

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. CIRCULATION Total City Zone 3,765 Retail Trading Zone 8,457 All Others 825 Total Net Paid 13,048 Editor and Managing Director, J. S. Burnett Associate Editor, Frank Walker. "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink" CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1951

Murder In The Mosque

Several weeks ago Iran's Premier, General Ali Razmara, was murdered on the doorstep of the mosque where he had gone to worship. His untimely end was the work of Communists. Excuse for the crime was Razmara's resistance to the Iranian Parliament's scheme to nationalize the oil fields of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. An ominous silence appears to pervade the Iranian "incident."

Now, it appears, the State Department in Washington is taking a hand in the affair. Washington, it seems, is fearful lest the British take too strong a line with Iran and precipitate a second local war in the Near East to match that at present raging in Korea. What the official British reaction to American intervention may be is not yet clear. Certain it is that it will not be welcomed in Whitehall, where experience in the affairs of the Near East is vastly greater than that of Washington.

The issue in Iran is simple. It is oil. Russia covets Iranian oil deposits because of the vulnerability of her own fields in the Caucasus. Britain and western Europe need Iranian oil for defence and rearmament. The United States wants to avoid at all costs the development of a situation which would push Iran, even in the economic sense, into the arms of Stalin.

Paradox of the problem lies in the fact that Russia is relying upon stirring up nationalist anti-foreign sentiment in Iran to achieve her objectives. The Iranian Parliament, which is made up almost exclusively of wealthy landowners, is availing itself of the opportunity to enrich its members at the expense of the British, and pretending to justify its action as being in the interests of the people of Iran. The British are embarrassed because the controlling interest in the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company is held by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, and any sign of weakness in handling the situation will inevitably be seized upon by the political opposition as a "sell-out" not only of a British Company, but of the British taxpayers' money investment.

Murder in the Mosque promises to present one of the most complex diplomatic problems ever to confront the experts of the British Foreign Office.

The Franchise

Islanders have exceptional voting privileges. Not only have all British subjects resident here twelve months, two months in the constituency, except Indians, a vote for an assemblyman but freehold or leasehold property to the value of \$325 gives the additional right to vote for councillor to the owner and spouse. Active service outside of Canada with the armed forces or auxiliary forces in either war also confers a single vote for councillor.

As possession of land to the value of \$100 or other qualification for the property vote also confers a vote for assemblyman it is theoretically possible for an elector to cast thirty ballots.

There are no official electoral lists but the place of voting may be found from the instructions published by the Returning Officer.

Candidates are likely to have agents outside the poll to keep track of who has voted and may have two agents inside with the Deputy Returning Officer and clerk. Only the D. R. O. may question voters. But the agents may propose questions and require the voter to swear to his or her qualifications. If the voter is still objected to, the ballot will be identified with a number, but may be cast.

The D. R. O. numbers the counterfoil, his initials being already on it and the ballot or ballots, and gives it to the voter with instructions. An accidentally spoiled ballot may be exchanged for a fresh one. The voter, unless blind or otherwise needing assistance, marks the ballot alone in the booth, folds it as instructed and hands it to the D. R. O. who tears off the counterfoil and drops the still folded ballot in the box.

Sales Tax Boost Blasted

The sales tax boost of 25 per cent announced in the Abbott Budget is coming in for a great deal of well-deserved criticism in Parliament. All three Opposition parties have launched a combined attack on this measure, claiming that it is unnecessary, that it will increase the already soaring cost of living and will fall most heavily on

those least able to bear it. An effective point was made by Mr. J. M. Macdonnell, chief financial critic of the Progressive Conservative Party, who led the attack. Mr. Macdonnell recalled that in 1940 the late Hon. J. L. Ralston, when Minister of Finance, had refused to increase the sales tax, saying: "We realize that increases in indirect taxes disguise the burdens imposed by the war, but they are much more likely to distribute these burdens harshly and unfairly." The following year Rt. Hon. J. L. Ilesley, then Minister of Finance, had quoted these same words and had likewise refused to increase the sales tax.

Everyone was familiar with the pyramiding effect of the sales tax, Mr. Macdonnell declared: "where you have the manufacturer, the jobber, the wholesaler, the retailer, you get a mark-up on a mark-up on a mark-up." It will be much worse, of course, when and if the Provincial sales tax comes into effect. One of the reasons advanced for giving constitutional validity to the latter imposition was that it would prevent further encroachments in this field by the Federal Government. Mr. Abbott, however, has exploded this argument pretty effectively. The best thing the Provinces can do in the circumstances is to forget about this tax and insist on a more equitable show-down from Ottawa on other revenue sources.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Polio "March of Dimes Fund" is to be investigated by order of Judge Barton, Toronto, by the Public Trustee of Ontario.

On its roads' accomplishments, the Government selected the worst time for an election, as everyone now realizes.

Fishermen and yachtsmen are as busy as can be making their craft "shipshape and Bristol fashion" for work and play.

A Quebec M. P. who was elected as an Independent-Liberal, has now informed the House of Commons he is a "straight" Liberal. This entitles him to be on the Whip's list of "deserving democrats."

It is a pity that rubber from dandelions proved uneconomical at Kentville, Nova Scotia. It would have meant a lot to would-be gardeners who lack the proverbial green thumb.

The gradual rise in interest rates seems to be widespread although a jump from 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 per cent on United States treasury bonds does not look like making money as expensive as most other things.

Newfoundland has no immediate prospect of a change-over from narrow-gauge to standard railway width according to President Donald Gordon in the Commons railway and shipping committee.

The next employment problem will be that of college students released from their classes. Employers are providing themselves with "men with experience" for the future and also simplifying their immediate holiday season problems by employing these eager youngsters.

Adolf Hitler, German politician, was born this date 1889 in Braunau in Bohemia, Austria. A former house-painter, he went to Munich in 1912, served in the German army, founded the National Socialist German Labour Party, Nazis, became Chancellor of the Reich on Jan. 30, 1933, Leader of the Reich (Fuhrer) in August the same year. He assumed supreme command of armed forces in December of 1941, reported dead May 1, 1945, suicide on April 29 presumed.

General MacArthur declares he is not a politician, but no stronger appeal to politicians could be made than his yesterday before the joint meeting of Congress. It was magnificent. President Truman, even with the able assistance of General Bradley, will have considerable difficulty in offsetting its effect. He carried his hearers with him from beginning to end. Of course, his opinions were addressed for endorsement by American hearers. The United Nations case has yet to be presented.

Predictions that milk would be dumped on the farms and dairy cattle slaughtered for food were made by K. L. Wallace, president of the Dairy Industries Supply Association, speaking at a meeting of the association. He predicted a shortage of milk in 1951 because of the shortage of farm labour and the high price of beef. He added that reports from sixty important makers of separators and other prime dairy industry requisites indicated that half of them would have to shut down by midsummer for lack of nickel, stainless steel, copper and other essential metals. The shut-down would come in the middle of the full milk season when every piece of machinery would be needed

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

TORNADO AT WELLINGTON

"On Wednesday evening last, at about six o'clock, a thunder storm from the northwest, accompanied by heavy rain, and hail in some places, passed over the western part of the Island. No damage was done except in the neighborhood of Wellington, Lot 16. At that place the tornado, or whirlwind that accompanied the cloud, and which swirled through the air with a great noise, came down to the surface of the earth, and made sad havoc among the growing crops of grain, fences, windows of houses, etc. The damage to Mr. John Ayres' crop is estimated at \$50. Mr. Alex. Allen had his crops of grain so badly destroyed, that he will not be able to save enough for seed next year. The crops of Messrs. John Kent and John McCormack also suffered severely; and a house or workshop of Mr. McCormack's was blown down. The farm of Mr. Hugh Gillis also suffered, but as the whirlwind only passed over a portion of his land, his loss was not so great.

"People who were at Wellington at the time of the storm, described it as something truly terrific. A darkness like that of night suddenly fell upon the place, and the roar of the storm in its destructive course was terrible to hear, nearly frightening some of the people out of their wits. The rain came down in torrents, and hailstones of enormous size fell thick and fast. The damage occasioned by this storm cannot fall short of \$200.

"Fortunately our Island is seldom visited by tornadoes of this description. The peculiarity of this storm is that it only made a swoop down in one place, and then lifted up and passed into the air without doing further damage."

The Islander, Sept. 4, 1866.

The Poet's Corner

MAN

Man hath still either toys, or care; He hath no root, nor to one place is tied, But ever restless and irregular About this earth doth run and ride; He knows he hath a home, but scarce knows where; He says it is so far, That he hath quite forgot how to go there.

He knocks at all doors, strays and roams; Nay, hath not so much wit as some stones have, Which in the darkest nights point to their homes By some hid sense their Maker gave; Man is the shuttle to whose winding quest And passage through these looms God ordered motion, but ordained no rest.

—Henry Vaughan (1622-95).

The Age-Old Story

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. . . . Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said: Of a truth this is the Prophet.

H. J. A. BROWN, R.Cp.

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Horse Of Another Colour



Escaping The Biographer

(Montreal Gazette)

The official and confidential papers of the late Rt. Hon. Ian Mackenzie have been placed "under seal" in more than 20 filing drawers in the Public Archives at Ottawa. No one will be permitted to look at them until January 1, 1975.

As the official reason says: "Because of the nature, and because they are so recent in date, it would obviously be unfair to make them freely accessible to students for some time to come."

All this may seem quite reasonable. Yet it is perhaps strange that what is obviously unfair to persons when living should be considered quite fair to them when dead. This is making the dead fair sport. Biographers, unless they are "official," have been a plague upon the great. Two centuries ago John Arbuthnot, after reading a very frank biography of someone he had known, remarked that such biographies had become "one of the new terrors of death."

Perhaps it is little wonder that some very eminent men have done what they could to cheat the unfriendly biographer out of his delights. Charles Dickens, shortly before his death, carried baskets of letters into the garden of God's

Hill and there burnt them, saying as he did so, that he wished he could burn every letter he had ever written.

The Duke of Wellington was not co-operative. As he once remarked to Mrs. Norton: "I have been much exposed to authors." He discouraged anyone who wished to get down to the truth about Waterloo. "Remember," he would remark, "I recommend you to leave the battle of Waterloo as it is."

Better, he thought, that the whole truth be not known. "Believe me," he cautioned, "that every man you see in a military uniform is not a hero; and that, although in the account given of a general action, such as that of Waterloo, many instances of individual heroism must be passed over unrelated, it is better for the general interests to leave those parts of the story untold, than to tell the whole truth."

Indeed, eminent men have often envied the obscurity of the unknown. George Bernard Shaw was once walking through an ancient graveyard with a friend. They came upon a tombstone worn absolutely smooth, so that no word could be read.

The friend remarked how sad it was. "Sad, nothing," exclaimed Shaw. "That man has escaped his biographer."

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Notes By The Way

A returned traveller says he saw no brandy-carrying dogs in the Alps. The idea probably went out when Alpinists began to carry it on the hip—in case they suddenly got wet when up an Alp and couldn't find a dog. —Ottawa Citizen.

It is easily possible to sympathize with the demand of fishermen for higher prices and it is worth remembering that the high tide of Newfoundland prosperity has always coincided in the past with top prices for salt codfish. But the relatively simple problems of supply and demand which were the determining factor in the days when cod was king are now beset with the additional problem of capacity to pay. Alone of our products, salt cod has to be largely sold to markets that are not chronically short of dollars and economically poor. Moreover, because of defects in our own system, we are not always able to furnish these markets with precisely the kind of fish they want. —St. John's News.

No coin of the realm has suffered the humiliation of the Canadian nickel since the start of World War II. The crowning blow is the decision of the Canadian Government, in the anniversary year of the discovery of nickel, to turn out a chrome-plated steel monstrously that will be honored by the name of nickel. We fail to see how the mint officials can reconcile a steel coin in this year of years—the year in which honor is being paid to Kronstedt who discovered the metal in 1751. We do not know how the mint proposes to keep off a steel base. And, will the mint repay the man who raids the piggy-bank one fine day to find it full of rusty disks of steel? —Sudbury Star.

Seven people in Southern Ontario lost their lives in automobile crashes over the week-end. Whether these fatalities resulted from failure of the human factor or mechanical inadequacy, they did not have to happen. When someone drives his car into a train that is human carelessness. When a car runs off the highway it may be due to several things but it could have been avoided. People, ought to realize that driving on a highway calls for expert handling and constant attention. A drink may spell death. The other fellow is an unknown quantity. Danger is always present. If people consider-

ed these things we might have fewer fatalities to record every Monday morning. —London Press.

Two travellers, an American and an Englishman, with more than their share of holiday spirit, caused the pilot of a Paris-bound plane to radio London airport control that he was returning to land. Shortly after take-off the two merry men decided that the other passengers were too quiet. They started shouting and rushing up and down the cabin. A reception committee of policemen awaited them when they landed, and half-dragged and carried them from the plane. One of the policemen was tripped. Cleared from the tarmac, the two sat with sad eyes and watched the plane take off for a second time. They then left the airport, stating that they would charter a plane for the trip—either that day or some other day. —London Daily Mail.

Vancouver is soon to lose its best known group of spinsters, the "Seven Sisters" of Stanley Park, which are probably as distinguished in Western Canada as five other young ladies of Ontario are celebrated over much of the world. The Vancouver "Sisters" are made up of six Douglas firs and one cedar which are believed to have attained an age of 700 years. Surviving giantesses of the virgin forest, they were considered to be among the oldest living things in this country, although mere strip-lings in years, when compared to the redwoods of California. But their tops began to snap off, their bark peeled and dropped, and now they are pronounced to be 'dead. Their removal has been ordered by park officials who view them as a hazard and fear that a gale will blow them down. —Hamilton Spectator.

FERGUS, Ont. —(CP)—Mrs. James Skeoch, 84 who "just got tired of knitting and sewing," has started painting. After four weeks' lessons in a recently-formed art class she is doing good work and eager for new things to try.

FORT WILLIAM, Ont. —(CP)—The Thunder Bay Historical Society has taken steps to restore in part the Hudson's Bay Company fur trading post which stood on the original site of Fort William.

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