

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1952

Redistribution

Next week, probably on Tuesday, the House of Commons is expected to deal with the Prime Minister's motion to set up a committee to consider the problem of redistribution of representation in that body. The Prime Minister made it clear that he considers the matter one peculiarly for Parliament rather than the Government to handle and his motion was put very tentatively indeed. His proposed Bill is drawn strictly according to the existing rules of representation but members are at liberty to act in the matter according to their individual discretion. As it stands it would reduce the representation of Saskatchewan by five, Manitoba by two, and Nova Scotia by one. On the other hand it would increase the representation of Quebec by two, Ontario by two and British Columbia by four.

The Prime Minister recalled that Ontario was protected from the effect of its falling proportion of the national population from 1911 on by the rule that no reduction would be made unless the reduction reached five per cent from one census to the next; Prince Edward Island was protected by the provision in the B.N.A. Act that there should be no fewer members than Senators from a Province. In 1946 the principle of representation in proportion to population was restored with the exception of the floor based on number of Senators.

It is now proposed that new steps be taken to prevent too rapid a reduction in numbers of members from any province, for instance a limit of ten per cent reduction at any time. This, however, would give Saskatchewan a larger representation than Alberta in spite of a smaller population and would also give Newfoundland a permanent floor of seven rather than the present floor of six. A fifteen per cent limit might have a somewhat similar result at some future time. The whole question is beset by difficulties and it is not surprising that the Prime Minister suggests that Parliament may deal with it by not making any changes in the present rules.

Hard To Understand

When miscalculations of hundreds of millions of dollars are made by the Finance Minister and his experts in estimating the annual surplus at Ottawa, it is not surprising that the average man finds difficulty in understanding the mysteries of Federal financing. This is not only on account of the huge amounts involved, but because of the elaborate systems of accounting. An exchange points out that the Dominion Government now operates on the basis of three overlapping fiscal years. They begin on January 1, April 1 and July 1, for different purposes. Thanks to the queer muddle of taxation enactments, two of them—the January 1 and July 1 years—relate to income tax rates and payments. The effect is that, while taxpayers pay on the basis of calendar year earnings, the rates are varied in midyear. Thus taxes are computed on one basis for the first six months, on another basis for the final six months.

The Government's fiscal year, which both estimates and final accounts are intended to cover, coincides with neither of the others. Government accounts close on March 31, the new year beginning the following day. Income from taxation during any accounting year therefore is determined on the basis of such rates as may be applicable for the quarter-year between April 1 and June 30, and thereafter on the basis of such rate changes as may become effective on July 1. Mr. Abbott said in his Budget that his forecasts are based upon gross annual production—which is computed on the basis of calendar years. The only period during which the three fiscal years run in parallel is the six months between July 1 and December 31. To add to the confusion there are new tariff levies such as the sixty items which last week's Budget transfers from an Order-in-Council basis to the regular tariff schedule.

Another anomaly which might well be corrected is the fact that increased taxes, though constituting the greatest single cause of the increase in our cost of living, are not included in the cost of living index. Thus defense taxes this year will run into five and one-half billion dollars; but for every \$2 spent for defense, \$3.50 will be spent for things having nothing to do with defense. The total bill, defense and non-defense, will mean \$390 for every man, wo-

man and child in the country, of \$1,460 for a family of four. Mayor Charlotte Whitton, of Ottawa, has been agitating for a cost-of-living index — totalling Dominion, provincial and municipal taxes — to be released every month at the same time in the same report as the cost-of-living index. "Then," she says, "you'll catch the thief in the house." Just what to do with him after he is caught is another question; but Miss Whitton's suggestion would certainly help to clarify a situation which has become intolerably confusing.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Easter Tuesday. Who goes trout fishing today?

Trout fishing is now legal but it will be some time yet before most fishermen consider it a pleasure.

Now that navigation has reopened to Montreal, we will be having a revival of competition from that port in our Newfoundland trade.

"People are now living longer and therefore chronic diseases are becoming more prevalent", reports a Nova Scotia doctor. It would seem that life is not merely going to be longer, it is going to seem longer.

Teachers' Convention commences. With their well-earned recent raise the teachers attending will probably be able to tackle questions of teaching aims and methods with renewed enthusiasm.

A great deal of surfacing work will be necessary on Charlottetown streets in the coming months. Now is the time to find out what excavating is likely to be needed for water mains, sewers, power and telephone cables and perhaps traffic lights.

It is not a good sign for the Island to have a larger import than export trade which is indicated in the railway returns for March. It means we are consuming more essentials than we are producing with which to purchase them. One consolation is that we still have a large surplus of potatoes on hand waiting to be shipped.

Nova Scotian farmers receive Federal aid for marshland rehabilitation and for apples; Quebec for maple syrup pails; the west for drought and so forth. Island farmers are certainly entitled to something for their own particular needs, such as additional frost-proof warehouses to store a large crop of potatoes during a period of glutted markets.

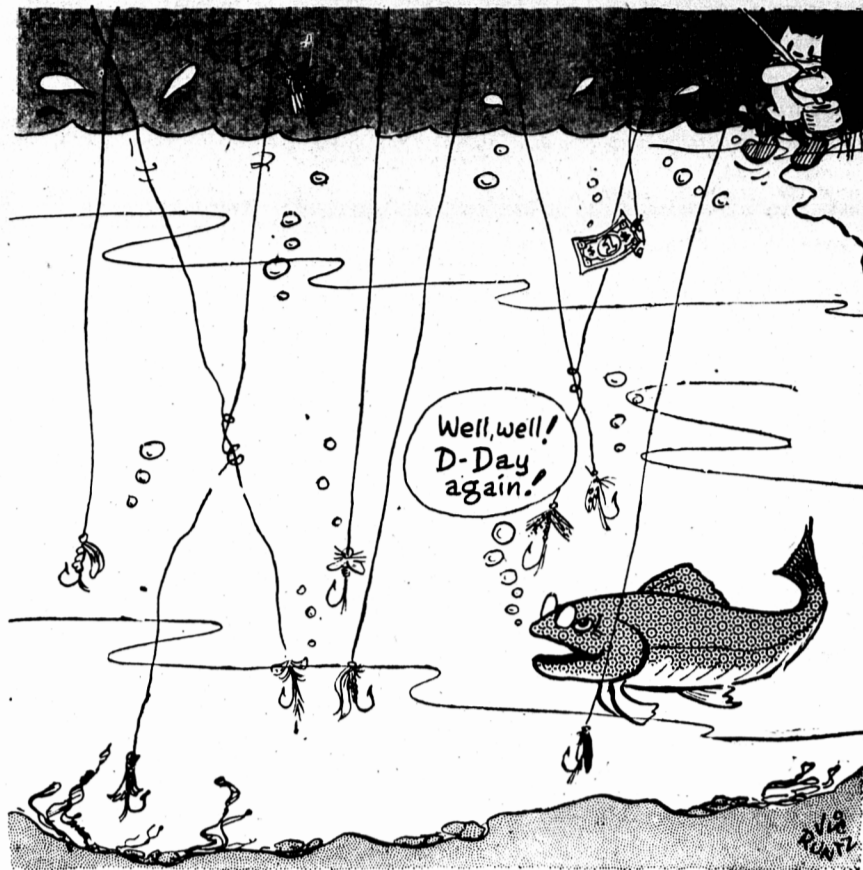
A feature event of Skye Week (May 23-31) will be "Canada Day" at Dunvegan Castle on May 27, when Flora, Mrs. MacLeod of MacLeod, chief of Clan MacLeod, will personally welcome and entertain guests at her historic home. During the week there will be Highland gatherings, tours of historic places and beauty spots and evening ceilidhs.

Matthew Arnold, English poet and educationalist, died this date 1888 after imprudently jumping over a fence. An early poem, "Alaric At Rome", is also one of his best although "Thyrsis" is probably his greatest. Arnold, as an inspector of schools, contributed largely to the improvement of education and also introduced the methods of literary criticism to the study of the Bible.

Now that President Truman has finally let it be known he is out of the running, the Democrats appear at their wits end to discover a suitable candidate to replace him. The favourite one so far has been Mr. Stevenson, who appears reluctant to enter the field, and now the candidacy of Mr. W. Averill Harriman of New York, who has been an Administration favourite of Mr. Truman, is being featured. It would not be at all surprising were pressure brought to bear upon Mr. Truman to re-enter the field to oppose Mr. Eisenhower, whose Republican popularity is gaining favour.

With a small overall majority in the House of Commons, the Churchill government spokesmen say it will take them three years to wipe out the country's economic problems caused by its socialist predecessors' policies. That would be comforting to their supporters were it not for the fact that they are dependent on the small band of Liberals to prevent defeat on vital issues, and any day the Liberals may join Labour in voting against them on such an issue. The County Council elections, though not usually run on political lines, have this year been so, and the outcome has shaken confidence in the powers-that-be at Westminster. Mr. Churchill will from now on have to "mind his step", or he will have another general election on his hands with still many former pre-election promises unfulfilled.

Back In Action



The Passing Scene

By Observer

A LOOK AT THE 1952 LEGISLATURE

Now that "Honourable Members" have laid down their legislative burden for another year (provided no special get-together is in the offing) perhaps a sketchy review of some of the goings-on might be of interest.

As usual, the session dealt with a few matters of importance to our political economy as well as with an immense amount of inconsequential trivia. This is by no means an attempt to ridicule the gentlemen who make up the Legislature, or any one of them. In any assembly of free men there is bound to be some who can think of nothing serious to say. Since silence is often unfortunately regarded as an indication of inability, they must perforce fall back on worthless clichés and vacuous remarks. This is always the case in the best and most imposing of parliaments. In a small provincial assembly, such as ours, it is, of course, more noticeable.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the session was the apparent lack of any real political battling on any level. There was some good humoured banter and some amusing but nothing that might indicate any real cleavage in matters of policy. So far as any impartial observer could see, the principal and almost sole claim of the Opposition was that, given the opportunity, they could certainly govern better, more wisely, and at less cost than the present Administration. They appeared, however, to have little hope that such opportunity would likely come their way in the foreseeable future.

On the Government side every speaker seemed confident that no change was likely in this generation and, therefore, the gentlemen opposite should be allowed their bit of fun. So they were personally concerned—and I fancy there are many like me—I haven't the slightest idea how I should vote were an election to be held in the immediate future. And I must add, with some regret, that nothing that was said or done in the 1952 session would help me at all in arriving at a decision.

Taking a long range view—the kind one should always take in things political—I would say that the one matter of fundamental importance, as distinct from day to day matters of expediency, was that having to do with Electoral Reform. I don't for Heaven's sake last something definite in the way of Universal Suffrage would emerge from this session. In a day like this when the free world is girding itself to defend the democratic concept of government, it seems inconceivable that any reasonable person in a Canadian Province should question one of the basic rights of free men. A man is not free in any democratic sense when he is denied full voting rights simply because he happens to own little or no property. All the talk about the "stake" which real estate owners already have in the Province is irrelevant to the issue. Every man (and woman) has, or may be expected to have, an interest (stake, if you like) in government, in law and order, in equal educational opportunities for children, in the conservation of his country's resources, in the maintenance of public services, in the hundreds of other things in which government is in some way involved. Is it right to suggest that a little property would do anything to increase such interest? I expect, if the truth were known, some of the most intelligent citizens on this Island (quasi-citizens, that is, those who are not presently enfranchised) have never owned a thousand dollars worth of property in their lives.

We may as well be realistic about this. The only fair policy to pursue is "one man, one vote." There may have been a time when a partition, dividing one part of the territory from the other, was desirable. There is no excuse for it now, and it ought to be taken down to make room for really free and representative government.

As for dual constituencies, I have yet to hear any logical argument in their favour. The suggestion made by one member of the Legislature that "Every man (and woman) has, or may be expected to have, an interest (stake, if you like) in government, in law and order, in equal educational opportunities for children, in the conservation of his country's resources, in the maintenance of public services, in the hundreds of other things in which government is in some way involved. Is it right to suggest that a little property would do anything to increase such interest? I expect, if the truth were known, some of the most intelligent citizens on this Island (quasi-citizens, that is, those who are not presently enfranchised) have never owned a thousand dollars worth of property in their lives."

I hooked an imaginary pounder and admired the rod's graceful curve. Strength was certainly not lacking. I noted with satisfaction its straight-as-straight recovery. My best split-cane couldn't do better. "Solid glass," said my guide, and grinned.

I tried out another, chosen at random from the rack, and liked it even better. It was a cast light rod. As far as I could judge without actual trial on a fishing water, it had all the attributes of a first-class rod, and like No. 1 it was beautifully finished. I liked its attractive green silk whippings, its stainless metal agate-ringed fittings, its sensibly divided cork grips. An easy, fatigueless sort of rod, I decided.

But for the hardness of the material, I would not have readily guessed that this rod was built of tubular glass—hollow sections consisting of very finely woven glass fibres.

I examined the sections being handed at the benches — "blanks" made for the first time in this country. "Goddamn, man! This beats a!" — one imagines the amazement of the early Waltonian viewing this cunningly-strong material and being told that here was glass, and here and there were the joints of the glass fibres shown through.

I watched the care with which the joints and other fittings were added. The rod-maker's "No one, sir," suggested the new product worked easily, as my queries. Mr. Hear said it was not because of shortages of other rod-build-material—cane and greenheart — that his firm were introducing glass rods.

The glass rod was not a new-fangled idea. It had come to stay. It had proved its worth in America as a sound angling proposition. There was nothing to hinder Scotland from building glass rods as good as, and better than, glass rods made elsewhere.

"Length for length," said Mr. Hear, "it's lighter than any other rod. Weight for weight, it's stronger."

I shall look forward to a real cast with a Scots "glass" in the coming trouting season. The price, by the way, compares favourably with that of a first-class cane-built rod.

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.

FERTILIZER SUMMARY

Sir.—In the earlier part of a series of letters contributed to your forum on farm problems, I emphasized the existence of eight major perplexities with which farmers had to contend. At one time or another in the course of their year to year farming operations. Five of these were estimated as being beyond the scope of farmers, by themselves, to provide a solution, while three were considered to be within their range. Of the latter, farm fertilizing was singled out as being worthy of first and special attention. Today's letter will be mainly a summarizing of thoughts or suggestions to which expression has already been given. The use of chemical fertilizers, supplementary to nutrients already contained in the soil, as an assurance of increased farm crop production, is universally recognized as a paramount necessity and is a far cry from the early days when its use was considered but a passing whim that would early wear itself out in actual practice.

There are several outstanding phases of crop fertilizing associated with its development, that at the moment loom prominently as problems awaiting solution, among which may be cited: the excessive cost per acre, the scarcity of supply, and the mode and method of application to plant life. The second citation is the main cause of the first, and a solution of the third, which is inevitably already present, will go far towards erasing the other two.

The initial cost of fertilizer can be increased or reduced after purchase, depending upon the use to which it has been applied. If used to promote the growth of a crop having a record of being profitable only one year out of four or five, with the other three or four showing a decided loss, it will have increased or decreased in cost according to returns secured at the end of the crop year. If used on a crop that invariably responds with increased yield and has a fairly consistent record of profitable sale outlet, the cost of the fertilizer will be decreased according to the profits made on the particular crop grown and sold.

Then again, the cost will vary according to the percentage of chemicals applied that will be taken up in plant growth. Plants cannot absorb or make use of dry or solid ingredients, they must be in solution or liquid. In dry weather, fertilizers remain inactive on or in the soil, indefinitely so, and all the while leaching is rapidly in progress. The extent to which this takes place, is a measure of the potential value of the fertilizer that has been forever lost.

And still again, chemicals of which the soil already is adequately possessed, when applied, is sheer wastage, as it will not be taken up by the plant nor remain intact in the ground, awaiting the growing of a future crop. All such miscarriages of good judgment in the art of fertilizing is an added expenditure that can be charged to the original cost.

It may well be enquired how a farmer is to know what combination of chemicals he should use, what crops they may most profitably be applied to, whether the season is going to be favourable from a moisture precipitation point of view, etc. No person can advise a farmer, with any degree of certainty what results he will obtain from the use of chemical fertilizers in any shape or form at any time. He can judge better for himself if he is acquainted with the content of his soil, through a practical system of soil analysis.

Since chemical nutrients cannot be "consumed" in plant growth except in liquid form, he can take the precaution to use chemicals that have been liquified previously to application. He can apply his fertilizers to crops that have consistently indicated they are a good investment. Unless he is a "specialist" gambling on any one or more "cash crops," it might be well to confine his activities and expenditures to the growing of crops that have to or should be "processed" before they are offered to the trade or markets.

For instance, fertilizing grain crops, later to be processed through livestock and subsequently marketed as meats and other livestock products; Fertilizing hay lands and pastures for a two or three crop seasonal production from the former, instead of the customary single prevailing at present, and continuous luscious growth of the latter, that would eliminate the mid-season purchasing of expensive protein feeds.

These are but instances of what can actually be done, and are no figment of a vivid imagination, but a possibility within the reach of every farmer. It is high time that farmers put a proper evaluation upon their annual investment in chemical fertilizers.

I am, Sir, etc. J. A. GILLIES

The Age-Old Story

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.

An interesting reference to slavery in Prince Edward Island appears under date of July, 1800, in an old memorandum book of one of the early residents of Charlottetown, who seems to have been an adept in the art of using words to conceal rather than to disclose his meaning: "I was under the necessity of telling my servants, Hack and Amelia—to get them to go to Prince Town—that at the end of one year, if they behaved themselves well of which I was to be the judge) and that neither Mrs. — or myself wanted them or either of them, I would give them their liberty; that is to say, only for themselves two, not liberty for any children they now have or may hereafter have. But I also told them that if they or either of them misbehaved, they forfeit all expectations thereto. I also told them as long as either of us wanted them, they were not to look for or expect their liberty, but to remain slaves as long as we or either of us thought proper; and I also assured them, if they behaved themselves well, they would never be sold with my consent." (Weekly Examiner, Feb. 11, 1881).

From an article by T. Watson Smith, D.D., Halifax, on "The Slave in Canada," published by the Nova Scotia Historical Society, 1888.

THE PEARL OF THE CARIBBEAN

Sir.—Christopher Columbus was a religious man, and before he set out on his third voyage across the Atlantic he invoked the blessing of the Trinity. On approaching the eastern shore of Trinidad three mountains appeared. Immediately there sprung to his mind the blessing of the Trinity and he cried out to his men as he pointed to the Island: "Behold la Trinidad!" Columbus had no idea of the riches which were in the island, but he discovered an important world figure in history.

The El Dorado, a land of gold and gems, in South America was, at that time, a dream of Europeans, and Sir Walter Raleigh was released from prison in order to lead an expedition to locate this El Dorado somewhere in the Orinoco Valley. His search was in vain; but here in Trinidad, had he known it, was endless wealth in soil for sugar cane and cocoa, not to speak of the rivers of oil to be discovered later. And such wealth! There is soil that has been growing cane, annually, for more than a hundred years, and such crops! The average height of cane is about seven feet, but I have seen it grow ten feet high and as large as a man's wrist and the cocoa is the best in the world. They bring African cocoa, grown cheaply by the natives, to London and there they mix it with Trinidad cocoa and call it all first class.

Oil was discovered many years ago, but has come into use only recently. It is invaluable, especially, for refuelling planes on the fly between the Americas. Many a mile have we travelled over the roads smoothed by the pitch from the crude oil into gasoline, kerosene and white spirit, used in painting, turning out, annually, over \$4,000,000 worth.

Vegetation! One who has not seen the tropics can hardly imagine the wealth of its vegetation. You know what a rampike is? Well, you won't see one in Trinidad for just as soon as a tree begins to die vines begin to clothe it from head to foot, so that no tree is visible; and if you want to travel through the woods you must hack your way.

The lumber is magnificent. Building and furniture woods are almost infinite in number and variety. Trees grow to as high as 150 feet with a girth of 8 feet and more. Among the most valuable are cedar, mahogany, poul, locust balsam, yoke, and purple heart; but there are many more and from the highest limbs rope-trees will hang touching the ground and upon these the monkeys swing, and chatter to each other.

I have only begun to describe to you the wealth and beauty of this Pearl of the Caribbean, and it is a British possession.

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) SLAVERY DAYS

An interesting reference to slavery in Prince Edward Island appears under date of July, 1800, in an old memorandum book of one of the early residents of Charlottetown, who seems to have been an adept in the art of using words to conceal rather than to disclose his meaning: "I was under the necessity of telling my servants, Hack and Amelia—to get them to go to Prince Town—that at the end of one year, if they behaved themselves well of which I was to be the judge) and that neither Mrs. — or myself wanted them or either of them, I would give them their liberty; that is to say, only for themselves two, not liberty for any children they now have or may hereafter have. But I also told them that if they or either of them misbehaved, they forfeit all expectations thereto. I also told them as long as either of us wanted them, they were not to look for or expect their liberty, but to remain slaves as long as we or either of us thought proper; and I also assured them, if they behaved themselves well, they would never be sold with my consent." (Weekly Examiner, Feb. 11, 1881).

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The Poet's Corner

INVASION

Unseen, unheard, a mighty force Prepares to take embattled lands; Battalions in dark hidden ways With methods no man understands Shall build or forge with cobweb tools, A strength, beyond the strength of steel— A greater strength than man can check— A power that every land shall feel.

They shall come forth unheard, unseen, Unarmed to take each bomb-torn field. Brave colors lifted—unafraid Their ranks shall form, and sad earth yield To blades that bend but do not wait For planes or tanks to clear the way Before they pass a fortified gate.

They have no navy but the sea Grows gentle when their banners rise, No squadron built by man shall keep Their feathered army from the skies: These non-belligerents unmoved By threat of war or anything, Shall scorn the nations' armaments And take the world—for Spring.

—Lucy Gertrude Clarkin.