

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1855)
Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office
Department, Ottawa
The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
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Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1950

Questions Of Privilege

In the Legislature yesterday, on a question of privilege, Hon. Dr. MacMillan rose to express his resentment at an editorial note appearing in The Guardian, to the effect that the sudden collapse of the debate on the Draft Address came as a surprise, and that evidently the Opposition had not its members lined up and in attendance, thus providing the Government with an opportunity which they were not slow to take advantage of to shorten the debate.

Dr. MacMillan maintained that this statement was "uncalled for and not correct", as it was not intended that more than two or three Opposition members should take part in the debate. He regarded the criticism as a personal affront and also resented the imputation that the Government was trying to take any undue advantage.

Unless the Opposition leader claims an immunity to criticism, it is difficult to see where his point of privilege comes in. The debate undoubtedly collapsed, at a point where the Hon. Mr. Large, former Attorney General, had raised the issue of alleged bribery charges in connection with fishermen's loans which the Opposition had sought to have discussed by moving an adjournment of the House. The Government countered this move by undertaking to appoint a Commission of inquiry. This closed the subject and we doubt whether Mr. Large had any right to bring it up in the Draft Address debate. He did so, however, and as no objection was raised by the Speaker it left the door wide open for the Opposition to deal with the matter.

Only three of the six Opposition members had spoken; yet they allowed Mr. Large's statements to go unchallenged except by way of interruptions, and by their silence were consenting parties to his claim that no reflection had been cast on the honour and integrity of the House in the evidence before the Court, their own allegations to the contrary notwithstanding.

If this was predetermined strategy on the part of the Opposition and not a case of being taken by surprise, then we can only say that it still bears all the earmarks of ineptitude.

Another improper question of privilege was raised yesterday by the Hon. Eugene Cullen in regard to a statement made by Mr. McLure in the House of Commons, which had already been answered in the proper place by the Federal Minister of Transport. It is a rule in questions of privilege that they are to be discussed and adjudged in the House to which they relate. Mr. Cullen was clearly out of order, yet he was allowed to proceed without protest from the Opposition in a matter concerning the veracity of their own party member at Ottawa. This too may have been in pursuance of a policy too profound to be divulged, but the rank and file of Mr. McLure's adherents can be excused for interpreting the incident in a different light.

Elective Jobs

"Someone has suggested (says the Printed Word) that members of parliament should have a rise in pay. (They now get \$6,000 a session, of which \$2,000 is free of income tax). On the other hand, a go-getting Englishman who was in Canada not long ago argued that a decline in parliamentary quality could be traced to the day when members of the British house began to collect a sessional indemnity, which, like 'stipend,' is a politer term for wage.

"The Englishman's argument was that a member of parliament became less independent when he began to rely on his pay. He pointed out that a score of ministers with their pay, plus the same number of parliamentary assistants (a more recent innovation in Canada) provided a sizable corps of members quite well paid, you know.

"Of course if there were no pay for parliamentarians, only those of independent means could afford to offer themselves, except perhaps for political gigolos. There are relatively few Canadian parliamentarians who can afford to live, during the session, at the Chateau Laurier or other palaces of luxury. If the wives are along, a dinky apartment is the usual thing and many a private member is a regular patron at the sign of the Greasy Spoon, or the White Spot rather than the Night Spot.

"Nevertheless there is no doubt that many a back bench has mixed motives in contemplating a kicking over of political traces. Is he always docile because he thinks the front benches are always right? Or is he quiet because he isn't ready to take a chance on being fired by the voters if his

recalcitrance brings on an election a bit ahead of schedule?

"Switching of political allegiance by M. P.'s has been infrequent enough for the few cases to be recalled offhand. Maybe it's because being elected to office is being elected to a job. Or maybe not."

External Affairs 1949

The Department of External Affairs has issued its report for the year 1949. It consists of 126 pages containing the reports of the twelve divisions of the Department: Commonwealth, Europe, America and Far East, United Nations, Economic, Legal, Defence Liaison, Information, Consular, Personnel, Protocol and Administration. Perhaps the most generally interesting information contained in it concern passports, visas and certificates of identity.

During the last year the Department issued 67,258 passports and renewed 13,316. The revenue from fees was \$328,815. The Department continues to issue three regular types of passports—regular, official and diplomatic. Newfoundland files have been transferred to Ottawa with her entry into confederation. Arrangements were effected to replace valid Newfoundland passports with valid Canadian passports.

In pursuit of its efforts to make easier the travel of Canadians abroad, the Department has negotiated visa agreements with Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Luxemburg and the Netherlands. As a result of these agreements, Canadian citizens may visit the countries named for pleasure or for business without the necessity of obtaining visas.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Lucknow fell this date 1858, after an heroic defence in the Indian mutiny. It was subsequently relieved by a force under Sir Colin Campbell.

To historians, the most important work of the present session of the Legislature will be its consideration of means of amending Canada's constitution. It would appear, however, that few of our Members are historically minded.

There is something familiar about the report from London that since the election it has been revealed that 20 departments have overspent their estimates. Elections seem to be much alike wherever they are held.

At a dinner to the Canadian curling tourists in Ayr, Sir Thomas Houldsworth said that each year 150 tons of granite from the island went towards the manufacture of curling stones, of which 95 per cent was exported to Canada.

The current from the Strait of Belle Isle has long been blamed for bringing down the ice floes which block Northumberland Strait during the Spring break-up. Captain Brown and Captain Godfrey seem to have put the blame where it properly belongs, on ice drifting down from the St. Lawrence.

With its March issue the world-famous Strati Magazine goes out of existence. Mounting publishing costs write finis to that publication which introduced to the world Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, Kipling's Puck of Pook's Hill, H. G. Wells' The First Man in the Moon and P. G. Wodehouse's inimitable Jeeves.

March is a disagreeable month at best and its last three days are popularly supposed to have been borrowed from April. According to the old rhyme: March borrowed from April Three days and they were ill. The one was sleet and the other was snow And the third was the worst that e'er did blow.

That insurance benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Commission are in the nature of a trust fund for those following reasonable employment, is the rather startling view of Mr. R. P. Hartley, K. C., Regional Superintendent, Atlantic Region, U. I. C. If that is the case the rates of premium must be adjusted to the certainty of seasonal lay-off rather than the possibility of unemployment.

There is to be no longer butter over the counter at less than the standard price, whatever that may be. The Federal Government should set the example in demanding what it paid for its surplus, or there will be nothing to prevent householders and businesses importing their supplies in bulk from elsewhere, even if it be a lower grade. No really satisfactory solution is possible to the problems of the butter industry as long as margarine is generally saleable in this country. The Government is making the best of a bad situation in guaranteeing buyers against loss on purchases made between now and the time when the support price is to be lowered.

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.

FARMERS

Sir,—It did not take the warehouse operators and shippers of this Province long to get together and form a turnip and potato association for marketing our potatoes and turnips after the results of the vote taken on Feb. 2nd became known by the grapevine route.

They should be highly recommended for the keenness they have shown in their own interests. We all realize that their income is on the amount of bags of potatoes they handle without regard for the price they pay the producer.

This is a direct challenge to the producers of this Province and it is up to the farmers to do something about it. There seems to be a unanimous opinion among our agricultural authorities and representatives of Parliament that our potato acreage should be decreased. There can be no law in this free land of ours to tell a farmer what he may or may not do with his own acres, but he can and he should be penalized if he uses his acres to the detriment of his neighbors.

Mr. T. J. Kichham M. P. has put forth what I consider the solution—a levy on acreage when over 20 acres per farmer. The money could be turned over to the Potato Promotion Board for the benefit of the whole industry. If this subject was taken up at next Monday's Public Forum Meetings, each Club could send their decision to the Island Forum's Secretary to pass on to the Federation.

We may be sure that the Federation will do what is right for the bona fide farmers of this Province. I am, Sir, etc.

A Producer.

WHAT FARMERS STAND FOR

Sir,—Please grant me the privilege of making a brief comment on the following paragraph from a colorful and characteristic letter by "Maritime" of Vancouver, B. C. in your correspondence columns of the Feb. 13, issue: "Approximately 40 per cent of the Canadian people are either directly engaged in agriculture or depending on it. Yet, less than 3 per cent of the Canadian Senators are representative of agriculture. Agriculture is Canada's basic industry—was her first industry—and without it Canada would perish."

There can be no questioning the basic position of our rural population (27 1/2 per cent of the total) not only in our national economy but, no less, in terms of the social structure of this great Dominion? As one of the farm leaders told an American audience recently: "Our Dominion's (agricultural) program is not as complete as yours, nor does it cover nearly as wide a field, but we are continually adding to it. We are making substantial progress in convincing our governments, or business and financial interests and the consuming public, that there can be no prosperity for our country unless there is a high level of employment, and unless the price received for farm products bears a fair and reasonable relationship to the goods and services farmers buy." (W. J. Parker, at National Farm Institute, Des Moines, Iowa).

That mere "3 per cent" of agricultural representatives in "the august body" that is the Canadian Senate, is beyond my understanding, and the horizon of this little letter; but it is possible that the Sage of Concord is on the fact beam thus: "The farmer stands well on the world. Plain in manner as in dress, he would not shine in palaces; yet the drawing-room heroes put down beside him would shun his presence. He stands well on the world." (Farming—1859).

I am, Sir, etc. "PRAIRIE-BORN"

INQUIRY FROM IOWA

Sir,—I suppose this will be an unusual letter, but perhaps editors are used to surprising letters and requests.

When I was a young girl I read a book, "Ann of Green Gables" by L. M. Montgomery. I thought then and still do, that it was a very wonderful book, and that Prince Edward Island must be a beautiful land.

Now, my young daughter's fourth grade teacher is reading the book to her in class. She is as thrilled with it as I was almost thirty years ago.

Because we both are so interested we are trying to learn all we can about Prince Edward Island. We were simply thrilled to learn in our reading that their actuality is (or was) a Green Gable.

I sent a letter to Lucy Maud Montgomery, addressing it to Green Gables, Cavendish, P. E. I., hoping she was still alive. Just eight days after it was mailed it was returned to us, marked "Deceased three years ago."

We felt as tho we had lost a personal friend.

We cannot find a town named Cavendish. Is it a town or is that name comparable to our county or township names?

Elizabeth Ann (my nine year old daughter) and I will be so grateful for any information you can give us about this dear author or about Prince Edward Island.

Will you please send us a copy of your daily paper? Ann would like to take it to school to share with her teacher and her room-mates. Is there really an Avonlea? The post-mark on our returned letter was blurred, but it looked like it was Hunters River. Do you know if it could have been?

If it is possible for you to send us a copy of your weekly editions we would be most thankful. We wrote our National Geographical Society at Washington D. C. inquiring if they had ever run an

The Pursuit Of Knowledge



REPORTS INDICATE THAT NOT NEARLY THE ANTICIPATED NUMBER ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

MICMACS AND THE PRINCE

"A body of the resident native Micmac Indians (men and women) were honoured with an interview with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the lawn in front of the Government House on the forenoon of Saturday last. They were accompanied by Mr. Theophilus Stewart, one of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs, who, in a brief address to His Royal Highness, advertised to the present depressed and unhappy conditions of the resident Indians, arising out of their being overlooked at the time of the colonization of the Island by the British Government in 1769, when the entire Island was granted away to non-residents and other grantees, without a single acre being reserved for the aborigines or their descendants.

"Mr. Stewart explained that these people, after having been driven from every other foothold in the Colony, finally took refuge in one of the scattered islands in Richmond Bay, which they have now held over a period of half a century, against every effort of the white man to dislodge them,—that, though in possession of the mainland of the island itself, they are deprived of the privilege of appropriating to their own use, and that of their families, the valuable natural grass, or marsh hay by which it is partially surrounded, about six tons being annually raised and cut thereon,—that with the aid of this hay, and occasional assistance from the local Government, similar to what is imparted to their Micmac brethren in all the adjacent Provinces by their several Governments, the Indians of this Island would speedily emerge from their olden usages and habits as a body, and gladly draw upon the produce of the soil as an auxiliary to their other scanty means of existence, —and that many of them were now prepared to adventure in the cultivation of the land, if provided with the necessary help for the purpose; and therefore they implored His Royal Highness to make their unhappy condition known to her most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

"His Royal Highness was pleased to accept, very kindly and graciously, from one of the widows (several of whom were in the group) Mrs. Augustine Nicols, one of the Morell section of the tribe, a miniature canoe, and two or three small baskets, her own and daughter's manufacture.

"After his Royal Highness had retired, the Commissioner was favoured with an interesting interview with some of the members of the Prince's suite, before whom he touched upon the points alluded to, which he considered as having an important bearing upon the past and present history of these people, to which marked attention and interest was shown by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle and Lord St. Germans; and in proof of the sympathy and interest of the Royal party towards these children of the forest, the Royal artist, Dr. Ackland, made the most of the waiting time before the departure of the Prince from Government House, in hastily sketching the likenesses of two or three of our native sisters, which, at some future period, may be made more public."

The Poet's Corner

ALL SAINTS

In no great calendar of saintly fames Are registered their names— They are forgotten in the script of man And yet they also ran The race, in some swift moment of ascent To life's supreme intent. They grasped the miracle of sacrifice, Paying its instant price. Their passing was red-lettered with their blood, Stricken in field or flood; Or haply in some private path unknown They gave and won their own.

To these—to all who in unnoted ways Have single hours or days Have reached the stature that is man's divine— We raise a nameless shrine. And leave there in untamishable gold The record manifold Of those who won a brief or life-long fight, Passing into the night With no unmanly fears or selfish plaints— The comrades of All Saints.

—Arthur L. Salmon.

The Age-Old Story

He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

bers of the Prince's suite, before whom he touched upon the points alluded to, which he considered as having an important bearing upon the past and present history of these people, to which marked attention and interest was shown by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle and Lord St. Germans; and in proof of the sympathy and interest of the Royal party towards these children of the forest, the Royal artist, Dr. Ackland, made the most of the waiting time before the departure of the Prince from Government House, in hastily sketching the likenesses of two or three of our native sisters, which, at some future period, may be made more public."

For Foot Ailment

Consult H. J. A. BROWN D. P. Orthopedic Chiroprapist 148 Great George Street CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

REPAIRS G. H. TAYLOR JEWELLERS

Notes By The Way

Man, when divorced from axe, saw, or a bill at the lumberyard, is essentially a tree lover. It is perhaps instinctive in men, both savage and civilized, to give personality to trees, even as did Greek poets — or the American Indians. Sadly enough, trees, like men, are subject to diseases that cripple their growth, destroy their usefulness and bring on death. As a race of men can be wiped out, so were America's chestnut trees by a destructive and uncontrollable blight. Elms which began their grace and beauty in New England and moved their green friendliness westward, have been struggling against the Dutch elm disease since it was discovered in Ohio in 1930 and came East. The spruces of the West Coast and Canada have had their epidemic plagues of beetle and worm. And the Eastern white pine has had its bouts with blister rust. — New York Herald Tribune.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that something must be done about women's hats. This is not to ask for a crusade against "silly" hats. It is a woman's privilege to wear whatever kind of a hat she chooses. And it is only fair to admit that many a pretty woman can look fetching in a hat which is basically a pretty silly creation. What a woman chooses to wear is her own affair, but when what she wears becomes a source of discomfort and inconvenience to others, that is something else again. The difficulty arises from the practice of women wearing hats at theatres and concerts. Today it is all but impossible to enjoy an unobstructed view of a motion picture screen or stage. Women's hats get in the way. And as though this were not bad enough in itself, women have taken to wearing hats with vertical feathers and other ornaments, which tower above the crown of the hat. — Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Sooner or later, the voters of Alberta will turn aside from Social Credit, and the question is: Whither will they turn? A present, there is no alternative government in sight. Both the Liberals and the CCF have been unable to win any significant measure of support. But we believe that the Progressive Conservative party, if it goes to work now and builds an efficient provincial machine, can fill the need. — Calgary Herald.

We've been reading some of the "Doleful Dick" news stories which have been coming out of meetings of farm organizations of late in which we are being warned that disaster is right on our heels, and that the goblins'll get you if you don't watch out. We think the tendency of farm leaders is to overdo the picture. We don't hear much of that kind of talk from the run-of-mill farmers and ranchers. — Lethbridge Herald.

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