

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink". CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, NOV. 3, 1952

A May Election?

According to a parliamentary writer in the Ottawa Citizen, several ranking government supporters at the National Liberal Federation advisory council meeting last week were strongly in favour of a Spring federal election, a suggestion which is also reportedly favoured by a number of Cabinet ministers. The election may come as early as May 11, with dissolution of the current 21st Parliament about March 16.

This, of course, is mere speculation. Another forecast is to the effect that the election will be held off until October. Assuming the earlier date, the Ottawa Citizen writer forces Finance Minister Abbott bringing down the 1953-54 budget as early as Tuesday, March 10, with tax cuts amounting to between \$200,000,000 and \$300,000,000 a year, concentrated chiefly on income tax cuts of from 10 to 20 per cent from existing levels. Another tax-cutting school, however, favors cuts in excise and sales taxes to lower the cost of living. It is generally taken for granted that the coming budget must show some tax reductions, whether the election be called shortly thereafter or be delayed until the Fall. The prime question in a spring election campaign presumably would be: "Whom do you wish to represent you at the Queen's coronation in London on June 2?"

Duty To Clients

The American Bar Association is concerned about the criticism of lawyers who defended Communists in United States courts. Their clients are, when guilty, abhorred by almost all their fellow countrymen. The point, however, is that, like individuals charged with other crimes, they have a right to be represented by counsel.

A barrister may not turn down a case in a court in which he ordinarily practices because of his personal opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the prospective client. Although he is in a very real sense an officer of the court and under a duty to see justice done, he is not himself a court or a judge. Clients charged with crime are entitled to be tried by a judge or a jury of their peers as the case may be. It is not up to the lawyer they approach to determine their guilt or innocence.

This is understood by the profession and acted upon but it is unjust that as a result a stigma should attach itself in the public mind on those lawyers whom the guilty have chosen to present their case. Even where a lawyer knows that his client has committed an offence, if the criminal does not choose to plead guilty he is entitled to have his case put before the court in the best light. Then it is for the court to dispose of it as it deems right.

Premier MacDonald's Warning

Nova Scotia's Premier Angus L. Macdonald, speaking at the opening of the new Dalhousie Law School, said that Canadians must give consideration to the question of whether their country is to continue as a federation or to become an unitary state with but one central government. He added that there was little doubt that in 1867 there were those who wished to see but one legislature for the entire Dominion; but, in the end, Canada established a Confederation with divided powers. Over the past 50 years there have been many steps away from the original constitutional idea and toward centralization of power and authority in Ottawa. Numerous provincial fields have been invaded federally, labor in 1900, income tax in 1917, health in 1918, old age pensions in 1926, unemployment insurance in 1941 and family allowances in 1944. Now Federal influence and money is being focussed on the building of hospitals, support of education and construction of highways.

Premier Macdonald spoke particularly of the tax deals that Ottawa has negotiated with the Provinces. He noted that it was not just a Canadian problem. Australia is also a federation; and Australia, too, adopted a system of similar tax agreements between the central government and the state governments. The result there, as here, was the growth of the central authority at the expense of the states. And in alarm at this tendency, the states, last summer, broke off their agreements with Canberra. On July 26 the Melbourne

correspondent of the London weekly, The Economist, wrote: "No other single act in the history of Australian federalism has done more to strengthen and consolidate the centralization of power in Canberra than the adoption of uniform taxation in 1942."

Addressing his legal audience at Halifax, Premier Macdonald asked: "If that comment be accurate for Australia, can a like view be taken of the existing Federal-Provincial tax agreements in Canada? That is a question to which I should hope all Canadians and particularly lawyers will give serious and enlightened consideration."

Unfortunately the necessity exists of distributing federal revenues more equitably than was done in the past, and the tax agreements have served this purpose to some extent, as have the federal health, highways and other grants to which Premier Macdonald refers. Provincial autonomy has suffered in the process, but provincial autonomy is a shadow without substance if adequate standards of public service cannot be maintained, and if the less favored Provinces must go periodically to Ottawa, hat in hand, for subsidies to enable them to carry on. The problem is a very complex one. The solution lies in a greater rather than less, equalization of tax revenues among the Provinces. When we succeed in decentralizing financial control we shall have gone in a long way toward stabilizing our provincial status as well.

Memorable Anniversary

Just 35 years ago, now recalls the Montreal Star, the Canadian Corps was plunged into the bloody and terrible series of engagements now known under the name of Passchendaele. The memories are such as to evoke a lively gratitude that Canadians were never subjected in World War II to a similar ordeal.

The battle, as Sir Arthur Currie said, was fought more for high political reasons than for the actual tactical worth of the objectives sought. The French Army was only slowly recovering from its collapse the previous spring (1917), and, one day after the Canadians first attacked in the north, the Italians were involved in the disaster of Caporetto so movingly described in Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms." In the circumstances Passchendaele was fought through under conditions which survivors still speak of with horror. From Oct. 26 to Nov. 10, the Corps suffered a total of 16,404 casualties.

The most bloody Canadian battles of the second war saw nothing like this. The opening of the Scheldt in the autumn of 1944, the fierce fighting for the Hochwald in 1945's early spring, were battles which lasted, all told, nine weeks, against the concentrated fortnight of savagery at Passchendaele. Taking them both together, our army losses were 11,671. Lord Alexander once remarked that, in the Italian campaign, no division under his command suffered as much as any single battalion did at Passchendaele.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Long a hero of racing fans of all ages, Mr. Joseph O'Brien with Mrs. O'Brien is enjoying a visit with his parents in Alberta. Mr. O'Brien has carried the fame of Island horsemanship across two nations.

As gloomily expected another member from Ontario has been appointed to the Board of Transport Commissioners. Regional representation is dead and it seems that the required specialists can only be found in the central provinces.

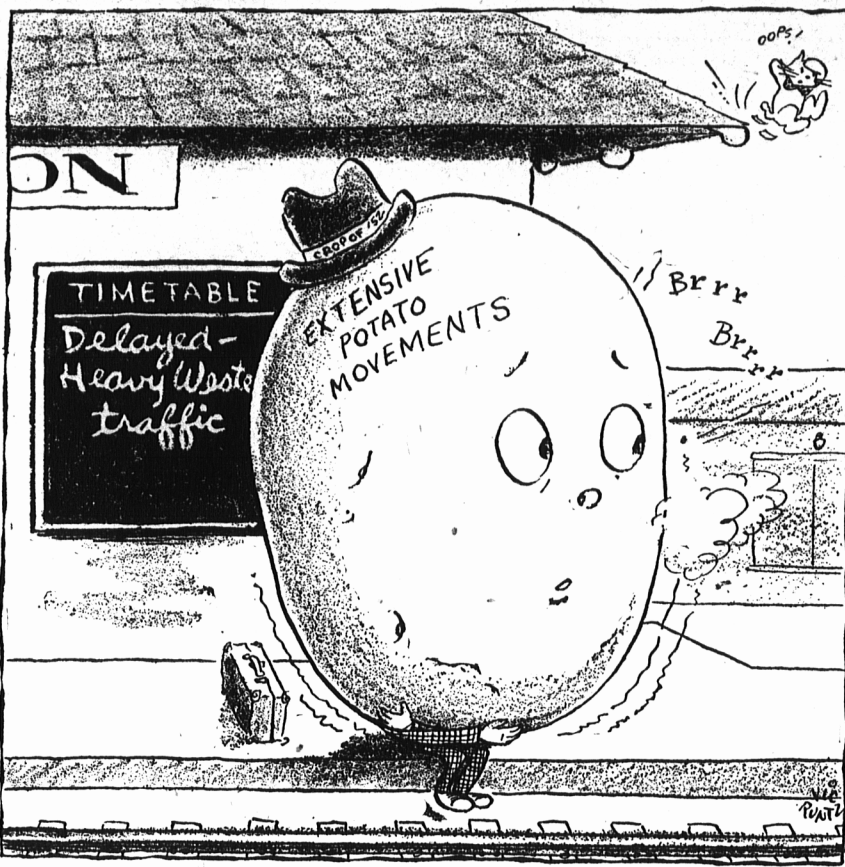
Flushing Island, Dutch fortress and seaport, was captured this date 1944. On Nov. 1 a strong force of British Commandos landed on Walcheren while Canadians stormed the causeway from the mainland. This was probably the crucial operation in opening the port of Antwerp to the Allies.

There are all sorts of signs of a strong virile economy in the Maritimes, according to the general manager of the Royal Bank of Canada. Perhaps the virility is because, as Mr. T. H. Atkinson went on to say, "The Maritime Provinces are not enjoying as much as they might of the economic delights shared by other provinces."

Governor Stevenson of Illinois gave up the role of presidential candidate temporarily to deal with a prison emergency in his state. If planned for the purpose it could not have been a better demonstration of his being a man of action as well as a superb politician.

By Royal consent Summerside's new recreation centre will be known as Queen Elizabeth Park, a peculiarly appropriate name in this Province where so many localities are named for royalty.

Waitin' At The Station



The Poet's Corner

LATER, THE EARTH

Come in; there is nothing left: the last frail petals Drift on the wind; the lilac bush is bare; Over the garden a blanket of silence settles— The last of the birds is gone; there is nothing there. Come in, come in, out of the cold thin rain, Away from the broken stalks and the frosted grass; There is nothing here, there is no use to remain; A garden ... a dream ... there are things that pass. Come in, to a hearth that is warm, the fire lit; There is beauty within, though perhaps of a different kind. The daisies were lovely, the roses were exquisite They will bloom again in the greenhouse of the mind. Sit for a while by the dancing flame of the hearth. There is time for all. Later, the good green earth ... —Mae Winkler Goodman.

Demerit Marks

Vancouver Province. The Provincial Government should seriously consider the suggestion of B. C. insurance agents in favor of a "demerit" system under which habitually bad drivers would be forced off the road.

Under the scheme of a safety committee of the provincial motor vehicle department would be established to keep track of all accidents and all driving offences.

Penalty points would be handed out for driving offences. One or two points would be given for speeding, and more serious lawlessness would call for a higher penalty rating. For fatal accidents caused by carelessness, or drunk driving, an eight or 10-point penalty would be mandatory.

In Manitoba and U. S. centres where the scheme is in force a driver is "invited in" for a talk after six points have piled up against him. After eight points there is a more summary summons, and in many cases the driver's license is suspended for a period varying with the seriousness of his accident record.

Five-Ton Pie

(Manchester Guardian) Coronation Year will probably see the revival of many customs and traditions that are not now too easy to live up to. The villagers of Denby Dale, in Yorkshire, are already struggling with their problem.

The village has a tradition of mammoth-pie making which goes back at least 164 years. During that time it is known that at least seven pies worthy of the title "mammoth" have been baked. On the last occasion in 1923, five bullocks were baked in a pie which weighed five tons. The villagers have decided that for next year's Coronation pie must be baked which will be not only the largest Denby Dale has seen but the largest pie in the world.

Someone at the meeting which made this decision suggested that the pie should be large enough to feed 2,000 people. The suggestion was laughed to scorn. That was not the measure of Denby Dale's enthusiasm for pies.

There is, however, a difficulty not encountered by former mammoth-pie makers. It is the Ministry of Food. So a committee of six, including two councillors, has to approach the Minister for the allocation of meat and fat. The villagers hope he will have due regard for their tradition and honor.

STATE BANKS The entire banking system in Argentina was put under government control by decree in 1946.

Helicopter Opens New Chapter In The North

(Edmonton Journal)

The helicopter this past summer has opened a new chapter in the conquest of the Canadian North. For centuries before World War I the immense distances of the northland bowed only to the intrepid few who had the strength and determination for travel by canoe and on foot. Motor shipping came, it is true, but it was confined to the major waterways, and until the twenties penetration of hundreds of thousands of square miles of wilderness was only possible "in the footsteps" of the fur traders and explorers. It was the fast-moving, far-ranging airplane which some 25 years ago began to open up the North to an extent impossible before. But the orthodox plane, too, has its limits. Beyond a few main routes where landing fields and airports have been built, it must have water on which to land, and while the North is a land of lakes, not every little pothole will let a floatplane sit down safely.

Enter, then, the helicopter, the answer to the final problem—penetration of the wilderness in detail with ease and speed.

The use to which it was put this past summer was geological mapping. Dr. C. S. Lord, who headed the party of the Geological Survey of Canada, points out that his 16 men were able, with helicopters, to do an astonishing amount of work. In mapping 57,000 square miles of barren lands in 113 days, he estimates they did what would have taken a conventional party, by foot and canoe, 25 years, though the latter would have produced mapping in finer detail.

The cost was \$215,000, but Dr. Lord, a veteran of geological surveying, is confident that the helicopter method has proved its worth. In an address on the subject to the western division of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in Winnipeg, he observed:

Within a few years it could place at the disposal of the prospecting and mining fraternity data which, by conventional methods, might not be available to this generation.

It is significant that the test was made in the northerly portion of the huge region lying east of the great waterways system of the Athabasca, Slave and Mackenzie Rivers, and west of Hudson Bay. This region of the mainland north is the most difficult to enter and traverse. Even to the orthodox plane it has been relatively inaccessible.

Partly because of this and also because the interior would be a tough place in which to mine efficiently and profitably, it has

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

POTATOES IN DEMAND

"We have heard a belief generally intimated, that at no previous year has been so extensive as during the present season. From various parts of the island, many vessels have sailed for the Halifax, and some for the Newfoundland markets. In consequence of a failure of the crop in some parts of the United States, it is supposed there will be a good demand for potatoes in the former place. By the haste and activity at the Queen's Wharf during the present week, one would suppose that every mouth on the continent was kept open in anxious expectation of the small potatoes raised in our handful of an island. Eighty-seven cars, at one time, thronged the thoroughfare, and the severe contest for precedence elicited a good deal of amusement, as well as a pretty round number of side pushes and kicks."

—The Palladium, Oct. 24, 1844

seen little prospecting. The few who have explored it are of the ilk of the veteran Don Cameron, a rugged pioneer who hits for the bush as soon as a new camp shows the first sign of becoming permanent.

From now on, things will be altogether different in the northern interior. It is grist for the helicopter's mill. With the Geological Survey showing the way in its "flying windmills" and through its mapping of promising ground, prospecting should increase rapidly.

However difficult actual mining may look in the interior, it must be remembered that no territory is too tough, no capital expenditure is too large, if the ore beds discovered are important enough and sufficiently large and rich to demand action. That has been repeatedly demonstrated in the history of mining and is being clearly exemplified in the northern Quebec iron fields, for instance, at this time.

We shall see more and more of the helicopter in the North from now on.

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Notes By The Way

A survey of Canadian automobile owners indicates that more farmers than city dwellers own cars. This seems reasonable enough. A car is often little more than a convenience to an urban family, but to a farmer, it can be a genuine necessity, a labor-saving device that saves him valuable time and increases his productivity. —Ottawa Citizen.

Persons living along the river-shore who intend building boat docks will be interested in a new type of dock available now to the public. The new dock, which is in part removable during Winter months, has one great feature that is lacking in the old stone and wood structure. It is adjustable to varying water levels. People who have had experience with the older type of docks know all too well the problem posed by large annual variations in water levels. —(Brockville Recorder and Times.)

Inclusion of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment in the Coronation procession is under consideration. The Mounties' popularity here apart, their presence would be especially welcome because they are one of the few remaining mounted detachments. The Cavalry of the Line, with their colour and dash, will be greatly missed by those who remember the past procession. At least one Dominion, however, would be unable to send an escort of cavalry. There are only three police horses left in the whole of New Zealand. —(London Daily Telegraph.)

Canadians are not surprised that their pilots should have done well in the air defence tests in Britain, so that Air Chief Marshal Sir Ralph Cochrane should especially mark them for approval. Since 1914 Canadian pilots have established a high mark for excellence. The names of a celebrated trio of that time—Bligh, Brown and Barker—are still memorialized with us. During Second World War Canada's spaces and relative isolation provided ideal training grounds for Allied airmen. We are doing the same thing now for personnel of the NATO forces. In civil flying our bush pilots rank among the world's most capable and successful flyers. —(London Free Press.)

Americans are spending about \$1,094,000,000 for travel abroad this year. Canada will reap the greatest number of dollars, \$262 million, closely followed by Europe and the Mediterranean area, with \$261 million. Mexico will earn \$187 million, West Indies and Central America, \$87 million; South America, \$28 million, and other areas \$15 million. Tourists evidently prefer foreign steamship and air lines. These carriers will realize \$64 million, compared with \$90 million for S. Lines. —(New York Journal of Commerce.)

Parents who permit their children to have pea-shooters should make it a point to instruct their youngsters on the need for using them with care and discretion. A pea, or bean, propelled from one of these cylindrical shooters, can do a lot of physical damage, particularly if it strikes someone in the eye. This is the chief danger stemming from pea-shooter fights which usually are staged by youngsters at this time of year. If used properly, pea-shooters can prove a source of ready enjoyment for the kiddies. But reckless and indiscriminate use may lead to real trouble not only for the victim but also for the shooter himself. —(From Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.)

Just to see what would happen, on an evening visit to Ogdensburg, N. Y., recently we purchased two campaign buttons—one for each candidate—and sported them on our coat lapels to note the reaction of our American hosts. Now that we are safely back on Canadian soil we might pause and give thanks that we escaped with our life. About the only thing the experiment revealed to us is that the American public is equally divided on its choice—and whoever makes the grade to the White House on November 5 will leave his opponent with a huge following of disappointed fans. —(Brockville Recorder and Times.)

The effort to get rid of the lamprey eel as an enemy threatening the end of commercial lake trout fishing, may be facilitated by the discovery that the eel is regarded by many people as a food delicacy and is finding greater acceptance. Provincial authorities have been setting up traps at mouths of streams along the lower lakes to catch these sea creatures. When caught they are taken to Toronto, where they are grilled, wrapped in buttered paper, sometimes salted and sent to consumers in various parts of the country. One processor of smoked fish products in Toronto has already marketed about 9,000 cured and smoked lampreys in that city alone. —(Port Arthur News-Chronicle.)

The Age-Old Story

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgetteth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

MEADOW LAKE, Sask.—(CP)—Mrs. M. L. Dull, who won first prize in a garden competition here, is 71 years old. She planted and cared for 16 varieties of vegetables.

LONDON.—(CP)—A British firm now is producing cigarettes in many colors including red, blue, pink, green, black and gold, all having 22 carat gold tips.

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