

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, FEB. 24, 1950

The Prime Minister's Rebuke

A new Senator from Ontario, Senator
William Golding, moving the Address in
the Senate, resorted to not a few platitudes
in reference to Government aid in time of
need versus free enterprise, which has called
forth a rebuke from his leader as shown in
the report yesterday of our Ottawa special
correspondent. He claimed there should be
less Government assistance and more self-
reliance. That private investment is not
keeping pace with public spending is evi-
dent from the half-century review of the
Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The Bureau
predicts that 1950 will be Canada's
biggest year in the field of capital in-
vestment, the expected figure being \$3,587,-
000,000 which is a gain of \$162,000,000 over
last year's which was also a record. The
figures are indeed impressive and indicate
the remarkable prosperity of this country.
The breakdown, however, is less optimistic.
Included in the total are expected capital
outlays by governments; utilities; trade, fi-
nancial and commercial services; and finally
institutions, all of which show substantial
increases. On the other hand, capital for
primary industry, construction and manu-
facturing show small decreases, the general
picture being that while public investment
is increasing rapidly, the investment of
private savings in industry shows signs of
falling off. It is not realistic, in the light
of this development, to merely call upon
people to save and to invest their savings
in industry. It is necessary that Govern-
ment policies which make saving difficult,
if not impossible, should be readjusted and,
further, that investors be permitted some
assurance that sudden changes in Govern-
ment policy, or the international scene, will
not result in their savings and investments
becoming a liability instead of an asset.

Paardeberg - 50 Years After

The battle of Paardeberg and the capture
of General Cronje and his 4,000 men took
place on February 27th, 1900. Canada was
not largely represented at that initial
engagement of her expeditionary force and
in fact only 7,369 officers and men from the
young Dominion saw service against the
Boers. Its significance, however, is quite
out of proportion to the small number of
our men involved. That battle was the first
occasion on which Canadian units fought
alongside troops of the Old Country and
from other parts of what was then the
British Empire. Only a few days ago the
death was reported of the youngest soldier
to leave here for South Africa. Mr. Reginald
W. Cox was a member of the first contingent
which sailed in October, 1899. Survivors
who can also look back on the two World
Wars can regard it as the last successful
war. The Boers were brave and honourable
in battle and victors and vanquished proved
ready and happy to live together as one
people to all intents. In putting forth her
efforts Canada acquired a new sense of
nationhood which continues to bear fruit.

Mr. Gillis' Charges

According to Mr. Clarie Gillis, C.C.F.
member for Cape Breton South in the
House of Commons, there was no reason
for curtailment in C.N.R. passenger services
because of work stoppages in United States
coal mines. Mr. Gillis wants to know why
the railway did not obtain its stocks from
coal mines in the Maritimes that were either
shut down or were working only part-time.
Mr. Gillis said he noted the Government
was not consulted by C.N.R. officials before
the reduction in service was ordered. That
did not look like Government management
of a publicly-owned line.
Another representative from a coal mining
area, Mr. W. F. Carroll, Liberal member
for Inverness-Richmond, asked the
Transport Minister, Mr. Chevrier, if he was
aware that in June and July last the C.N.R.
actually cancelled a contract for 65,000 tons
of coal from Nova Scotia. He said the in-
dustry had to get Mr. Chevrier to intervene
in order to have the contract renewed. The
Minister, according to The Canadian Press,
"made no comment" on this statement.
(He had said previously that Mr. Vaughan,
while president of the C.N.R., had disre-
garded a decision by the directors setting
an objective of 2,365,000 tons of coal for
Dec. 31, 1949, and this had resulted in the
situation calling for curtailment of railway
services.)
The situation has reached a point where
it should be thoroughly investigated. Ap-
parently the Commons Railway Committee
is not functioning, but Mr. Gillis suggests
that this committee should be re-established

ed immediately, so that both Mr. Vaughan
and Mr. Gordon, the new C.N.R. president,
could be questioned on the railway's fuel
policy.

The Function Of A Newspaper

Mr. A. P. Wadsworth, the present editor
of "The Manchester Guardian," talking in
a BBC programme about the editorial side
of a modern British daily paper, said: "A
great predecessor of mine summed up well
the peculiar character of the English news-
paper. 'A newspaper,' wrote the Manchester
Guardian's great editor, C. P. Scott, 'has
two sides to it. It is a business like any
other, and has to pay in the material sense
in order to live. But it is much more than
a business; it is an institution; it reflects
and it influences the life of a whole com-
munity; it may affect even wider destinies.
It is, in its way, an instrument of govern-
ment. It plays on the minds and consciences
of men. It may educate, stimulate, assist,
or it may do the opposite. It has, therefore,
a moral as well as a material existence, and
its character and influence are in the main
determined by the balance of these two
forces. It may make profit or power its
first object, or it may conceive itself as ful-
filling a higher and more exacting func-
tion.'"

EDITORIAL NOTES

Feast of St. Matthias.

An early endeavour will be made in the
city to substitute 5 P.M. for 7 P.M. as the
hour for Sunday evening service.

Spokesmen for the crime comic book in-
dustry propose that the ban on their sale
should only apply to children. On the other
hand purchasers of the books might find dif-
ficulty convincing a court of their maturity.

The all-provincial bus service seems to
be within early realization. If the C.N.R.
does not reach terms with the Government,
a prospect is that the C. P. R. may open
negotiations to include an express service
all over Canada and U. S. A.

New Brunswick is to foster arts and
crafts by a programme and centre in the
New Fundy National Park. The supervising
committee is composed of three university
presidents which should assure the sound-
ness of the scheme from an educational
point of view.

The decision of the Provincial Executive
Council of the Canadian Legion to invite
Dominion Command to hold its 1952 con-
vention here deserves all the support citi-
zens can give it. Entertaining over a thou-
sand delegates is a task worthy of the best
efforts of us all.

The Public Utilities Commission public
hearing on the amount of returns to be al-
lowed the Maritime Electric Company on
its investment was well timed to attract pub-
lic attention to electrical problems generally.
Rural electrification should come in for con-
siderable discussion in the Legislature.

It is unlikely that British Columbians
feel aggrieved because their gift apples are
sold at market price by the British Govern-
ment rather than being distributed gratis.
The object of the gift was to overcome
currency difficulties which has been done
and it is better for the individual to pay for
the fruit rather than receive hand-outs.

The London Free Press comments on
the decision to "raise" the status of envoys
exchanged between Canada and the republics
of Ireland and India from high commis-
sioner to ambassador. The change in status
is being made, but is not a higher rank for
the officials concerned. High commissioners
have already been placed alongside am-
bassadors in the table of precedences.

George Moore, British novelist and dra-
matist, born this date 1851. His writings
influenced by those of Zola, Flaubert, Mau-
passant and others of the French school are
strongly realistic. He also was an art critic
and attacked the Academy and other art
institutions for their lack of the encourage-
ment of originality and their adherence to
the well-known types of Victorian produc-
tions.

When it comes to putting something
successfully over nothing surpasses a band
of determined women, as is exemplified by
the High School proposition. If further
proof be necessary, all one has to do is to
look at the running of the churches. Where
would any of them be but for the vision,
initiative, and determination of inspired
women desirous of accomplishing something
for the benefit of others. The Mayor says,
and rightly so, it is a matter of finances.
Granted, but just let him appoint a com-
mittee of lady financiers, and they will soon
find ways and means of surmounting that
difficulty.

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 BUS SITUATION

Sir,—Premier Jones in the brief
handed him by the Canadian National
Railways, has secured an
admission as to the inadequate local
Railway service, being provided in
this Province.

It has in the past been pointed
out to the Railway Management
on many occasions, that the exist-
ing method of moving L. C. L.
freight, passengers, and mails by
rail in Prince Edward Island, is
as out of date as the ox-cart, but
not until they see a chance of
pushing competitors out of the
way, have they ever admitted that
the service provided by them was
not all that Prince Edward Island
is entitled to, and it is amazing
how quickly their attitude can
be changed to the opposite view
point, when it suits their pur-
pose.

It should not be necessary to
point out to Premier Jones and
his Government, and to all con-
cerned, which means every in-
dividual in Prince Edward Island
that there is but one object in
the proposal submitted, namely, to
get control of the paved roads and
the best paying routes in the Pro-
vince.

This would enable the Railway
to put out of business any com-
petitors who might be foolish en-
ough to attempt to continue in
business, and try to serve the out-
lying sections with only dirt roads
and the limited traffic left avail-
able to them.

The remedy is in the Railway's
hands. They have their own right
of way, and with light diesel
equipment, can provide the ser-
vice they have offered, using their
own rails. Why not insist that
they do so?

Our roads are narrow, and wind-
ing. The added traffic that the
Railway suggests, must result in
congestion, and an unsatisfactory
road condition, and should very
definitely be avoided, especially so
when an equivalent service can
be provided without using the
highways.

The Canadian National Railway,
for the month of January, 1950,
shows an operating deficit of \$2,-
564,000.00, an increase of \$1,076,-
000.00 over January, 1949.

The mounting deficit calls for a
remedy, but why not try out their
plan in Ontario, where local rail
rates are cut to meet truck com-
petition, while we in Prince Ed-
ward Island must pay on our
long haul traffic, to make up the
loss thus incurred.

I am, Sir, etc.
R. E. MUTCH.

APPRECIATION

Sir,—You are to be highly
commended for the inclusion in
your paper of "Lenten Guide-
posts," "Thoughts For Our Time,"
"W. C. T. U. Notes," many notices
and reports pertaining to church
and charitable organizations, and
much other good material that
promotes the spiritual and moral
life of our people.

I can say in all sincerity that I
have not known a newspaper to
give yours in this respect. In
almost every other regard, too,
we find "The Guardian" to be
very satisfactory.

I am, Sir, etc.
(Rev.) JOHN DOUGLAS.
York, P. E. I.

OLD COINS

Sir,—I read Mr. Peter's letter
in the Public Forum in Tuesday's
issue requesting information on a
coin or souvenir piece which he
has in his possession. I, too, am
in possession of one such coin dated
1857 and the words "Prince
Edward Island" on one side, and
"Self Government and Free Trade"
on the other.

I also have a souvenir piece
which I do not think ever bore a
date. On one side there is a pic-
ture of a plough and the words
"Speed The Plough" and on the
other side a picture of something
that I cannot be sure of, but
which looks like a plough share
and the words "Success To The
Isolates." This coin looks as old
as the one dated 1857, and I would
like any information your read-
ers can give me. Can any one tell
me when the latter piece came
into circulation, by whom and for
what reason? Any information
will be appreciated.

I am, Sir, etc.
DELBERT MUIRHEAD
Canoes Cove, P.E.I.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MARITIME UNION

"We observe the report of this
Island and Nova Scotia being
about to be united under one
government, alluded to in the
London papers. It is satisfactory,
however, to find that there is no
foundation whatever for it.

"We see it for the first time
stated in these papers, that in-
stead of this Island being annexed
to Nova Scotia, as we always
understood it, the reverse was to
be the case, and the Government
of Nova Scotia was to be annexed
to this. This would not be quite
so bad, but we would rather, upon
the whole, that things remained
just as they are.

—Royal Gazette, Jan. 26, 1833.

AN EDISON IDEA

The modern phonograph was
invented by Thomas Edison in
1877.

Now's The Season For A Chair Strategy



Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England:—A few
days before General Election polling
day I took a stroll down West-
minster way, and along the Thames
embankment. Not that I expected
to see anything of remarkable in-
terest—although there was always
the chance that somebody
might be jumping off one of the
bridges—but with parliamentary
matters so much in our minds it
seemed an appropriate place to be
for a last look around before the
big vote.

It was late evening, and the
Houses of Parliament were to be
seen as a dark, huge mass beside
the river, with Big Ben's tower
pointing like a finger to the sky.
The clock faces were lit up as usual,
and Big Ben itself boomed out the
time every quarter-hour, the som-
bre notes carrying far across and
up and down the Thames water.
The top of the tower, above the
clock faces, was in total darkness;
the lamp which burns up there
when parliament is sitting is hav-
ing a rest.

Ever since radio has carried the
sound of Big Ben to the farthest
corners of the earth, the resonant
tones have been somehow sym-
bolic of the solidarity of England,
carrying a message to Englishmen
the world over and saying that
London, and England, is still there.
He has no politics; he tells the
time and sends out his booming
voice in the same steady way
no matter what creed of Govern-
ment legislates beneath his tower.
And in that respect, he seemed ty-
pical again of London, and Eng-
land, in the days before the elec-
tion. He was carrying on with his
job, and so was everybody else.

Standing there on Westminster
Bride, there was hardly a hint
that a decision was about to be
made which might affect the
whole course of the country's his-
tory. Out in the residential parts
of the city, householders have cards
in their windows showing where
their political sympathies lie; but
here in Westminster, beside par-
liament itself, where the decisions
of the people have to be put into
effect, not a hint save one. That
one, a huge electric sign flashing
in and out, saying, "VOTE LIBER-
AL." It was mounted on the top
of the National Club. The Social-
ist Government had raised the res-
trictions on the use of electri-
city for outdoor advertising
during their term of office—I
wonder if they thought that ad-
vantage would be taken of it.

But apart from this, London was
going about its business and its
pleasures apparently without a
thought of elections. Young men
and girls strolled arm in arm
along the embankment as they
always do; little groups of people
sauntered along with curiously
interested expressions—these
were parties from the provinces,
in London for the day, many of
them up to support their local
soccer teams playing some Lon-
don side; the streetcars and buses
rumbled along with their loads
of passengers going home or going
to work, or to an evening's enter-
tainment.

In a few days hence, they were
to vote. There might then be a
government, with ideas alto-
gether different from those of the
past five years. But even if there
is, home would still be the same
next week, and work would still
have to be done, and entertain-
ment would be sought in the same
places. Soccer will still be play-
ed, and Big Ben will still be tel-
ling the time.

M. on polling day, one had
asked some dreamy-eyed young
lady whom she had voted for, and
she had said "Laurence Olivier,"
she would probably be giving
quite a sensible answer. For, it
so happens, we actually have two
elections on hand. The second
one, about which comparatively
little seems to have been heard,
is in connection with an annual
National Film Award, when
movie fans vote for their choice
as the best actor, best actress and
best picture of the year. A list of
eligible British films is published
by the sponsors on the ballot
form. Let us hope that nobody
gets the forms mixed, or we
might find Winston Churchill el-
ected as the best actor in a pic-
ture called "Don't Ever Leave
Me," or Clement Attlee topping
the poll as "Bonnie Prince
Charlie." Or even the two of
them sharing top place as "The
Passionate Friends."

The Poet's Corner

THE OLD FAMILIAR FACES

I have had playmates, I have had
companions.
In my days of childhood, in my joy-
ful school-days
All, all are gone, the old familiar
faces.

I have been laughing, I have been
carousing,
Drinking late, sitting late, with my
bosom cronies,
All, all are gone, the old familiar
faces.

I loved a love once, fairest among
women,
Closed are her doors on me, I must
not see her—
All, all are gone, the old familiar
faces.

I have a friend, a kinder friend has
no man;
Like an ingrate, I left my friend
abruptly;
Left him, to muse on the old fam-
iliar faces.

Ghost-like I paced round the
haunts of my childhood,
Earth seemed a desert I was bound
to traverse,
Seeking to find the old familiar
faces.

Friend of my bosom, thou more
than a brother,
Why wert not thou born in my
father's dwelling?
So might we talk of the old fam-
iliar faces—

How some they have died, and
some they have left me,
And some are taken from me; all
are departed;
All, all are gone, the old familiar
faces.

—Charles Lamb (1775-1834).

The Age-Old Story

As an eagle stirreth up her nest,
fluttereth over her young, spread-
eth abroad her wings; taketh them
on her wings, so the Lord alone
did lead him, and there was no
strange god with him.

NORTHERN OIL LEASE

GRANDE PRAIRIE, Alta. —(CP)
—A block of 316,100 acres of oil
leases has been taken up by a Van-
couver man, Garson Mitchell, in
the Monkman Pass near this north-
ern Alberta town. The area
extends between the Alberta bor-
der and Murray River, B. C.

HAM WENT FAR

REGINA —(CP) — A Briton
passing through Regina recently
had a ham sent to friends in Scot-
land. A letter arrived back in Can-
ada saying the ham was enjoyed by
62 persons, with enough left over
for the neighbours for tea. "Every-
one was stuffed fou' o' ham," the
letter read.

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Notes By The Way

Every one seems to lose money
producing and selling food. But
it's pretty hard for the consumer
to feel he's the profiteer when
he buys lamb chops or bacon. —
Hamilton Spectator.

"The coldest January in the
province of Manitoba for 75
years." This announcement by
the bureau just about tells the
story of the last five weeks and
residents of the province are not
inclined to argue with the bureau's
findings. About the only con-
solation is the fun we could
have a few years hence during
any prolonged cold spell. It
might sound something like this:
"Huh, call this cold? You should
have been here in the Winter of
1950! Why I remember . . ." —
Pilot Mound Sentinel.

The New South Wales Housing
Commission allots houses to
approved applicants by ballot. When
an applicant is unsuccessful he is
informed: "Your application
has been carefully considered by
the Metropolitan Tenancy Ap-
plications Advisory Committee,
which is of the opinion that your
present housing circumstances are
such as do not warrant your in-
clusion in the ballots." But when
an applicant is successful, the letter
reads: "I am authorized by the
Minister for Housing, the Hon.
Clive R. Evatt, to inform you,"
etc.—Australian News Letter.

While some persons brood over
a possible return of the Dark
Ages or the Ice Age, artist and
humorist James Thurber antici-
pates an era of Amazon rule. The
men in his cartoons invariably are
found cowering before formidable
females. He expects this trend to
continue. In his latest pronounce-
ment, Mr. Thurber predicts that
in the next fifty years "women,
of course, will be stronger and
more numerous, and there will
not be many men around." If
this is correct, we have an idea
where the missing men will be.
They'll be at home, bending over
a hot stove all day. — Windsor
Star.

The provincial government has
anticipated a number of requests
from farmers for the creation of
commodity marketing boards by
appointing an advisory and survey
board. The step, we think, is a
good one for, in the present pros-
pect for agricultural sales we
shall have to consider the wisdom

of organized marketing for a
number of crops. The present
board, we judge from the an-
nouncement, will not undertake
to sell any crop itself. It will
set up an advisory service for
groups of farmers who wish to
organize marketing boards. —
Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

This city's housing survey shows
that still less than a quarter of
Vancouver's home-needing popu-
lation can afford the monthly pay-
ments necessary to buy even a
\$6,000 house, an extremely mod-
est affair at present prices. It
does not seem likely we can do
much more to ease the financing
of home ownership. The only re-
maining way of bringing decent
homes within reach of thousands
of pocketbooks is to use all our
technical know-how to cut the
cost of small homes to the bone
—Vancouver Province.

A small, but, we think, rather
important service which our bus
and street car drivers might pro-
vide us with is calling out their
stops. During the last eight weeks
of cold weather the windows of
street cars and buses have be-
come thickly encrusted with frost.
There must be any number of per-
sons who have gone past their
stops because of their inability to
see outside; and in below zero
weather, this is no slight incon-
venience. With warmer weather,
visibility is, of course, improved;
but this does not eliminate the
need for calling stops. — Saska-
toon Star-Phoenix.

Smokers in the United States
used well over 392,000,000 ciga-
rettes last year to set an all-
time record for cigarette smoking.
The figure was close to 2 per
cent over the peak production in
1949, indicating that the upward
swing in cigarette use brought on
during the war years is not to be
halted in days of peace. How-
ever, cigar smokers used slightly
less of their last year than in 1949,
but cigar manufacturers believe
that they can recapture their full
production peak by concentrating
on lower-priced smokes during the
present year. The tremendous
and steady increase in smoking
in the past decade emphasizes
just how large an industry the
tobacco one is and what an im-
portant part it plays in the econ-
omy of the country. It ranks with
the leaders. — Boston Post.

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