

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1939

Midsummer Precautions

All Canada seems at present to be sweltering in a heat wave. While Prince Edward Island is no exception, we have the offsetting advantages of cooling sea-breezes at night, and unsurpassed bathing beaches within easy reach of most parts of the province. This is ideal summer weather, if one happens to be summering in the Garden of the Gulf.

There are, however, necessary precautions to be taken. Bathing when overheated, or immediately after meals, is a frequent cause of drowning accidents. No matter how safe a beach may be, there is always this danger if ordinary common-sense rules are not followed. Let us hope that this season will not only set a record from the tourist traffic standpoint, but will be free from bathing fatalities as well.

There is also the danger due to increased traffic on our roads and highways at this season. Paved roads should not be made an excuse for unnecessary speeding.

But perhaps the greatest danger at this season is that of fire. Every precaution should be taken by campers to see that fires are properly put out. The damage caused annually in Canada by bush and forest fires runs into millions of dollars. There are several such fires raging at present in the Province of Ontario. New Brunswick rarely escapes without serious forest fires at this season, and even in this Province such catastrophes on a minor scale are not infrequent. A lighted cigarette-butt, tossed carelessly from a motor car, may cause the destruction of acres of woodland, not to speak of the danger to farm buildings and human life which such carelessness entails.

The Railway Question

Transport Minister Howe's attempt to answer Dr. Manion on the railway issue is a reminder of the fact that it was under Mr. Howe's administration that the control of the Canadian National Railways was put back into partisan politics, and that so long as this situation prevails, economic management and co-operation between the C.N.R. and C.P.R. is out of the question.

Dr. Manion, while firmly opposing unification of the two railways, suggests that greater co-operation could be obtained under a non-partisan board. Mr. Howe is quite satisfied with things as they are. He even boasts of his regulation of water transport which, had it gone through as drafted, would have imposed ruinous transportation costs upon the farmers and shippers of this Province. An amendment to the legislation was only made after a delegation headed by members of our Island Government had gone to Ottawa in protest.

Mr. Howe makes the surprising misstatement, which is repeated editorially by our local contemporary, that in opposing railway unification Dr. Manion did not represent the majority of Conservatives in Parliament. Mr. Howe's statement is nonsense on the basis of the figures which he himself quoted. He said that 25 Conservatives in the Senate favored railway unification, while thirteen opposed it. Seeing that Dr. Manion's Conservative followers in the House of Commons are a unit against unification—making over 40 Conservatives in the two Houses against it—by what process of reasoning does Mr. Howe conclude that "a majority of Conservatives in Parliament" are for unification?

There are Conservatives, just as there are Liberals, who believe in unification, but the Conservative party, overwhelmingly, is against unification. It said so by a plank in the platform of the National Convention. It has said so again and again through the mouth of the leader it elected to speak for it—Dr. Manion.

The Liberal attempt to belittle Dr. Manion's leadership on this and other issues is inspired by genuine concern over the favorable impression which the Conservative chieftain is making in his present speech-making tour.

King Government Responsible

The Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal), examining the controversy between Premier Duplessis' Government and Prime Minister King's Government over relief and unemployment, concludes that Mr. Duplessis is wrong, Mr. King right.

Whereupon the Ottawa Journal comments: "Admitting, for the sake of argument, that its conclusion is right, isn't there a bigger thing that it overlooks? The thing that Mr. King's Government has been unable to get along with either Mr. Duplessis or Mr. Hepburn. The Free Press explains Mr. Duplessis' attitude with the airy statement that this is "an election year." But last year was not an election year, nor the year before that, and during all of that time Mr. King did not merely fail to get on with Mr. Duplessis; he failed to get on with Mr. Hepburn. Indeed, we have had four years of almost constant bickerings between the Dominion and the provinces; four years which have seen government in Canada degraded to the level of personal feuds between Dominion and provincial politicians. Almost it has seemed as though some of our public men believed that government in Canada was concerned chiefly with their personal ambitions and whims and prejudices. At a time when desperate need exists for united purpose, when there is

unemployment and hard, bitter sacrifices for hundreds of thousands of our people, we have had the spectacle month after month and year after year of petty and sometimes vulgar controversies between politicians, with the Dominion and our two greatest provinces almost steadily at cross purposes.

"Canada, surely, is entitled to something better. And should demand something better. It is not necessary—it is indeed impossible—to try to penetrate all the causes of this friction, or to fix the blame. It is enough to know that the present Dominion Government has shown itself incapable of getting on with the provinces, of securing harmony, or decent co-operation. In what should be one of the supreme tasks of statesmanship in this country—the task of national unity—it has failed constantly and dimly; it has produced a mosaic of confused, bitter and Balkanized politics such as Canada has not experienced in a generation.

"If a Dominion election comes, as now seems likely, this should be a commanding issue. Canada simply cannot afford a Dominion Government which, whether through wrong-headedness or weakness, cannot secure co-operation from the provinces."

A Gaelic College

Wednesday in our sister province of Nova Scotia they celebrated an event quite as unique, in its way, as the Confederation Conference at Charlottetown. It was the opening at St. Ann's, a little village in the Cape Breton highlands, of the first Gaelic College in North America. Behind the College is the Gaelic Foundation of Cape Breton Island, which aims at preserving and perpetuating the Highland language and customs.

The ceremony of dedication was carried out in conjunction with the first annual Mod, a Gaelic term meaning "moot" or meeting, which is an annual festival in Scotland.

The College itself is an unpretentious log cabin, in keeping with the tradition of the Highland pioneers who contributed so much to the settlement and culture not only of Nova Scotia, but of this Province as well.

Editorial Notes

Air Mail between England and Australia and New Zealand inaugurated this date, 1938.

Hitler still seems to dominate Canadian politics when the Prime Minister indicates upon him depends the date of the general election.

The I.R.A. are outlawed by both Ireland and Britain. Their "material" home must necessarily be Germany, the only country to stand to benefit from their outrages.

Liberals say their Prime Minister has a difficult decision to make regarding the election date and he needs time. The difficulty is not in deciding for or against a general election this year but in deciding when he should announce his decision in favor of a contest this year. There is little doubt he would like to save this news for the party dinner to him in Toronto on August 8; but most of his party are now anxious to get going in the fight and business people are demanding that the uncertainty and resulting tension be ended at the earliest possible moment. The lessening of war threats should make it easier for Premier King to reach an early decision and to make an early announcement.

Queens County Liberals are becoming more and more restless regarding their future re-education, and general "management". It is said one reason for the application for delay in election appeal Bell vs. LePage, is to wait the appointment of a new or retention of the present Lieutenant-Governor. Many Liberals have let it be known at Ottawa that they are quite satisfied with the present occupants of Government House, and would deprecate a change. There has been no reconstruction of the Campbell Government pending the decision of the election appeal, and the likelihood is that one or more of the legislators may be successful aspirants for nomination as candidates in place of Mr. Dunning or Mr. Douglas, or both.

The rapid expansion of a "twentieth-century" industry—that of canning—is traced in the Monthly Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia for July. Indicative of the growth is the four-fold increase between 1900 and 1937 in the value of output of the fruit and vegetable canning and preserving industry in the United States—from \$56 millions to \$290 millions. The smaller Canadian industry experienced an equally striking gain—from \$4 millions to \$50 millions. Indeed, the volume of canned fruit and vegetable production in both countries has considerably more than doubled in the post-War period alone, which has also seen rapid development in other countries, notably Hawaii, Australia and South Africa. It is thus evident that modern housewives welcome the emancipation from long hours of cooking, the availability of fairly cheap fruits and vegetables at all seasons of the year and the more varied diet which canned goods provide.

Both the Germans and Japanese are evidently profiting by following the outstanding dictum in Hitler's Mein Kampf which reads:—"A wise victor will, if possible, always impose his claim on the defeated people stage by stage. Dealing with a people that has grown defeatist—and this is every people who have voluntarily submitted to force—he can then rely on this fact that in not one of those further acts of oppression will it seem sufficient reason to take up arms again." This passage is illustrative of Hitler's whole conception of internal and external policy. It is this turning of the screw which he is at the moment applying to the unfortunate citizens of the Austrian, Bohemian and Moravian protectorate. It is this system which since his advent to power he has followed in his dealings with Great Britain. Hitherto it had proved a successful system; and now Japan is taking a leaf out of Hitler's book in regard to China.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The Hartford Courant, which is the oldest newspaper in America (having printed the Declaration of Independence as news when it was issued), has lately adopted a new policy. It will no longer print notices of diseases of which people die in its obituary columns. This is to avoid frightening its readers. The plan is a very sound one, even if it does lead to some complication and vagueness, as for instance when a millionaire is shot to death by a lady friend. (Mr. So-and-so died peacefully last night in a local barroom. Miss So-and-so is held for murder). It is a good idea but it doesn't go far enough. When I see my own newspaper print the Daily Sun, I shall keep all kinds of unpleasant news out of it. I shall guarantee to prevent the mention of Hitler's name, and I shall certainly suppress all politicians' speeches and references to taxes. — B.H. in Victoria Times.

A number of contemporaries in the daily newspaper field—including The Ottawa Journal and the Montreal Herald—reporting that "think" is now the fashion for C. Geo. McCallagh's Leadership League, are suggesting that the movement was doomed to failure because it would not go as far as to tell the people what to do with their votes. That was the point made by The Financial Times when the league was launched in January last. But in view of the fanfare which accompanied the launching of the movement, and the seeming purposefulness of Mr. McCallagh and his associates, it is not so much that recent developments will come as something of an anti-climax to the great majority of the wise and sensible members of the league's membership.

In the leisure of vacation time a visiting professor from New York University predicts an inevitable political union of Canada and the United States. He says that the two nations are "in the Commonwealth" when it is no longer to her economic advantage to remain a member of it. It is just history 50 years since Dr. Charles Sumner, former U.S. Senator, predicted Canada's annexation to the United States. But there seems considerably less prospect now than there was then. There appears to be implied, in the observations of the New York professor, the suggestion that if Canadians are to be united to the United States now Reciprocity in ideas on international adjustments might allow Canadians to suggest that if the United States were to take a more active part in establishing collective security in the world before all aggression comes nearer to its own shores. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Eric Cross one of Mr. Hepburn's ministers sings the Ontario Premier's song about poor little Ontario paying half the taxes of the big Dominion and says "I never think of Canada as a nation comprising nine provinces, rather they leave the impression it is made up of one province and eight minor ones." We'll admit to satisfy Mr. Cross that Ontario pays half the taxes but we refuse to go further and say that the taxes created in Ontario. For the sake of argument let us look off the West from Canada and stick it on to the United States. What about Ontario's wealth then? Would its industries be as large if it were withdrawn to a western market? Big business may make it pay taxes in Toronto and pay its taxes at the Toronto income tax office, but the taxable income of many of them was created to the extent of the purchases that came from the western customers. — Lethbridge Herald.

Great Britain's new Family Provision Act puts an end to an angry testator's right to cut off with a shilling certain members of his family who displease him. The testator's estate must make suitable provision in his will for his widow, unmarried daughters, sons in their nonage, sons and daughters who because of mental or physical incapacity cannot earn their living. If any such person contests a will leaving property to charity or to persons outside the family, the court will inquire whether reasonable provision has been made for these dependents; if not the will may be set aside and assets redistributed to the dependents. A little of a testator's old privilege of resentment is nevertheless left to him. Under what some Britons call the "dirty linen" clause, the court may inquire about any appellant's conduct toward the person who has disinherited him. It may then proceed to make such allowance as it deems the appellant worthy of receiving. — New York Sun.

One of my colleagues yesterday was chuckling at a letter sent in by a woman subscriber of the Sun, who said that for several days past the radio programs published in the paper had included a mysterious program entitled "Silence on the March." She was so much mystified by this phrase, wondering just how silence could march (even the poets never make silence do more than creep), that she decided to tune in one night. To her great disillusionment it turned out that the program was really "Science on the March." She was so disappointed that she asked us please to make the correction immediately. I am very sorry that the story about her has turned out this way. It would have been much more pleasant to discover that there really is a program called "Silence on the March." There is a great mystery for it. It would be a wonderful thing to be able to go to one's radio on a moody evening and tune in on the mindlessness of silence marching down the ghostly corridors of time. — Baltimore Sun.

There are limits to taxation and when these are exceeded people will economize in what they pay to governments. It would be an excellent thing if such economy were practised on a wider scale for the money that would be much more money available for private enterprise and initiative. It is a powerful and compelling way of telling governments that an end must be put to spendthrift zeal. It is a

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

CITY COUNCIL

Sir—A writer signing as "Justitia" takes exception to a few statements I made regarding the resignation of the present City Council. He says "for why?" I will not attempt to give any reasons, they are obvious. He also says "in an election could we get better?" Why an election? Do we need a Council? He says they are free and easy. I should say so. He says he holds no suspicion of their wrong doing—correct, nor do I, but they must feel and hear the rumblings and how can they do their best for the citizens if they think we are not behind them?

He says we are not blessed with men of ability like Laird, Davis and Pope, etc. Surely we would not ask for men like the "Fathers of Confederation" to run the City of Charlottetown. Surely no one would compare the business acumen employed by Council's for the past 10 or 15 years with that of these great men. If not all of the present Council would be returned, giving us election expenses for our pains. Who questions their return and our pains? Oh my.

His next paragraph about the better plan. Right, I agree in "City Management." He says: "We must not ignore that at stiff expense they employed expert help. Sure they engaged expert help at a cost to the citizens of \$8,000.00, and I believe it was well spent, and as a citizen and irregularly have occurred since time began, but let us not stop trying to prevent these things."

At the last election practically all the Council was elected by "acclamation" because the citizens thought they were looking after their interests and also because there is no glorification in being on the Council; also there is no salary attached. There is always criticism and more so at the present time, and perhaps at a date later than this. I believe that we will have that meeting I was talking about and ask for a "Civic Management."

I would like to have some arrangement made so that taxpayers would not have to keep their receipts on file for seven or eight years, or else pay again. In fact, anything at all is better than we have been enduring.

I am, Sir, etc.

"TAX-PAYER NO. 1"

ARGYLE SHORE

Sir—The poet has surely blessed it with his happy eyes, for there is no lovelier spot on all this island than Argyle, that more delightful on a sunny July afternoon, yes, even the whole day through than the "Shore."

In the morn one wakes to find the air clear, cool, invigorating, filled with the voices of many songbirds welcoming the visitor to this quiet haunt. As morning reveals the beauties of the shore, the noontime wonder, coolness coming up off the water almost holds you spellbound whilst you leap into the waves for a mid-day plunge.

On the horizon, a faint outline of our neighboring province can be seen and your thoughts as you gaze across the azure blue expanse seem to flood out upon those shimmering waters. The afternoon wanes. You lie on the beach enjoying one of the richest sun tans old "Sol" ever bestowed. No, you don't bask, you are like the trout, you bask in the glory of it all.

If overcome by the intensity, a cool grove nearby affords you all the "Menthol" comforts you wish to enjoy. Yonder is a fountain of clear, crystal, running water covered over, not only for hygienic comfort but also taking the place of one's home "fridge-are."

The evening meal is over. The spell of the Strath draws one again to the beach, this time the most glorious smell of all. The sun sets over there in the west, stretching out its purple, red and gold beams across the waters, a flaming ball of fire burning itself into the ocean; yet the sublimity of it all, the solitude and peace. Here, there is no drone of fly or mosquito.

form of passive resistance that is unanswerable, that conveys a lesson that cannot be mistaken. — Victoria Colonist.

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quite (maybe because of the absence of wind) to detract from the perfect enjoyment of the summer visitor.

Just as the sky is changing its myriad of colors for the deep blues of twilight one plunges again into the tide, which just at this time seems to be part of one. The stars in the etheral expanse are like sparks glowing in a midnight furnace and one turns from them lest they should burn out.

Suddenly a new wonder catches the eye; not to the west but to the east the disk of the full moon steadily rises up out of the ocean, retaining its mortal name, "That Orbed Maiden", and sending its steady golden gleam across the quiet night waters, broken only now and then by faint and distant surges.

You gaze at the expanse stretching for endless miles; you are overcome by it all; you glance at the shore, the rocks bathed in moonlight and water; the land echoes back the lap of the surges; the Sandman has done his work and sleep crowns the glories of a perfect day.

Such are the delights of this loveliest of lovely spots. If the poet has not blessed it, nature itself has at least not been fateful for Argyle Shore is a most superb holiday resort, and in the years to come we hope a hotel with bathing houses will supplant the cottages which are already supplying the tourists' needs.

I am, Sir, etc. ERMA A. BAIN.

THE CITY MUDDLE

Sir—I am much in line with Mr. John Anderson (in Patriot) whose excellent letter will cause intelligent citizens to think. I do not sign my name (for the present), believing that better judgment upon the subject matter than on my individuality.

I am 100% behind Mr. Anderson on the conviction that George P. Nicholson, ex-City Clerk, is not guilty of any willful act of wrong doing which the auditors' report seems to allege, by implication. At least not on any evidence so far presented.

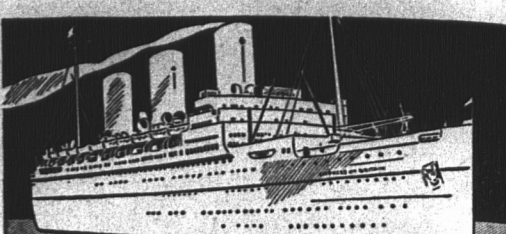
Some may say his illness and mental breakdown is a sympathetic proof. I hold the contrary. The hardened thief is not so much the subject of a mental collapse as the one who is consciously innocent, whose clean character is more far reaching than that of the "Report", let me restate where my last letter left off.

Following the unlawfully created assessment of 1925 (the \$1,000,000 dollar increase) in addition to appeals I have no doubt that numerous overtaxed citizens applied to Council committees, or Mayor, or some one in authority for an adjustment. In most cases these who realized the wrong done by irregular process, made adjustments. Some fair adjustments were made, and probably some not quite so fair. The finale, however, was that the taxpayer paid all perhaps more than all, that he was legitimately liable for. The City Treasury was in receipt of its money. Those who engaged the dealers made no personal profit, the City Clerk, the servant of Council and superiors, "unlawfully" by order of his superiors performed his clerical duty. I submit that, having submerged the City into the embroglio, an unexcusable breach of the Act, those later "unlawful" attempts to undo the wrong could never find conviction in any court, nor in the judgment of fair minded people.

And there were other types of "irregularities" which the audit specifically condemns, on authority. It claims that returns were made other than those authorized by the Court of Appeals. How did the auditors have to speak with such authority? With law before them that an appeal judgment is permanent, unalterable, except by appeal to Supreme Court, what knowledge can they have as to judgments rendered, outside of the scope of their review?

Some enlightening incidents upon this fact are on record. Over 50 years ago, a business competitor, as chairman of the assessors, over-assessed a business man (influenced by personal motives) R. Fitzgerald, Magistrate, (later Supreme Court Judge) reduced the assessment to half. Next year the assessors restored their original valuation. The merchant again appealed. Those who remember the forcible nature of Judge Fitzgerald can well imagine the biting character of his reproof. I am sure that he had no right to "constitute themselves a court of appeal from his decision." Unfortunately I have no power to do so.

(Continued on page 9, Col. 1)



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The Poet's Corner

COWBELL

It stands upon the wooded shelf, tarnished but golden in the gloom. Its throat, that on a summer hill will taste a waterfall's bright plume.

or speak of cropp'd and dewy grass. Is silent. In dusty shadows here, the unshaken voice awaits the hour when it will wander swaying clear.

telling the valley listeners when the lumpy cattle wander far to nibble the low, white clover-flower or homeward turn with the evening star. — Frances Frost.

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