THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION
"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, MAR. 20, 1952

Opportunity Knocking

Recently we had occasion to comment in these columns on the excellent work being done in the Province by our Federal and Provincial agricultural officials, and on the fortunate circumstance that they not only work harmoniously together, but with the fullest co-operation of our farm organization leaders and farmers generally. An outstanding example is the record achieved by Mr. Harold Clay as senior livestock fieldman with the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and the signal tribute paid to him in the presentation on Tuesday night, by the Premier of the Province, of a certificate of appreciation of his services, particularly in connection with the development of Island Yorkshire swine. This honour is one which Mr. Clay well deserves, and which he has every reason to value most highly.

In speaking at the meeting, Premier Jones took occasion to call attention once more to the great possibilities of this Province as the "bread-basket" of Eastern Canada, emphasizing our marketing opportunities in the neighboring Gulf communities. As a dairyman, he cited particularly the need of a milk concentration plant. Processing of all our perishable products on a larger scale is becoming of more and more importance in view of increasing freight charges, and if we can develop these industries along with improved water and truck transportation it will mean millions of dollars more in revenue to the Province. Future developments in Labrador and Newfoundland, on a scale involving immense food requirements, should be kept constantly in mind. Geographically we are ideally situated, and there can be no question either as to the quality of our products. What is required is larger capital investment in both our agricultural and fishery industries. We shall never make progress in this direction if we listen to the pessimists, or fail in vision and enterprise when opportunity knocks at the door.

No Open Season On Pedestrians

The rule of the road at sea clearly lays down who shall give way when ships approach one another at various angles. There is an over-riding rule, however, that requires any necessary action to be taken to avoid immediate danger even although it involves a breech of the ordinary rule of the road.

The wise provision of maritime law is applicable also on the highways, as was illustrated recently when damages were awarded against a Winnipeg truck driver for the death of a pedestrian, despite the fact that the victim had stepped into an intersection against a red light.

The fact is that there is never an open season on any user of the highway. Whatever faults may have been committed, it is still a legal obligation of all others to do everything reasonably possible to avoid an accident.

Tourist Dollars

While more American tourists visited Canada than in the previous 12 months, the total spending of these visitors was actually less. At the same time the spending of Canadian tourists in the United States jumped up sharply.

If this trend continues, predicts the Financial Post, instead of having a substantial balance in our favor in international tourist trade, we may well find that we are running behind.

Canadian business, it warns, has responsibilities in meeting this problem. Overcharging by a few merchants or a few resort owners can sour the trade for everyone. It may sound commonplace, but it is true just the same to say that the best boosters for the tourist industry are the tourists themselves. If they have enjoyed a good holiday in Canada, have found our beds comfortable and our prices moderate, these people will tell their friends to come here. If they feel they have been disappointed they will also tell their friends but it will be to stay away.

Business alone, however, cannot solve this problem. In a great many cases even if merchants shaved profits to the bone, their prices would still be much above the level in the United States. The reason is taxation. On a great many commodities, our taxes are very much higher than in the U. S. Tobacco products, camera supplies, sporting goods, gasoline, so-called luxury items are examples. Moreover, these are the very things that bulk so largely in holiday spending.

"When a person visits another country he expects to find conditions different from those he has at home," says the Post. "From a tourist standpoint, at least, we would be making a big mistake to attempt to turn Canada into an imitation of the United States. But there is always an exception to any general rule and higher costs come very definitely in that category."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Spring begins at noon today. At 12:14, to be exact, the vernal equinox occurs.

* * *

Dr. the Hon. W. J. P. MacMillan yesterday continued the debate on the Address in the Legislature. The debate continues again today.

* * *

From all accounts Messrs. Moore & McLeod's modernized store is to be one of the show places in the City. A lively, enterprising attitude is characteristic of the firm.

* * *

Evidently Senator Grant is happy that Queen's is not such as King's and Prince are regarding parliamentary representation. It is not possible to please everybody.

* * *

Mr. F. A. Large, as an ex-Minister of Education, continues his active interest in the profession, and is doing his best to stir up enthusiasm in the West Kent School and Home Association.

* * *

The announcement by Mr. B. Graham Rogers that the double Car Ferry service will go into effect on June 15 and continue to the middle of October will be appreciated by everybody and be for the benefit of general trade as well as for the tourist traffic.

* * *

No one is more deserving of honour than Mr. H. W. Clay, whose eminent services have been officially recognized by the Swine Breeders. He it is who was the main means of putting that industry in the forefront of all Canada and the United States.

* * *

Speaking of news of fantastic weapons still in the planning stage, Col. General J. Lawton Collins declared, "We are on the threshold of new developments that completely astound even the most sanguine planner." Apparently one can interpret "sanguine" either literally or figuratively.

* * *

Messrs. Bruce Stewart & Co. Ltd. are reported to be working to full capacity, though no new contracts have been received so far this year. Surely the company's expectation of getting defence contracts later will not be disappointed, for the firm, apart from the railway, is the principal employer of labour in the City.

* * *

Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian dramatist and poet, was born this date 1828. All his writing is pre-eminently suited to the stage, and consummately skillful in technique. Cynic, pessimist, and iconoclast, he excelled in scathing satirical prose dramas such as, "League of Youth", "Pillars of Society" and "An Enemy of the People."

* * *

The Charlottetown Board of Trade, reorganized under the presidency of Mr. E. M. Robinson, evidently intends to make its presence known as well as felt in the community. It is getting actively behind projects for the common weal, and has the support of the City Council, six of the members of which are also members of the Board.

* * *

R. C. A. F. airmen who may be going overseas will be interested to learn that living allowances for thousands of American airmen in Britain have been cut by as much as 45 per cent in accordance with Washington economy directives. The cuts were ordered for all U. S. Air Forces personnel receiving allowances for living out of barracks. Effective March 1, allowances for married officers stationed in London were reduced from $6.72 daily to $4.90. Allowances for unmarried airmen were cut from $3.78 to $2.59.

* * *

Here is how independent farmers are treated in Communistic countries. The Czechoslovakian Government has (1) Placed full responsibility for this year's agricultural plan on its new agricultural minister, Josef Nepomucky, named in a shake-up last year. (2) Ordered that farmers outside Government co-operatives be allotted tractors only when they are not in use on state farms. (3) Ordered directors of 6,250 co-operative farms to clamp down heavily on kulaks—the more wealthy farmers both in and outside of co-operatives—and to keep them out of "all technical jobs", like driving tractors. All of which means freedom is deprived those under Communist regime.

Faces On A Legislature Floor

These pictures are fictitious. Any resemblance to persons living or dead, and especially our legislators, is unthinkable, isn't it?

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.

MARKETING BOARD DEBATE

Sir,—We note where some aspersions have been cast on the factual and explanatory summary of the recent British Milk Marketing Board report which you kindly published for the information of our farmers. There are several copies of this complete report available for those who wish to study it further.

With respect to the accusations made in yesterday's letter and in a circular letter to various produce dealers from the head of the Potato Dealers' Association, we hereby extend to this gentleman a cordial invitation to attend the concluding meeting of Farmers' Week that is being held at the Legion Hall tonight at eight o'clock.

We shall be very glad to openly discuss before the people concerned, the merits of Marketing Boards, and why they are being promoted by organized farm groups.

If the anonymous spokesman for the Potato Dealers' Association really believes the statements he has made from time to time, he should welcome the opportunity of openly substantiating them before the farmers of this Province.

I am, Sir, etc.
J. L. DEWAR,
Secretary P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture.

INCREASED PHONE RATES

Sir,—During the hearing before the Public Utilities Commission the local manager of Royal Securities Ltd., is reported to have corroborated the evidence of the Island Telephone Company's witnesses in support of their application for increased rates that it was quite reasonable to estimate a 5% return on preferred stock in the light of risen and rising interest rates.

Granted. But is the public generally aware that, while market return on preferred stock is approximately 5%, the Company has been paying only 4½% thereon so that, unless preferred shareholders are reimbursed in some manner, the argument for increased rates as represented in the above claim is groundless.

I am Sir, etc.,
A PREFERRED SHAREHOLDER

PREJUDICE

Sir,—There is something strangely insane and stubbornly unreasonable about prejudice. There are few sins of the mind to which human beings are subject that have such far-reaching consequences. This is the devil's shrewdest trap and one most quietly sprung. People are often quite unaware of being possessed and swayed by a prejudice.

You remember the story of Joseph and the bitter prejudice his brothers conceived against him. There are various reasons why those brothers turned to hate their innocent brother. The father's partiality, the boys own regard for himself and his future displeased the gang, but they gave Joseph no credit for his good qualities, his trust in them and his crystal-clear honesty. They had conceived an unreasoning prejudice which led on to hatred and murderous designs. It reminds us of the unreasoning prejudice of the Pharisees of Jesus' day and what it led to.

There are many kinds of this human frailty. The political is very familiar. It can be humorous, as it sometimes is, and harmless; but it can be vicious and harmful when it interferes with the highest interests of one's country, or worse, when it attempts to smear an opponent's character. The law forbids murder, but sometimes, through sheer prejudice, political characters are murdered. When Beverly Baxter was in the U.S. recently, they told him that President Truman is "a dirty little crook" and, in a letter to me from a Republican friend, in California I got the same idea. Now, the Democrats think he is a kindly, harmless, good fellow and that it is very shameful of the Republicans to poke fun at him.

It is in the realm of religion that prejudice has done most mischief. If ever any sin of man crucified Jesus afresh and put Him to an open shame it is this one of unthinking prejudice against a Christian brother, because his beliefs differ from ours. Cold war has raged between the churches for many centuries, without intermission, and who can be surprised that war is being carried on between the nations. We cannot expect peace between the nations until there is peace within the church.

The war in Korea terrifies us. It makes us sick to think that every day men are being killed, and then the fear harasses us that this killing mania will spread.

The Women's Institutes of Canada have recently been given a booklet of directions to be studied and memorized, entitled "Personal Protection Under Atomic Attack". In our day we put the Holy Bible, the book of brotherhood, on the shelf, and take down the "Rules for Atomic Protection". What are we coming to? We church people need the urge of God's spirit to help us put away foolish prejudice and develop a new sense of our brotherhood in Christ Jesus, our common Saviour. Surely God is waiting for this.

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

SNOWBOUND EAST POINT

Sir,—We listen with interest every day to the broadcast road report and we wonder if the sponsors are aware of the fact that the Island roads do not end at Souris as that is as far as road conditions are mentioned. No doubt the pavement ends at Souris, but we notice other gravel roads are kept in touch with. Those not aware there is a road beyond the pavement should take a trip up this way and see the prosperous communities. Should a plow come through to open the road it would not be difficult to keep in touch with the operator for information, as there are numerous telephones along the entire route, which can also boast of electricity. When we are doing our share toward the upkeep of the roads as almost every resident owns a car and some both cars and trucks, as well as many tractors, why are we not given the same justice as those living between Souris and Tignish?

I am, Sir, etc.
DISGUSTED MOTORIST
Elmira, P. E. I.

NAME CALLING

Sir, — When Canada's bow-tied diplomat, the Hon. Lester Pearson, in a nation-wide broadcast assailed the C.C.F.'s resolution dubbing NATO's military buildup as "disastrous and irresponsible", he said that the resolution was put just as the Communists would object to NATO's machinations. Wittingly or no, Mr. Pearson struck a keynote for the evaluation of present-day Communism. It is true that the Reds would use identical criticism; and though it seems a paradox, it is much to the credit of the C.C.F. that it has attacked excessive militarism in the manner that it did.

For is it not true that there seems to be an element of common sense in the C.C.F. tirade, an element of truth which no thinking citizen can ignore? And is it not also true that many of Communist Russia's criticisms of our way of life are legitimate and well founded? "Surely", my readers will say, "here is a blood-red Communist on fair and holy P.E.I." Allow me to elucidate.

Firstly, let us note that there would be no Communism today had the West not sinned grieviously centuries ago. For history tells us that Communism grew out of the cancerous bowels of Capitalism's corrupted body. Communism is strong today, not only in Europe and Asia but also in the Americas, only because we are so weak. Its doctrine is ridiculous and impractical, as its founder, Marx, on his death bed realized. Yet it flourishes. Why? The answer lies in our hypocrisy. In our literature, in our press, in our speeches, over the air waves, we babble incessantly about our Christian culture, while in practise most of us are enthusiastic post-Christian pagans; we brag of our spiritual heritage and at the same time we wallow in our mad materialism; we hail the Brotherhood of Man, and simultaneously we impose our chains on countless millions in Asia; we extol Democracy, and claim to possess it, while we are ruled by the whims of the moneyed.

The millions spent on our propaganda are indeed injurious to us in the long run, for the Asiatics (on whom depend the future of the world) see through us, even without Red perusasion. They are a religious people. They may be duly impressed by the technicalities of the West, but they do not respect us. And after being subjected for three hundred years to the ruthless imperialism of the West, how can we expect them to?

Again, if a visitor from another planet viewed our earth today, he would see this: In the West he would find men preoccupied with economics — budgets, cost of living, taxation, inflation; behind the Iron Curtain — a complete and shockingly different view of life. Barbara Ward, after quoting from Soviet newspapers, concludes that it is in Russia today that the spiritual is appealed to; the Soviet system is extolled "because it is a new heaven and a new earth, a transfiguration of the conditions of human existence, the raising up of men's lives to new levels of creativeness and joy."

And how proud we are! It nettles us, indeed, when the Communists accuse us of being imperialistic, materialistic, war-mongers, and dominated by American capitalism. Yet we all know that there is an element of truth in their every accusation.

It is high time that everybody realized this fact. People today are wont to cry "Communist" when some sincere person, organization, or party, such as the C.C.F., points out the holes in our tattered garment. This fad of name-calling was confined, I thought, to the ignorant, but when Canada's Minister of External Affairs joins in, if only by subtle suggestion, then does one be tempted to doubt the wisdom of the wizards of Ottawa.

Perhaps the years will prove our folly; someday, perchance, we shall realize that in this resolution instance the C.C.F. was not just fanning the air, but was "a voice crying in the wilderness", a voice that, as in the Bible story, was worth listening to.

I am, Sir, etc.,
G. K.
Charlottetown R.R. 3.

THE VETERAN SITUATION

Sir, — Some very interesting letters have appeared in The Guardian about the situation of the village of North Rustico. About the veteran situation mentioned in those letters, I think that the villages of Mayfield and Toronto should have been included, as these villages have given as many of their men for the services as any other villages of their size. Some of them have even signed up for both wars, and have taken part in the Korean war. Also about the respectable young gentlemen who spent four years in the prison camps of Hong Kong, though he may reside in North Rustico at the present time he is not a native of that village. He is a native of the parish of Hope River.

Let us forget all about the snowbound areas and look forward to a better season next winter.

I am, Sir, etc.,
AN INTERESTED CITIZEN
Mayfield, P.E.I.

SEEKING FAIR EXCHANGE

Sir,—I shall be glad and thankful if my name and address can be published as a Nigeria boy who wishes to have penpal both sexes in all Canada.

I am an Africaan boy, born and bred in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, the seat of the government, and chief trading centre.

I would like to correspond with ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls and alse men and women. I would like to exchange with them some African products such as Ivory, bows and arrows, drum for music, tiger, crocodile, snake and monkey skins, handbags, carved images, furnitures, Nahia bags, African combs, skins, leather purses, crocodile skins, shoulder strap bags, in sizes, to be exchanged with Canadian products such as: cameras, tee shirts, fountain pen, sweater, electric ties, towels, felt-hats, shoes from sizes 6 1-2 to 10, decent belts, wallets.

I am, Sir, etc.
M. SHELERE
Mast. Mosudi Shelere,
C/o. 40. Princess Street,

The Age-Old Story

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah. . . . And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord.

The Poet's Corner

WINDS OF MARCH

Not wind—this is a clarion call
March sends across the land,
The stark—the winter-crested trees
Awake and understand.

Dark, prisoned waters stir and strain
Against their icy bars,
In eagerness for warming sun
And friendliness of stars.

Cold roots entombed in sodden graves
Give heeding to the call;
The crocus bulbs arouse and wait
They hear it first of all.

Always these tempest-tones belie
The promises they bring;
A grim precursor this who cries
"Make way—make way for Spring."

—Lucy Gertrude Clarkin.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

CENSORSHIP

The Honourable the Attorney-General deserves commendation for ordering removal of various forms of salacious printed matter (it would be a sin to call it literature) from the news stands which handled it. He has rendered a good service to us all.

Normally, censorship in any form is distasteful to all persons who cherish the principle of democratic freedom. In war time a measure of it is inevitable for it is then a military instrument of value. Ordinarily, it should be avoided as much as possible for, once established there is no telling where it might lead.

Almost anywhere you look you will find individuals and groups who imagine that they have a heaven sent mission to govern the lives of others, to mould other people's opinions and wills into the likeness and pattern of their own. They have a mania for telling all and sundry what they should do with their leisure, what books they should read, what pictures they should see, what beverages they should use and in what quantity, what religious convictions they should hold, what political cause they should espouse, and so on.

You can find such would-be dictators in almost any community and they constitute a very real menace, however skillfully they may disguise themselves in their garments of sincerity and good intentions. However sincere they may be and whatever good intentions they may have, their fundamental urge is to dominate other people's lives.

This is why I have always looked askance at local censorship boards which are quite common in some parts of the democratic world especially in the U. S. A. There the Ku Klux Klansman is the giant size sample of would-be dictators of thought and action, but the small town and village fanatic we are all familiar with is almost as dangerous in principle. He is certainly just as unnecessary in a free society.

I hope this Province will never make the mistake of setting up censorship boards or committees for the purpose of controlling our films and literature. It is such an easy step from visual and reading control to control of thought itself.

* * *

There comes a time, however, when someone has to protect those who cannot protect themselves from the kind of unsavory printed matter which corrupts and defiles The logical person and I believe the only rightful person to give that protection, once the need is plainly evident, is the highest law enforcement officer in the land, who, in our case, is the Provincial Attorney-General.

It is a serious responsibility that Mr. Darby has recently discharged and he deserves general support. Most thinking people will say that he took the decisive action not a moment too soon.

The question here is not one of censorship in the ordinary meaning of the word. It is rather an issue of common morality affecting the children and especially the adolescents, in our communities. Boys and girls, young men and women, who in far too many instances are denied the protection of parental restraint and guidance. The extreme laxity in parental guidance and the almost complete absence of restraint are glaring symptoms of our social disarray. If the situation arising from such gross negligence cannot be corrected by the normal cultural means at our disposal, arbitrary action must necessarily follow and it has to be taken firmly and decisively as the Attorney-General has done in this instance.

* * *

There are plenty of statistics to prove the criminal mind—warping influence of obscene and near obscene periodicals. As for many of the so-called "comic" books, there is little that is comical about them and plenty that is potentially tragic.

It is a matter of factual knowledge to social workers, demonstrated over and over again, that much of the juvenile delinquency we read about is due to constant contact of young minds with criminal and semi-criminal dialogue. The delinquency is really more adult than juvenile in view of the lassitude and indifference with which so many parents appear to be afflicted in this connection.

A report recently issued in the United States says that the average age of criminals in that country is now 17. A decade ago it was about 30. What it is in Canada I haven't heard but it probably follows a somewhat similar trend.

When one ponders on the implications of such statistics one is overwhelmed with apprehension concerning what seems to lie ahead. One thing is certain. If our civilization continues on a course like that it will not require atomic warfare to bring about its destruction. It will receive its deathblow from within which is, after all, exactly what happened to those vanished civilizations of which history has any record.

* * *

We hear far too much today about the right of every child to express himself in his own way. There are certain psychologists or quasi-psychologists who appear to advocate it but in practice it simply does not work, as anyone who has had anything to do with children can testify. Far more important than his right to self-expression is his right to guidance and ordered discipline. He needs both before he can have the slightest chance of adjusting his ego to his social relationships.

The idea of allowing boys at 10 or 12 to pick out their own reading matter, for example, is preposterous, although it is now quite a common practice.

If guidance in nutrition for the body is necessary, it is still more necessary in nutrition for the mind and soul.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MILITIA STRENGTH

From a letter from Col. John Hamilton Grey, Adjutant General of Militia, to Lieutenant Governor Robinson, 3rd January, 1872:

"It is with regret that I am again to report that the nominal strength of the Reserve Militia falls far short of the number which should have attended muster, more than one half the population having failed to comply with a law, the obligations of which are of the highest order, and of vital importance to a free and loyal people.

"The census returns show 23,191 males of the prescribed age, and yet only 11,918 out of this number have their names on the muster rolls. It is obvious that so glaring an evasion of the law gives rise to many complaints, and much discontent among the Lieut. Colonels, who, however zealously they strive to do their duty, yet, owing to the cause set forth in my last year's report, see their orders treated with contempt, and are wholly powerless to remedy this great evil.

"Having last year submitted to your Honour the difficulties attendant upon the carrying into effect of rules introduced in the year 1867 for the instruction of the Volunteer Militia, and the discontent arising therefrom, I am now enabled with much satisfaction to report that the new system for the better and more ready attendance of officers and men at drill, which under your Honour's directions was substituted at the beginning of the year, has worked well and been productive of the best results, as a proof of which I will only instance the great increase in the number of effectives over that of the previous year, 364 against 109.

"The armoury lately erected for the five City Companies of volunteer militia will conduce much to the efficiency of these companies as well as effect a considerable saving in the heavy losses by the destruction of arms and accoutrements' heretofore. . . . Ground for a new rifle range has at length been secured in very advantageous position facing the new Brighton Road, and an agreement entered upon for the construction of suitable butts in the ensuing spring."

(The Militia at this time consisted of 16 regiments, 7 for Queen's, 5 for King's and 4 for Prince County, but as the men were neither armed nor drilled (the law merely requiring the regiments to muster without drill on one day in the year) the force was of little practical service, except as a nucleus capable of expansion should the need arise. Of Volunteers there were 9 companies of 50 men each. These men were armed and equipped, and presented a creditable appearance.)