

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. CIRCULATION Total City Zone 3,765 Retail Trading Zone 8,457 All Others 824 Total Net Paid 13,045 Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett Associate Editor, Frank Walker

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1951

War Veterans' Pensions

In a brief placed before the Parliamentary Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Canadian Legion has argued convincingly against the Federal proposal of adopting a means test in its pensions increases to war veterans. The Legion suggests, and rightly so, that such increases, to offset rising living costs, should be given to all concerned. The Government's measure, on the contrary, would apply only to 6,000 of the country's 160,000 war pensioners, and would be described as an unemployability supplement of \$20 a month for single men, and \$40 for married, childless veterans. The pensions for these men are now \$90 and \$125, respectively.

The basic principle behind Canadian war pensions legislation is that it is compensation for disabilities received through wartime service. Pensions constitute a rough method of closing the gap between what a man earns and what he might have earned had he incurred no disability. His disability should be the over-riding factor. Once the element of "need" is introduced, this principle is assailed.

Carried to extremes, the Government's argument that an increase should be granted at this time only to those pensioners who need it could mean that disabled veterans who still earn a livelihood should receive no pensions at all. If it is true that pensions are a means of compensating the disabled veteran for his loss of earning power, then an increase necessitated by rising living costs should be applied equitably to all. The Legion's attitude is perfectly logical, and it is to be hoped that the Government will reconsider its policy in the light of the representations which have been made from this responsible quarter.

Express Rates On Fish

Increases in railway express rates on fish ranging up to more than 50 per cent have been authorized by the Board of Transport Commissioners. The railways have, it seems, made out a case that higher operating costs justify the increases and the representatives of the fisheries interests failed to show that the cost to consumers would be materially increased through the new rates.

Both were probably right. The Canadian consumer is not fish conscious and will not be inclined to pay more merely because transportation costs go up. It will be the fishermen who shoulder most of the rate increase in the form of smaller returns for their product.

The railways will also be losers, however, in the long run. Truck competition, already making inroads into the traffic, will be stimulated and may be expected to become important carriers for the industry.

Rugged Path Of Learning

At this time when colleges are losing large numbers of young men and women upon the nation it comes as a distinct shock to be told by the President of the University of Manitoba that young Canadians find it harder to obtain a higher education than citizens of any other English-speaking country.

We are inclined to assume that because primary education is compulsory, secondary education free and colleges available not far from every community it must follow that most young people who want and would profit by higher education can have it. Dr. A. H. S. Gillson says it is not so and a little reflection brings to mind the very great disparity between the numbers attending school and those who go on to college and graduate work.

About the high proportion who are "plucked" under the examination system there is little that can be done without a very great increase in the facilities for higher education. There is another group, however, for whom more should be done. Our educational system cannot be regarded as satisfactory so long as qualified students are prevented by financial difficulties from making the best of their capacities.

Government support keeps the cost of education low and is invaluable but, in addition, our people must go much further than has been done in providing bursaries to enable good students to pursue their studies without undue strain on family finances.

Car License Markers

In view of the steel shortage, Ontario is considering making this year's car markers do for another year with a window sticker to show that the license has been renewed.

An even better solution would be the adoption of permanent license plates which would remain with a car until it was finally scrapped. Over a period of years the saving in metal would be considerable but, more important, automobile identification would be much more satisfactory. Old plates would have to be turned in if the final owner was not to find himself liable to the annual charges so that it would be far from easy for anyone to equip a stolen car with license plates. There would be none readily available and it would be necessary to show very good reason why a used car should suddenly require such markers.

In addition, it would be practical for authorities in other Provinces or States to keep a record of such permanent registrations which would be very useful in establishing both ownership and identity. It would be comparatively simple to issue lists with new cars and transfers inserted.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Apart from the benefit to crops, which is very great, recent rains should eliminate danger of bush fires for some time to come.

Rumour is reputedly "a lying jade", but we hope there is truth in the report that Moscow is agreeable that "cease firing" should take place in Korea on June 25th.

Russia is finding sulphur and sulphuric acid to be in critically short supply as are the western nations. It seems that the world is now facing the hard choice of high explosives or fertilizer.

To permit members of Parliament to spend Dominion Day in their constituencies, the House of Commons will next week start day and night sittings, which will leave the members pretty well fatigued before release is obtained.

The weather on Thursday was not all that could be desired for a holiday, but it did not interfere materially with those who went fishing, of whom there was an unusually large number. And there was no dust on the roads.

All but details are settled regarding the R. C. M. P. acquiring a Roman Catholic \$4,000,000 seminary at Ottawa for headquarters. A public works department official said last week the move has been considered, "but no definite decision has been reached."

Now that the Income Tax Department is to collect deductions of 97 to 100 per cent instead of 95 or 96 the wage earner will have little to pay when filing his return. On the other hand deductions based on special overtime will result in a great many taxpayers having more than their tax assessment deducted at source in the course of the year.

Samuel Pepys, English diarist, died this date 1703. His official employment and his diary started in 1659 and continued for ten years, chronicling his official and personal interests and scandals of London. In 1690 he published his "Memoirs of the Navy". His diary was deciphered by J. Smith and published in 1825.

Another plug for spuds which should be appreciated. The secret of longevity is to eat potatoes with their skins on, Mrs. Priscilla A. Elsie of London, Ont., told an interviewer. She ought to know, for she'll be 100 on Sunday. In good spirits and health although her eyesight and hearing are failing a little, Mrs. Elsie still takes an active interest in things around her. She was born at Lambeth, Ont., and has lived in the London district all her life, where spuds were in daily requisition for her needs.

There is a famine of kilts and bagpipes in Scotland. Canadian Army officers went shopping there one day for 1,500 kilts and 50 sets of bagpipes—but found no Scotsman ready for their business. So far, no Scots firm can be found to fill the order. Edinburgh's largest supplier of kilts said it would be eight months at least before it could supply that many of the garments. The kilts and the bagpipes are needed for the new Scottish battalion, the Canadian Scottish, being formed in Canada as part of the Dominion's new brigade. When trained the soldiers are expected to go to Europe. Officers of the Canadian Joint Mission have been instructed to get 300 kilts apiece in the tartans of the Black Watch, Marie of Atholl, Davidson, Seaforth Mackenzie and Hunting Stewart for the reserve units from which the new battalion is being formed.

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.

SIGNED PLEDGES BY CANDIDATES PROHIBITED

Sir,—The following is from the Federal By-Election Instrument, August 1st, 1948, page 290: "Signed Pledges by Candidates Prohibited."

"Section 106. It shall be an illegal practice and an offence against this Act for any candidate for election as a member to serve in the House of Commons to sign any written document presented to him by way of demand or claim made upon him, by any person, persons or associations of persons, between the date of the issue of the writ of election and the date fixed as polling day, if such document requires such candidate to follow any course of action that will prevent him from exercising freedom of action in Parliament if elected, or to resign as such member if called upon to do so by any person, persons or associations of persons."

Page 242, Sec. 34, provides that the agent shall take the oath to keep secret the name of the candidate for whom the ballot paper has been marked in his presence. The form of the oath is given on page 312, form No. 35.

Page 318, form 51, provides for appointment and oath of Constables.

These oaths have either to be sworn to or affirmed before the Deputy Returning Officer. If there is no Bible in the poll how can the oath be administered to the agents or Constable if they request to be sworn by the Bible?

The date of the Provincial Election was April 26, 1951, and the recounts were completed May 19, 1951. The delay was all on account of errors and omissions in the First and Second Electoral Districts.

I am, Sir, etc., VOTER.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Sir,—I wrote a month ago on this same subject. Was reading what a student missionary in Western Canada said of his field of labour: "Sincerity of country without church or any religious teaching for the children. They simply run wild, not hearing the name of the Christ except in blasphemy." He soon made the public school his first point of attack. One pupil expressed himself in this way: "My mummy wants me to learn these things. But she says that she does not know much about them herself." Here is a case where the school can help the home. It might be just as true in P.E. Island. "And a little child shall lead them." The prayerless home is the sore spot in our own Province.

No doubt the reader of this letter will say—what is the man talking about; does he not know that we have a School Act that forbids religious instruction in the schools? Yes, he knows that. But, I believe the intention of that law was to prevent sectarian teaching or let's say churchism. And I would say, let the Act remain. There is something more suitable, and that is "impression." Religion is a contagious thing. Pious parents win their families more by example than by precept. And the days of youth is the time of impression, especially before the teen age.

But you say, how can we agree? My answer is—agree, first with Cardinal McGuigan, as he shows us the need of knowing the Scriptures which tell us of the cure for sin, and contain such living truths as these—"The Eternal God is thy refuge and under-health are the everlasting arms." "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last," or "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." We might select 1000 or more of these striking reminders of God's love. We are at liberty to open up a half dozen translations and find those thousand eternal truths expressed in the same words in all.

Yes, you will say, but how get the plan working? The teachers are worked to the limit. They have only so many hours. I would say keep the teachers' part in this at a minimum. I would suggest that each Monday morning, he or she hang on the wall a placard bearing two or three Bible texts, showing chapter and verse. A dozen words from a statesman we know of, such as Lincoln, a temperance advertisement and a spot's prayer for peace in the world, kindness and co-operation in our community, including the playground, and Divine help in our studies.

These placards would be printed in advance in large type, hung out Monday morning and taken down each Friday evening. At this the work of the teacher would end for the week, and until Monday when a differently worded placard would be exposed. The scholars' part would be to copy, at some time through the week, those, say, 100 words or a half page in a scribbler, add to this at the end of the following week, and so on to the end of a month. At month's end each scholar would carry that work to priest or pastor who would give marks according to care shown, and amount memorized. I fully believe that this discipline would have a living effect on the church and school.

Now we come to the clergyman's part. He would be relieved of the task of going to the district school every week to "talk" to the pupils, at the close of the day's session. This plan has been used in some places. But instead he would be brought into close and confidential contact with each

The Fledglings



Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. L.) IMPORTANT BILLS

"The House of Assembly during the past week have passed several Bills, among which the Bill for the Relief of His Majesty's Roman Catholic Subjects, the Election Bill, and the Bill for the Establishment and Support of Schools, possess important claims on our attention. The first removes those disabilities, which a numerous and industrious portion of our fellow subjects have hitherto labored under, and places them on an equal footing, with respect to civil rights, with their Protestant brethren. The Election Bill is framed with a just regard to the equal rights of all classes; and when passed into a Law, it will give every person who can be supposed to have any interest in the public welfare, a voice in the choice of his representatives."

"The acts formerly passed for the encouragement and support of schools were found defective in several essential particulars, and the most sedulous attention has been bestowed on the details of the present bill, in order to avoid such errors as were found to vitiate against the successful operation of the former laws. The first clause repeals all former acts passed for the support of schools. The second appoints a Board of Education for the examination of candidates for the office of teacher in any of the public schools. The third enumerates the qualifications which the teachers must possess in order to obtain certificates. The fourth requires the inhabitants of each district to appoint five trustees to superintend and regulate the school in such district, who are to visit and inspect the schools and examine into the proficiency of the scholars. The fifth provides that no schoolmaster shall be entitled to any allowance, unless the inhabitants of the district shall have first subscribed and raised at least the sum of twenty-five pounds a year towards his support, exclusive of board and lodging. The sixth clause authorizes the trustees to enforce the payment of all sums subscribed by the inhabitants for the maintenance of the teacher."

"The seventh appropriates the sum of six hundred pounds a year, during the continuance of the Act, for the support of Grammar and District Schools, and enacts that every teacher of a District School, on producing a certificate of qualification from the Board, and a certificate of uniform good conduct and attention, and signed by the trustees and the two nearest

child. And he would find this the most interesting part of his parish or congregational work.

Lastly, I am told that the words "martyr" and "witness" have the same root meaning. Stephen was the first Christian martyr and a layman. So the writer, telling what he knows, is a witness, and may get a few notes.

I am, Sir, etc., J. A. MacKENZIE, Kensington, P.E.I.

Means Costlier Clothing

(Clyde Kennedy in the Montreal Standard)

Men who are buying suits this spring are paying \$10 to \$15 more for a medium-priced suit than they did a year ago. And by next fall the price will be up another \$6 to \$10.

With a high civilian consumption of woollen textiles, a depletion of raw wool stocks accumulated during World War II and heavy buying by the world's armed forces, there has been a scramble for raw wool that has sent prices beyond anything the producers ever thought possible.

A pound of one type of fine Australian combing wool, for example, averaged 28 pence per pound delivered in Great Britain in 1938. Throughout World War II this same wool was 37 pence per pound. By July, 1950, it had jumped to 151 pence and in April of this year it was up to 293 pence.

Just what this jump in raw wool prices means in terms of fabric prices can be seen by considering a standard yarn-dyed worsted. Just before World War II a yard of this English material cost \$1.75. In the spring of last year a yard of the same material was up to \$3.50 and this spring it went to \$4.10. Since there is a lapse of about 10 months between the time finished material is ordered and delivered, future prices can be quoted. A large Montreal manufacturer says this material will be \$5 a yard this fall and by next spring it will be up to \$6.75.

A further illustration of the sensational rise in wool prices is the fact that you can buy a blanket in a store today which costs less than what the wool in it would bring on the wool market. Wool growers are not responsible for the unprecedented peak in wool prices though fortunes are being made with breath-taking speed in Australia and New Zealand. The competition for the wool in the market places has pushed up the prices. The production of wool has not kept up with the heavy demand and a recent survey of the world wool industry showed that production of raw wool had increased only one per cent in the past year. Australian output has risen sharply in the

Magistrates, shall be entitled to ten pounds per annum.

The eighth enacts that there shall be a Grammar School in each of the County Towns of Charlottetown, Prince-Town and Georgetown—one hundred pounds per annum are allowed for the Charlottetown School until the Academy is established—and fifty pounds per annum to each of the Schools of Prince-Town and Georgetown—provided the inhabitants have first subscribed and raised the further sum of fifty pounds a year in support of their respective Schools. There are several other clauses besides, specifying the regulations under which the Grammar Schools are to be conducted, etc., but what we have stated will give our readers an idea of the main features of this important Bill, which is now in the hands of the Council."

—Prince Edward Island Register, March 23, 1890.

COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE W.K. Rogers Agencies Limited 181 QUEEN ST AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Notes By The Way

The question which cannot be avoided is whether the brigade now being raised (for Europe) is enough and whether the existing brigade in Korea is enough either. Can it honestly be said that these two formations represent Canada's maximum possible efforts to, respectively, the police action in Korea and the complete defence force being created under the North Atlantic Treaty. This newspaper's reply to the question is, reluctantly, a plain "No." Canada is not doing enough. This is not our maximum effort. We ought to be doing more—not, perhaps, easily, but at the cost of no more hardship and inconvenience than is being suffered by other nations in the common cause. — Calgary Herald.

The Poet's Corner

IMMORTALITY When other beauty governs other lips And snowdrops come to strange and happy springs, When seas renewed bear yet un-builed ships, And alien hearts know all familiar things, When frosty nights bring comrades to enjoy Sweet hours at hearths where we no longer sit, When Liverpool is one with dusty Troy, And London famed as Attica for wit: How shall it be with you, and you and you, How with us all who have gone greatly here In friendship, making some delight, some true Song in the dark, some story against fear? Shall song still walk with love, And we who were all these, be but the grave? —John Drinkwater.

SHIRTS LAUNDERED TO PERFECTION RITE-WAY CLEANERS Phone 2387

J.P. MacPherson & Son 157 QUEEN ST. Tailored-to-Measure Clothing That Fits. \$49.00 and up

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION and ANALYSIS G. F. HUTCHESON & SON Optometrists 53 Grafton St.

Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR. Etc. 130 Richmond St. - Ch'town. Phone 590

FOR YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS CONSULT: HYNDMAN & CO. LTD. Insurance Since 1872 Our experience of over three quarters of a century as Insurance Underwriters, is at your disposal. Offices: CHARLOTTETOWN - SUMMERSIDE - MONTAGE

PROFESSIONAL CARDS BYRON J. GRANT O.D. OPTOMETRIST 126 1/2 Kent Street PHONE 879 Adjoining North American Hotel MacPhee & Trainor H. F. MacPHEE, B.A., K.C. E. SOMERLED TRAINOR, B.A. Barristers, etc.

John P. Nicholson, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR. Etc. 154 Prince St., Ch'town Phone 2838 Dr. A. L. MacIsaac DENTIST Dental X-Ray GLORIA BUILDING 179 Grafton St. Phone 291

H. R. DOANE & CO. Chartered Accountants 148 Great George Street, Charlottetown Randolph W. Manning, O. A. Erma P. MacPherson, C.A. W. Grant Thompson, C.A. Box 187 Phones: 2088 - 1447 McDONALD, CURRIE & CO. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Saint John, Sherbrooke, Vancouver, Kirkland Lake, Moncton, Hamilton, Charlottetown, Currie Bldg., Charlottetown Telephone 1639