

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, FEB. 23, 1952

"Three Wise Men"

When the cost of rearmament began first to affect seriously the economy of the countries of western Europe in the late summer of last year, the problem of what to do about it fell squarely into the lap of NATO's Financial and Economic Board. When the task of assessing the relative contribution of each of the NATO countries was referred to three men from the three "Big Powers" in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, there was more than a murmur of discontent from governments of the less powerful members of the NATO partnership.

The three men to whom was accorded the task of considering what each country's contribution to the common purpose of defence and rearmament should be were Averell Harriman, former United States Ambassador to Moscow, Jean Monnet, architect of the post-war reconstruction of France's shattered economy, and Sir Edward Plowden, high in Britain's economic affairs of state. It was this trio of economic wizards, irreverently dubbed "the Three Wise Men", who "suggested" that Canada wasn't quite pulling her weight economically in NATO and proposed that the taxpayers of this country chip in with an extra \$200 million in 1952-53.

Finance Minister Abbott's answer to this proposal when he was in Paris in December was a polite but firm "No". Nothing daunted, the Three Wise Men have since come back with the proposal that instead of dollars Canada should provide the equivalent of \$200 million in raw materials. Ottawa's reaction to this latest proposal is, fortunately for taxpayers who eye with alarm the still rising cost-of-living index, a firmer and even more positive "No" than before.

Some observers profess to see in Ottawa's stand regarding the proposals of the Three Wise Men a reversal of official Canadian policy towards NATO. They point to this country's leading role in the launching of NATO and ask rather petulantly how it is that the Canadian Government can now so summarily reject a proposal endorsed by the economic experts of NATO's Big Three.

The explanation is simple. Canada at the present time has no raw material surpluses of which to dispose by way of gift even to its NATO partners. Of foodstuffs, even if these things could be put on a mutual aid programme, there is under rather than over production. Butter and bacon are not produced in sufficient quantities to meet the demands of the domestic market. Eggs are not sufficiently plentiful to make foreign markets look attractive. Despite the bumper wheat crop of last summer, there is little likelihood of there being an exportable surplus.

More pertinent than the lack of available raw material surpluses in almost every line, however, is the fact that the strength of the Canadian economy depends, in the final analysis, upon this country's exports of raw materials to the United States and the United Kingdom. The proposal of the "Three Wise Men" that Canada abandon a ready market for raw materials in the United States, for which payment is received in U. S. dollars, in favor of rearmament by "give-away" would seriously affect a balance of payments situation which has only recently become sufficiently favorable to enable this country to free its currency from exchange control.

Arms and men for NATO? By all means. Indiscriminate largesse in respect of our raw materials? Thoughtful Canadians will not question the wisdom of Finance Minister Abbott's unequivocal "No."

The Educational Process

Efforts at mass production in education are always doomed to failure because there is nothing whatever akin to mechanical development in the educational process. It is a biological growth. Wise teachers have realized this since Socrates' day. The old truth was well summed up in a recent address by Professor N. V. Scarfe, Dean of Education at the University of Manitoba who concluded as follows: "Because children are animals and because their minds are living and growing, so teaching must be a profession akin to that of a gardener. The teacher cannot just build one cell or another to make the organism grow. He cannot just pump wis-

dom into the child's empty mind. The method is much subtler and much more roundabout. The gardener has to plant his seed at the proper time and under good conditions so as to encourage the plant to grow to maturity of its own accord. He may water the ground just as a teacher tries to make facts more easily absorbed by using interesting methods. But whatever the teacher does it is the child who has to do the absorbing and digesting, the understanding and the thinking, by himself and for himself."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, Quinquagesima, St. Matthias.

A convalescent home has been a long-felt want here—for patients sufficiently recovered to leave hospital but not sufficiently to be taken to their own homes.

In Civil Defence parlance A.B.C. warfare refers to the atomic, bacteriological and chemical strife and not, as one might expect, to arrows, bows and clubs.

This is the proper time of year for planning highway construction. There is little danger that details such as the effect of drifting snow would receive less than their due attention.

The Korean armistice talks drag on, but it is better to have them continued at this time than for the United Nations to find that ill-considered concessions left a festering sore in international relations.

Our trains may not always reach their destination in time these stormy days, but at all events they can return to their starting point without necessitating passengers being marooned over-night as in other parts of Canada and the U.S.

The dullness of business the last few days shows how much we depend upon cars and trucks to keep the wheels of progress turning. Even in sport the interruption is felt, as shown by the non-attendance of some competitors at the Forum and Curling rink.

En route for Canada on tourist business. Mr. J. G. Bridges, Director General of the British Travel and Holidays Association, left London, Feb. 3, on a tour of Australia, New Zealand and Canada. He expects to be in Vancouver March 2-5, returning to Britain via Montreal.

Dr. Black's story of the career of Robert Alder McLeod, Prince Edward Island "soldier of misfortune", which commenced in our yesterday's issue, will be concluded Monday. It is one of unusual interest, especially to friends and relatives of the family in this Province.

John Keats, English poet, died this date 1821. Encouraged at first by Leigh Hunt and Shelley and practically no one else, he published a number of poems. He truly said, "I think I shall be among the English poets after my death." His poetry is as great in intellect as in fantasy and his odes are unexcelled.

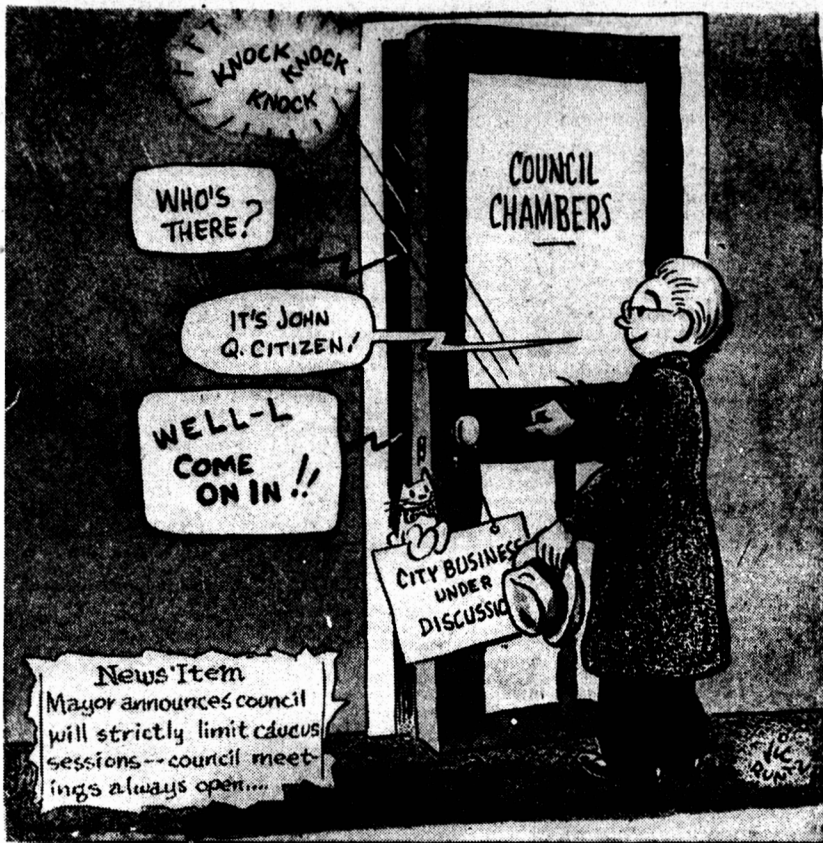
The St. John's Evening Telegram explains a recent Government loss of a by-election in part, at least, by an implied threat of withholding funds for a proposed stadium. Newfoundlanders seemingly respond no more gladly to threats than do their fellow Canadians here or in other Provinces.

Brigadier W. W. Reid, D.S.O., is to be congratulated on being awarded the Silver Acon of the Boy Scouts for his invaluable services in connection with the Movement here. His is the second such award, the only other being that given to the Hon. G. D. DeBlois when he was lieutenant-governor and donated a public camping ground for Scouts.

Qualifications required for nursing nowadays are so comparatively high that a central nursing school would prove a decided asset to the profession. Local vacancies for trainees in hospitals in the course of a year may not be very extensive, but such a school could provide opportunities for appointments in hospitals elsewhere. Both Montreal and U. S. hospitals used to have their staffs largely recruited from P. E. I.

Getting rid of the accumulated snow is the next job for public works departments in town and country. Dumping it over the wharves is a comparatively simple though expensive matter in the city, but is entirely another question where country roads are concerned; however difficulties are made to be overcome, and we have the right men in charge, provided they have the necessary equipment.

The Makings Of A "Happy Gang"



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.

SEEKING THE BEST

Sir—I came here from Southern Ontario four years ago and was greatly disappointed in Vancouver Island—climate and everything. It is not as pretty as the travel folders make out. It certainly isn't as good a country as Southern Ontario. While I have been here the temperature has dropped to zero. It is only recently that I have got to like the place in the least. Victoria, B.C., is a very charming city.

I subscribed to The Guardian to get to know what P.E.I. was like. One thing that runs consistently through the information that I gleaned: P.E.I. is pretty in summer.

All our family have thoroughly enjoyed reading The Guardian, and we look forward to visiting your Island.

I am, Sir, etc., DAVID R. BEDDOW Chemainus, B.C.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

ASSENT REFUSED

Reference was made recently in this column to the passing of an Act of the Legislature in 1844 for the raising of a fund for the encouragement of agriculture, to be expended in the erection of lime kilns and the burning of lime. The Act imposed a tax for this purpose of one farthing per acre upon all cultivated land in the several Townships and Royalties of the Island, and one halfpenny per acre on all uncultivated or wilderness lands. This enactment was nullified by the Imperial Government, for reasons given in a letter of Lord Stanley, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to Lieutenant Governor Huntley. The letter is dated 18th September, 1844, and shows the influence exerted by absentee proprietors, just a few years before responsible government was achieved.

"I have received two memorials objecting to the confirmation of this enactment, one from Mr. Cooper, of Prince Edward Island, the other from Viscount Melville and other proprietors of land in that Island, resident in this country," wrote Lord Stanley from Downing Street.

"Mr. Cooper, in his memorial, alleges that the effect of this law will be to impose an additional tax upon the tenant, without affording to him any adequate benefit in return.

"Lord Melville and the other proprietors allege in their memorial, that the greater portion of the land in Prince Edward Island consists either of barren wastes, or of land situate at such a distance from any harbour or other place where limestone could be landed, as not to be within the reach of profit by the measure; and that to tax these lands for the sole benefit of the remainder, would be partial and unjust. They further contend, that the discrimination which the Act makes between cultivated and uncultivated lands, by the imposition of a double assessment on the latter, is liable to the same objection.

"Without pronouncing an opinion on the validity of these objections, it appears to me that the procuring and burning of lime is not a fit subject to be provided for by the imposition of a public tax; and that any enactment which might be passed for this purpose, however carefully framed, could not operate otherwise than partially and unjustly. For these reasons Her Majesty will not be advised to confirm the Act."

Notes By The Way

The Canadian Forestry Association announces that in the past year 94,000 persons have received instruction in conservation. If this helps prevent even one unnecessary forest fire in 1952, the educational effort will have been well worth while. —Ottawa Citizen.

The Supreme Soviet, Russia's "parliament," is scheduled to meet on March 5. However, there aren't likely to be any votes of censure of Joe Stalin or the Kremlin gang, unless someone's looking for a one-way ticket to the salt mines. —Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

Some little news items are editorials by themselves. As for instance when Traffic Inspector Emerson Mitchell observed that Friday night was the "quietest Friday night we've had in years." It was due to the King's funeral "and the fact liquor outlets were closed all day." There's really no need for comment, could draw his own conclusions—and there was only one conclusion to be drawn. —Windsor Daily Star.

How many Albertans have visited Alberta's dinosaur graveyard in the 500-foot Red Deer Valley near Drumheller? How many South Albertans have visited Writing-on-Stone in the Milk River Valley east of the town of Milk River? How many Lethbridge people have visited the site of Old Fort Whoop-up, cradle of civilization—if one could call it that—in this part of the West? You've all heard the old saying: "Familiarity breeds contempt." That is, we're not much interested in what's under our noses, but we would drive a thousand miles to see Grand Canyon or the great Sequoia trees. We should be interested in what we have here in Alberta, those ties with the past which unfold to us something of our geography, our prehistoric times. —Lethbridge Herald.

As a sign of the times, Canadian currency is not only being accepted in New York often at par, but there are signs proclaiming "We want your Canadian money" in stores and hotels. For incoming travellers, Manhattan's "polite" taxi drivers now even take a Canadian \$2 bill without the fishy-eyed stare reserved for inflated Chinese Nationalist and Confederate money. Similar reports have been received from Buffalo, N. Y., the Canadian shopping centre, where the sudden desire for Canadian money since it was freed from exchange controls has been proclaimed on store window stickers. —Toronto Financial Post.

Sometimes a camera eye can be more persuasive than the small voice of conscience. If a philosopher were to wrestle with that idea, he might conclude it's one of the things that's wrong with the world. The case in point is

provided by patrons of a commuter station newstand in New York State. It was opened on a self-serve honor system, but the dealer found his cash intake was running about \$2.50 a day short. So he set up a camera at a convenient spot, and snapped pictures of commuters short-changing him. As a result of his threat to display the pictures, the daily deficits disappeared. Honestly returned to the honor system. The feeling takes hold, however, that this is honesty under duress, at least for a number of the commuters. It lacks spontaneity and doesn't seem quite genuine. The chisellers simply are afraid of being exposed. To return to our original thesis, a philosopher might say this reflects the world's basic ailment. —Windsor Daily Star.

The Shadow Of Controversy (Montreal Gazette) Some of the difficulties in having a Canadian in Rideau Hall are already being forecast. A new session of the Canadian Parliament will soon open. Among the matters that would normally come up for debate are the specific recommendations of the Massey Report.

But it will not be easy to have a debate, which may become spirited, about recommendations made by one who is now the Governor-General. The Crown and its representatives have, by all soundness of tradition, been completely separated from debatable domestic issues.

An Ottawa despatch of The Canadian Press, dated February 14 suggests that the Government may try to avoid introducing any of the more debatable recommendations of the Massey Report in order to protect the new Governor-General from controversy. The despatch reads: "Observers say they don't expect much legislation to result this session from the report last year of the Royal Commission which spent two years studying Canada's cultural development.

The Age-Old Story

And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place; and the people sought him, and came unto him, and prayed him, that he should not depart from them. And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also; for therefore am I sent. . . . And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the great tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him. And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, and Joanna the wife of Chuzas Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

Soldier Of Misfortune

The Story of a Remarkable Prince Edward Islander By Harold Garnet Black, LL.D. (Continued from yesterday's Guardian)

McLeod returned to Baltimore in August, 1865, and after examining various college catalogues, soon selected Harvard as the best American college because, as he said, it was the most expensive and the hardest to get into. "After a month's hard study by myself at home," he explains, "I passed the September examination successfully. Failure to enter would have disconcerted me, as I had borrowed twenty dollars to come on with, but had not secured means to return.

"I began without any means whatever to meet the expenses of the college course, but this hindrance has been entirely removed by advances kindly made by friends, by the scholarship which has been granted me yearly, by prize money from the college, and by fees received for private tuition. I have never been absent during my college course."

During his first three years he received four first prizes, two second prizes, and a "detour". He spoke at a Junior Exhibition, a Senior Exhibition, and at Commencement. He also received other marks of distinction—being chosen editor, orator, president, vice-president, etc.—and wrote occasionally for newspapers and literary papers. On graduation he was appointed to the Harris Fellowship for 1869-70 and the following year entered the Law School.

An illustration of the remarkable impression young McLeod created even as a college freshman is seen in an interesting passage written over forty years later by Andrew D. White in his autobiography. Dr. White, partial founder and president of Cornell University, United States Minister to Russia, and Ambassador to Germany, describes the first time he met Judge Rockwood Hoar, afterwards Attorney-General of the United States.

"I saw him first at Harvard," he wrote, "during a competition for the Boylston Prize at which we were fellow judges. All the speaking was good, some of it admirable; but the especially remarkable pieces were two. First of these was a recital of Washington Irving's 'Broken Heart' by an undergraduate from the British provinces, Robert Alder McLeod. Nothing could be more simple and perfect in its way; nothing more free from any effort at orating; all was in the most quiet and natural manner possible. The second piece was a rendering of Poe's 'Bells' and was a most amazing declamation, the different sorts of bells being indicated by changes of voice ranging from basso profundo to the high-falsetto, and the feelings aroused in the orator being indicated by modulations which must have cost him months of practice.

"The contest being ended, and the committee having retired to make their award, various members expressed an opinion in favor of Mr. McLeod's quiet recital, when Judge Hoar, who had seemed up to that moment immersed in thought, seemed suddenly to awake, and said: 'If I had a son who spoke that bell piece in that style I believe I'd choke him.' The vote was unanimously in favor of Mr. McLeod, and then came out a curious fact. Having noticed that he bore an empty sleeve, I learned from Professor Peabody that he had lost his arm while fighting on the Confederate side in our Civil War, and that he was a man of remarkably fine scholarship and noble character."

The loss of his right arm, however, did not allow to handicap him. He taught himself to write almost faultlessly with his left hand. His imagination became fired with the purpose of developing himself in every way. He even learned to dance—and danced well. He practised singing and elocution, learned to speak French and German proficiently, and not only cultivated the social arts but excelled in them. "I have never known anyone," his older sister Margaret told me half a century ago, "who seemed more nearly to approach being the ideal gentleman, such perfect poise and such graciousness of manner had he."

His ambition was boundless. His feeling of power intoxicated him, so that obstacles were only challenges. His ideas were on a large scale, and he delighted in the vastest plans and in universal conclusions.

Unfortunately, however, McLeod's war years and his intense application as a student had so seriously impaired his health that his physicians peremptorily ordered him to Europe. He left in the early spring of 1871 and, except for one brief visit to the United States, remained abroad until his death seven years later.

Two and a half years were spent in travelling through France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, and other parts of Europe as tutor to three children of an American family named Thayer. One of these private pupils was William Roscoe Thayer (1859-1923), who later became a member of the Harvard Class of 1881 and was subsequently to distinguish himself as a noted American man of letters for whom he edited the Harvard Graduate Magazine (1892-1915), wrote a biography of Theodore Roosevelt, whom he had known since college days, and published several volumes dealing with Italian history, his most noted literary work being a monumental two-volume biography of Cavour, the Italian statesman and unifier of Italy.

In Europe McLeod's health improved for a time, though his voice became weak. The summer of 1876 he spent at Graz, Austria, under the treatment of an eminent throat specialist. In October, and the Thayers returned to Italy, staying at Ischia and Capri till the following spring. A year later found him at Fontainebleau and Paris. It was during this time that he married a French lady, by whom he had one daughter, Roberta. His health continuing to decline, however, he proceeded to Algiers on his physician's advice. There he was subject to hemorrhages and sank gradually till he ended on March 3, 1878, in the midst of strangers. And there he lies buried in the little English churchyard.

It was in the spring of 1912 I think, that I called one night at William Roscoe Thayer's home at 8 Berkeley Street, Cambridge, to get some details concerning his tutor of many years before. When he learned the nature of my mission, he welcomed me most cordially, and for a long time we talked about those early days.

"During the time I have spent in Europe since then," said he, "I have met most of the leading statesmen and intellectuals there, but not one of them impressed me as having the mental acumen or the intellectual capacity of Robert Alder McLeod." He was a most remarkable man.

"He tutored you for several years, didn't he?" I asked. "Oh, yes. We studied history, languages, literature,—all kinds of things together," he replied. "I still have some of the books—Shakespeare, for example—that we used in our study. They are all marked up with marginal notes and underlinings. Every once in a while I get them down from the shelf to revive the memory of those happy days. Without exception, he was the most brilliant man I've ever known."

What a tribute to give. I thought, after a third of a century! (To be concluded)

The Poet's Corner

FROM "THE PASSING STRANGER"

They change, and we, who pass like foam, Like dust blown through the streets of Rome, Change ever, too; we have no home, Only a beauty, only a power, Sad in the fruit, bright in the flower, Endlessly erring for its hour, But gathering, as we stray, a sense Of life, so lovely and intense, Its lingers when we wander hence That those who follow feel behind Their backs, when all before is blind, Our joy, a rampart to the mind. —John Masfield

GETS NEW DOG

REGINA—(CP)—Tony Garity, sightless citizen who recently lost his seeing eye dog, left for Minneapolis to pick up a new animal to replace his beloved "Valiant." The trip and purchase of the new dog was made possible through a fund collected by the Canadian Federation of the Blind.

YOUR POSSESSIONS

The things you live with—your home, your business, your "stock in trade"—are all subject to loss through accident or circumstances beyond your control. For your own sense of security, you should learn how easily you can be protected. We will be glad of an opportunity to serve you.

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