

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3, 1954

Two Views

Mr. Robert McCubbin, parliamentary assistant to the Federal Minister of Agriculture, says that in his opinion the agricultural outlook for 1954 is "bright."

Mr. McCubbin is in a good observation post. He has at his disposal charts, graphs, and statistical reports of all kinds and descriptions.

Mr. Hannam also is a qualified observer of the agricultural scene. In the course of his official duties he travels widely; he is in a position to see at first hand the many problems which beset Canadian farmers.

All who are interested in Canadian agriculture—and who isn't?—will hope that Mr. McCubbin's view will turn out to have been the more accurate one of the two.

Vital Issue At Berlin

To the question "What is the 'cold war' about?", perhaps the shortest and most precise answer might be "free elections."

Writing from the United Kingdom Information Office at Ottawa, Maurice Lacey points out that this is why free elections in Germany are the vital issue in the Berlin talks.

That is not surprising. For one thing is certain. If there were free elections in Germany, that would be the end of the Communist Party there.

tion of the Red Army. And now the Western Powers are asking that the terror apparatus of the East Zone should be dismantled.

The Western plan provides for all these precautions in East as well as West Germany.

Canada Council

The Canada Council, recommended by the Massey Commission in 1951, still has to be formed and, according to the Ottawa Journal, there is a trace of anxiety that it will be like the Canada Medal, approved during the last war but never awarded anyone.

There must be hope that Mr. St. Laurent is pursuing with zeal his search for members. The council will stimulate and help organizations in the fields of the arts, letters, humanities, and social sciences.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In addition to those mentioned editorially yesterday, Messrs. A. Walthen Gaudet, F. G. Hutchison, George J. Rogers and W. H. Beaton have indicated their intention of running as Councillors in the civic election.

The sad case of a young couple who always paid cash is noted by the St. Catharines Standard. It seems that when they applied for a mortgage under the National Housing Act they were informed that they had no credit rating.

Britain's new turbine airliners are to be fitted with a loud-speaker public-address system over which the captain can pass messages to the passengers.

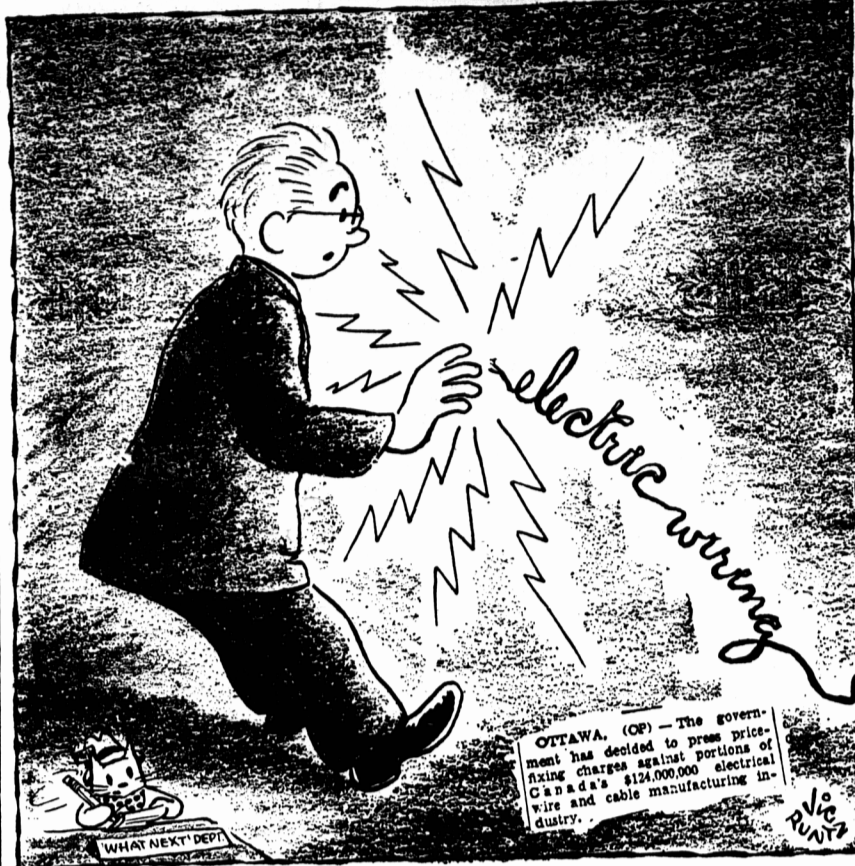
Higher elevation means lower temperatures in the popular mind, and so it does when the elevations are of mountainous proportions.

Queen Elizabeth II will visit Northern Ireland on August 17 to launch a 20,000-ton passenger liner at Harland & Wolff's Belfast shipyard.

A helicopter squadron which has transported over 10,000 troops in Malayan battles against the jungle terrorists has been awarded the trophy presented annually for the most outstanding feat of aviation in the Royal Navy in 1953.

Several British firms are now building, or have already completed, new factories in Canada. They include Dexion (Canada) Ltd., Toronto, associates of Dexion Ltd., London, England (patented aluminum and steel structural angle); G. A. Harvey & Co. (London) Ltd., Toronto, (steel office furniture); Francis Shaw & Co. Ltd., Burlington, Ont. (rubber, hydraulic and plastic machinery); Dowty Equipment of Canada, Ltd. Dowty is still producing aircraft parts, but the Company is now investigating possibilities for its hydraulic equipment in Canadian industry.

Another Shocking Development



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.

GRAMMAR RULES

Sir,—Among the defects in the teaching in vogue in our modern Canadian schools mentioned by Dr. Neelby in her book entitled, "So Little For The Mind", is a gross weakness in rules of grammar.

For example, let me mention the following case: Early last spring I undertook to coach a girl of good average intelligence in her French for the P. W. C. Entrance Examination. I found her well-versed in her French vocabulary, but woefully deficient in the required grammatical rules.

We would like to ask, who is placing all the blame of failing on the students? The very fact that these other causes are listed, gives evidence, that neither the students nor the teachers are entirely to blame.

There are, indeed, excellent teachers at P.W.C. but it does not necessarily mean, that only those teachers are good who continue to teach on the Grades 1-10 level.

The probability of a new high school in Charlottetown improving the existing conditions in regards to teaching the number of failures in high school, is slight.

P.W.C. has shown its worthiness in past years, and is continuing to show that it is one of the leading Junior Colleges in Canada.

We are, Sir, etc. TWO FORMER STUDENTS Acadia University, N. S.

"DEFENDING OUR ALMA MATER"

Sir,—In reply to the letter entitled "Failure Rate at P.W.C.", appearing in your column Jan. 29, we as former students would like to express our views.

In considering the question "What is the cause of the high failure rate, especially in the academic classes of the First and Second years," we shall stress two points:

(1) A great majority of students entering P.W.C., from rural areas, are not prepared to take on the role of high school students.

Indialogue

By Gerald Steele 4th Year S.D.U. Student

WIDOWS

The general plight of the Hindu widow is reflected even in funeral customs. It first seems rather strange that the corpse of a wife who has predeceased her husband, should be wrapped in a very gaudy and decorated with flowers and bangles.

(2) The majority of students entering P.W.C., do not know how to allot their time, between extracurricular activities and their studies. They find the social life offered in Charlottetown much more intriguing, than the rather dull routine of studying.

We cannot question the accuracy of the statistics presented in the letter, but it must be realized that any institution that is functioning properly, does not lower its standards to accommodate underserving students.

Indeed we do not have to look outside our own Province to find that P. W. C. is overloading the curriculum unnecessarily. During the past year the Government through its Department of Education drew up what I believe was intended to be a uniform grade eleven course for the whole province.

One might conclude, after reading Dr. MacKinnon's letter, that nearly all the failures in P. W. C. are students from country schools who entered P. W. C. with failures in some subjects.

Do too many teachers in P. W. C. discourage these young people instead of encouraging and helping them? It is indeed sad to see so many of our young people who have passed entrance examinations and entered P. W. C. with enthusiasm, in a few short months lose their enthusiasm and consider themselves complete failures!

How can we better this situation and give our boys and girls the chance they deserve?

I am, Sir, etc. ANOTHER PARENT Charlottetown.

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WIDOWS

died before her husband. There is ample reason for rejoicing because the status of widowhood is desired least of all in India.

year are similar to high school requirements throughout Canada." The Program of Studies in Nova Scotia, 1953-54 states: "For a Grade Eleven certificate a student must obtain a mark of 50 on English History, and any other three subjects."

Because girls marry at such an early age and because the life expectancy of the average Indian is 28 years, a woman may find herself a widow before the age of 20 or even 18.

One of the changes which have taken place in Indian society over the last 100 years is that marriage has become cheaper due to the smaller dowries now given to the parents.

Doctors, too, from the point of view of health are not in favor of early marriages. It is estimated that about 220,000 mothers die in childbirth every year in India and the number is probably even larger.

Women are the majority of the estimated 12 million poor cases of TB in the country. This is not surprising when one sees the environment in which they work day after day.

Even with this small glance we can see that all is not well in many ways with the Indian woman. Perhaps the picture given is too bleak, but it does indicate that a problem exists. Like any problem of misery or suffering, it is a human problem and therefore should mean more to us as it is being felt by another creature.

Notes By The Way

Penicillin is produced in England in three flavours, but only the most hardened are likely to ask for a vanilla needle.—Hamilton Spectator.

Chief of the United States Weather Bureau says there is little chance that man will learn to control the weather. In view of the mess we make of other things, this is a very good thing. —Vancouver Province.

large number of widows in the country is almost totally devoid of security. There are estimated to be at least about 126 million widows in India and even if the figure is not accurate it does give an indication of the magnitude of the problem.

In addition to the inevitable discomforts associated with the loss of her sole chance to happiness, the widow has to bear the additional and unnecessary burden of being treated by society as one cursed by the gods.

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Commenting on New York state legislative committee's investigation of fly-by-night charity rackets: The most amazing disclosure of all, made by a research director of the Russell Sage Foundation, is of a man who tested public gullibility for collecting a huge sum of money which he afterwards returned. It was for "the widow of the Unknown Soldier." —Ottawa Journal.

Feeling sorry for oneself is particularly objectionable. It implies that no one else has troubles. One wise man said that if he had an opportunity to share his fortunes and misfortunes with his fellow one in the world he would keep his own; in other words there is usually a pretty good balance.

The Poet's Corner

WINTER NIGHT Winter is as cold as it is white. As frigid in the forest as the town, Yet with only boughs to shelter them at night Under the hemlocks deer have bedded down with a companion for a while. There is no insulation in this place. No fire light except what stars allow, Unless a comet streaks through upper space. Or the moon hangs its cold lantern on a bough. There is no lavish table set with food. Only in snow some little roots and moss. But soon the deer will rise and leave the wood, Crossing the meadow with its moonstone gloss. With footsteps hushed, with no embittered cries, Just adding beauty where beauty already lies. —Elizabeth Jane Atley in the New York Herald Tribune.

Old Charlottetown

From The Royal Gazette, June 21, 1836. Mr. R. Campbell respectfully informs the inhabitants of Charlottetown and its vicinity, that he has opened a School in the school room lately occupied by Mr. Macdonald, opposite the northwest corner of Queen's Square, where he will teach English, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English grammar, Geography, and Practical Mathematics.

On Friday last John Craig, aged 32, a private of the 34th Regiment, was drowned in this harbour, within a short distance of the Barracks while attempting to swim to a vessel in the stream, along with a companion for a swimmer. He was taken out of the water in about ten minutes after he had sunk; but although the usual means were applied, under the direction of Dr. Mackleson, to produce resuscitation, they proved fruitless.

William Nichols, head of King's Wharf announces having received, per ship "Telam" from England, a well-selected stock of British manufactured goods, also a few hogheads and quarter casks of Port, Sherry and Madeira Wine, Cognac Brandy and Double-Barrelled Schiedam. In hogheads: Sugar, Molasses, Rum, Tobacco, and a few chests of fine-flavoured Tea.

During the delivery of Mr. T. E. Mute's lecture on Elocution on Thursday, the neighborhood of the Court House was one continued scene of uproar, but we ought to feel grateful for the mob's forbearance, in not having yet proceeded to knock the windows about the ears of the audience, as was done last summer when Dr. McCulloch lectured in the Court House. For the credit of the town we have to state that it contained twelve to fifteen merely magistrates, — this was merely mention, in order to remove any impression which a stranger might be apt to imbibe, that every one in this virtuous community is allowed to do what seemeth right in his own eyes.

The Age Old Story

And he was as one dead; he was as much that many said, he was dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up, by the hand, and when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

ture like ourselves and conceivably could be our own problem. Most of us can do nothing more in the way of solving it than appreciate the fact that the problem exists. But even that is a great deal, for it can lead us to greater sympathy and to the sober realization that even at its worst, life is not so bad after all.