

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, AUG 2, 1950

Seats of The Mighty

Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, outstanding figure for many years in British public life, was the mover not long ago of a House of Lords resolution declaring that "the growing power of the cabinet is a danger to the democratic constitution of the country."

It is unfortunate that no comparable concern for safeguarding the constitutional principles of the Rule of Law is discernible in Canada. For, as Professor MacGregor Dawson points out in his admirable work "The Government of Canada," "If a political system can be said to have a centre of gravity, that centre of gravity in Canada is almost certainly the cabinet, for the whole weight of government is in a very real sense concentrated at that point."

Power of the cabinet, and especially of the inner circle who dominate and control policy, as contrasted with the power of Parliament, is evident from even a cursory comparison of the vast array of orders, directives, appointments, decisions and pronouncements that emanate from the Privy Council, as against the relatively slim body of legislation which emerges as the end-product of a parliamentary session.

The supremacy of Parliament? All in public life pay lip service to the doctrine. But only the party whips know how much it really means today. Public opinion? It finds a concrete mode of expression once every five years at the polls. Between times, when things get a bit too hot for comfort, there is always the time-honored device of a Royal Commission ready at hand as an escape valve, which A. P. Herbert aptly describes thus:

"The necessity of action was clear to everyone, but the view was very general that nothing could be done, and the Government courageously decided that the Crown should appoint a score of gentlemen to track the trouble down... Which always takes a long, long time."

The Senate, as well as Opposition members, might well address themselves in the course of the forthcoming session to a careful scrutiny of the powers of the federal cabinet.

New Glasgow Celebration

This week the Town of New Glasgow, N. S., is observing its seventy-fifth anniversary and the biggest three-day celebration the town has had since its inception is under way. The New Glasgow Evening News has brought out an excellent anniversary edition for the occasion, replete with articles and pictures of historic interest.

Of special interest are the details of the booming ship-building days, and of the valiant skippers and men who sailed the ships to all parts of the globe. Another period recalled is the time, now more than a hundred years ago, when the railroad was opened down the west bank of the East River from the Albion Mines to the Loading Grounds—the first iron-railed railroad in Canada. A great deal of material which has not yet found its way into our history books appears in this special issue, which is highly creditable to all concerned in its preparation.

Bureaucrats In Business

Bureaucrats don't make good business men. Evidence lies in the profit and loss account for government-operated enterprises, which at the close of the fiscal year shows red figures to the tune of \$27,648,000. Nineteen organizations under government control produced a total profit of \$36,723,842 and a total loss of \$64,371,884.

In the loss column were the Export Credit Insurance Corporation, the Canadian National Railways, the Canadian National Steamships, Trans-Canada Air Lines and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

A few government agencies that stacked up a neat profit were, for the most part, monopolistic organizations such as the Foreign Exchange Control Board, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Polymer Corporation, the Sugar Stabilization Corporation and one or two others.

In private hands, a balance sheet showing losses of more than \$27,000,000 would cause the shareholders to rise up in indignation and demand a change of management and a new board of directors. When the bureaucrats lose money, however, the only people who get hit are the taxpayers.

Best way for the Government to avoid

losses which must be passed along to the taxpayers is to get out of the business of running enterprises.

Joy Riding

Taking an automobile without the owner's consent, or "joy riding" as the police term it, is one of the more serious threats to life and property today. The irresponsible who make so free with other people's property are usually under the influence of alcohol, and the "joy ride" typically comes to an end with a smash-up.

Any dangerous driver is a menace to others on the highway as well as to himself, but is at least financially responsible to the extent of the value of the car he is driving which may be seized to pay for the damage he causes. The car taken without the owner's consent, however, is not available to cover such damage and the miscreant who made off with it is seldom worth more financially than he is in other ways.

The tendency to treat his behavior as being a relatively minor offence is unfair to all who have to be upon the highway upon their lawful business.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Gathering of the Clans.

Our evenings are always cool—that is, almost always.

More blood donors are needed to save the lives of unfortunate patients whose appealing cry is "Come over and help us."

A compliment was paid to Island oats recently by a prominent Nova Scotian farmer who claimed that horses fed on them are faster than if supplied with any other kind.

Organization and advertising helped considerably to make the Evangelical campaign the success it has undoubtedly been, and Mr. Templeton's newspaper training has been an asset to him in this respect.

Canada is now in the Korean war zone with the destroyers Athabaskan, Cayuga, and Sioux. This intensifies our interest, especially in view of the re-appearance of Russia in the Security Council.

It is the fashion to belittle the efforts of private industry, especially of big business, but the expansion of Canada Packers' facilities here means better marketing for the farmer's livestock.

Whenever two parties are benefited by an international trade deal, the chances are that the community and the world at large are also assisted. Hence the tremendous advantage of having friendly relations with both the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Services insist that recruits enlist "for service anywhere" rather than specifically for the Korean campaign. It must be recognized that that affair is only an episode in a struggle which may require action in almost any part of the world.

Whatever may be the experience elsewhere, the International situation has not adversely affected the tourist traffic here. We have tremendous appeal for those wishing to really enjoy a vacation in the pleasant surroundings among friendly people, and at a minimum of cost.

Pietro Mascagni, Italian operatic composer, died this date 1945. He was director of Rossini Conservatory at Pesaro; his best known work is "Cavaleria Rusticana" which was produced in 1890. He also wrote "L'Amico Fritz", "Les Rantzau", "Ratcliff", "Iris", "Isabeau", and "Parisina".

St. Dunstan's alumni are to be congratulated on their enterprise in going ahead with their building project for a new gymnasium and auditorium under the auspices of the College Board of Governors. This, together with P. W. C. residence (when the Government is ready to tackle it) will add tremendously to the educational facilities of the Province.

A bronze tablet is being unveiled at Chatham, England, this month, to the crew of the merchant cruiser "Jervis Bay." 190 officers and men lost their lives when she was sunk in the North Atlantic by a German pocket battleship, the "Admiral Scheer", while defending a 38-ship convoy on its way from Canada to Britain in 1940. The Captain of the "Jervis Bay" ordered the ships to scatter and headed straight for the raider, making smoke to cover the withdrawal of the members of the convoy. He engaged the German battleship in a fight to the death enabling the merchant ships to escape with their vital cargoes under cover of the smoke screen into the gathering darkness. Badly hit and on fire the gallant cruiser continued to keep the raider fully occupied until her last gun was silenced. She went down with her colours proudly flying.

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.

HIGHER GRADE FERTILIZER

Sir—I feel sure that the P. E. Island Federation of Agriculture is taking unearned honor by stating in last Friday's Guardian that it was the first group in the Maritimes to press for higher analysis fertilizer. Mr. McEwan of Moncton led the group requesting higher grade fertilizer, but surely most of the credit should go to Mr. Austin Seales, who for the last fifteen years has advocated higher grade mixtures and who was the first fertilizer manufacturer in the Maritimes to introduce and make the 5-10-13 grade for potatoes and the 3-15-6 grade for grain. I am, Sir, etc. INTERESTED. Summerside, P. E. I.

The Law And Alcohol

(Toronto Saturday Night) We admire the courage of the Prince Edward Island magistrate who dismissed a charge of breach of the liquor regulations on the ground that the Crown had not proved that certain shaving lotions were liquor, but we are not at all sure that his interpretation of the law will stand up. The Temperance Commission of P. E. I. has power to pass regulations for the control of liquor, and it has passed a regulation that shaving lotions are liquor; and we rather think that is that. It is, as the magistrate remarked, a shocking thing that a regulation of a Commission, adopted without any discussion by the Legislature, should make the possession of a bottle of shaving lotion an offence against the law, but we are afraid that that is the law.

People who are trying to diminish the evils resulting from the consumption of alcohol tend to be extremely reckless in the matter of depriving the courts of their power to use a reasonable latitude of judgment. In the same Province a judge found himself compelled to order the cessation of a well-used motorcar because its owner had picked up a hitch-hiker who was found to be carrying alcohol illegally. There was no evidence that the motorist knew about the alcohol and a deal of evidence to support the view that he did not; but the judge had no option under the law. In almost any other kind of offence the questions of knowledge and of intent have some bearing on guilt or innocence. In the laws relating to alcohol they have none.

Why Recruiting Lags

(Globe and Mail) It is more than a week now since the Government announced its "recruiting drive" for another 10,000 men for the armed services. On July 20 the Defense Department proclaimed in advertisements that "Canada needs more men to strengthen our defenses. Go Active! Go Reserve! Serve your country!" By Thursday, eight days later, the department had signed up in Toronto the imposing total of twenty recruits. Elsewhere the pace appeared about the same. Attempting to produce an alibi, Ottawa sought to turn the blame on the men themselves. "Only about one man in fifteen can meet the educational, physical and marital requirements, etc. . . . Rubbish. In more purposeful days, hundreds of thousands of young Canadians qualified. Given incentive they could duplicate the record today.

Across the Pacific, in Sydney, Australia, roughly comparable with Toronto, 100 men applied the first morning of a recruiting appeal. In New Zealand, a tiny country compared with Canada, 1,850 men volunteered on the first day. We do not for a moment think young Canadians lag thus far behind their Antipodean brothers in courage, loyalty and the other qualities of a soldier. No more do we believe Canadian physique is so inferior that only a handful can qualify here while their counterparts over there. The average young Canadian in all these respects is pretty much like the average Australian or New Zealander.

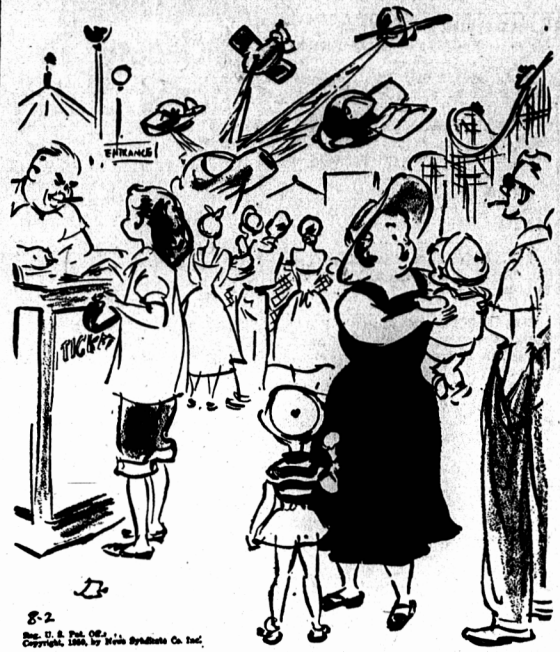
But there, in the emergency of war, comparison ends between these countries. In the sister Dominions there is a definite program of action. Both Governments have told the people what further immediate contributions they will make to the UN forces in Korea, Australia, whose files have been in action there almost from the start, is preparing to send an army group. New Zealand plans a similar force in proportion to its capacity.

In Canada, with Parliament sent home and Ministers taking vacation trips, the public has not been given the foggiest notion of what plans are afoot. Is this an inspiring atmosphere for recruiting? Young men who took the Government's words seriously and sought to enlist were told they would not be sent anywhere. They could exchange their present mode of living for an army camp or barracks. But Korea and a prospect of active service? Not a chance.

Small wonder men turned away in disappointment from the recruiting centres. In that moment they could taste a little of the disappointments that have plagued men who hoped to make the Reserve Army an adequate source of trained manpower. Those who stuck it out did so through loyalty to an ideal and a hope that things would change. After three to five years of beating their heads against

The Neighbors

By George Clark



"Here—these rides scare me to death, but I've got to get off my feet."

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY

"A meeting of the Highland Society was held on the evening of the 25th instant, for the purpose of making arrangements with respect to the part which, as a Society, they should take in the contemplated demonstration on the arrival of General Sir W. F. Williams of Kars, lately appointed Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Forces in British North America. . . ."

Mr. Vic Runtz is on vacation. Consequently his cartoons will not appear again until August 10.

The Poet's Corner

OLD Says the son of man: "I am old!" Yet he knows there are older things: The lurking wolf on the wold; The windy, spuffy wings Of the sea-gull; and the sea-creatures, careful and cold. Likewise, though these be old, There are even older things: Mountains in snow-clouds stoled; The golden downings Of the spent sun, in his harness of changing gold. O what is it then to be old? Still older and older things Pulse through the vast untold In aeonian journeyings: Majestic orbs and orbits, mysterious manifold. —George Herbert Clarke

An Annoying Practice Terminated

(Montreal Gazette) The Montreal Police Athletic Association moved in the direction of better police public relations recently when it was decided to abandon the selling of tickets to the annual police field day by uniformed policemen. That this decision entails the abandonment of the police games is regrettable. The games had come to be quite an interesting annual event, with numerous entries from the police department of other cities. It seems likely that they will be resumed, probably as soon as next year. In the meantime there has been removed a practice which has been becoming more and more irksome to the public. Uniformed policemen halting automobiles in the city streets, and particularly on thoroughfares giving access to the city from outside, to sell tickets to the games smacked of coercion. The same was the case when such ticket vendors "put the bee" upon shop keepers and small businessmen. It was a practice resented by citizen and visitor alike and resulted in unceasing protests to city authorities from both sources. It was the worst sort of public

The Age-Old Story

With the Pure Thou wilt show Thyself pure.

ANNOUNCEMENT

During the next few weeks our representative MR. H. W. PLETCH will be calling on all our accounts booking for fall deliveries of coal from the Inverness and Riverside Mines. Future business will be transacted as before, either directly with Mr. Pletch or by letter to P. O. Box 331 or telephoning 78. EST. J. M. RATTENBURY

YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF Did you ever think how big a job it would be, if you had to go to work and rebuild and refurnish your home? Compare that cost with the cost of modern Comprehensive Fire Insurance! W.K. Rogers Agencies Limited

Notes By The Way

Counterfeit one-peso notes now flooding the Philippines all bear the same serial number, thus debasing a work of art to the level of a mere circular.

Britain has had aircraft named Hurricanes Spitfires, Typhoons and so forth. The Americans have the Mustang. Canada has named its new jet fighter, "The Canuck". That should be menacing enough. —Ottawa Citizen.

To see if he is becoming fat and lazy, an English village weighs its mayor after a year in office. It was the late Fiorella La Guardia who pointed out the sure sign. A double chin that goes all the way round. —Chicago Daily News.

A campaign to put down habitual, thoughtless foul-mouthed speech has our fullest support. But we feel that there will always be a place for the oath which takes the place of apoplexy, of tears, or of a long harangue. The oath itself may be a sin. But to repress it might lead to an even greater sin. —Peterborough Examiner.

The picnic season in the various government departments is now in full swing. Photographs published in the newspapers indicate that many of the men have put on a little weight since last year, but that the girls are even prettier than they were. It must be getting extremely difficult to pick the beauty queens in the various departments. —Ottawa Citizen.

People are funny. Or perhaps we should say, people like funnies. At least that was proved by a preference quiz conducted by this newspaper. The vast majority of those who sent replies to the quiz on what they preferred to read in the paper make the comic strip "Blondie" the favorite. People obviously are looking for a chance to laugh. The

relations and its end is welcome. The police games as such served a very useful purpose and surely some way will be found for financing them and helping the Montreal Police Athletic Association—a way that will encourage the public to support and attend the event rather than grudgingly buy a ticket to throw away at the expense of respect for the representatives of law enforcement.

Assuming, as we have good reason to do, that Russian submarines are cruising far and wide, we must avoid jitters and leave it to the authorities to do what can and should be done. The probability is that these cruises have several objects: training in long-distance operations, testing equipment, reconnoitering coast and harbour approaches, and intensifying the war of nerves. In the last the public can help by declining to be disturbed. —Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

If realism is a good tonic for a nation suffering from humiliation, the United States should soon be on the mend. For the leading newspapers of that surprised and endangered bulwark of world democracy have been notably frank and fearless in pointing out the shocking unreasonableness of the U. S. to carry out the tremendous task it undertook in becoming the chief instrument of the United Nations organization in the effort to challenge and conquer communism the world over. —Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

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