

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, FEB. 14, 1953

Electoral Reform

Amendment of the Election Act in recent years has been chiefly in the direction of increasing the deposit required of a prospective candidate until it is now no less than \$200. During the last election campaign, however, a great many candidates of all parties spoke in favour of reforming the Act and now a public hearing is to be held on Wednesday by the select standing committee of the Legislature for the purpose of receiving recommendations and suggestions from interested citizens or groups.

An incongruous feature of the present law is the difference between the electorate who vote for the fifteen Councillors and those who vote for the fifteen Assemblymen. For the latter there is practically a universal adult suffrage while for the election of Councillors we have a property vote with the addition of ex-service men and women. The veteran votes for both one Councillor and one Assemblyman, while a property holder, by a judicious distribution of his holdings can theoretically vote for one Assemblyman and as many as fifteen Councillors.

Unlike the Dominion Elections Act, the Provincial Act does not provide for an official roll of voters. Each political party, of course, compiles its own list and stands ready to challenge those whom it has reason to believe are not entitled to the ballot. Time, however, is lacking on election day to investigate claims and there is at least the possibility that unauthorized votes are cast because the workers at the various polls do not wish to antagonize an individual who may well take the necessary oath and cannot then be refused a ballot.

Some Provinces have experimented with complicated voting methods, designed to overcome the objection to a candidate being elected by a plurality vote although the majority is divided between his opponents. The systems have not proved successful, however, being cumbersome and not understood by the voters and sometimes resulting in the election of a candidate whom no large group wants but to whom the real supporters of other candidates have less objection than to their respective opponents.

A curious and perhaps insular feature of the law is that it is an offence for anyone not a resident of the Province, unless he is a voter, to take part in an election campaign. This effectively discourages national leaders from visiting during a campaign unless they happen to own property here.

Horses In The News

The Manchester Guardian, impressed by the cable despatches that horses were on the pay-roll of the Canadian army, comments that this undoubtedly proves that the "Canadian army's system of accountability stands in need of grooming."

The pun, of course, is modified by the explanation of Prime Minister St. Laurent that horses were not on the army pay roll. What actually happened was that an individual, now in jail, charged the Canadian army for horses and teamsters in combination as if they were bricklayers.

The Guardian recalls the further interesting fact that another horse "basks in the news of financial prosperity as it reaches him in the Elysian pastures."

"Man O'War" says the Guardian, "died in 1947 and his late owner's will, under which about \$3,773,000 is said to have been left for the upkeep of his (Man O'War's) grave and memorial, is still being disputed by the relatives."

The Korean Front

Commenting on reports that the United States will press its Western allies for a bigger contribution to the Korean war, the Hamilton Spectator points out bluntly that the Americans' complaints are unfortunately too well founded. They have done and are doing much more than their share.

Canada has every right to take an intense pride in the quality of its manpower in Korea. The 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group has the morale and the dash which come from voluntary enlistment and excellent leadership; its record is superb. But Canada has no right to take pride of any sort in the quantity of its manpower in Korea. One brigade and its supporting services, however great the fighting ef-

iciency; three destroyers, however well used; one R. C. A. F. transport squadron, however startling the record of hours flown—these add up to a painfully paltry contribution when set beside what the United States is giving, regardless of what standard of proportionate comparison is used—whether the one-to-11 ratio of population or the one-to-18 ratio of gross national product between the two countries.

Nor is it fair, argues The Spectator, to justify the Canadian effort by comparison with that of European countries which are sharing in the Korean war. Britain has half a world to police; Canada hasn't. France has a big and bitter war to fight in Indo-China; Canada hasn't. All the European countries are trying to rebuild economies shattered by the world war; Canada isn't.

Assuming that Canada can only produce the manpower for a one-division Army at the present stage of history—and it is an assumption which is hard to justify on any grounds except those of political expediency—it seems fair at least to suggest that the manpower be used where it is most needed. At present there are a brigade in Korea, a brigade in Germany and roughly a brigade at home. In fact a tiny army is spread over a surprising stretch of the world's circumference. Perhaps there are logical reasons for the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group being in Germany and enjoying what the men of the 25th Brigade refer to acidly as "the conducted tour." But there would seem to be far more logical reasons for it to be alongside the 25th in Korea, fighting.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Valentine's Day.

Tomorrow, Quinquagesima.

King's County has stepped out in front in the value of its fishery according to a reply to a question in the House. The Eastern county has natural advantages, of course, in the way of open harbours but in particular the improved position reflects the increasing use of modern druggers.

Canadian lumbermen are looking forward to a good year in 1953 due to the prospect of increased building in Canada. High prices have restrained intending builders for the past two years, but the levelling off of costs and the removal of some restrictions should give an impetus to the building industry.

Children today may expect twenty-one more years of life than those born fifty years ago. It remains to be seen how they will be distributed among the seven ages of mewing infant, whining schoolboy, sighing lover, bearded soldier, capon eating justice, lean and slippered pantaloon, or the last of all "Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything."

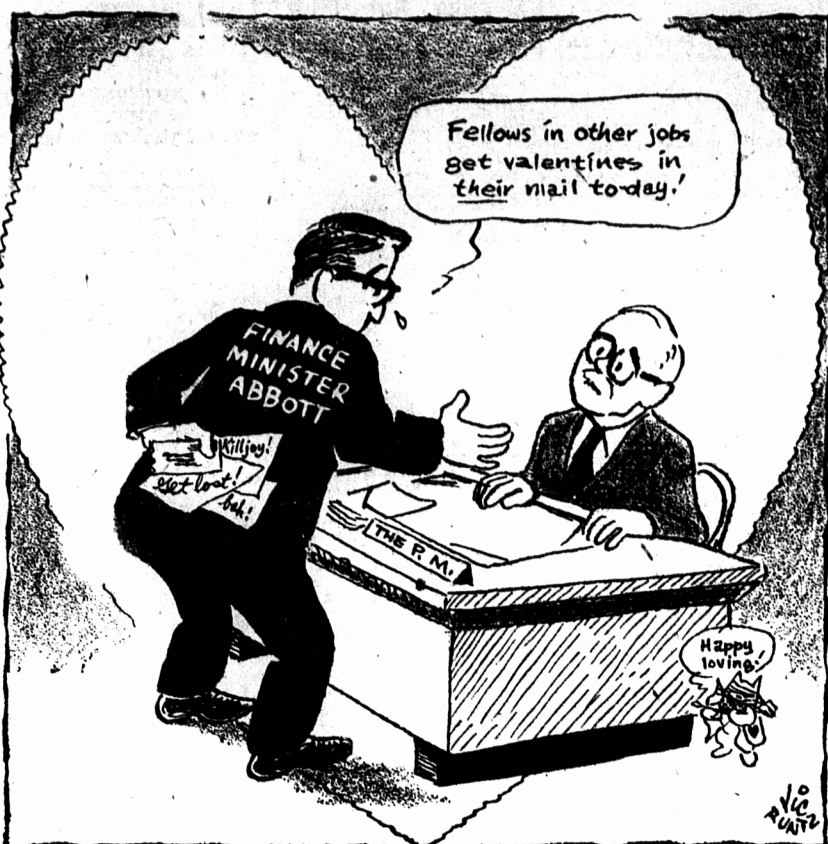
The civic delegation which met the Provincial Treasury Board yesterday is one step in a wide effort to rectify the financial arrangements between the City and the Federal and Provincial Governments. There has been a growing tendency for the cost of modern public facilities to be borne by the municipality while revenue from the area concerned goes in large measure to other Governments.

The report to the Agricultural Council that a number of small lots of potatoes have been brought to the Island without authorization is very serious. As specialists in the production of Certified Seed Potatoes our prosperity depends upon maintaining a disease-free product. Unsupervised importation of potatoes could introduce diseases which would deprive the Province of its present advantage as a seed producing area.

Captain James Cook, English navigator, died this date 1779. He ran away to sea and found rapid advancement. He charted the St. Lawrence from Quebec to the sea and also the coast of Newfoundland. The Royal Society employed him to make astronomical observations at Tahiti. On the same voyage he sailed around New Zealand, visited Australia, New Guinea and Batavia. Subsequent voyages added greatly to our knowledge of geography and his accounts are a fascinating record of discovery and adventure.

We are reminded by President H. H. Hannam of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture that "the dairy cow is the best and oldest forage harvesting machine on the market. She is equipped with a mower and grinder on one end and a manure spreader on the other. In between is an extremely complex and highly efficient manufacturing plant specially designed for the conversion of large quantities of pasture, silage and hay into nature's most nearly perfect food—milk."

Occupational Grievance



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.

NEGLECTED LIBRARY PLOT

Sir.—As noted recently in "Old Charlottetown", in 1884 were begun the beautiful gardens we still see surrounding our public buildings known then as Queen Square. The fulfilment was not as great as in the case of the Halifax Gardens on Spring Park Road which were upheld as the ideal at that time.

Old Charlottetown

"On Monday evening last, at the Mechanics Institute, the Rev. John Knox delivered a highly interesting and instructive lecture upon 'Real Education'. At a meeting of the Committee, held on Wednesday evening, it was resolved that Mr. Knox's lecture be published in pamphlet form, and that a copy be forwarded to every schoolmaster in the Island gratuitously, and that the remaining copies be sold on behalf of the funds of the Institute.

UNEMPLOYED PLOW OPERATORS

Sir.—We often hear people condemning our Government and its different departments, some with just cause, and some without. But I genuinely think the Department of Public Works now comes in for criticism with regard to our snow-pow operators. These men are experienced maintainers and plow operators, and when the first snow came this winter, they were appointed and all went to their jobs, some of them driving miles night and morning. Most plows are kept at garages in some town or village on the island, so to eliminate this long drive, they rented rooms or homes for the winter months to be near their plows.

ON GIVING ADVICE

Sir.—Advice is like castor oil, easy to give and hard to take. It is surprising how generous people are in giving advice. It comes out of the goodness of their hearts. They want to help. For the touch of arthritis I have, four different home-made remedies have been suggested, one of which was to soak myself in hot epsom salts. I did soak myself for a week but it did no good.

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION AND ANALYSIS

G. F. HUTCHESON & SON Optometrists 53 Grafton Street

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MECHANICS INSTITUTE

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The Age-Old Story

This known also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

DISGRUNTLED LIBERAL

paying a crew of men fighting snow, day and night, not including the extra expense of fuel, oil, parts and maintenance of all machines. Let us ask all fair-minded taxpayers of the Province, would it not be cheaper to pay their employees a weekly wage, at least enough to live on, than to have to pay all the expenses of fighting snow, as these men cannot take a job elsewhere and report back to work for every snowstorm?

FESTIVE DAY

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., (AP)—Friday the 13th, was a festive day in the John Borden household. The Borden's two children observed birthday anniversaries. Daughter Frances is 17 and son Danvers is 13. The Borden's were married March 13, 1833. Furthermore, she was born on July 13 and he on June 13.

PERIL

On the sea, on land, in the air, peril of fire, lightning, falling aircraft, of automobiles, of accident, of sickness. In our modern life we are surrounded by perils, and that is why we employ the system of insurance to protect us financially.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

SOME THOUGHTS ON TIME

Time is one of those intangible things in life that are not easily defined. About all we know about it is that it comes and goes. We sometimes speak of having "time on our hands", but that of course is a mere figure of speech and not a particularly intelligent one at that. Whatever the essence of time may be, there are only two things we can do with it. We can use it or waste it and, as in the case of a lot of other intangibles, time wasted is a total loss.

"Believe me when I tell you," wrote Gladstone, "that thrift of time will repay you in after life with a usury of profit beyond your most sanguine dreams, and that waste of it will make you devoid alike in intellectual and moral stature beyond your darkest reckoning." That this is true enough will be accepted by any thinking person, and yet there is probably nothing with which most of us are less thrifty or more wasteful.

If we were able to compute the time we have wasted one way and another, the figure arrived at would be almost unbelievable. And that would be true not only in the case of the chronically busy, but also in that of the habitually busy. The fact that a man is always busy about something or other is no indication that he is making good use of his time.

To the very young time travels slowly and leisurely. This may be due to Nature's special sympathy for the joys and wonders of childhood. Any adult person will say, for example, that the summers were longer when he was young. And so they were. The first awareness of Time's fleeing manner comes with adolescence. From there on it seems to gather acceleration, and the testimony of the very old is that time has scarcely any meaning at all. The days and years come and go with increasing rapidity. It is all very proper, no doubt. It is all very mystifying, too.

Perhaps one reason why most of us are inclined to be careless and unmethodical in our use of the spending moments, days, months, and years, is that we give too much heed to the common expression, "there's plenty of time". Actually, so far as the individual's concern with it goes, time is a scarce commodity, nothing more so.

Even the full span of life is but a speck on the horizon, the twinkling of a star in the universe, the passing of a watch in the night. Old people will frequently say that it seems to them yesterday that they did this or that. It may have been fifty or sixty years ago, but they are perfectly right in thinking of it as yesterday. Such is the swiftness, the nearness in remoteness, of Time.

Taking the historical, which is the only possible one to take in this respect, even the periods covered by known civilizations, both the extant and the extinct, are as yesterday, today, and tomorrow in relation to the movements of life on the earth, to say nothing of the movements of the Universe before any sign of life appeared. In this sense, the ruins of submerged Pompeii, while they are of great archaeological interest, are in reality but a moment in time away from an old abandoned farmstead in this part of the world.

It seems to be a human trait to think of other times, other eras, other days, as having been much more interesting, romantic and heroic, than the present. Each generation in its turn has assumed that its lot was cast in prosaic places. Criticism of this trait has been a favourite theme of poets and philosophers. Emerson was aware of it in his day.

"One of the illusions of life," he wrote, "is that the present hour is not the decisive hour. Write it on your heart that every day you live is the best day." Perhaps if we could bring ourselves to do that we should be a bit more careful in our use of the passing moments and days. If every day be the best day, then today is as good as any. There is beauty in it, and there is glory in it. It would be a shame to waste either.

It is true that Time brings many changes. But when one considers the matter one is forced to the conclusion that there are many things in life, including some of the best things, that do not change. They remain the same yesterday, today, and for ever. The song of a bird on the wing or resting in the tree-top is as it has been for countless thousands of years.

Swains Sent Gloves As Early Valentines

(Exchange)

Gay and often lady cards, candy and flowers are standard symbols of affection on this St. Valentine's day, but an ancient and more durable token was a pair of gloves. A gift of gloves once was a fairly serious thing, notes the National Geographic Society. "It indicated at least that the young man was willing to spend money on his intended, and it made a first day valentine."

Today valentine gloves can still be purchased—long kid affairs with small hearts arranged on their backs, or red-stitched white gloves. Red gloves also are available, but they do not carry the message they once did in Sicily, where a young lady's hand was available if it were gloved in red. Gloves had other meanings. A medieval knight often carried his lady's gloves into tournament or battle to establish his affection. Young men once presented a glove to fathers-in-law as guarantees of proper care for daughters, and the bridegroom's mother often welcomed her new daughter with a pair of gift gloves.

Some ancient peoples classed gloves as ornamentation and wear them were not allowed to wear them. The wearing of gloves by women, however, was made essentially fashionable in the 16th century by Catherine de Medici in France and Elizabeth I in England. If the queens wore them, naturally all women wore them.

The ill fit of the gloves worn by Queens Catherine and Elizabeth would horrify a modern woman. Grenoble, France, for the smoothness of the kid or suede she now wears on her hands. Jouvain treated thousands of hands of hospital patients before perfecting the basic glove cutting die in 1834.

A pair of gloves now in the Smithsonian Institution recalls an incident in the early history of Baltimore. They were worn by a belle when the Marquis de Lafayette visited the Maryland city. When he met the lady, the Marquis bent gallantly to kiss her hand, only to halt short of performance.

There, staring him in the fact, was his own portrait, carefully worked on the back of the lady's glove. Lafayette could not, he explained, kiss his own likeness.

Many of today's gloves do much more than serve their basic purpose of warming and decorating the hands. Special gloves are now made for special purposes. To name a few, there are fireproof gloves, rubber gloves for surgeons and electrical workers, and electrically heated gloves. A surgeon's glove impregnated with lead has been perfected to allow doctors to work with their hands constantly exposed to x-ray.

PERIL

On the sea, on land, in the air, peril of fire, lightning, falling aircraft, of automobiles, of accident, of sickness. In our modern life we are surrounded by perils, and that is why we employ the system of insurance to protect us financially. We are in a position to provide a complete insurance service, and welcome your inquiries for advice and information. No obligation.

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