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

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1951

Our Biggest Week

All is now in readiness for the opening of the Island's big Provincial Exhibition and Old Home Week, and everything points to new records being established for attendance, for livestock entries, for exciting horse racing, for handicraft exhibits and other features. Certainly the management has made wonderful progress in improving the grounds, buildings and facilities, and the public interest was never more keenly shown than during the past few weeks as details of the programme were being completed. The Fair is now recognized as one of the outstanding events of its kind in eastern Canada, the variety of entertainment provided being unexcelled anywhere, while the educational advantages in the display and judging of some of the finest farm stock on the continent have been constantly kept in mind.

Agricultural fairs are of long standing in this Province, and horse racing also has been a popular sport from early Colonial days. In combining these two attractions in a big way, and adding the midway, vaudeville and other features, we have created something uniquely characteristic of Prince Edward Island. Our visitors say they find nothing quite like it anywhere, and are drawn back year after year for this big event. An increasing number of former Islanders now make it a point to spend their vacation here at this time, and there is no doubt also but that our farmers are attending in far greater numbers than in years past. It is by a natural process of evolution that the Fair has expanded into Old Home Week, with all the happy associations which these words convey, and with the many opportunities afforded of meeting old friends and acquaintances, and making new ones.

Our proudest record in connection with the Exhibition is the freedom from serious accidents we have enjoyed during this busy week for several successive seasons. This is highly creditable to our police and traffic officers, as well as to the public generally. Let us hope that this week will be no exception, and that the general enjoyment will be unmarred with regret over some tragedy involving a car or pedestrian which might have been avoided.

Cabinet Government

If a Province could ever have its views and needs adequately expressed at Ottawa without Cabinet representation it certainly cannot today. The expansion of the field of government activity has, perhaps inevitably, resulted in policy being more and more considered and finally decided by the cabinet or even cabinet ministers in consultation with their departmental advisers.

The role of Parliament and of private members resembles more and more the task of threshing old straw. This change has come about without any formal withdrawal of power from that august body, but simply from the nature of the tasks which the Canadian people have come to expect from government.

Whatever the explanation, the fact remains that the bulk of decisions are made by the ministry and a Province which remains without cabinet representation—such as Prince Edward Island at the present time—is at a most serious disadvantage.

Vital To World Security

This Province, through its great R. C. A. F. establishment at Summerside, ranks among the finest air training centres of the world. It is hard for us to realize this fact, but there is no question of the vital importance it is playing in the air training plans of Canada and the United Nations. Under the new setup announced in Saturday's Guardian, the centre will consist of two departments—No. 1 Air Navigation School for the teaching of basic navigation, and a Central Air Navigation School for specialist courses, tests and development. A second Air Navigation School has been opened at Winnipeg, but the main centre of air navigational training for the whole Dominion will remain here.

At Saturday's impressive ceremony at the airport, the largest group of flight cadets to graduate since the war received their wings from Commodore J. G. Bryans, C.B.E. The function was attended by His Honour Lieutenant Governor Prowse, Premier Jones, His Worship Mayor Wedge and Mr. J. Watson MacNaught, M.P., who as representative for Prince County and parliamentary assistant to the Fisheries Minister was largely instrumental in pushing the claims of Summerside as a centre for air training.

Whatever consequences follow the present peace talks in Korea, there is no doubt but that air training will be intensified as a precautionary measure, and that the R. C. A. F. Station at Summerside, on which millions have been expended to equip it with the most modern facilities and accommodation, will continue with further developments from time to time, as a vital link in our Empire defense plans.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Old Home Week.

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Haying weather or no, the question of whether to bring in what now remains will probably be a toss up.

* * *

Crowds, crowds, crowds, yet the appeal of Old Home Week is to each individual who has his or her own particular reasons for wanting to be here at this time.

* * *

We are making records this year. More tourists than ever, more conventions than ever, more money in circulation than ever, and better and earlier distribution of The Guardian daily than ever.

* * *

Austerity and improved health seem to go hand-in-hand. Deaths in England and Wales last year fell by 20 per cent over 1949—the biggest drop for any one year since 1929.

* * *

For the first time in over 22 years a girl has been born to Fair Isle parents. In that time 15 boys have been born on the island which lies off the north coast of Scotland.

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Perhaps the reason why psychologists have swung away from the theory of child rearing without corporal punishment is because some of the products of the system have since reached a stage where the method is no longer practical.

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The prize livestock receives less publicity these days than other aspects of Old Home Week and the Provincial Exhibition but the quality of the breeds being shown merits attention even more than in the days when the judging was the thing.

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As a farming community, we do not like to appear to rejoice at our neighbours' ill-luck, but it is a consolation to potato growers to learn that in the U. S. it may be necessary to import spuds to provide for minimum requirements as indicated by Mr. D. A. MacDonald, chairman of the Marketing Board.

* * *

The Directors of the Provincial Exhibition Association are to be congratulated on receiving the largest number of entries in livestock in the Exhibition's history. This is not attained by lying down on the job, but being up and active in preparing an attractive prize list, and seeing that it was well advertised.

* * *

It is gratifying to know that Summerside is to remain the main centre of air navigation training in Canada, notwithstanding the provision of a similar school at Winnipeg. Since air training was introduced in Canada, the Island has enjoyed the advantage and reputation of being the first and foremost training school.

* * *

The International Conference on Surgery will be held in Paris from the 23rd to the 29th of September. Delegations from 48 nations will be present and, for the first time, certain important operations will be televised in colour, in France. Grafting will be the general theme of this year's conference. Professor Andre Lriche of the French Academy of Medicine will preside over the world conference.

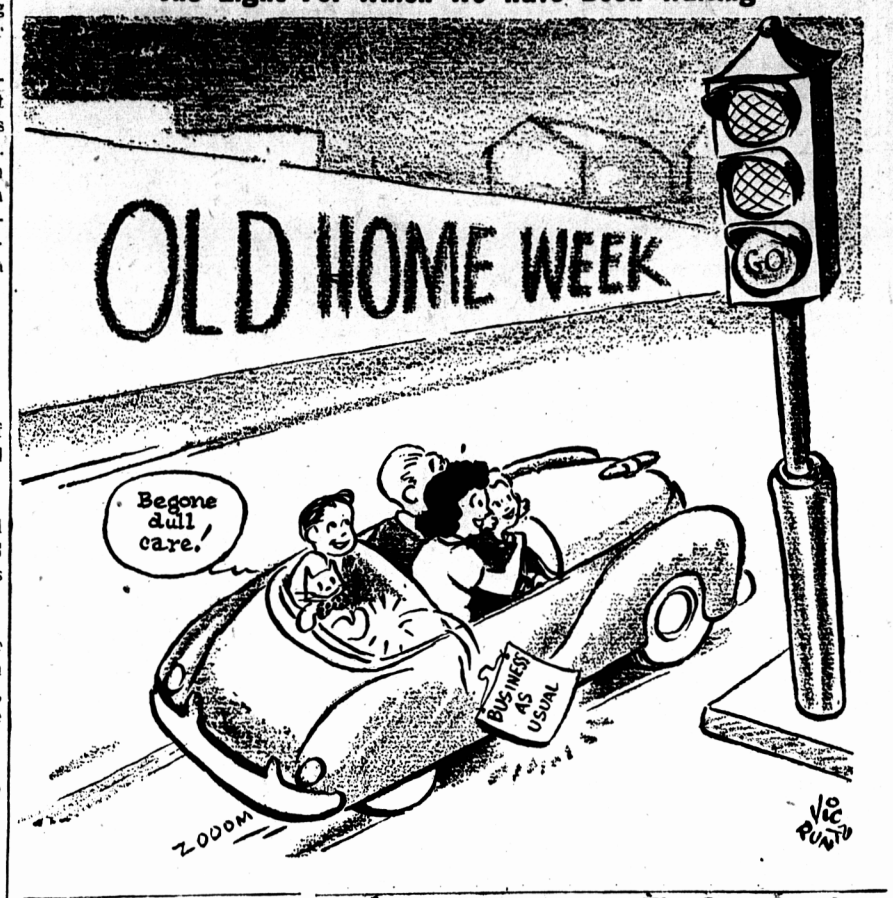
* * *

Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of trained army nursing, died this date 1910 at the age of ninety. She studied and trained in Germany and France and reformed the management of a Harley Street sanatorium. She sailed for the Crimea in October 1854 and toiled there until British troops left Scutari in July 1856. To the troops she was known as "The lady with the lamp."

* * *

The Lord Lyon King-of-Arms who presides at the Scottish Court of Chivalry, known as the Court of the Lord Lyon, has recognized Sir Gordon Macmillan, Commander in Chief in Scotland and Governor of Edinburgh Castle, as hereditary chief of the Clan Macmillan with the surname of "Macmillan of Macmillan". This is the first time the clan has had a chief for 150 years. During World War II General Macmillan commanded the famous Scottish 51st (Highland) Division. The Macmillans are one of the few landless clans, "of Macmillan" designating an imaginary Highland territory.

The Light For Which We Have Been Waiting



Wagner Shrine

(New York Times)

Baireuth lies quiet on the Bavarian hills, its red roofs among the green like the perfect setting of a jeweled ring. Until 1872 it was just another German town, busy making earthenware and gossiping about the doings of its burghers. In 1872 Richard Wagner chose it as the site for his opera house and laid the cornerstone. The building was to be as massive as the completed Ring itself, which no opera house in Germany could properly house. It was planned exclusively for the performance of his works. Ludwig of Bavaria was paying all the bills and when the house opened, seventy-five years ago, it was the last word in opera houses. To mark the 75th anniversary the Wagner festival in Baireuth has just been resumed. In a few weeks more the town will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first performance of the complete Ring. With the exception of a few years, when war got in the way, the Wagner festival has played every year since 1876.

The Wagner festival is Baireuth's big moment. Not that the people of the town get much chance to hear the operas. The opera house, which is still the last word in opera houses as of 1876, holds only 1,800 people and the tickets are bought mostly by outsiders. The customs set for the audience are pretty strict. Baireuth is probably the only place in the world where ladies and gentlemen in full evening dress walk the streets at 2 in the afternoon, hoping to get a cab up to the opera house. Failing that, they walk along a dusty street and up the high hill to the opera house that overlooks the town.

* * *

The performances begin in late afternoon. In the golden sunlight of a dying summer day the audience pours out of the theater after the first act, to crowd into the open air restaurant alongside—either for Bavarian beer or for coffee with whipped cream and cake on which whipped cream is piled on whipped cream, like one blizzard on top of another. Between the second and third acts a corps of waiters with the polish and efficiency of stainless steel serve a full course dinner—which can make the upcoming third act fairly tough to stay awake for.

The performance ends about 10 and the townsfolk then have their show and not at $10 and more per ticket. In their gay costumes the natives line the street down to the town, along which the highly dressed guests must ride or walk. The evening is young. The guests head for the cafes. There, too, is Wagner, which the cafe orchestras play gayly, to echo the music recently heard up on the hill.

* *

The whole town is Wagner, from the little plaster busts on sale at all souvenir stands to the impressive grave beyond the simple villa in which he lived. If any visitor has the energy to do any sightseeing he can find other things of interest. In a quiet cemetery Franz Liszt lies buried and near him is Houston Chamberlain. Wagner's son-in-law, an Englishman who found the Germans the Master Race long before Hitler happened on this discovery. Elsewhere in town is the grave of a gentler man, the writer Jean Paul Richter, who wrote: "There will come a time when it shall be light and men will awake from their lofty dreams. And they will find the dreams still there and nothing gone but the sleep."

Over the years the music at Baireuth has been performed both finely and otherwise, depending on conductors, artists, temperaments, and even politics. All of Baireuth, with few exceptions, went rabidly pro-Hitler. That was not particularly surprising since Wagner himself in his writing foreshadowed some of Hitler. Today there are no strutting Nazis around Baireuth, at least in the open, to make a great music festival into a political fandango. Those who revere the musician Wagner come now as they have always come, devoutly to a shrine.

So intent are they at their devotions that they do not mind the long walk up and down the hill, nor even full dress in mid-afternoon.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SIR MURRAY MAXWELL

Prince Edward Island had one Lieutenant Governor who never set foot on Island soil. He was to have succeeded Governor Ready in 1831, but died before leaving England. The people petitioned to have Colonel Ready retained, but too late. Sir Artemas W. Young, a worthy successor, was appointed to the post, and arrived in the Colony in September. The following reference to this incident appeared in the Royal Gazette of August 16, 1831:

"The unlooked for intelligence of the death of Captain Sir Murray Maxwell, C.B., recently appointed to the government of this Island, was received by the English mail. This melancholy event took place at London on the 19th of June, after a very short illness. He had arrived in town only two days previously from Scotland, apparently in his usual health, and was on the eve of embarking for the seat of his government when he was seized with a violent inflammatory complaint, which speedily terminated the earthly career of this brave and distinguished officer.

"The latest dates from London are to the 7th of July, at which time no successor to Sir Murray Maxwell had been appointed. In this conjecture, the Sheriff of the Island, on a requisition very numerously and respectably signed, has called a public meeting of the inhabitants on Saturday next, to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning His Majesty to continue our present respected Lieutenant Governor in the administration of the government.

The Suez Canal

(W. N. Ewer)

It was, I suppose, only to be expected, that in this matter of Suez Canal restrictions, the western powers should be accused of unfriendly action to an Arab state, and of trying to use the United Nations Organization for their own "imperialist" purposes.

But it is a matter of record that Britain, whose shipping and whose oil industry have been the greatest sufferers from the "blockade", has shown remarkable patience. It is now over two years since the first protest against the Egyptian action was lodged in Cairo. It was not until last November that the matter was first brought to the notice of the Security Council. And then Sir Gladwyn Jebb, after stressing the importance of the issues involved, went no further than to say that the U. K. delegation "considers that it is most desirable that a settlement of this question should be brought about as soon as it possibly can."

This patience has been the subject of much criticism here—by no means entirely from the Opposition. From Egypt, unfortunately, it has brought, not the hoped for friendly response, but repeated stubborn refusals to do anything—apparently in the belief that patience was a sign of weakness.

The issues, in the view of the U. K. government are three—and each of them is important.

* * *

The first is the legal question of right to free passage though the Suez Canal in accordance with the convention of 1888. The second is the question of economic consequences. The impossibility of carrying oil by tankers through the canal to Haifa has (together with the closing of the pipeline from Iraq) resulted in reducing the output of the great Haifa refinery by three-quarters. That is a comparatively small loss to Israel. It is a very great loss both to Britain and to other European countries which have drawn a considerable proportion of their refined oil products from Haifa. The third is that—as Sir Gladwyn Jebb pointed out—"the continuence in force of those restrictions for so long should contribute as it does to the state of tension and uneasiness in the Middle East."

I hope that the council will concentrate rather on the two practical aspects—economic and political—rather than on the legal problems of whether Egypt is entitled to regard herself as at war with Israel and therefore to exercise belligerent rights; and whether, even if that is granted, she is technically violating the terms of the 1949 armistice agreement between her and Israel. For experience shows that such legal arguments can go on almost endlessly, and it is important if possible to reach a settlement without further delay.

* * *

The strictly legal issue may turn on the precise interpretation of those words in the armistice agreement, and the decision is one which might not prove easy even for the judges of the Hague court. Should the words be taken in their strictest sense — as General Riley feels that he must take them? Or should the "manifest intention" of the document be taken into account?

That is why I feel that, though the legal issues can by no means be ignored, undue concentration on them might simply lead to long and finally futile arguments. Nor, whatever the end, would a legalistic handling of the case do anything to ease the underlying tension.

Far more important than the legal controversy is the fact, that whatever Egypt's belligerent rights (is she is a belligerent) she is taking action which, while it inflicts very minor damage to Israel, is doing very considerable damage to the economies of a number of her fellow members of the United Nations with whom she is in friendly relations. And that this same action—to quote Sir Gladwyn Jebb again—"contributes to the state of tension and uneasiness in the Middle East."

The case is not so much that Egypt is doing something which is technically illegal, as that she is — without achieving anything thereby—doing something which is unfriendly and harmful to her friends and neighbours. She may or may not be offending against international law. She is certainly offending against international morality. She may or may not be violating the letter of armistice agreement. She is certainly violating the spirit of the preamble to the United Nations Charter, in which she, in common with all other members pledged herself to "practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours.

Notes By The Way

Many a hit-and-run driver has to keep on running the rest of his life—from his own conscience. —Windsor Daily Star.

"What would you do," a psychologist asks, "if you inherited a million dollars?" After due consideration of the various possibilities, Doc, we think we'd buy a butcher shop and eat steaks as long as the money held out.—Ottawa Citizen.

Overseas donors of food parcels to the British people during and after the war expected no return except the satisfaction of lending a hand in times of privation. They will be pleasantly surprised that in appreciation of their gifts the National Thanksgiving Fund of the Lord Mayor of London will be used to build and maintain residences for overseas students. Launched in March, 1950, the fund has been formally closed at $2,400,000. London House in Macklenburg Square is already available for men students from other parts of the Commonwealth. The Lord Mayor's fund will provide it with a maintenance grant and will make a grant to The Burn, a parallel establishment in Scotland. In addition, the larger part of the fund will help open residences for women and married students, and for men from the United States.—Ottawa Journal.

A note in the Manchester Guardian about the great Reuters centennial banquet in London urges us, not for the first time, to remark that somebody in the British bureaucracy ought to get his head read. In framing the menu for the dinner, somebody at Reuters got the bright idea that each of its affiliates abroad might provide some typical food from its country to add international variety to the meal. The suggestion was enthusistically accepted. India sent mangoes to go with the ice cream. New Zealand sent Toheroa soup (made from a crayfish delicacy in those parts). The Australians wanted to send a thousand saddles of lamb. Down came the bureaucratic axe! This was contrary to regulations. Britain is, we know, short of meat, and a good many people abroad send food parcels to friends which often include meat of one kind or another. This is, according to the book of rules, quite all right. But, when the friends of Reuters in Australia, want to send Reuters a mouthful of good solid meat, Whitehall takes fright. Of all the tom-fool regulations this is one of the tom-foolishest. The fact is, of course, that the Labor Government has decided that, if it makes a mistake, everybody must suffer, and no exceptions are to be allowed. You take it, and like it.—Montreal Star.

The Poet's Corner

HIGH ROAD

This is the kind of road I like:
One that clambers twisty,
Climbing a pine-dark mountainside
Until the air grows misty.

I like that road that follows the hawks,
And haunts the source of a high
Tumbling stream whose icy pools
Are the color of the sky.

A road that reaches for the stars
Or drinks clouds bright with rain,
That tops the crest and stumbling down,
Unwinds itself again.

And searches for blowing buttercup meadows,
Gold on the valley floor,
An elm-green road that takes me home,
Straight to my own back door.

—Frances Frost.

LEARNED LADIES

The Daily Mirror, one of England's largest newspapers, was originally founded in 1903 as a penny paper for women.

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