

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink." CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1950

Welcome Visitors

The civic welcome tendered the group of over fifty former Prince Edward Islanders who arrived last evening from Western Canada for an extended holiday was one in which all sections of the Province will join most heartedly. The "Spud Island Special" which conveyed the travellers from many parts of Western Canada to the Maritimes was very largely composed of former Islanders, and no doubt the forthcoming Old Home Week and Provincial Exhibition in Charlottetown was a strong attraction.

The tour, arranged specially by the C. N. R., gives opportunity for many happy family reunions, and it is to be hoped it will be made an annual event at this season. It will add much to the success of Old Home Week to have this large group of former Islanders in our midst, and if they have brought with them others who will be seeing the Island for the first time, so much the better. Old Home Week now is so popular that it is being promoted in other Provinces, but there is no place which can compete successfully with this Island in a celebration of this kind.

Parliament's Prerogative

Prime Minister St. Laurent informed a Liberal party gathering not long ago that the Opposition, in asking for more efficient and intelligent handling of the estimates, was guilty of the double crime of "copying the American system" and of "seeking a place in the Government." "The latest Tory strategy to upset the election results and get a place for themselves in the Government," said Mr. St. Laurent, "is to attempt to turn everything over to parliamentary committees. . . . This is an idea copied from the American system where they do not have our form of responsible government."

Coming from so eminent a legal scholar as the Prime Minister, such an utterance is hard to credit. For the very practice which he decries as an undesirable American device is an established part of the process of government in the United Kingdom. For not only does the Mother of Parliaments at Westminster insist upon an efficient and impartial Public Accounts committee, but almost invariably insists that its chairman be a member of the Opposition and preferably someone with previous treasury experience.

In suggesting that Opposition representation on parliamentary committees is a subtle attempt to usurp the powers of government, the Prime Minister displays a shocking ignorance of the very principles of responsible government. For a close scrutiny of the affairs, fiscal and otherwise, of the Government, is not only the proper function but the bounden duty of Parliament, and in particular of the Opposition.

The power of the purse has always been the ultimate sanction of Parliament. Mr. St. Laurent's remarks provide further evidence of a trend which seeks to reduce Parliament to the role of a mere rubber stamp for Government policy.

Iron Curtain of Exchange Control

The number of immigrants entering Canada has declined sharply in recent months. Total arriving in the first five months of 1950 numbers only 5,351, a little more than half the number entering the country in the same period in 1949. The drop is due mainly to the fact that fewer people are able to leave the United Kingdom for Canada because of the rigid exchange controls imposed by the socialist government of Mr. Attlee.

The Canadian Government is studying ways of increasing the flow of British immigrants into this country. At the same time, efforts are being made to persuade the United Kingdom Government to allow prospective settlers to bring more money with them than the 250 pounds presently permitted by the British exchange control authorities.

It is to be hoped that these efforts will succeed. Canada has long been the first choice of Britishers seeking to establish themselves abroad. And Canadians welcome the stability and seriousness of purpose which characterizes the British settler.

Solution to the problem is restoration of the convertibility of currencies, not immigration subsidized by the Canadian taxpayer which some of Ottawa's economic planners have been advocating.

EDITORIAL NOTES

With a new president and a new clubhouse, the Charlottetown Tennis Club should really be "on the ball."

Egg and poultrymen are becoming advertising conscious. The hen was away ahead of them.

Word from all over the Island indicates the expectation and realization of bumper crops—a buyer's harvest and a seller's market.

Veterans of the last war are being asked by the powers-that-be if they are prepared to volunteer if called upon for service in the threatened Third World War.

Morell has shown that the art of old time fiddling is far from lost, notwithstanding competition from radio, films and recordings.

More tourists than ever are on the move, which means that word of any unsatisfactory condition of travel or accommodation will spread the faster.

Distinguished and most welcome summer guests at the North Shore this week will be Hon. Angus Macdonald, Premier of Nova Scotia, and Mrs. Macdonald, who are due to arrive today.

In welcoming the advent of successful Islanders abroad on holiday bent, Better lo'ed ye canna be— Will ye no come back again?" is the sentiment in the hearts of all true Spuds.

The Labour Protective Union are in the forefront of a movement for a marine slip at Charlottetown. It will serve a double purpose, provide means for repair of ships, and provide work for labour in the long off months of the year at the waterfront.

The Attorney-General is to be congratulated on his Department's stand against illegal lotteries. Those who see nothing wrong with this method of raising funds should take steps to have the law amended. In the meantime it is right that it be enforced.

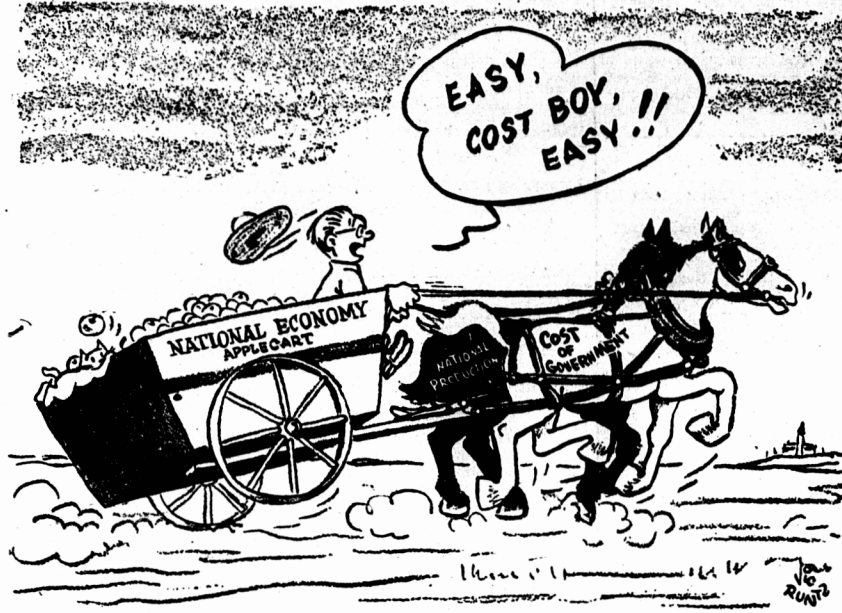
Francisco Petrarch, Italian poet and humanist, born this date 1304. One of the greatest poets of all times. His fame as a lyric poet rests on "Conzoniere", sonnets to the mysterious Laura (whom he met in Avignon, and whose death he laments in his "In Morte di Madonna Laura", the lyrical story of one of the great loves of the world's literature. Petrarch's influence on subsequent sonneteers was considerable.

The Little Theatre Guild's campaign for membership deserves every support, and that means joining by those who have the capacity or latent capacity to take part in the Guild's many activities. Apart from the fellowship which is perhaps the most rewarding feature for the active members, the contribution made by the Little Theatre movement to the cultural life of the city and Province places non-members very deeply in debt to this hard working and talented group.

Business conditions are likely to continue good through the end of 1950, a survey of industrial buyers in Canada and the U. S. shows. Mr. R. C. Swanton, chairman of the business survey committee of the National Association of Purchasing Agents, discussed the forecasts at the association's annual conference. Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, formerly chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, questioned the soundness of liberal credit policies which have spurred the boom in durable goods and housing.

Six years ago, on July 20, 1944, a number of German officers—some of them retired Generals—and a few highly placed civilians, muffed a clever and audacious attempt to assassinate Adolph Hitler and overthrow the German High Command. A bomb, smuggled into a meeting between Hitler and his advisers, exploded almost at the feet of the Nazi ruler, killing or injuring a number of those present. Hitler, miraculously, escaped with only minor injuries. In the belief that their plot had succeeded, the rebels attempted to seize the War Ministry, the General Staff and the command of the Berlin garrison. Again, their well laid plans failed. Hitler lost no time. Chief suspects in high quarters were seized and executed, and steps were immediately taken to carry out a purge of the army. Hitler took to the airwaves to advise his followers of his safety. At the same time he announced a number of new appointments to replace the men he had had executed or removed. This done, he again crawled into the shell which had served to cloak his movements since the tide first turned against the Germans.

THE NEED FOR PULLING TOGETHER



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.

CRAPAUD INCORPORATION

Sir,—After the severe scorching we received from Mr. Wotton in a recent issue of The Guardian we have finally screwed up our courage sufficiently to enable us to come forward and utter a feeble little chirp.

Since coming to live in Crapaud a few months ago we have attended strictly to our own business, leaving other people quite free to attend to theirs. However, when anything as insane as the incorporation of a small place like Crapaud that is bound to involve the people in more and more taxation, this too is our business as it is the business of every property owner in Crapaud. Incorporation involves taxation. Taxation follows incorporation just as surely and as naturally as the night follows the day. The opposition that has developed and is still developing to this incorporation scheme appears to be a spontaneous uprising of a large number of the more thoughtful people of this community who are becoming aware of the danger that lies ahead.

We fully agree with the necessity of keeping the fire fighting equipment of this place in good order. The hose was ruined before I came here, having been used for other purposes than fire fighting. We were told, and by one of Mr. Wotton's henchmen, that the old worn-out hose was not renewed because the committee in charge attempted to levy an unfair tax of \$10 a head on the people irrespective of size of income. If our opposition to this incorporation scheme has disrupted the fire fighting system of Crapaud and disturbed the peace and tranquility of this place as charged by Mr. Wotton, we feel it would be equally absurd to charge the people of South Korea with the trouble there. On the contrary, as recently as last Saturday we saw the Crapaud fire fighting equipment doing service at a barn fire in Victoria.

It seems to me a most extraordinary situation to incorporate a small village in order to purchase a short piece of fire hose. No, do we think it necessary to incorporate in order that all may share fairly in the necessary village expenses. We do not agree either that a committee appointed to look after this work would necessarily prove more efficient under incorporation.

We are greatly surprised at the type of men here who have fallen for this thing, particularly the farmers on whom this will bear most heavily. We are not greatly disturbed about the immediate future. The alarming thing we see about it is that once incorporated it is in perpetuity. As far as we know there is no way out.

Now in regard to light. If there is one thing more than any other that Mr. Wotton needs it is light. We think the merchants or other business men of this village in their own interests might install some outside lights. This added to the present number of private lights we think would take care of that situation quite nicely without incorporation.

The remedy for the congestion of traffic that Mr. Wotton coughs of here lies we think with the parties who benefit by this influx of people. We feel there could be no objection to Mr. Wotton's generous friends who are willing to supply this place is incorporated, doing so without incorporation. We think Mr. Wotton responsible in quite a measure for this congestion of traffic. There is little doubt that a large number of people come in here to Crapaud on Saturday nights for the express purpose of getting a peep at him.

"The more they gazed the more the wonder grew That one small head could carry all he knew."

Mr. Wotton makes much of the fact that we are incorporated under the Village Service Act, not like the poor people of Kensington and Borden who are under the ordinary Town Act. It is true that under the governing act here there is a protecting clause that makes it necessary for the citizens to vote funds before any

The Age-Old Story

The lip of truth shall be established for ever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment. Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord; but they that deal truly are His delight.

money can be expended. Mr. Wotton knows, but failed to point out in his letter, that at a public meeting held here in Crapaud the Hon. Mr. Cullen in answer to a question by myself admitted the possibility of the deletion of this clause if the commissioners desired more money than the citizens were willing to vote. Remove this protecting clause from the Act and you have left exactly the same act that Mr. Wotton bemoans the poor people of Kensington and Borden to be suffering under.

The governing Act here is copied from a Nova Scotia Act. I am enclosing a brief clipping from a Nova Scotia weekly paper dated March 23, 1950, which deals with the tax situation in a small incorporated town in that Province, and which reads as follows:

"At a special meeting of the Town Council, held Monday, the tax rate for the year 1950 was struck at \$6.25 per \$100.00 of assessment. This is a reduction of .25 over the 1949 rate, which was \$6.50 per \$100.00 assessment."

This same little paper through the many years we have taken it has frequently given comparative tax rates of other small incorporated towns in the Province. The similarity with all of them is very striking. This small Nova Scotia town contains at least three or four times as many people as we have here in Crapaud. With three or four times fewer people, with this protective clause removed, and over a like period of time we think it a fair assumption that the taxes here could quite easily be three or four times greater than those in that town.

These taxes are comparable to a rolling snowball. The farther it goes the larger it gets. And the larger it gets the faster it goes. We would very much dislike to see the children of Crapaud left a legacy of an abomination of heavy or uncontrollable taxation.

The 50 cents a head Mr. Wotton seems so perturbed about losing will be paid by the Government, if at all, only after the people of Crapaud have contributed of their own funds towards certain services.

There is another item we feel sure has not been overlooked by Mr. Wotton although he neglected to mention it in his letter. This is the salary that is attached to the office of secretary of the Commission when appointed. This money if spent for the purchase of fire fighting equipment we think could be much more profitably used.

There is a very strong tendency for matters of this sort to fall into the hands of a certain class of people who are much more progressive than wise when it comes to the expenditure of funds that belong to other people.

Mr. Wotton was certainly unfortunate in his choice of a simile when he likened the people of Crapaud who failed to agree with him to droves in the mire. We are sure your readers, and particularly the ones living in Crapaud, will not fail to appreciate the humor of this coming from Mr. Wotton.

We would warn residents of other small villages in this Province against rushing into this incorporation scheme unadvisedly as has been done here in Crapaud. "If in doubt don't do it." Beware of glib tongued agitators. Especially avoid any who have nothing of a useful nature to occupy their time; masquerading under a cloak of patriotism and good citizenship, and with probably an axe of their own to grind.

We think sufficient has now been said to fully clarify the issue. We will not willingly enter into a prolonged controversy with any one. We wish to thank you, Sir, for your courtesy in allowing us space to express our views in your valuable paper. I am, Sir, etc. J. D. LORDE. Crapaud, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

INDIAN MUTINY RELIEF

"At a public meeting of the inhabitants of Queen's County convened by High Sheriff D. McIsaac in the Court House in the Colonial Building on the 13th instant, a subscription list was opened in aid of the European victims of the diabolical outrages perpetrated in the mutiny in Bengal. The following committee was appointed to open a correspondence with the central committee of the Indian Relief Fund in London: Hons. James Warburton, Col. Swabey and Joseph Hensley, C. R. Coker, G. W. DeBlois, Stephen Swabey, T. H. Haviland, Thomas DesBrisay and J. Rigg, Esq."

—People's Journal, Oct. 18, 1937

The Poet's Corner

THE MOWING

This is the voice of high midsummer's heat. The rasping vibrant clamour soars and shrills. O'er all the meadowy range of shadeless hills. As if a host of giant cicadae beat the cymbals of their wings with tireless feet, Or brazen grasshoppers with triumphant note From the long swath proclaimed the fate that smote The clover and timothy-tops and meadowsweet.

The crying knives glide on; the green swath lies. And all noon long the sun, with chemic ray, Seals up each cordial essence in its cell. That in the dusky stalls, some winter's day, The spirit of June, here prisoned by his spell, May cheer the herds with pasture memories.

—Sir Chas. G. D. Roberts.

Canned Potatoes

(Windsor Star) The canned potatoes now issuing from a processing plant in Essex County may mark the beginning of one of our more important Canadian industries. More than that, if it proves successful it will be a notable step in the feeding of an often hungry world. The potato is one of the more important articles of diet. In any comparative test of basic foodstuffs it will rank close to wheat. Yet the potato is in a strict sense a highly perishable product, a fact which limits its usefulness as a world source of food.

While it keeps reasonably well through the fall and winter months under good storage conditions, it tends to become withered and soft as spring approaches. The old supply barely meets the new crop. A canned potato that will retain its quality indefinitely can bridge this period. It can be shipped and stored more economically. At the same time the process permits the use of potatoes of a size formerly ruled out for table use. Last but not least, the canned product ought to prove a boon to those who place potato-peeling among their antipathies.

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Notes By The Way —

It's a tremendous advantage to be a blonde. A blonde can say anything — even the silliest things — and nobody minds.—Film actress Celeste Holm.

The duties of Second Secretaries are to assist First Secretaries and to direct Third Secretaries.—Australia's Official Gazette.

The highest legal speed limit we know of in this country is that of seventy m.p.h. on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Any inclination to turn Quebec into a Spain or Portugal within the confines of this Dominion will split the country with a fury that will not abate for centuries. Quebec, which has prospered under tolerance, must learn that Canada's freedom of religion and civil liberty does not stop at her boundaries.—Peterborough Examiner.

Those who defy decorum and sit comfortably with feet up on desks will be gratified to hear that the practice has been approved by a member of the medical profession. The doctor contends that blood flow in the legs, and he points out that women who very seldom sit with feet up have much more trouble with varicose veins than do men who are inveterate followers of the feet-on-desk school of thought. Give us more doctors who can justify our weaknesses.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Stephen Trenka, Thornhill sculptor, who came to Canada 20 years ago as a Hungarian immigrant, has won a nation-wide contest, and \$1,000, for the design which will appear on Canada's 1951 nickels. His comment is: "I feel good to know that I have done something for Canada because Canada has done a lot for me. This is a great country which gives an opportunity to all immigrants. It should indicate there is a place in Canada for foreign-born peoples." The fact is that Canada has had little trouble with its foreign-born peoples. The actions of one sect of the Doukhobors only serve to emphasize the unusualness of their special case. On the other hand, Canada has gained many industrial and cultural skills from the non-British immigrants who have come to our shores and made their homes among us. Each nation has its own virtues, its own accomplishments. They can all be woven usefully into the Canadian tapestry.—Toronto Star.

We are profoundly grateful to the Savile Row tailors for their kindly advice about how to wear suits. It has bothered us for a long

HARBOUR CRASH

DURBAN, South Africa, July 19.—(Reuters) — Anglers fishing from a pier at the entrance of Durban Harbour today saw the 5,000-ton British freighter Inverbank crash head-on into one of the concrete caissons which formed part of the port's wartime submarine defences. The vessel's starboard side forward was damaged.

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