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Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett.
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1950

Opportunity Unlimited

What was perhaps the most stimulating speech in generations to be delivered on the floor of the Legislature was that of Premier Jones on the Draft Address. It marks the end of an era, an era of stagnation and dwindling population.

Education 1949

The annual report of the Department of Education indicates that the number of pupils enrolled for 1948-49 was 17,965, a decrease of 86 from the previous year. Schools decreased from 462 to 458 while the number of teachers increased from 691 to 698.

Labor Government Pinches on Sugar

Writing to The Times, London, Mr. R. L. Kirkwood, Kingston, Jamaica, has this to say about controlled currency: "It appears that the case of the colonial sugar producers is still entirely misunderstood. We are now and have for a long time been selling our sugar to the United Kingdom on a basis extremely advantageous to the British consumer."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow 2nd Sunday in Lent.

Health planning last year cost \$82,536.44.

The Franco-British 50-Year Peace Pact signed this date 1947.

The interest collected by the Government in 1948-49 totalled \$231.36.

The "Operation Currier" will be the news of the day from Prince Edward Island to Vancouver from now till the 17th.

Falconwood Hospital and Infirmary cost \$280,796 to run last year, against an estimate of \$330,100.

Teachers' salaries and supplements amounted to \$504,506.31 last year against an estimate of \$555,200, a "saving" of some \$50,000.

The British Columbia Legislature has acquired the first woman Speaker in the Commonwealth but has lost the cuspidors from its lobby. We may assume that parliamentary language has also changed for the better.

William Willett, "Father of Daylight Saving Time" in England and elsewhere, died this date 1947. It took him more than 20 years to put the idea over, but once it was an accomplished fact in England, it spread like wild fire to most parts of the world.

The long delay in the crossing of the "Abegweit" yesterday was particularly felt, due to the interference in the schedule of two important entertainment features in Charlottetown.

Premier Jones' proposal to make thirty electoral districts and the election of Councillors by property franchise is of interest chiefly to politicians who have long laboured under the difficulty of getting voters to the polls, sometimes many miles from home.

The P. E. I. Workmen's Compensation Board had revenues of \$59,036 and paid or is paying claims totalling \$16,019. The case for increasing assessments will require to be supported by remarkably good arguments.

A curious sidelight in the Education report is that boys outnumber girls in enrollments in each grade from one to six. In grades seven to eleven the opposite is the case. It looks as if more girls than boys are on the way to higher education.

Egg prices on February 24 this year and previous years. The prices quoted below are for Grade A Large. At Montreal and Toronto the prices are those at which graded shipments are selling to wholesalers.

Table with 4 columns: City, 1950, 1949, 1948. Rows include Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Charlottetown.

A minor tempest occurred at the opening of the Manitoba Legislature when the C. C. F. found that new seating arrangements of the House had placed in their midst the lone L.P.P. member, William Kardash.

Five years ago, on March 1, 1945, two companies of the Essex Scottish Regiment launched the initial attack of what turned out to be one of the bitterest battles of the war. Shortly after eight o'clock that morning, they moved in on German troops strongly entrenched in the Hochwald Forest.



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.

LIVESTOCK MARKETING BOARD

Sir,—There is little doubt in the minds of many hundreds of former members of the P. E. I. Co-Op. Livestock Marketing Board that had Mr. J. A. Gillies, former secretary-manager shown the same sentimental concern for their feelings as those he has expressed for the government's feelings in his letter published in "Public Forum" recently, asking this correspondent to hasten with a retraction for what he claims to be an "incorrect and offensive statement", it might not have been necessary that the affairs of their organization be brought before the law-courts of this Province.

Our existing laws, no doubt, will be changed, now that Mr. Gillies believes it no longer a requirement, that a person be proved guilty. In other words a contradiction without facts is sufficient.

In appreciation to these many hundreds of members including myself, who helped in no small way to establish our former secretary-manager as a prominent agricultural leader, the writer feels that Mr. Gillies should tell the complete story regarding the affairs of the Livestock Marketing Board, dating from the last published annual meeting, at which the minutes were recorded until the out-of-court settlement, also to give the names of those parties controlling whatever assets were specified, when this settlement was agreed to, as it hardly seems reasonable that an agreement could be reached unless there were two parties to make one.

Mr. Gillies made this statement in his letter, "Its assets were not confiscated and held by the government nor by anybody else." Am I to believe, if assets do exist, they have been left to blow around our streets.

If the writer is proven guilty — "by facts" revealed in this report he asks Mr. Gillies, he is quite agreeable to make whatever retraction is proper to the Government.

I am, Sir, etc., R. E. CONNELLY Dunstaffnage, P.E.I.

F. W. C. DORMITORY

Sir,—In your issue of March 1st you report Hon. Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan, when referring to the proposed dormitory to be provided for Prince of Wales students, as saying to Premier Jones:—"If I were advising you I would say, leave well enough alone." In other words he advised against building a dormitory for P.W.C. students.

Now Sir, it is not difficult to know that Dr. MacMillan has not had some of his children attending P.W.C. while he lived in the country, because if he had he

The Age-Old Story

The Angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.

Better Heard And Not Seen?

(Ottawa Journal)

Never mind all that election talk, the Edinburgh Scotsman is worrying about something really important. The Scottish Pipe Band Association in solemn meeting recently decided to revert to the former practice of having judges "under cover" at all competitions.

The Scotsman is still not sure that this is a fool-proof scheme. Contestants have been known, it says, to play "signature tunes" which indicate to the judge just who's blowing for the moment.

But that's the way it is going to be anyhow. In this particular instance, we feel sure, the question of out of sight out of mind does not arise. As civilization proceeds they may get to the point where the judge will make his decisions beyond earshot as well. But in the meantime here's a partial advance to note in the log.

might have had reason to realize that his paying for their board in a private home and the best efforts of the P.W.C. staff was not enough to insure their educational progress.

He might also realize that they also need supervision to see that studies were not neglected while they loitered on the streets, in restaurants, or places of entertainment. Yes, supervision which they do not get in many private boarding-houses.

Students should also have a warm, quiet, well-lighted room in which to study. Apparently he does not know that many students must try to study in cold, 30-watt lighted rooms, while a near-by radio blares soap operas, etc., as that is the "well equipped" he advises leaving alone. I maintain that it is such conditions which are largely responsible for the extraordinary high percentage of failures at P.W.C.

Also Dr. MacMillan does not appear to be familiar with the common situations where parents properly guide and supervise their children so that they pass entrance at an early age, then at considerable cash and sacrifice they send the youths to board in Charlottetown and attend F.W.C. but in many cases they receive no supervision in the boarding-houses so the result is failure and dismay to all concerned.

Therefore, I submit that a dormitory for P.W.C. students is the most urgent problem confronting the Government. Hence it is to be hoped that Dr. MacMillan will re-consider this matter and give his valuable support to the many individuals, Women's Institutes and other groups that have for some time been urging this project.

I am, Sir, etc., "PARENT"

Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. I.)

EARLY CIVIC LAWSUITS

Early lawsuits involving the City of Charlottetown following its incorporation in 1855 are thus referred to in a letter in The Examiner of Aug. 7, 1880: "The Recorder's opinion was taken in cases instituted by the Corporation against the Hon. D. Brennan and the Misses Stewart for encroachments on the streets, and he gave his opinion that there was sufficient ground for conviction in both cases. Those parties, however, appealed. Mr. Justice Peters decided Mr. Brennan's appeal against the Corporation, and the Misses Stewart's case was also disposed of to the disadvantage of the City."

"The next case was fought against the Gas Company, for boring some of their pipes while the City labourers were grading Hillsborough Street. The pipes were but some 16 inches under ground, and the City Council unanimously refused to pay the bill, because the pipes were not laid sufficiently deep, whereupon the Gas Company wrote the Corporation before the Supreme Court. In this case, while the Recorder acted upon the side of the City, as its attorney, on the other he was known to be the Gas Company's solicitor before having been made Recorder; therefore he was like a sinner between its shells, shielded from want by both; and while, from a sort of mock modesty, he declined to give his opinion, most of the Council believed he was as a good husband is said to be, 'attached to his first love', and therefore William M. Howe, Esq., was employed to assist the Recorder to conduct the defense and procure a trial by jury."

"During the trial the Chief Justice recommended the step taken by the City as the only way to ascertain who was right; the jury, however, not sufficiently alive to their own interests, unwittingly gave decision in favour of the Gas Company, notwithstanding the abundant evidence to prove that the pipes were not injured, and that they were not laid at a sufficient depth beneath the surface of the streets. The costs in these three cases came to \$40 10s. 4d."

Liberals At Odds

(The Letter-Review)

Mr. Leslie Mutch, M.P. for Winnipeg South, and parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, is adversely criticized by the Toronto Star for saying, in an address to the Toronto Liberal Businessmen's Association, that the "ill-fitting garment that hampers our development and constricts us" is "the excuse of the lazy, the narcotic of the weak-willed and the refuge of the coward."

Such candor from a supporter of the administration appears to shock the Star, which points out that Mr. Mutch's observations are "surprising, but cannot be mistaken for a statement of government policy." The paper proceeds to take him to task for setting himself up "against the combined judgments of the peoples and governments of such democracies as Canada, Britain, the United States, Australia and New Zealand."

Neglect of such considerations as the resolution of public opinion against social insecurity is not surprising in a socialistic paper; but the Star might note that the history of all reforms is that they begin with one man or a small group of men who set themselves up

Notes By The Way

Candor obliges us to say that we do not perceive much likelihood of success for the effort to purge the vocabularies of naval personnel of all flippant and irrelevant nomenclature. The best that can be hoped for is that some of the terms now in vogue in informal conversation, to designate various categories of persons will be replaced by a new and more imaginative set. — Washington Post.

"If you think that the world is a pretty bad show let the hydrogen bomb put an end to it. If you want to carry on with the world with any decency then you had better put an end to the hydrogen bomb," said Prime Minister Nehru in an interview to the press. "There is no choice for you. You cannot combine the two—to use the hydrogen bomb and expect any decency afterwards." — India News.

The Minister of Resources, Mr. Ross Winters, has returned from a West Indian tour with a confidence that work will be started on the Trans-Canada Highway this Spring. We hope so. Canadians have been waiting for the completion of this road for 20 years. There is no good reason for further delay. It is quite ridiculous, indeed militarily dangerous and economically damaging, that no through hard-surfaced road exists from coast to coast in Canada. How can a nation pretend to political and spiritual unity if there is no physical bond of unity except "three sets of rails?" — Peterborough Examiner.

Heavy pressure is being put on Ottawa to abolish the means test in old age pensions. "Give it to everybody, give it earlier and make it larger," is the plan. That policy may come and it may be highly desirable, but we would be well advised first to find out something about the cost. In the present campaign very little is heard on that score. In a recent talk to a group of labor unionists Dr. Albert Rose of the University of Toronto stressed some sobering statistics. The present basic pension of \$30 a month, allowed only to citizens over 70, costs the federal treasury \$135 millions a year. This is from four to five per cent of total revenue. The cost has almost doubled since 1944 and because we are living longer than we formerly did, the cost will probably double again in the not too distant future. To raise the present minimum to \$50 a month and pay to everybody after 65, would raise our total pension bill to \$785 millions. That would mean for pensions alone an expenditure double the whole federal budget not so many years ago. "Removal of the means test should be gradual," warns Dr. Rose, "and only after we have introduced a system of contributions by all taxpayers." That looks like advice well worth considering. — Financial Post.

It is entirely true that the present Governor General has played his part perfectly. The representative of the King of Great Britain has given proof of a dignity, a tact and an amiability that can only be admired. From the very fact that Viscount Alexander enjoys great popularity and that he will leave the happiest memories in Canada, the moment seems particularly well chosen to make the transition that has been required for several years. Lord Alexander would worthily bring to an end the list of English governor generals. — Le Devoir, Montreal.

The country habit has me by the heart. For he's bewitched forever who has seen, Not with his eyes but with his vision Spring. Flow down the woods and stipple leaves with sun, As each man knows the life that sits him best, The shape it makes in his soul, the tune, the tone, And after ranging on a tentative flight Swoops like the merlin to the combs that lure the kestrel down. The country habit has me by the heart. I never hear the sheep-bells in the fold. Nor see the ungainly heron rise and flap Over the marsh, nor hear the agrarian horn. Clean, as the respers set the waves in shocks (That like a tented army dream away. The night beneath the moon in silvewed fields). Nor watch the stubborn team of horse and man Graven upon the skyline, nor regain The sign-posts on the roads towards my home Bearing familiar names — without a struggle Leaping of recognition; only here Lies peace after uneasy tranquility. Here meet and marry many harmonies, — All harmonies being ultimately one. Small mirroring majestic; for as earth Rolls on her journey, so her little Ripples or sleep, and the necessities of season match the planetary law. So truly stride between the earth and heaven, Bowers of grain; so truly in the spring Earth's orbit swings both blood and sap to rhythm, And infinite and humble are at one; So the brown hedger, through the evening lanes Homeward returning, sees above the ricks, Sickle in hand, the sickle in the sky. — Victoria Sackville-West

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