

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, J. E. Burnett Associate Editor, Frank Walker

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1951

Victoria Day

Victoria Day is one of Canada's oldest national holidays, and one of the most popular. It was first observed in 1838, the year following the accession of Victoria to the British throne.

Victoria's reign lasted 63 years. Not only did she consolidate her throne and empire, she captivated the people and through shrewdness and sheer faith in a Britain which had seen the industrial revolution arise and awaited the coming of a new era of commercial development won the awe of boundary-makers such as Bismarck and politicians such as Disraeli and Gladstone.

Her reign was marked by great colonial expansion and the growth of power on land and sea. The Queen became Empress of India and it was during her reign that the Dominion of Canada grew from a group of scattered colonies to a strong confederation under the British flag.

Victoria Day in Canada is distinct from Empire Day, which since 1899 has been observed in schools on that last school-day preceding May 24. Elsewhere in the Empire, Victoria Day has merged with Empire Day, and is not kept as a holiday.

Lest We Overlook

In the course of his informative review of the past session of St. Dunstan's, the rector, the Very Rev. R. V. MacKenzie, D.D., touched on student economics. "The mounting cost of everything," he said, "has a tendency to affect the enrolment of new students", a difficult hurdle for young people desiring an education, he said.

Unfair Housing Policy

Last February Mr. Winters, the Minister of Resources and Development, announced that down payments for new homes built under the National Housing Act would be increased. Thus, persons who last year might have been able to purchase, with a down payment of \$900, a new dwelling, would now have to make an initial payment of about \$1,500.

Now Government action is to be taken to raise the interest rate on loans. In the past, the Government supplied 25 per cent of an NHA loan, at an interest rate of 3 per cent. Insurance and loan companies, their money guaranteed, have supplied the remainder, at 5 per cent. The final rate to the borrower was 4 1/2 per cent.

to the borrower will be 5 per cent, thus raising the cost of a \$6,000 house to \$6,200. During the present period of full employment and inflation, says the Ottawa Citizen, it is doubtful whether these financial measures will reduce the number of houses built.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hockey finished late and harness racing starts early. If the trend continues, hockey may some day have to introduce the parimutuel to meet the competition.

The armed forces, particularly the army, are killing two birds with one stone, to use a most inappropriate metaphor, by backing Festive Week and at the same time putting on a highly spectacular recruiting show.

Thomas Hood, English poet, died this date 1845. His wit and humour were more lucrative than his fine imaginative poetry. His "Miss Kilmansegg" is rightly classed among his serious poems and with "The Song of the Shirt" and "The Bridge of Sighs" he stirred all hearts.

In the past 25 years over four and a half million dollars has been left to the United Church of Canada in wills and bequests, according to the Church Treasurer, Rev. Dr. Victor T. Mooney. At 3 per cent gilt-edge investment that means an annual income of \$135,000.

College students are enjoying their freedom but must soon find summer employment or in many cases there will be no return to college in the Fall. Employers are most fortunate in having available this source of competent help to tide them over their own difficult holiday season.

It seems that Cape Bretoners lead Canada and perhaps the western hemisphere in tea consumption. They have certainly been gravely underestimated. The idea has been prevalent that it takes stronger drink to make them what they are.

The re-imposition of anti-dumping duty on British cars has a slightly through the looking-glass touch. The purpose of the duty is to keep out products unfairly competing by selling at less than on their home market.

Dr. Frank MacKinnon's address at Rotary on the place respectively of Cabinet Ministers and Civil Servants in our democratic system should be reprinted by the Government for distribution among the powers-that-be at Ottawa and the various provincial capitals. It contains a wealth of political information, and kindly directed advice which should be appreciated by, and beneficial to, ministers and their deputies as well.

The Gazette now understands that Ottawa is expecting Canadian farm organizations to launch a new drive for more and higher support prices for their products. One reason for the new campaign is the announcement of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics that the net income of Canadian farmers for 1950 was almost 10 per cent lower than in 1949.

Ten years ago, on May 24, 1941, the British battle cruiser "Hood" was sunk by the German battleship "Bismarck" in an engagement off Greenland. A long-range shot found a vital spot and touched off the Hood's magazines. When she blew up, with the loss of practically all hands, the Royal Navy suffered its heaviest single blow since the start of the Second World War and one that could not go unavenged.

Here's To Your Health! To keep tabs on this population! DEPT. OF HEALTH BACTERIOLOGICAL CENSUS FOR P. E. I. THIS SUMMER

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) FIRST STONE CRUSHER

In September, 1889, the first stone crusher to be used in Prince Edward Island was imported from Boston by the Provincial Government, through Mr. Archibald White, machinist.

The Lord must not have been too much impressed with child prodigies, or He would have made more of them. In His infinite wisdom He must have realized that a world filled with child prodigies, frequently little creatures with all the answers, would be more than man or nature could tolerate without an awful explosion.

The National Federation of Canadian University Students is making a valuable contribution to the welfare of this country's large student body. It provides the means whereby the body may speak with a single voice on issues that indirectly or directly are its concern.

Notes By The Way

A science editor declares that there will never be a pushbutton war in which our side gets all the victories and the enemy all the grief. "Maybe we haven't got the right kind of scientists, and had better get busy at once and hire some new ones."

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The Poet's Corner

FROM PALLADIUM So, in its lovely moonlight, lives the soul, Mountains surround it, and sweet virgin air; Cold plashing, past it crystal waters roll; We visit it by moments, ah! too rare.

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The Public Forum

IS OUR SYSTEM OF EDUCATION TOO ACADEMIC?

Sir,—Now that Premier Jones is again leader of our Provincial Government it is well to take a careful look at his attitude on the question of education. During the last session of the Legislature he took occasion to express or rather repeat his well known attitude on this subject. Briefly, Premier Jones is of the opinion that our whole system of education is too academic, and it is this fact he claims that accounts in a great measure for the fact that too many young men and women after finishing their education forsake the country and take up their abode in already over-crowded cities.

Now I am in heartfelt sympathy with Premier Jones' sentiment when he deplores the fact that too many of our best young men and women leave the country, but I entirely disagree with him when he affirms that too much academic training is the cause of this regrettable fact. There is, I believe, plenty of evidence to refute Premier Jones' theory. To begin with, the Premier himself is a living epitome of the fact that a sound academic training does not unfit a man for living a happy and highly successful life as a farmer, and certainly he himself will admit that his early academic training does not disqualify him for the Premiership of our Province, especially when it falls to his lot to represent our claims before the Federal Government at Ottawa.

I am well aware, when I mention advanced mathematics as a proper study for both boys and girls who anticipate farm life that some ultra-utilitarian will query with the stock-in-trade question, "But what has old Euclid to do with making a good apple pie?" I confess I am not prepared to prove in a strictly Euclidean manner that he, or it, has anything to do with it. But judging from my own close observation of a good many years in the public schools of Eastern and Western Canada, the girl who can readily prove the old 47th proposition of Euclid Book I can easily be trusted in future years to make a good apple pie, and quite naturally of course to divide it into six or more equal parts—a thing by the way that I would hesitate to postulate of a girl who had attained to an awfully high degree in household economics. Of course, as in the case of the pudding, the proof of the pie is in the eating, and I am open to conviction on this point. Perhaps Premier Jones can speak from actual experience on it.

In concluding, I wish to say definitely that I am not absolutely opposed to technical schools in our Province, but I am decidedly opposed to a combined classic and technical school, and I should greatly regret to see a class of Prince of Wales changed from its time honored classic status into a modern Jack of all trades school. Premier Jones has already taken the initial step in this direction, and it is hard to say what the next step will be. Considering, however, the fact that industrially speaking our Province is almost ninety per cent agricultural, it would not be surprising if the next addition to Prince of Wales College was a modern up-to-date cow barn. No doubt about it, the cows domiciled therein would be good ones, and the question naturally arises as to what objection the good cows could have to their location. And truly the only objection that one can imagine them having of times would be that old P. W. C. was just a little too academic.

I am, Sir, etc. M. MCKENZIE, New Haven.

Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR. Etc. 130 Richmond St. - Ch'town. Phone 590

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