

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, 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, SATURDAY, NOV. 1, 1952

Action Needed Now

It is to the credit of the City that its present Councillors have acted decisively and effectively in meeting less urgent and less important problems than that which now faces them in the provision of adequate educational facilities.

There never was any question as to the desirability of adding new or enlarging present accommodation. The need was recognized years ago and far-sighted citizens put their views publicly and privately before the authorities and to the public through the press.

Unfortunately the matter rested there as the proposals were said to be unacceptable and the Council, anxious to avoid any increase in taxation, did not make any attempt to bring forward, or even investigate alternative proposals.

One of the requirements which is said to have reacted unfavourably upon past action, was the large amount of land needed adjacent to the school and which was said to be available only outside city limits. With the completion of Memorial Field at Victoria Park, the question of a large area of land should not have as much weight as formerly and more emphasis might be placed upon the central location.

Temporary or stop-gap measures are not enough. The present authorities must be prepared to make amends for the neglect of the past generation and provide the facilities which will be required twenty-five years hence.

The most important matter is that the problem be officially recognized, investigated, and a solution put forward. We understand that a survey has been made in this connection, which will shortly be placed before the City Council. It is to be hoped that it will be given very full and prompt consideration, and studied carefully by all our citizens. We can imagine few subjects more important to the present and future interest of the community, and none which has heretofore been so badly neglected.

Apple Day

Boy Scout Apple Day originated right in this Province. It was intended to publicize the fine quality of apples which could be grown on the Island and to give the public a chance to show their support of the Boy Scouts. Since then the idea has been adopted all across Canada and smartly uniformed boys salute and offer, "Your Boy Scout apple, sir", from coast to coast.

In this age of muddled thinking and thoughtless following of this slogan or that leader the Boy Scout movement is particularly valuable. A youth who has had a reasonably good Scout training is too self-reliant to accept the ready-made findings and slogans of demagogues. He is used to thinking problems out for himself and acting upon the solution.

When Scouting was started by the late Lord Robert Baden-Powell it was looked upon as a striking innovation in youth training. Since that time, of course, the principles enunciated by B.-P. have been adopted by educators in almost every land. It is in the Boy Scout movement itself, however, that they have their best success. When the boy is away from compulsory attendance at school he is most willing to participate in the adventure of learning about life by living.

The Boy Scouts Association operates at remarkably small cost to the public but that cost must be met if the movement is to serve youth as it should. By buying a Scout apple we can all do something towards that end.

Lesson In Politics

A Canadian parliamentarian who took in several speeches by important men in the United States election campaign noted something of interest. These speeches, even when on important issues, were all short, usually about 30 minutes.

"This example," says the Windsor Star, "can be followed by Canadian politicians with advantage to them and to their listeners. The day for long orations taking up 90 minutes or more is gone. People just don't want to go out to listen to them, and there is no reason why they should. Even the most important message can be delivered in 30 minutes or less. Many of the great speeches of all time have been brief. If that of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg had

been long, the real beauty and meaning would have been lost in a bog of words. When, during a campaign, candidates have to make speeches daily, or sometimes more than one a day, long speeches are bound to become dull and repetitious. Even the most brilliant orator cannot think up 90 minutes worth of good ideas, well phrased, every day for weeks on end."

This criticism is well taken, and it applies to political speeches generally. A great deal of time in our Legislatures is wasted in repetitious thrashing of old straw, which, if easier than campaigning on the speaker, is equally boring to his auditors.

What is not generally realized is the fact that short speeches require more, not less, preparation and ability on the part of the speaker. The most concentrated form of speech is to be found in poetry, which is the highest form of verbal expression and often contains, in a few lines or verses, sufficient matter for a whole discourse. "In fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, where wealth accumulates and men decay," wrote Goldsmith in 1769; and politicians have been making less effective speeches on the same subject ever since.

Many examples could be quoted from preachers and others, who have mastered the art of concise speech and exploited its possibilities. The late Premier Lea's maxim about the squeaking wheel getting the grease is a case in point. It shows that not even originality is required if the phrase is well turned, for the same thought was expressed by Benjamin Franklin when he said, "The worst wheel of the cart makes the most noise." Franklin's aphorisms should be studied by every budding speech-maker; they are rich in humour and irony as well as common sense, and the phrases stick to one's memory like burrs. "A quarrelsome man has no good neighbors," "Cunning proceeds from want of capacity," "Nothing humbler than ambition when it is about to climb," "There are more old drunkards than old doctors," "To be intimate with a foolish friend is like going to bed with a razor," "A countryman between two lawyers is like a fish between two cats." It was Franklin also who warned that "he that speaks much is much mistaken," and who debunked verbosity in one brief sentence: "Here comes the orator, with his flood of words and his drop of reason."

Our politicians cannot all be expected to have talent for such phrase-making, but they should all be prepared to devote some time to studying the art as a means of improving their own amateurish efforts. If they do so they will discover, as Shakespeare did before them, that brevity is the soul of wit and that it is not so much what a man says as how he says it that counts, on the hustings or elsewhere, when public questions are being debated.

EDITORIAL NOTES

- All Saints, Hallowmas. Tomorrow, 21st Sunday after Trinity. All Souls. Legion Poppy Sales begin on Monday, a fitting prelude to our observance of Remembrance Day on November 11.

The younger generation is on the march—towards the primary grades—and Charlottetown's superintendent of schools is sounding urgent warnings that new construction is needed before they arrive.

To do a good turn every day is the aim of Boy Scouts but the Summerside Y's Men are doing the Scouts a number of good turns. Their latest is to determine to provide a suitable permanent headquarters for the Scouts to use.

The New York Curb Exchange has decided to change its name to the American Stock Exchange, effective January 5. Brokers are presumably not sentimental individuals or they would be apt to regret dropping the reminder of the days when businessmen who were not members of the Stock Exchange did their trading on the curb outside.

The appeal for blood donors is continuing, and it is hoped that large numbers of our citizens will attend the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service clinics next week at Morell, Souris, Charlottetown, the R. C. A. F. Station and Summerside. Maintaining an adequate supply is more necessary than ever, now that the free transfusion service is operated through the Red Cross in all the hospitals of the Province.

St. Odilo, French divine, in 1031 instituted the annual commemoration of the faithful departed on November 2. Of noble family, he became abbot of Cluny in 994 and greatly extended the Cluniac houses. He was known throughout Christendom for his liberality to the poor and was the friend of popes and princes. It was he who promoted the truce of God after the fall of Charlemagne's empire.

In Days To Come?



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.

DIGGING A WELL

Sir,—I have found well-digging one of the most interesting kinds of work I have ever done. In my day I have dug five wells, two in Canada and three in Trinidad. In three I struck living springs. The other two had to be filled in. One of these was fifty-five feet deep. The well-hole was six feet in diameter down to the rock and then three feet. To strike water is a wonderful experience. Day after day you work downward, then one day you drive your gad into the rock and up gushes the water, clear and pure, to flow age after age to quench the thirst of man and beast. A flowing spring is one of the most cheering and optimistic sights one can see in this world.

If wells could talk what stories they could tell of loves plighted, of vows pledged. It was there that Jesus sat and talked with the woman of Samaria. The village well was the news centre of the ancient world.

But I want to relate the story of the digging of a well in Anlwa, one of the islands of the New Hebrides group, about 200 miles north-east from Australia. John G. Paton was the missionary in that cannibal island in 1862. The rainfall upon which the island was entirely dependent was uncertain. The people often depended on coconuts for their drink.

Mr. Paton decided to dig a well. The old Chief Namakal was horrified at the idea. It had never been done. Getting rain up from the earth was preposterous. The gods would be insulted and take vengeance on the whole island. The rain-god especially, whose province it was to bring rain or withhold it, would be pleased with the work if his gifts would be very much annoyed, and cause all kinds of trouble.

But John had decided and was not to be dissuaded; and so with pick and shovel he went to work. Neither the chief nor his people dared come near, and when a thunder cloud came up they muttered: "Now the judgment is about to fall."

The first few feet was easy, but when John got down a bit he had to have some one to lift and empty his bucket. He kept on hand a supply of American fish-hooks, so much superior to the native shell hooks. These hooks tempted the boys to help at a hook for three buckets. Down went the hole to thirty feet. All the while the old chief and his people were mocking and scolding the missionary for his insolent brado. Then one day water began to gush. John dipped up a handful. No, it wasn't salt, though they were not far from the sea. Water, water, water! the cry went out. Rain from the earth! They would not believe it. It simply could not be. But John said: "Come and see for yourselves." They formed up a line of twenty men, each holding hands, the bolder ones looking in first until

The Age-Old Story

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? ... The most notable apostle of literacy is Dr. Frank Laubach, an American who learned the secret of teaching people to read in three or four weeks, from a Christian Chinaman. He has been showing our missionaries of every branch of the Christian church how best to do this. He has done some work in some sixty different countries, has gone by invitation, to the assistance of Roman Catholic mis-

The Poet's Corner

FALLING STAR

It came out of the midnight heaven, Past Jupiter by three degrees, And fell somewhere between Farr's barn And Sugar Hill, behind the trees.

But for sixty seconds by the clock The path it made was there; A long, thin, glowing green Half way to heaven in the midnight air.

And where it shone there in the sky, A whippoorwill long since still Cried out three times From the dark top of Sugar Hill.

As if to say he knew What sign the star made in the night Before the long green glow Faded out of sight.

But a man who saw it happen Would know that there are things apart From human understanding out there As well as in the heart.

—August Derleth.

they had all seen for themselves. Sure enough it was water, they had seen it bubbling up, and would they all be able to use this water? They surely would. The well was right in the public meeting place. They could drink it, cook with it and even wash with it, though not much was used for that purpose.

Then Mr. Paton set the boys to work carrying coral rocks up from the shore for the purpose of stoning up the well. When it was all completed they had a great celebration. The old Chief Namakal preached a sermon on the new rain-god of Anlwa, declaring that the old gods were a failure, that all the people should turn away from them and worship Jehovah God, and really, a new day began to dawn upon Anlwa, that cannibal island, from the digging of that well.

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

WHY THE TORTURE?

Sir,—The white man has always tortured the black. If some one was to be crucified, the victim carried his own cross. If not able to carry it a black man was laid hold of to do this, as it was counted a degrading job. There was money to be made 100 years ago, in taking a sailing vessel to Africa, rounding up the natives into the ship's "hold," letting a few suffocate in hot weather, putting them to work on American or other alien soil, driving them under the whip, selling them at auction, and all the rest. Most people reading this in South America, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," by Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, "Abe Lincoln," American Civil War stories, England's experience with slavery, the cheerfulness and musical talent of the race and should know now, at the present time, the hatred that is in the heart of the black man who is asking for an education that would fit him for independence, that would help him to combat disease, to get back his land that has been taken from him, give him a workman's wage in South African mines and other industries. He has, within the last 20 years, pleaded to be shown how to read and after that, something that is fit and good for him to read.

The most notable apostle of literacy is Dr. Frank Laubach, an American who learned the secret of teaching people to read in three or four weeks, from a Christian Chinaman. He has been showing our missionaries of every branch of the Christian church how best to do this. He has done some work in some sixty different countries, has gone by invitation, to the assistance of Roman Catholic mis-

Old Charlottetown

OYSTER SMUGGLING AFFRAY

"A schooner, said to belong to Halifax has been for some days, taking up oysters in Bedouque harbor, and it has been thought necessary to put the laws in force for their preservation. To effect this, the Deputy Sheriff, Mr. Scates, endeavored to board the schooner, but the master warned those on it, to keep off, and it was found necessary to get further assistance, when Harry Green, Esq., the Under Sheriff of Prince County, John Morris, Esq., J. P., Mr. Broad, Mr. John Tanton, and Messrs George Tanton and Isaac Scates, Constables, of St. Eleanor's, proceeded in a boat, and on their approaching the vessel, were fired at, and two constables, and the Deputy Sheriff, were wounded. Mr. Green slightly, Mr. Scates extensively, and it is much to be feared that Mr. George Tanton is by this time dead, as when Mr. Green left him, he was not expected to survive. Mr. Green thought it his duty to proceed, without loss of time, to Charlottetown; and a large boat belonging to the Gulgare, surveying vessel, was almost immediately dispatched in pursuit of the schooner."

—The Islander, Oct. 26, 1844. According to The Palladium of the following day, the boat from the Gulgare returned to port "after a very pleasant cruise of a few hours—having gone, we are told, only a short distance in search of the schooner—and consequently failed to discover the slightest trace of her whereabouts." Later the steamer St. George was sent after the smugglers, who were apprehended five or six miles beyond Point Prim, and brought to Charlottetown.

"We learn from Captain Mathewson," reported The Palladium of Nov. 5, "that it was with considerable difficulty the boat was captured. When hailed and desired to heave to, the men on board seemed to be aware of the danger that awaited them, and immediately shaped their course to avoid coming in contact with the St. George. When the superior speed of the steamer would shorten the distance between herself and the schooner, the latter would shoot off in the opposite direction from that of her relentless pursuer, till at length the steamer flung her ponderous weight over the hull of the saucy little craft, pitching her down, and carrying away her mainmast, in the collision. Hiscock—the master of the 'Dart', by no means an inappropriate name for this redoubtable smuggler—and his companion, a man and a boy—were then taken on board the

sions in Central America, has a vision of a literate world in less than 10 years, believes that we are merely marking time in killing North Koreans and Chinamen in the present war, believes the solution of problem is in getting the good will of the African, the Asiatic who is not already behind the Iron Curtain. His book, "Wake Up or Blow Up," was written nearly two years ago. It may now be 100 late. We see a civil war at Kenya in South Africa, white troops rushed in to stop murder and destruction.

Dr. Laubach says that it is only the Christian Church in all its branches and their missionaries that are competent and worthy to carry out the enterprise that will require 100 thousand teachers and technical workers and also a few billions of money, but not nearly so much as we now are spending for national security. It has been figured out that five cents out of every dollar of our income from such church people as ourselves would be sufficient. Just think how this effort would raise the moral and spiritual tone in the home base and also put us on the right side in the scene depicted in Matthew 26: 31 to 46. I am, Sir, etc. ARCH. MACKENZIE Kensington

Notes By The Way

There is certainly nothing in the law that permits a tractor to travel along the highway at night without lights at any speed. Yet it is a safe bet that there are more tractors without lights than with them. When these heavy, unlighted vehicles travel along the highways at night they are a menace to life and safety. The man who drives the tractor is taking his life in his hands. His machine is a threat to other drivers and vehicles.—Winnipeg Tribune.

The Vancouver Sun reports that Zazu Pitts, "an earnest befuddlement" on stage or screen, considers herself "a woman of very serious thoughts" in real life. Interviewed in the Pacific Coast city, Miss Pitts termed the Democratic party "frivolous," would have preferred Senator Taft to General Eisenhower as presidential candidate, and regards Senator McCarthy as "a great American patriot." When assured that Canadians do not pay taxes to England or take orders therefrom, she asked: "Well, when did this happen?" In real life, Miss Pitts seems after all much like her screen self.—Ottawa Citizen.

Any doubts which may have existed concerning the implementation of plans by the Religious Hospitalers of St. Joseph to build a new Hotel Dieu Hospital in Cornwall have been dispelled once and for all by the announcement that contract for the building has been let and construction work will get under way immediately. The new \$3,500,000 institution will be constructed on the former Sister McDonald estate on McCollister avenue, north of St. Lawrence High School. The city is to be provided with a modern, five-story hospital which will have a much greater bed capacity than the present Hotel Dieu Hospital.—Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

There is a deep-seated urge in the human spirit for "something for nothing," for the super-bargain and the article at less than cost. American merchandising is in the midst of a colossal campaign to give away more premiums with products than ever before. New York specialists predict an all-time record in 1953. This is reasonable. It stimulates trade and pleases the customers. It is, however, a dangerous philosophy when introduced into politics and international policies. National defence and the protection of democracy and the guarantee of personal freedom have to be paid for, and in full. There are no bargain days in buying freedom and survival.—London Free Press.

The London Daily Herald, noting a decline in insanity cases in Great Britain, attributes it to inflation and high living costs. We were about to observe that inflation has just about ended monogamy in the United States. It's gotten so that a man can hardly live any more on the wages his wife brings home. We can't see why high living costs should make an Englishman pause before becoming a bigamist. We think if one wife can't support a husband in the luxury he is entitled to, his obvious solution is to get more wives. Provided, of course, he can find spouses who are employed at good wages. And besides, each extra one is another income tax deduction.—Detroit Free Press.

Notices are appearing in publications all over the place warning fishermen that it is illegal to use live minnows for bait in Manitoba. Some anglers may be puzzled by the new regulations. The branch has been taken over by anti-vivisectionists. The fact is that there is good reason for the new rule. Here is what has been happening: Would-be fishermen would stop at Lockport, and buy some bait. As often as not this bait would contain live carp minnows. After a day's fishing in one of the lakes in the Whiteshell what minnows were left were dumped into the water. In due course the carp minnows developed into full grown foraging carp that threatened the other fish in the lake. It is the sort of thing that the branch is trying to prevent.—Winnipeg Tribune.

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