

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized 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 826 Total Net Paid 13,049

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

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1951

A Short Campaign

The present election campaign is characterized as being a "snap election" and various purposes are attributed to the Government in giving only twenty-six days notice of the polling.

One probable result, however, would be all to the good although it is highly unlikely that it was taken into consideration.

This in turn means that the rank and file of the party will exercise a much greater influence on its month by month policy and that all parties will require to remain in closer contact with public opinion than has usually been the case in the past.

It is to be hoped that the lesson is not lost and that interest in political and party matters does not again fade out with the counting of the ballots.

No Painless Process

Reference was made in the Legislature this year to the "buoyant revenues" derived from Ottawa, due to the increase in gross national product.

It is hoped that other Government members will follow Mr. Claxton's lead in stressing the unpalatable phases of the cold war now in process, which in any case will be revealed when the tax bills come to be rendered.

Menace Of "Menticide"

A few months ago the French magazine Esprit launched an enquiry among leading psychologists and psychiatrists to ascertain whether it was possible to make a man accept an ideology that he loathed and to steal his intellectual freedom.

Dr. Joost A. M. Meerlo, outstanding United States psychologist, now comes forward with the assertion that even the strongest will can be broken, that confessions to political crimes are easy to extract, and that Soviet psychiatrists are probably the willing tools of the Kremlin's secret police in this attack upon man's intellect.

In totalitarian countries the term "brainwashing" has been coined to describe the process whereby resistance fighters are transformed into subservient "yes men" of the police state.

Dr. Meerlo believes that people's minds may be fortified against this diabolical new ideological weapon. Yet even this form of protection, he fears, may in itself be dangerous.

Rifts Behind The Curtain

Apparently the divisions in the Communist ranks in Prague have reached the point where Moscow fears that dissenters will escape to Yugoslavia to join with Tito.

Now Communist Russia is insisting upon raising the levy from 50 per cent to 80 per cent. In consequence, antagonism has been greatly increased in Czechoslovakia.

There certainly appears to be no lack of divisions and troubles behind the iron curtain.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Good news—Polio-myelitis cases in Canada fell from 2437 in 1949 to 706 last year.

Prince Edward Island leads in elections; other provinces follow.

U. S. A. has restricted the use of castor oil—but not for children who will be entitled to their doses as usual.

The sympathy of all our readers will be extended to Mr. J. Watson MacNaught, M. P., on the death of his father, Mr. Robert C. MacNaught.

The C. P. R. is to be permitted to lower freight rates on Canadian potatoes to the New England area. It is to be noted that the reason for asking the reductions was because of motor-truck competition.

Ice cream manufacturers, of whom Mr. J. A. Simmonds has been elected president for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, are to be commended for deciding to continue to sell the 5c cone for children.

Scotsmen must be on the rampage for royal mementos. First they stole the stone of Scone from Westminster Cathedral, and now they have stolen the three historic silver-headed arrows belonging to the King from Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh.

Albrecht Durer, German painter and engraver, died this date 1528. Durer is the culminating point of mediaeval art, a great pictorial moralist.

British actress, Ann Wrigg, has been selected to portray Lady Godiva in a pageant at Coventry, Eng., on June 23. Ann is 28, a brunette, but, alas will not be in "the altogether," as the original was having been instructed by the promoters to wear tights and a flaxen wig in her portrayal.

The bill before the Commons in Ottawa giving the Government wider powers to take away citizenship rights from disloyal persons is no doubt necessary for the welfare and security of this country.

The month of May will be anything but a merry one for tenants. It is the first month following the expiry of Federal rent controls April 30 and is also the month which will provide a yardstick for future rent control under the Provincial act.

Lawyers disagree on whether or not judges should be permitted to accept positions as commissioners or arbitrators.

The Ontario section of the Canadian Bar Association has gone on record as approving appointment of members of the judiciary to serve on such boards of conciliation and arbitration in industrial labor disputes.

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.

AIRLIFT APPRECIATED

Sir,—The airlift inaugurated by The Guardian newspaper will, I am sure, be a mighty fine service for the people of this portion of the Province, and while in Alberton this morning many of our people there expressed their satisfaction with this new and up-to-date service.

Kindly accept also my thanks for your kind cooperation in publishing my speech recently delivered in the Legislature. I find that very many of my constituents look forward to hearing what we have in mind for them during the session.

I am Sir, etc., FRED C. RAMSAY Montrose, Prince County.

ROWDYISM AT GAMES

Sir,—There was an appropriate editorial in Thursday's Guardian anent uncouth conduct at hockey games.

There should be an embargo against spectators grabbing sticks off players or interfering with them by bodily contact. It should be construed as "assault and battery".

Proper applause and vocal encouragement are legitimate and praiseworthy, but the possession of a \$200 ticket doesn't give the holder the right to \$40.00 worth of hollering—besides, he must have a mellifluous voice, or he will surely antagonize a lot of people.

"Booing" is generally too promiscuous—puerile. A "labial" (lip) expression can be made by anyone with a 150 vocabulary and a zero I.Q. Some one "booed" at Robbie Burns as he passed, and the retort was instant, viz—

"Ye're like a bull among the kye, That boos at folks as they go bye."

The players should try to hold their equanimity—"Stand pat, — civil and strange."

I am, Sir, etc., JAMES PENDERGAST Kensington, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

STATE OF THE MICMACS

From a despatch to Lord Glenelg, Secretary of State for the Colonies, from Sir Charles A. Fitzroy, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, 8th October, 1838:

"The Indians who reside on this Island form a very small portion of the once numerous Micmac tribe, the aboriginal inhabitants of that part of British North America out of which these lower Provinces have been formed, and of which tribe the remnant is now scattered over the Colonies of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and the Island of Cape Breton.

"From the best information within my reach, I do not believe that the number on this Island exceeds 200 individuals; although it is difficult to ascertain this with any precision, as well on account of the roaming disposition of this people, as that their numbers fluctuate from the constant intercourse with the mainland. From their habits of intemperance, and other causes, their numbers are rapidly decreasing, and, with few exceptions, they are sunk to the most abject and degraded state to which I should conceive it possible for human beings to arrive."

"I cannot ascertain that much effort has been made to reclaim them from their wandering habits, or to induce them to fix themselves at any one spot; the utmost advances which they have made towards settlement or tillage being confined to the cultivation of a few potatoes, by the small number who remained stationary during the winter months; the remainder subsist by hunting, fishing, making baskets and toys of birch bark, and begging in Charlottetown and among the settlements.

"No provision appears to have been made, when the Island was so improvidently granted away, for the reservation of any lands for the use of these poor people, nor has any application been made in their behalf since I arrived in the Colony; but humanity demands that some steps should be taken, in order that when the Island becomes fully settled, and when they will be of necessity precluded from rambling to and fro, as they are now suffered to do, unmolested, throughout the Island, they may have some spot secured to them, where the small number which will, in all probability, then remain, may be enabled to subsist.

"It would be useless to endeavor to settle them in any of the ungranted lands of the Colony. The quantity remaining at the disposal of the Crown does not amount to more than 12,000 acres, and these of an inferior description; and it is dispersed in various situations in small allotments, so that a sufficient quantity could not be found in one place, which could be rendered available for the purpose, even if there were no other objections.

"But there is a small island, situated on the North-west coast of Prince Edward Island, lying between Richmond and Goodwood Bays, called Lennox Island, the property of Mr. David Stewart, which the Indians have long considered as their own, and on which they have built a chapel, and where they have, from a very early period, buried their dead. I believe, if they could have this Island secured to them either by a voluntary grant from the proprietor, or by the Government purchasing it for their use, it would not only meet their utmost wishes, and render them perfectly contented, but, by offering them an inducement to remain stationary, afford a fair opportunity for any efforts at improving their moral and social condition. Any attempt of this nature, in the present state, I am convinced, would be wholly thrown away."

The Prospects



Cost Of Living

(The Letter-Review)

Labour Party of Britain has published a pamphlet called "This Cost of Living Business." It is for three pence, which, after the Socialist Government has applied its monetary theories, now means about 3-4 cents Canadian.

Naturally, published by a Socialist Government in its own defence, it contains some mild boasting about the beauties of price control and food subsidies, rental control and the resulting housing shortage. Readers will easily recognize these passages.

Many other passages, however, represent a complete retreat from all the nonsense that Socialists talked before they won an election and found out what rot they were talking. A few passages follow:

"Although the cost of living has gone up by 80 per cent since 1938, wages and salaries have gone up too. Wages have risen by over 90 per cent and industrial workers' earnings, which include overtime and bonuses, have increased by 130 per cent."

"With more in the shops, and with the need to replace things in the home, people are spending more on the bigger things, like sheets and furniture. This inevitably leaves less money for beer and cinemas, books and meals out, jaunts and holidays. So everyone feels that there is less money about." This is not only because the cost of living has gone up — it is because our standards have gone up as well.

"If supplies of price-controlled goods are limited, they may disappear under the counter or it may be necessary to ration them (officially or unofficially)."

"It is also true that the maximum prices fixed by the Government are often used by traders as minimum prices."

"There is a limit to the amount that the economy can bear, and it is now Government policy to limit subsidies to £410 million a year."

Concerning so-called social services:

"Of course all these services have to be paid for. They are paid for by taxation."

For Western grain growers:

"World prices are likely to go on rising for some time. If they do, then when contracts run out there will no doubt be pressure on Britain to agree to higher prices in the new contracts. Even with bulk purchase we may have to pay rather more for our food in the future, but we shall not have to pay as much as we would on a free market."

"What effect do changes in wages and salaries have on prices and the cost of living? About 80 per cent of the value of the nation's output is the cost of wages and salaries. Changes in wages and salaries therefore have a profound effect on prices unless the higher wages are matched by higher productivity, or are met from profits."

"Profits cater for the creation of reserves to pay for expansion and re-equipment, and the additional money manufacturers want to pay dividends to their shareholders. The more money firms put aside to develop new methods of production, the more consumers have to pay now for goods. But new equipment and better laid-out factories mean more efficient production, lower costs, and the possibility of lower prices in the long run. If the money to pay for this were not raised from profits it would have to be raised in some other way."

"Profits tax prevents the accumulation of excessive profits."

"A reduction in distributed profits could do little to reduce prices. They are a very small part of the cost of any item so, although there are very many excellent reasons for dividend limitation and profit control, their effectiveness as a means of reducing the cost of living is not one of them. Even if profits were eliminated altogether there would still be a cost of living problem."

"If prices were arbitrarily cut in order to reduce profits, then the inefficient firms making little profit would go out of business altogether. But today, the best firms are producing up to capacity, and the production of the less efficient firms is never then, is to raise the efficiency of all firms to the standard of the best — in other words, to increase productivity."

"Costs of production are higher than they were. Raw materials cost more. Workers are now getting much better wages. Profits should be reduced but the reduction will not have much effect on prices. Costs must be reduced as well."

The Poet's Corner

ON MALVERN HILL

A wind is brushing down the clover, It sweeps the tossing branches bare, Blowing the poised kestrel over The crumbling ramparts of the Caer.

It whirls the scattered leaves before us Along the dusty road to home. Once it awakened in chorus The heart-strings in the ranks of Rome.

There by the gusty coppice border The shrilling trumpets broke the hush.

The Roman line, the Roman order, Swayed forwards to the blind assault.

Spearman and charioteer and bowman Charged and were scattered into spray. Savage and taciturn the Roman Hewed upwards in the Roman way.

There—in the twilight — where the cattle Are lowing home across the fields, The beaten warriors left the battle Dead on the clansmen's wicker shields.

The leaves whirl in the wind's riot Beneath the Beacon's jutting spur. Quiet are clan and chief, and quiet, Centurian and signifer.

—John Masfield.

The Age-Old Story

Know ye that the Lord He is God; it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

MELBOURNE, April 5 — (Reuters)—Police today arrested 22 members of the crew of the British freighter Kaipaki who went on strike because they did not like their food. The men, charged with refusal to take the ship to sea, will appear in court tomorrow.

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Notes By The Way

"It is true," remarks the Detroit News, "that the sun beat the English jet plane in the race across the Atlantic, but it deserves little credit for that. The sun was familiar with the course; in training it had made the trip several times already." Nevertheless, we have little sympathy for the English; they knew the setup, and should have demanded a handicap.—Ottawa Citizen.

There are several places along the St. Lawrence which will soon be flooded out in the event of the seaway project proceeding and, although those whose property is inundated will be reimbursed, there will probably still be some loss suffered. One good feature of the situation is that the communities that have to move will have an opportunity to do some worthwhile town planning in their new locations and avoid mistakes that were made years ago.—Pembroke Bulletin.

Events in Barcelona have disclosed the extent of the opposition of the Spanish people to the administration of their country. It is now plain that Franco's government continues in power only by force of arms. The time has surely come for the British, American and French governments to make it clear to the Spanish rulers that, while we have not the slightest intention of interfering in the internal affairs of their country, the entrance of Spain into the Western community and the granting of economic help cannot be had unless there are plain guarantees that the administration will be made less corrupt and that the elementary principles of a civilized society — such as that starvation and opulence should not exist side by side — are respected. Without this, aid to Spain will be not only a disgrace but a futile investment.—The Observer (London).

The saving of daylight had long been urged by William Willett, a prosperous house builder, who rode on horseback at 7 in the morning — "the most joyous hour of the day" — and thought it absurd that the nation still slumbered. He conducted a one-man agitation, gradually gained supporters, and finally secured the attention of parliament. If war had not come in 1914 the change would have been further delayed. Long before Willett's time a famous American had had the same thought. In 1784 Benjamin Franklin wrote "so long by the smoky, unwholesome and enormously expensive light of candles" when they could have "as much pure light of the sun for nothing." More familiar is his maxim "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." That saying has soured, and will continue to sour, the hour which, of all others, childhood most highly prizes.—New York Times.

It seems to us, however, that there is one kind of control that is not getting the attention it deserves. That is self-control. In fact, the process is in the reverse. As we get more and more hampered in a mechanical way, the less ready we are to curb our passions, our selfishness, and impose rules of moderation and mutual charity upon our lives. Our marriages are being more frequently broken up than ever. Our talent for friendship of a true variety is perceptibly diminishing. In some way this forgotten aspect of control must be given its due.—Guelph Mercury.

Britain leads the world in jet planes, and the jet engines being, of course, British also, foreign countries that make them pay royalties for doing so. When you read that an American jet plane flew from one airfield to another in record time, the credit goes largely to the British engine with which it was powered. The United States Air Force has just placed the largest order on record for aeroplane engines of any kind with the Buick division of General Motors. It is for the Sapphire engine, one of which equals the thrust of all four Wright Cyclones with which each of the U. S. B-29 bombers is driven. How many engines the Buick company will make under British licence is not revealed, but some idea of the number may be gauged by the fact that the United States Government has advanced \$25,000,000 for the preliminary tooling. Evidently the Sapphire is a real gem.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

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