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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, SEPT. 24, 1949

"Words, Words, Words!"

Commenting on the addresses of the mover
and seconder of the Throne Speech at the open-
ing of Parliament, the Ottawa Journal raises a
point to which attention has frequently been
drawn in these columns in connection with
debates in our Legislature. This is the waste of
time caused by verbose amateur orators, who take
up an hour or more in saying what could be much
better said in fifteen minutes, had they only ap-
plied themselves to the art of preparing their
speeches properly.

"Main reason for Mr. Boisvert and Mr. Laing
taking so long to do their job, which could have
been performed competently in 20 minutes," says
the Journal, "was that during most of their time
on their feet Mr. Boisvert and Mr. Laing were not
working at their job; Mr. Boisvert taking time
out to say things about our constitution which
had been said a thousand times already, and add-
ing, as a sort of bonus to irrelevancy, a eulogy
of Mr. St. Laurent, and Mr. Laing deeming it
necessary to deliver a panegyric upon the glories
of British Columbia. . . If Mr. Boisvert and Mr.
Laing had wanted to do their job efficiently and
without waste of Parliament's time, they would
have left their eulogies of Mr. St. Laurent and
British Columbia to some more appropriate occa-
sion.

"And the great pity is that Mr. Boisvert and
Mr. Laing are not parliamentary exceptions; not
merely two new members out of line with parlia-
ment's practices. On the contrary, Mr. Boisvert
and Mr. Laing were conforming to a parliamen-
tary tradition; a tradition which says that if one
word will suffice a half dozen must be used in-
stead, that in verbosity and irrelevancy and en-
dless repetition there is some sort of parliamentary
virtue.

"There is in such things, of course, no parlia-
mentary virtue at all, but only a bad parlia-
mentary habit, one which has nothing to do
with free speech, nor with good speech, nor with
sensible speech, and results only in inefficiency
and costly waste of time."

Birds And Radar

A very great deal remains to be discovered
about bird migration, and the subject is still
one that is receiving much study. What makes
birds migrate, what influences them on their
flights and how do they find their way to the
same place year by year? Little really definite and
accurate data is available but one thing that
has become known in recent years is the reac-
tion of migrating birds to radar, which Tom Ben-
son reported on in the BBC magazine programme
called "Meet the Commonwealth." During the
war years American radar experts were experi-
menting and happened to throw a radar beam on
a flock of migrating ducks. The birds flared up
and changed their direction as though they had
been shot at. This reaction to a radar beam was
constant and moving pictures of the birds were
taken. This year, through the courtesy of the
Royal Canadian Air Force, equipment and men
went to Delta, in Manitoba, during two weeks
of the spring migration. Their experiments con-
firmed the first observations in every detail, as
Benson saw for himself. Every time the radar beam
was thrown on a flight of birds they flared up
and changed course and when one flight had
been caught three times they became so confused
that they panicked and scattered independen-
tly in all directions. The odd thing is that local
birds seem to pay no attention to radar which
has this markedly unsettling effect only on birds
that are in flight and migrating. What it means
is still a mystery but it gives ornithologists a
new field to work on when investigating the mys-
tery of migration, and confirms the theory that
ducks, geese and other waterfowl are well ahead
of human beings in the science of aerial naviga-
tion.

Vision Tests

The New York Centre for Safety Education
has recently completed research which shows that
some of the worst auto smash-ups are directly
traceable to vision defects which standard vision
tests, where they are carried out, would not un-
cover. It was found that 58 per cent of chronic
accident repeaters examined during this research
had what is called "tunnel" vision. That is,
they might have perfect 20-20 vision straight
ahead, but could not see on either side.

However, the lamentable fact is that only a
few jurisdictions in the United States and Can-
ada make vision tests at all when granting licen-
ces. And now there is proved the urgent need
for even stricter vision tests to keep the con-
spicuously unfit off the roads. The glaring defi-
ciency here, the unreasonableness of expecting
to prevent accidents when anyone, whatever his
defects of health, or vision, can get a licence
to drive an auto, is only too obvious. Eye tests
it is contended, should be a must in the pro-
gramme for screening auto drivers to get the
unfit off the roads.

Sterling Vs Dollar

The core of the British resistance to de-
valuation is that it would raise the price of essen-
tial goods that Britain must buy in the United
States. The higher price of purchases in the
United States would mean a higher cost of liv-
ing in Great Britain. And if Britain must pay
more for American purchases the cost would be-
gin to compete with the heavy expenses already
assumed for its social services. But the Ameri-
can argument is that lowering the price of the
pound would have an important influence in low-
ering the price tag of British goods sent as ex-

ports to the United States. There is more to it
than this. For a lowered pound would not only
make the American purchaser more ready to buy;
it might make the British exporter more ready
to export to America. By keeping the British pound
pegged artificially high in relation to the Ameri-
can dollar, the British Government has, in ef-
fect, been encouraging the British exporter to
send his goods into the sterling markets, where
the pound has a greater value. This encourage-
ment to avoid the dollar market was made all
the more serious by the fact that the sterling
market was already made comparatively easy,
since it is less competitive than that of North
America.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow 15th Sunday after Trinity.

No further word about auto meters, what
they are to cost and who is to supply them.

Provincial Interscholastic Track and Field
meet today.

A convention of some 400 Canadian agricul-
turalists here next summer is something to look
forward to.

The railways have won their originally asked
30 per cent freight rate increase on the basis
of their revenue need. It is still up to the Royal
Commission to recommend how that increase
should be made up.

International Typographical Union called a
strike of printers in Chicago 22 months ago. On
Saturday they decided to return to work on the
original terms offered by their employers. Mean-
time their funds have been pretty well eaten into
due to payment of strike relief.

At midnight tonight the time situation will
again be utter confusion. Many communities are
returning to standard time. Many had not gone
off it. Others are extending the period of Day-
light Saving in order to save power.

The Federal Government's proposed housing
programme is evidence that not all campaign
promises are forgotten. But it took a general
election to bring home the need to the powers-
that-be.

If some such plan is adopted as is now
before the U. N. Food and Agriculture Organiza-
tion, one of the discouraging but common situa-
tions should be greatly eased, that of a glut of
foodstuffs in one country and near famine in
another which cannot afford to pay a commer-
cially profitable price.

It would be interesting to find out how much
in counsel's fees has been paid by the Seven Pro-
vinces in the Freight Rates investigation. They
must have reached almost as much as has been
lost by the increased rates, and now the appeal
will all have to be heard over again on account
of the Railways' determination to insist upon
their further increase.

Paracelsus, Swiss physician and naturalist,
died this date 1541. After a period of wandering
he was appointed town physician at Basel, and
lectured also in the University, but was com-
pelled to leave the city and again led a wander-
ing life until 1541 when he settled in Solzburg.
He emphasized the importance of direct observa-
tion of nature, discovered hydrogen, and intro-
duced many chemical remedies. His great work
Opera was published in 1589, and consists of 10
volumes.

In British Guiana and Trinidad a plague of
frogs is infesting the sugar estates. The frogs
have attacked more than 1,700 acres of cultivat-
ed sugar land on the Corentyne coast and on
the east coast of Demerara this year. In Trin-
idad, where frogs do \$600,000 damage annually,
extensive experiments in control have been made,
but no economical control has yet been establish-
ed. The origin of this is worth recalling. A pest
attacked the young cane and was ruining the
crops when somebody discovered that rats fed
on the pest and could rid the canefields of them.
In time there was a plague of rats, and moun-
goose were put on their track, but it was soon
found the mongoose preferred to forsake the
cane for the chickens on the estate. It was sub-
sequent to this that frogs were resorted to, and
now the planters prefer their room to their com-
pany.

Britain's difficulties in meeting competition
in certain fields in the dollar market are due to
"high costs of raw materials from non-dollar
sources, and the higher margin of profit on ex-
ports to the soft currency areas," rather than
high labour costs or low output, says a report by
the United Nations Economic Commission for
Europe, entitled "Relative Changes in Labour
Costs in Industry," published in Geneva on Sep-
tember 7th. During the first quarter of 1949,
average output was 22 per cent above pre-war
in the United Kingdom, and only 20 per cent in
the United States, while, although labour costs
in the United States had risen 108 per cent over
the pre-war figure, in Britain they had risen by
only 65 per cent, says this report. It continues
"The increase in productivity in the United States
between 1935-38 and 1948, was only 10 per cent.
For Britain the comparable figure may be put
at 18 per cent." The Commission feels that as
United States labour costs are about twice as
high as pre-war, whereas in Britain they are only
two thirds higher, by this measure sterling ap-
pears to be under-valued rather than over-valued
in terms of dollars. The survey, based on produc-
tion, employment, and wage statistics of the
United States and twelve European countries, was
prepared for inclusion next month in the Com-
mission's quarterly review, but it was published
in advance because of its possible bearing on
current financial talks in Washington.

The Poet's Corner

CANOPUS

When quacks with pills political
When would dope us
When politics absorbs the livelong
day.

I like to think about the star
Canopus.
So far, so far away!

Greatest of visioned suns, they say
who list 'em;
To weigh it science always must
despair.

Its shell would hold our whole dinged-
ed solar system,
Nor ever know 'twas there.

When temporary chairmen utter
speeches,
And frenzied herchemen howl their
battle hymns,

My thoughts float out across the
cosmic reaches
To where Canopus swims.

When men are calling names and
making faces,
And all the world's a jangle and
ajar,

I meditate on interstellar spaces,
And smoke a mild segar.

For after one has had about a week
of
The arguments of friends as well as
foes,

A star that has no parallax to
speak of
Conduces to repose.

Bertha Leston Taylor.

Old Charlottetown

DAVID STEWART'S DIARY

Concluding excerpt from the
journal of David Stewart, Esq.,
recording his visit to Prince Ed-
ward Island in 1831 in connection
with the affairs of his estate, and
also to Nova Scotia, where he
visited numerous coal mining areas.

Several pages of the diary deal-
ing with the latter subject, in
which he appears to have had a
monetary interest through some un-
named association or company, are
here omitted:

"Picou, Wednesday, 27th July.
I now prepared to set out (again)
for Prince Edward Island, and
for the packet ship which was to
sail that evening. Saw Captain James
got ready and went on board and
reached Prince Edward Island by
6 o'clock in the morning. Went
to my old lodgings at Mr Des-
Brissay's and got a horse and chaise
after much trouble. Sent to Mr.
Theophilus Stewart, having first
called at Lawson's to beg he would
have my papers ready as soon as
possible. Reached Mount Stewart,
found Captain Stewart much bet-
ter; dined and had some con-
versation with Mr. Stewart on vari-
ous subjects. Mrs. Stewart did not
seem either well or in good humour
but I never learnt the cause. She
was better next day.

"28th July 1831. This morning
was very warm. Thermometer 72
in my bedroom. Got up and walk-
ed over Capt. Stewart's farm,
the present Stewart's, the excellent
to any I ever saw; the wheat,
potatoes excellent; much of the hay
made; the wheat called tea wheat
excellent; it is a new sort found
in Monday and August 1831. It
has some beard towards the top
of the ear. Walked through the
woods, returned immediately, being
bitten by mosquitoes, the only
thing since I came to the Island
before, having never been annoyed
by mosquitoes except in the woods
since I came to Nova Scotia. In
fact the mosquitoes are dreadful
in the woods and in the Southern
Provinces but as the woods get
cleared away they retire from the
houses and are not felt.

"Saturday, July 30, 1831 Spent
the day in looking over papers
belonging to the House
of the invited Capt. Stewart. Mr.
Worrell and Mr. Lawson to dine
with me this day and with much
difficulty got my papers ready from
Lawson and got Capt. Stewart
signed them. Mr. Theophilus Stewart
was in after dinner and we had
some general conversation on vari-
ous matters with Messrs. Cunard,
Cormac, &c.

"It was now time to set off for
Picou and Capt. James sent me
word that the packet was waiting
for me. I set out and found it
impossible to call on Capt. Stew-
art or Mrs. Stewart to bid them
goodbye. They were at Mr. Birnie's
warehouse near the shore. I had
however been much with them
during the day and the Captain
had dined with me. Mr. Theophilus
Stewart followed me on board. We
were now on board with a hard
wind, and beat about all night. It
rained, it stayed on deck all night;
the wind became violent. We cast
anchor and lay till morning."

"The Court was now up and Mr.
Lawson, the Solicitor General, and
Mr. Theophilus Stewart being at
liberty I thought I might be able
to get my business done. I had
plenty of fair promises, but that
was not all. As I became quite
angry and insisted that whatever
was possible should be done to
make my title deeds perfect. They,
as usual, promised faithfully.

"Monday, August 1st. I dined with me
and also Mr. Worrell.

I have met here Mr. John Cun-
ard, the younger of three broth-
ers, merchants, Halifax. He was
introduced to me by Mr. Cormac
who I had seen before at this
House and who I found was em-
ployed here as agent to the Cun-
ards for buying up corn to send
to England. I examined the corn
which was excellent, both wheat
and oats, but they had no means
of cleaning it but by hand the
same as they did in the Highlands
50 years ago. I remonstrated
against this and had abundance of
excuses. Mr. John Cunard is a

Getting The Most Out Of Your Horse



(AN ESTIMATED 50% INCREASE IN HORSE RAC-
ING ATTENDANCE HAS BEEN NOTED THIS PAST SEASON...)

The Blossoming Desert

(Globe and Mail)

The improvement of the agricul-
tural resources of Palestine by
Zionist colonists during the last
twenty-five years has aroused the
admiration of people everywhere.
By dint of fanatical effort, and by
taking advantage of every asset
and opportunity, they have made
barren areas of desert "blossom like
the rose." Their achievement has
been to a large extent a manage-
ment of the water supply, and the
available moisture more even-
ly over the crop year. If Israel is
to provide a living for the incom-
ing thousands of Jewish immig-
rants, it must increase food pro-
duction substantially. This is, in
the first instance, largely a matter
of water.

It is surprising at this distance
to note that most of every asset
settled areas of Israel have an
annual rainfall almost equal to that
of Ontario. Virtually all of it falls
between November and May, how-
ever, and the rest of the year is
generally very dry. Much of the land
is barren desert, and has been for
centuries. The need, therefore, is
for irrigation, and for the storage
of water. To promote the circle of de-
struction, Rehabilitation can now
come only by the expenditure of
intense effort, much money and a
very long time.

TRAVELLING SHORELINE

Deposits of mud and silt washed
away from the shoreline are some-
times found covering the sea-bed
200 miles out to sea.

EVENING STAR



The Age-Old Story

But He giveth more grace
wherefore He saith, God resisteth
the proud, but giveth grace unto
the humble.

clever young man, captain of one
of the ships belonging to the
House.

"I invited Capt. Stewart. Mr.
Worrell and Mr. Lawson to dine
with me this day and with much
difficulty got my papers ready from
Lawson and got Capt. Stewart
signed them. Mr. Theophilus Stewart
was in after dinner and we had
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wind, and beat about all night. It
rained, it stayed on deck all night;
the wind became violent. We cast
anchor and lay till morning."

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Notes By The Way

With a great show of valvete,
operators of a northern Manitoba
movie theatre are expressing sur-
prise that their Indian clientele
doesn't care a hang for Betty
Grable. When the braves go to a
show they want to see a good old
routin' 'tootin', shootin' western.
What this shows, even if the the-
atre operators don't realize it, is
that the noble red man still is run-
ning true to type. The horse opera
he sees may be synthetic, yet it
serves to recall the good old days.
As for Miss Grable—Ugh! Squaw!
—Windsor Star.

At an United Church conference
in Eastern Ontario, delegates dis-
cussed how to increase attendance
in rural churches. It was a prob-
lem that didn't exist in earlier
days. Then entire families, in-
cluding infants and grandmothers,
would attend. Neither distance
nor weather prevented them, even
though they had to go by buggy
or demobrat in the Summer, or by
cutter or sleigh in Winter. At-
tendance then was limited only by
the size of the families, and they
were considerably larger than now.
The motor car and other distractions
have changed conditions. In rural
areas, as in urban centres, often
there are other attractions.
Yet we hazard the guess that rural
people are more faithful attendants
at church than are their city coun-
terparts.—Windsor Star.

Before the end of this year it
is expected that the East Grinstead
Hospital in Sussex, England, will
have discharged its last patient, and
one of the most pathetic hospitals
in the world will be closed. The
hospital was established for air-
men who were terribly battered or
burned in their grim battles with

the Luftwaffe, or in bombing
raids on Germany. Men went in
with their faces burned beyond re-
cognition—no mouth discernible, no
eyelids, no noses, no ears—and
their fingers burned off, leaving
what appeared to be useless stumps.
They could see each other but
could not take each other for
granted, but oddly enough no man
knew what he looked like himself.
Perhaps he guessed from seeing
his comrades in distress, but not a
mirror was allowed in the build-
ing. Altogether, 650 men have
passed through the hospital. Many
of them have had their faces re-
built by plastic surgery which made
them not unpleasant to look at, al-
though their own mothers might
not recognize them.—Stratford
Beacon-Herald.

The story is told of an incident
on the House of Commons' terrace
when Marshall was secretary of
state for the U.S.A. and Molotov
and he were here for the confer-
ence of foreign ministers. They
were seated together with Ernie
Bevin, our own foreign secretary
when Marshall took out his cigar
case and passed it round. As each
helped himself he noticed that the
simple gun metal case was inscribed
inside: "To Our General—From
the Army." Bevin's case, when it
was passed round, was a more elab-
orate one made of gold, and it was
inscribed: "To Ernie—From the
Dockers." Eventually it was Mol-
otov's turn. His clearest case pro-
ved to be made of platinum, richly
embossed and decorated with large
emeralds. Inside, the inscription
read: "From Count Esterhazy to
his beloved Ernie with love and
kisses."—London, England, Re-
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