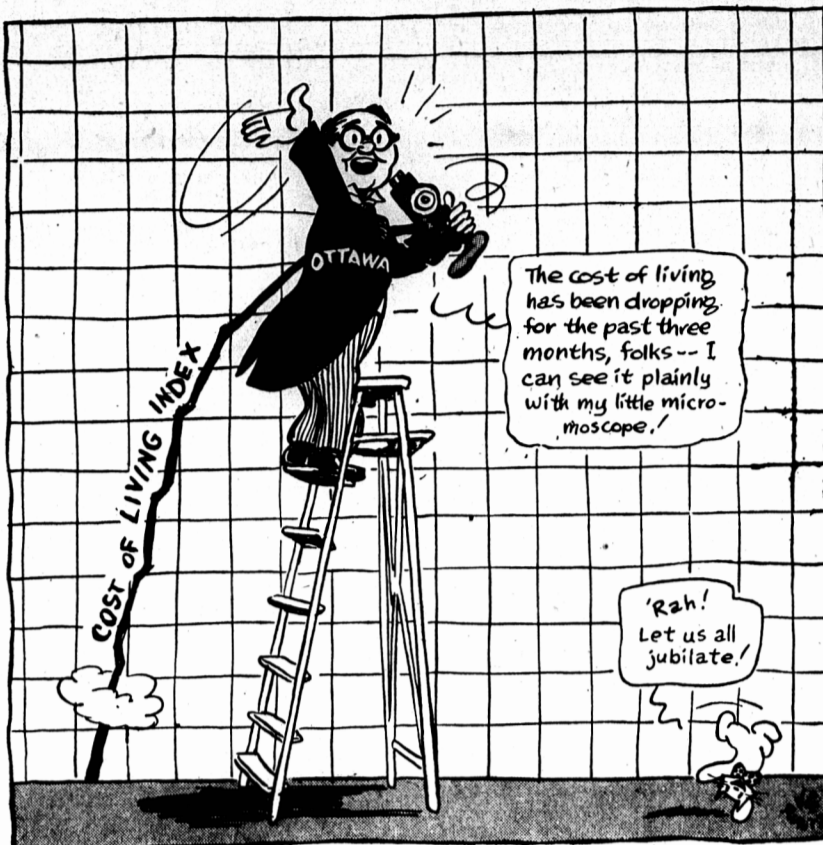
The devastating drought in Northern Australia has added to the beef trouble being experienced in both the Commonwealth and the U. S. A. New Zealand has had to arrange with Washington to accept the surplus she has on hand, which enables Canada to ship her exportable surplus to the Mother Country.

Sir Alfred, Viscount Milner, Imperial administrator, died this date 1925. After service in Egypt and as chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, he was made governor of Cape Colony and high commissioner for South Africa in 1897. His policies contributed to the outbreak of the Boer War and later his importation of Chinese labour into the Transvaal aroused a storm of criticism. He opposed self-government for the colonies and took a leading part in the rejection by the Lords of the 1909 budget.

Another "Maritime tour" seems destined to omit this Province. Mr. Alex Gray, president of the Canadian Exporters' Association and Mr. J. C. McDerby, Montreal manager of the association, are in Newfoundland and propose going from there to Halifax and Saint John. As the Province-of-origin of the largest Provincial shipments to the New England states the Island would seem to deserve at least a flying visit.

As a graduate of Mt. Allison University Mr. J. Angus MacLean, M.P., has been invited to attend today's convocation ceremony, at which Prime Minister St. Laurent is receiving an honorary degree. Other Commons members who are Mt. Allison graduates have also been invited. They are Hon. R. H. Winters, Minister of Resources and Development, who represents Lunenburg in the House, Mr. E. W. George, Westmoreland, and Mr. Donald Smith, Queens-Shelburne. Mr. MacLean, who took the opportunity of paying a brief visit to his constituency yesterday, will return to Ottawa by plane with the Prime Minister and party. The junior member for Queen's is kept very busy this session, as in addition to his duties in the House he is a member of several important committees, including the agricultural committee which is investigating the foot and mouth disease outbreak in the West.

News From The Bureau Of Statistics



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.

SPELLING QUIZ

Sir, I listened with great amusement to the spelling quiz on Schurman's School Parade last Friday evening. I also listened with greater amusement to Mr. Charles Linkletter congratulating North Bedouque on their valiant try. Why valiant? All honor to Mount Pleasant pupils. Here is a one-roomed school, one teacher, teaching upwards of forty pupils, with all grades one to ten. They are twenty miles or more from Summerside which makes it harder for the children.

AN APPEAL TO THE HON. MR. CLAXTON

Sir, It is with grave concern that we learn that wet camps are being opened up for military training camps are located. We surely must have deep sympathy for mothers and fathers who commit their boys to the care of the army. These parents well know that their sons will face many a temptation. They often speak about their boys and rightly they think about him, and is the mother's pillow sometimes wet from thinking of him? All other temptations rolled into one are as serious to a young man as is this one - intoxicating liquor. This statement is no wild exaggeration as I know, and many a one knows to what lengths liquor can lead men. I once witnessed a young man pay the death penalty for a drunken crime. Surely, surely our military authorities will not allow those boys, committed to their care, to be tempted in any way that can be avoided.

Our boys certainly need whatever comforts and amusements can be given them; but there are organizations such as the Salvation Army, ready and willing to supply clean and wholesome amusements and all necessary refreshments. As every military officer knows, an abstaining soldier is a better man than one who is fond of drink. It is a fact, proved to the hilt, that alcohol does not fit a man for strenuous work and does not sharpen his wits for quick, clear thinking. In a time of crisis it does help to cool the nerves of a jittery boy; but not often does a crisis occur. Our boys must be physically fit and morale must be kept up, but the one who comes to depend upon liquor to do this for him will not make a good soldier.

It would be most unfortunate if the public should lose respect for, and confidence in the ability of our military authorities to train the young manhood committed to their care. They will train them physically, all right, but can they and will they build them up in character, which is more important for those boys and for our country. O Canada, our beloved country! O Church of the living God! What have we of value compared with our boys unless it be our girls? Who in this land does not want to see them develop into healthy, intelligent, clean-minded men and women, a strength and an honour to their country? Last October I visited Dalhousie University and, there on the wall, on a huge plaque was inscribed the names of eighty young men who had given their lives that we might be free. What a fearful sacrifice of our best, and that from only one college! Truly war is hell. How much longer must parents be asked to give their sons for this unpeppable business of slaughter? With all our hearts we appeal to the Hon. Mr. Claxton, Minister of Defence, to use his authority to get rid of these wet camps.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

THE STRATHALBYN ROUTE

The Islander of Dec. 1, 1871, reports a largely attended meeting held at Springton to consider the proposed route of the Railway through that part of Queen's County. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. W. MacLeod, J. MacDonald, D. Cameron and others, all agreeing that in justice to the First Electoral District, the line should pass through Strathalbyn, inasmuch as the large extent of country in the centre and south, including Lots 29, 30, 37 and part of Lot 22, had no harbour but Crapaud, which was in the extreme corner of the district; that the long and circuitous curve in the line contemplated across Hunter River could only be intended to favour the north end of the Second Electoral District to the injury of the First, and that from the first it was understood to be a central line in order to accommodate the greatest number.

The determining factor in favor of the Hunter River line appears to have been the report of the Government chief engineer, John Edward Boyd, who objected to the Strathalbyn route "because of the great preponderance of cutting, which, combined with its elevated position will make it difficult to keep clear of snow and expensive to maintain, and because the long gradient of 4 1/2 miles of 66 feet per mile will be expensive to work, in many cases involving the use of a second engine, thus entailing on the Government for all time an expenditure which may be avoided by adopting the more northern route."

Mr. Boyd also maintained in his report that, "it being impossible to balance the cuts and fills on the Strathalbyn line, a great quantity of the earth would have to be run to spoil and this would so block the operations that in all probability it would delay the opening of the line between Charlottetown and Summerside beyond the end of next winter."

The proposed Strathalbyn line, as adopted by the Legislative Council on the preceding Oct. 9, and subsequently changed in favour of Hunter River, was described as follows: "From Norman Campbell's, crossing the Junction Road near the Bend and following the general direction of the Anderson Road to a point about a mile north of the corner of the Melville and Anderson Roads, thence northwardly near the Junction Road and crossing the Dunk River, between Elliott's and Biggers' Mills."

The Hunter River line, adopted by the Council on Nov. 21, 1871, was described as follows: "Commencing at Norman Campbell's and running nearly north, crossing the Clyde River not far from where the Clyde intersects the boundary between Lots 22 and 23, thence following the valley of the Clyde, westerly to E. Crabbe's, and thence running with a general sweep to the northward to Elliott's Mills on the Dunk River."

The Poet's Corner

COUNTRY STARS

So long I walked the man-made canyons of a city's girth I had forgotten how the country air thinned With wafted fragrance, attar that the feeced earth Spins out and threads along the fingers of the wind To ease the weary-hearted. The hills, the furrowed land Again are mine. I see the sun go through the evening bars. And when the night is mute of song and wind, I stand Possessor of a wide skylark of country stars.

—Alma Robison Higbee in Saturday Evening Post.

The Age-Old Story

Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord God; and not that he should return from his ways, and live? When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die. Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

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SOUTHERN TIP

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

The Passing Scene

By Oberyer AMERICAN TOURISTS AND THEIR DOLLARS

Now that the Canadian dollar is holding its own, and a little more, in relation to its American counterpart, Canadians are not quite sure whether they should be glad or sorry. At least, that is the impression one gathers from news dispatches on the subject. In some official quarters fear is being expressed that the new situation will militate against the Canadian tourist traffic. Some have even gone so far as to suggest that Canadians should forget all about the value of their dollar at any rate until this year's tourist season is over. By then, the situation may have changed again.

Perhaps it will and perhaps it won't. My own opinion is that it will be a long time, barring actual world war, before the American dollar will again go beyond parity with our own. In fact, I should expect it to become weaker as time goes on, until it is discounted at about three or four per cent.

Meanwhile I think we should be very foolish to apologize in any way for the present sound position of our currency, or not to take full advantage of it in our dealings with American visitors. There need be no arrogance about it, and it is not a matter of "the shoe being now on the other foot."

It is simply a matter of a financial pendulum which, for the time being at any rate, is pointed in our direction. The Americans would consider us as simpletons, which, indeed, we would be, if we were to give them more than the market price for their dollar, just for the pleasure of having them with us for a couple of weeks during the summer.

If there is one thing the average American dislikes more than all else, it is a sense of inferiority. Most Americans know nothing about it. If anything, they are inclined to an exaggerated sense of superiority, though they are not half as bad in this respect as many Britishers believe. The idea that anybody would pay more than market prices for their money will strike them, in their own colloquial language, as "pretty dumb."

Since most Americans of this generation have been brought up on the dogma of American superiority in everything, spiritual and material, it will doubtless come as a shock to many of them to realize that their dollar, for all its attractive qualities, is subject to the ups and downs of economic vagaries, just like everybody else's, but they will get over it.

There will be a good deal of bluster talk and a lot of argument about discounts and premiums this summer. If, however, we take the situation as it is, what we lose in American dollars will be more than made up by the increased admiration and respect which many visiting Americans will begin to acquire for the Canadian economy. Nobody takes much real interest in poor relations and that is how Americans have been regarding Canadians for some time now.

"Nothing succeeds like success" is a favourite American maxim. Many Americans have failed, but as other people have done, it is significant that their poets have never been able to make much virtue out of failure, as some of our own have been able to do. My personal view is that, as soon as the news about the Canadian dollar has gone around, it is safe to say that not one person in fifty thousand has yet heard or read anything about it, the biggest tourist traffic in our history will get under way.

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