

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett... Associate Editor, Frank Walker

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, AUG 30, 1950

The Situation Relieved

The resumption last evening of operations by the 'Abegweit' and the likelihood of the general rail strike being terminated immediately after Parliament's adoption of the Dominion Government's emergency legislation has been hailed with relief by all our citizens.

So far as the Borden service is concerned, there is little doubt but that Premier Jones' action in calling an emergency session of the Legislature had its effect on the union leaders. They were on extremely untenable ground in picketing this service in the first place.

In the meantime, we have had two weeks of dislocation of the economic life of Canada at a time of grave international crisis. Every part of the country has suffered, but in no Province would the effect be more serious had the tieup continued than in Prince Edward Island.

A very convincing case has been made out by our Boards of Trade and Provincial Government against the Federal Government's failure to maintain our ferry service in this emergency. The attitude of Hon. Mr. Chevrier in particular has been most disappointing.

This matter of our car ferry service has been a contentious one for many years. It has been brought to a head by the railway strike, and now is the time for a showdown. Our boat connection with the mainland—to be maintained continuously, winter and summer, by the Dominion—was what chiefly induced us to enter Confederation.

Today, while it is gratifying to note that the 'Abegweit' service has been resumed, the issue still remains unsettled. Yesterday's concession obtained belatedly from the union leaders in no way indicates a change of heart on the part of the Dominion Government towards its obligations to this Province.

The difficulty here is, unfortunately, a political one. The Conservative Party policy on this issue was announced in 1935 by Hon. John Bracken in the following words, which were subsequently endorsed by the present leader, Mr. Drew: "One of the aims of Confederation was that there should be no barrier to interprovincial trade."

This is substantially what the present Provincial Government has maintained in its representations before the Royal Commission on Transportation and at successive Dominion-Provincial conferences in recent years. Why then has there been such difficulty in having it written into Liberal policy at Ottawa? Many Liberals in this Province have confessed that they do not know the answer to this question.

Tuberculosis in the U.S.

Recent reports on the T.B. situation in the United States are both encouraging and challenging. In twenty years the death rate from the disease has dropped 50 per cent, being now (or in 1948) 30 per 100,000. New cases are being discovered at a higher rate than formerly due both to improved techniques and to mass testing by X-rays and a new blood test which the New York Times refers to as striking a final blow against T.B.

Based on hemagglutination, the new test, which is still in the development stage, may prove more satisfactory than the tuberculin test in differential diagnosis. A positive tuberculin test, according to Dr. H. A. Rusk, gives evidence of past or present tuberculosis, but not of its activity, as does the new blood test.

The cost of tuberculosis detection and cure is high, but when measured in terms of human life and happiness it is small, indeed. The median age of persons who died of T.B. in the United States in 1947 was 46 as compared with 65 for cancer and 70 for heart disease. Heart disease gets much publicity for its resulting high death rate but in terms of years of life cut off it ranks far below tuberculosis.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In 1949, Prince Edward Island's income from dairy products was \$3,518,000.

"Needs must when the devil drives." The Railway Union leaders say they will work for the Government when compelled to do so.

The increased beef prices may well be of short duration. Once railway transport begins moving again there will certainly be enough beef moving to glut the market.

Outdoor sports take on a new zest as the holiday season nears its end. After Labour Day it will be mostly school and college athletics.

The M. V. "Eskimo" will certainly be high in popular esteem for a while. Had it been operated by the C. N. R. instead of an agency of the Provincial Government, Islanders' sweet tooth would certainly have gone without.

It is in times of crisis that the advantage of the principle of cabinet responsibility shows most strikingly. President Truman has had to force the recall of two statements of policy in the past week by public men of less than cabinet rank.

Special mention is due the officers and crews of the S.S. Dunning and Prince Nova for the splendid work they did during the crisis at Wood Islands and Caribou. There was no let up to them, with the result everything went so far as they were concerned without a hitch.

Defence Minister Brooke Claxton's statement that there are not many targets in Canada which appear important enough to warrant atomic attack might lead to a false sense of security, even though immediately qualified. Who would have thought before 1945 that Hiroshima or Nagasaki were probable targets for such devastation?

The late Sir Henry Drayton was well and favourably known here having visited us on different occasions in connection with both his duties as Finance Minister and as Chief Commissioner of the Railway Commission. His elder daughter's marriage to Mr. Robert Messervey also brought him in close touch with us and our political and economical problems.

Sir John Harvey, as deputy adjutant-general to the forces in Canada, visited here in 1836. It was his last official act in that capacity, as in the next year he was appointed Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia. At the time of his death in 1852 he had risen to the rank of Lieut.-General, and had served in the army longer than any other officer in the British North America.

It was said to a farmer, as the two looked at a field of wheat flattened by the heavy rains: "You'll need a scythe to deal with that." He answered: "Not a bit, I shall need a harvester-thresher." The farmer was doubtless right. These new, ugly, untidy, but desperately efficient machines are now furnished with an ingenious device that lifts the straws before the cutter reaches them, and a part at any rate of the trouble is resolved. Some fields look as if they had been battered by a circular tornado, and the laid straws point every way to defeat the most intelligent of machines. Yet when all is said, the harvest is likely to be heavy enough to repay extra labour. The ears are more than usually full and weighty, and a good many fields are upright enough.

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.

L. M. M.'S EDUCATION

Sir,—I wish to correct a slight error in Chief Justice Carpbell's address at the Montgomery Memorial service at Cavendish on Sunday.

Miss Montgomery received her early education in the school in Cavendish afterward going to Colchester in Charlottetown to get her teacher's certificate. Also her grandfather with whom she lived, was Alexander MacNeill, who was a son of the familiarly known old Speaker MacNeill, who would be Miss Montgomery's great grandfather and who is also my own great grandfather, so I should know whereof I speak. Sir, etc.

(MRS. H. J.) FLORA M. TOOMBS, Kensington, P. E. I.

SPLENDID COOPERATION

Sir,—The pleasing announcement this morning that the S.S. Abegweit will take up her work this afternoon and thus relieve the overload that has been placed on Northumberland Ferries during the past week, came as a relief to all who have had anything to do with the handling of the situation with which we were confronted on the Wood Islands-Caribou Service.

Our thanks has already been expressed to Premier Jones, and those of his officials including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, for the splendid co-operation received, and we feel that it should be brought to the attention of the public that what has been done is very largely the result of the splendid co-operation of the officers and crews of the boats.

Captain C. R. Hunter, comparatively new to the work, and Mr. Douglas MacKinnon, who was more familiar with the local situation, both showed that they are the right men in the right place. The wharfinger, Mr. Mac MacLeod, is known to the majority of our people, and his genial smile was still in evidence during the height of the pressure, although he got little or no rest during the twenty-four hours he remained on duty.

Captain Eric Holdway, comparatively new to the route, with Mr. James Asch his first mate on the "Dunning," and Captain Murray Williger, veteran of many years of service on the "Prince Nova," with his first mate L. B. White, an Islander, kept their deck departments functioning.

Mr. Leonard Vatcher, chief engineer on the "Prince Nova," and Mr. Moynie Salter, his first assistant, and their engine room staff, with Mr. Walter Basso, chief engineer on the "Charles A. Dunning," and Mr. Robert MacDonald, his first assistant and their engine room staff, kept their machinery moving at full speed.

The pursers, lunch counter superintendents, cooks and stewardess and all the other crew members, did their part in keeping the service open and in keeping the ships moving, and performing what may well be considered an almost impossible task.

We might say that while taking on bunker fuel, practically the entire crew of the "Charles A. Dunning" remained on duty for twenty-four hours, and were still ready to carry on the service the following morning.

To those who have co-operated in handling the service for so many years, the situation was not such an effort, because we have gone through somewhat similar periods during the past ten years, but we sincerely trust that what has recently been accomplished will bring to the attention of those in authority the importance of this route, and the need for co-operation in its development.

I am Sir, etc. R. E. MUTCH, President Northumberland Ferries Limited, Charlottetown, Aug. 29, 1950.

The Poet's Corner

HUMMING-BIRD

I can imagine, in some other world Primeval-dumb, far back In that most awful stillness, that Humming-birds raced down the avenues.

Before anything had a soul, While life was a heave of Matter, half inanimate, This little bit chipped off in brilliance

And went whizzing through the slow, vast, succulent stems. I believe there were no flowers then, In the world where the humming-bird flashed ahead of creation.

I believe he pierced the slow-vegetable veins with his lony beak. Probably he was big As mosses, and little lizards, they say, were once big Probably he was a jabbing, terrifying monster.

We look at him through the wrong end of the long telescope of Time. Luckily for us. —D. H. Lawrence

BONN, Aug. 22—(Reuters)—West Germany's adverse trade balance rose further in July as imports soared by 20 per cent. The adverse balance increased from \$300,000 in June to \$50,000,000 in July, although exports also rose from \$154,417,800,000

Summer Reading 1950



NEW-TYPE THRILLER... "WHAT TO DO IF AN ATOM BOMB STRIKES YOU"

TRAIN SCHEDULES... NO COMMENT.

PLEASANT SURPRISE... A CANADIAN READING A CANADIAN BOOK.

SCORE CARDS... "WOW-WASN'T THAT SOME DAILY DOUBLE??"

Old Charlottetown

DESIRABLE PROPERTIES... In the same issue, Mr. W. H. Pole offers for sale "that valuable plot of ground at the head of Prince Street, formerly the site of the Baptist Chapel, fronting 100 feet on Euston Street, and 104 on Upper Prince Street."

Mr. J. P. Beete advertises for sale or to be let for 1 to 5 years, "a desirable Shipyards, situated in Charlottetown, Mr. David Wilson, Richmond Street, advertises a palatial residential property "near Government House, at present occupied by Captain Beazeley, consisting of a dwelling house containing a spacious dining-room and drawing-room, breakfast-room, 7 bedrooms, large kitchen, servants' hall, 3 servants' bedrooms, pantry, larder, front porch, 2 back entrances, back and front staircase, lumber-pump and wash-room, lumber-room, and a splendid 6 roomed cellar; also a large commodious coach-house, 3-stalled stable, harness-room, cow-house, large hay-loft and grain-room, manure yard, large kitchen with fruit trees, etc., flower garden, elegant front entrance and carriage drive, a large lawn running down to the Harbour with convenience for keeping boats, etc., extensive plantation of young trees, of all kinds, large root-house, wood and chopping house, and a spacious and commodious yard. Also itemized are "front and back gates facing on different streets, and a never failing well of water on the premises."

The Age-Old Story

Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished; but he that gathereth by labor shall increase.

TAIPEI, Formosa, Aug. 22—(AP)—Gov. K. C. Wu said today the Chinese Nationalist Government will adopt the English trial system under which a person is presumed innocent until proved guilty. Wu said the Nationalists also would ban arrests without warrants.

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Notes By The Way

When you give folks who owe you — too much rope, they're liable to skip. —Guelph Mercury. Not only would a new world conflict be suicidal, but you can imagine what it would do to the bookstore proprietors caught with five shelves of Second World War memoirs. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

There are dog days in the news business — just as there are languid moments in the human spirit, this warm summer weather. Especially this is true in the experience of smalltown journalism; news fluctuates like the ebb and flow of the tide, but with less certainty and regularity. —Lachute (Que.) Watchman.

The Russian war memorial — not the slightly unstable statue of a soldier in the Tiergarten, but the new one in Eastern Berlin — is a characteristic specimen of Soviet monumental art. It consists of an enormous sunken terrace (which may sink further, no proper foundations having been made) in the middle of a park, and is dominated by a mound in which 2,000 Russian dead are said to be interred. The mound is surmounted by a shrine and the shrine by a gigantic statue of a Red Army soldier with a child on his left shoulder and a sword in his right hand. The sword is simply enormous, projecting downwards towards the beholder and producing the same sense of false perspective that you get from people's feet in a snapshot at a picnic party. Half-way down the terrace are two massive and stepped off unidentified erections built with blocks of red marble from Hitler's Chancellery. They reminded me of a Monument to Democracy which stands in one of the principal streets of Bangkok and which looks like an enormous human tooth with a very bad cavity a sort of cubist trophy of arms, consisting of two lapidary red flags in it; but I soon saw that they are dipped in salute. On stone plinths the progress of Russia's war against Fascism (not against Germany) is depicted in bas relief, the problem of how to sculpt an explosion being boldly and frequently tackled; the plinths are inscribed with extracts from Stalin's speeches. The effect of the whole thing is perhaps best described as curious rather than beautiful; but the trees planted around it will one day look very fine. — London Spectator.

Often we hear a woman say she wishes she had been born a man. Sometimes, in the raising of a family and the managing of a home, she feels she has been dealt the more difficult cards in life. Longevity tables show, however, that even if it were true she would have been happier as a man, she would have less time in which to be happy. Women outlive men, and the gap between the length of their lives and that of men is constantly widening. Since the turn of the century the mortality rate for women at age 20 and over has been cut in half, for married women, and by two-fifths for single women. That for men has decreased by one-third

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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