

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4, 1950

An Unfortunate Decision

The ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada that Provinces and the Dominion cannot delegate their powers to one another does not come as a complete surprise but is nevertheless a severe blow to inter-governmental co-operation.

There has long been a school of judicial thought which went so far as to hold that Provincial Legislatures could not even delegate law-making or regulation-making powers to its ministers or others. That power has, however, been grudgingly recognized but its recognition has stopped short of including another Parliament in the class of those to whom legislative powers may be delegated.

The ruling represents the final interpretation of the existing constitution of this country. In order to make workable nationwide schemes of social security, insurance regulation and marketing it is now necessary that that constitution be suitably amended.

Point III Taken

It is a barren and thankless task for outsiders to try to interfere in a dispute between management and labour in an industry. It is equally ill advised, however, for parties to such a dispute to carry their controversy into fields which are by their nature outside the bounds of labour-management bargaining.

The car ferry service is essentially a constitutional obligation of the Federal Government. Its continuity is a matter of Provincial right and in no way affects the railway brotherhoods in their dispute over the conditions of general railway operation.

The proposal of the executive committee of the Canadian Congress of Labour to protest vigorously any change in control of the ferry service smacks less of reasoned policy than of a feeling of resentment against Premier Jones. Dislike of an individual is not the soundest ground for policy, and the C. C. L. would be wise to reflect that union members here are Islanders too.

Incidentally, it is to be noted that the Canadian Congress of Labour and the Canadian National Railway were both represented at the hearings of the Royal Commission on Transportation last year. The most widely publicised part of the Island's brief was the request for placing our car ferry operation under a Commission or a Department of Government. No objection was raised at that time by either the Congress or the Railway, notwithstanding the ample opportunity they had for doing so.

Mr. King And Col. Ralston

Commenting on some of the statements made following the death of Mr. King, Saturday Night slips into an error which is unjust to the memory of another great Canadian. Saturday Night quotes from Mr. Blair Fraser, writing in Maclean's Magazine, as follows:

"Blair Fraser admits that while the magazine itself was among the critics who 'thought other and stronger courses were feasible' nevertheless Mackenzie King's makeshift recruiting procedure did bring Canada through a war and a great internal crisis without letting events drive an irremovable wedge between English and French."

Saturday Night then goes on to say: "This is a very significant, and an entirely honorable admission. Saturday Night was not among Mr. King's critics at that time, for the very simple reason that we were convinced that no 'other and stronger course' could have been taken without driving that irremovable wedge—or in other words that no measure for conscription for overseas service could have secured the support of more than an insignificant fraction of the French-speaking minority in Canada. The driving of that wedge, it seemed to us, would be a national disaster more serious than anything which could result from delaying the sending abroad of troops conscripted for home service until French opinion was ready to accept that step. It required not only astuteness, with which Mr. King is seldom insufficiently credited, but also great courage and tenacity to resist the pressures that were put upon him at the time of Col. Ralston's resignation; but the fact that Mr. King did resist them is one of the chief reasons why Canada is a powerful and in essentials a united country today."

Commenting on this quotation, the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) says: "Where Saturday Night goes completely astray is in saying that Mr. King succeeded in resisting the pressures put upon him by Col. Ralston. In fact, Mr. King capitulated to Col. Ralston. Had he failed to do so the Cabinet would have broken up and Mr. King would have ceased to be Prime Minister. On Thursday, November 23, 1944, Mr. King met Parliament and announced that an order-in-council had been passed applying overseas conscription in order that our overseas forces would be adequately reinforced. "Far from opposing Mr. King, Col. Ralston, as Hansard makes quite clear, supported the King Government from the moment that his (Col. Ralston's) policy was accepted and the order-in-council passed. Thus, far from being defeated, Col. Ralston won his point and far from holding his Cabinet and the country together by resisting Col. Ralston, Mr. King saved his ministry and preserved the unity of the country by giving in, and himself applying the Ralston policy of overseas conscription."

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Montague Races today in aid of King's County Hospital.

The Patriot has advanced its price from two to three cents.

The French Republic declared this date 1870, after Napoleon's surrender at Sedan with 83,000 men.

The ladies are bound for the fashion show to look at the dress styles, the gentlemen to look.

The Queen's County Ploughing Match at Pownal today competes with other field sport, but the ducks should be fairly safe for one day.

Summerside will soon have its new diesel generator in operation, and the use of electric power will receive a further impetus in the Western county.

Premier Jones' paraphrasing scripture in reply to President Mosher is reminiscent of the retort of the argumentative neighbour over the fence—"I am, am I? Well; you're another, and a darned sight worse."

The Navy League is off to a new start with a full card of officials. Perhaps before next annual meeting we will be hearing about approved plans for the Navy's proposed new building.

The visit of Mr. W. H. Kidd, national secretary of the Progressive Conservative Party, is a routine one to familiarize himself with local issues and organization. He has been already in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

His Honour Lieutenant-Governor T. W. L. Prowse will be sworn in today to succeed His Honour Lieutenant-Governor J. A. Bernard. As the law presumes acts done on a given day to have been done at the earliest possible moment of that day the investiture is both to take place and has taken place.

Agricultural Minister Gardiner announces that the annual Dominion-Provincial agriculture parleys in Ottawa would open on Dec. 4. At that meeting farm crop conditions and prospects in the provinces are surveyed, also the Federal Government indicated that grain acreages ought to be sown next spring, after study of foreign market conditions.

Now that the late lamented Liberal member for Queen's has been laid to rest, speculation is rife among politicians regarding his successor. It is fairly certain that when the by-election is announced there will be a contest. Among the Liberal candidates mentioned are Mr. Cecil Miller, defeated at last election, and His Worship Mayor Earle MacDonald. So far as the Conservatives are concerned, Wing Commander J. Angus MacLean, defeated in the general election, is mentioned.

By the time the British Festival opens in London next year a biggest-ever wash and brush up will have been given the country. Thousands of buildings are being cleaned and repainted, street decorations and illuminations are being installed, bomb damage remaining from World War II is being cleaned up. Canals are being cleared and trees, shrub and hedge planting schemes carried out. Hotels and restaurants are re-stocking and brightening up in preparation for the Festival tourist rush.



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.

THE CAR FERRY

Sir, — It is a little hard to understand Premier Jones' attitude concerning the car ferry service. Why bring the matter up at the conference and what has the conference to do with it? Does the Premier wish the terms of Confederation changed? They are very plain. We are guaranteed daily communication with the mainland summer and winter, what better can we ask for? The operation of this boat by the Canadian National Railway is a matter of departmental policy and up to the strike proved fairly satisfactory. If it is thought that it should be placed under a commission rather than with the railway, then the matter should be taken up with the proper department of the government with a view of having the policy changed. The Conference had nothing to do with it.

I am, Sir, etc. CITIZEN

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LIEUT.-COLONEL MACKAY

Sir—Yesterday as I attended the funeral services of this good man, I was thinking of his life work and the great loss suffered by the City and Province by his sudden death. His life will be known for loyalty to his Church, my nearest neighbor, of which he was chairman of the Board of Trustees and mighty pillar. Loyalty to his King and Country, exemplified by his long and distinguished military record in the first world war, ending with his retirement as Lieutenant-Colonel, and finally his sterling qualities as a hard working and splendid business man. The firm of Bruce Stewart & Co., Limited of which he was an ideal partner, gentle, co-operative and patient, and best of all, with strong and perfect trust in Divine Providence. I am sure the great concourse of friends were pleased and edified by the well merited tributes paid him by the officiating clergymen who knew him best. The funeral service in the beautiful cemetery was impressive and inspiring with three clergymen and three organizations and as the sad plaintive tones of the bugle in the Last Post echoed in the air on the beautiful October day, in thought I consigned my neighbor and dear friend of forty years to the tender mercy of Divine Providence. I am, Sir, etc. W. J. P. MACMILLAN. Oct. 2, 1950

SHELLAC

Sir, — Is it not possible that those unfortunate citizens who, to fulfill their craving for alcohol, will drink such potions and poisons as the above, are forced to such a pass rather because of the very existence of restrictive laws than otherwise? In countries where potent alcoholic beverages are sold freely in eating houses and other licensed premises (that is in addition to what is bought from licensed grocers or vendors and brought home), the problem of the citizen who prefers his alcohol in a poisonous form as is the case reported, barely exists. Especially is this the case where such potable beverages are within the purse of the lowest paid citizens. Thus in England in the average town or village, the time-honoured country inn is often the centre of social activity and it is not unheard of for the village parson to be seen there on an evening, chatting with his parishioners or playing darts while sipping some harmless non-alcoholic beverage. Is it not better so — for there is little real vice and the odd pint of old English ale with its relatively low alcohol content causes few thick heads? It is where drinking is done in secret and dark places, behind closed doors and where restrictive laws are often most severe that

The Poet's Corner

INDIAN SUMMER

Along the line of smoky hills The crimson forest stands, And all the day the blue-jay calls Throughout the autumn lands. Now by the brook the maple leans With all his glory spread And all the sunbeams on the hills Have turned their green to red. Now by great marshes wrapt in mist, Or past some river's mouth, Throughout the long, still autumn day The birds are flying south. —Wilfred Campbell

real vice thrives. In European countries such as Switzerland, France or Italy, light wines form the daily beverage on the average family table while in England, Germany and the Scandinavian countries light beers or ales are commonly drunk at mealtime. In my various sojourns in these countries I have seen or heard of little in the way of the drinking of such crude beverages as hair lotion for example, and drunkenness is not common. Only in Scotland, my own country, I am ashamed to say, I have known of a few "red biddy" drinkers (red biddy being methylated industrial alcohol). Again there was a slight rise in the numbers of "red biddy" drinkers in wartime, due no doubt to the fact that there was a scarcity of the "real" thing. The remedy against the "evils of alcohol" lies not so much in restrictive legislation as in public education — and with the latter temperance societies have long been associated and good work they have done. It is a pity however that when temperance enthusiasts advise on such far-reaching measures as the introduction of restrictive legislation, they do not remember that it is by education, not restriction that act best through conviction, not by dictation. The very word "temperance" does not imply complete restriction as to the drinking of alcoholic beverages. It implies that each one of us should be in all things — i.e. to be temperate in eating as in drinking, in smoking as in other self-indulgent in working as in playing. Total health is a state of well-being both physical and mental in which there is complete harmony and an orderly balance in all life's processes leading to one end — an harmonious, balanced, temperate, and coordinated living. Alcoholism is itself an intemperateness and by a pointer not so much to an inborn craving as to a self-perpetuated, and self-afflicted self-indulgence. It is up to each one of us in our own daily lives to remember this and to be temperate and self-controlled in all things . . . and above all, as citizens to help our less fortunate brothers to see the error of their ways through example and education rather than through restriction and condemnation. Restrictive laws as a last resort are really a better method. That they are necessary at the present stage of human progress (as in the sale of drugs) may be true—nevertheless

may they also be used with temperateness and discretion! I am, Sir, etc. K. I. E. MACLEOD Charlottetown.

The Age-Old Story

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

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(And P. E. I.)

NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA

Excerpts from The Islander newspaper, 1851. Jan. 3: By the mail of last week letters were received from San Francisco, to the date of Oct. 31. All the members of the Fanny's expedition were in good health. Mr. James Connell, of this Town, plasterer, had left on the 22nd to return home and Messrs. Richard Smith and Jabez Bernard were intending to leave some time in January. A steamboat collision had taken place in Suisun Bay, between two passenger boats (West Point and Mariposa), and, in consequence of the damage she sustained, the crew and passengers succeeding in boarding the West Point. Mr. John Hawkins, of Charlottetown, carpenter, was on board of the Mariposa on his way to the mines, and by this unfortunate catastrophe lost all the property he had on board, most probably the chief part of his previous earnings. Jan. 17: Letters received by the last mail from some of the passengers of the Brig Fanny, from this port in November, 1849, inform us that the cholera is committing sad havoc in San Francisco and other parts of California, and that Mrs. Cooper, wife of Capt. Cooper, ex-Speaker of the Assembly of this Island, his daughter, son, and daughter-in-law, have been amongst its victims. Capt. Cooper left this Island for California in the Brig Packet, in November, 1849, taking with him his family, together with some of his sons and daughters-in-law, for the purpose of settling in that country. Being dissatisfied with the country, he sold his vessel and intended returning to this Island again. For some days previous to the departure of the last mail, Capt. Cooper was missing, and it was believed by some he had been murdered, for the sake of his money, and by others, that he was on his way to the Island. Several of the passengers of the Fanny are on their way home, and others are about returning. Aug. 1: Mr. James Miller, of Charlottetown, one of the passengers in the brig Fanny, for California, from this Port, in November, 1849, arrived here last evening, having left the golden regions on the 15th June last. We are glad to hear that those of his fellow passengers whom he left behind are all doing well.

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Notes By The Way

It's a lovely habit to remember family anniversaries, and never to fail in one's filial obligations, like the chap described by the Vancouver Province as "so proud of himself that on his birthday he wires congratulations to his Mother."—Ottawa Citizen.

The Cleveland zoo acquired a baby gorilla from Africa, and she weighed a healthy fifty pounds. But she stopped eating. In desperation the zoo director, Fletcher Reynolds, went into her cage with two bananas. One he ate; the other he offered to Yokodouma. She would take a bite only when he did. For the last few weeks Reynolds has set an example for the young gorilla by eating bananas, roast beef, plums and pears in her company, bite after bite. She is doing all right, although still fifteen pounds under normal weight. Reynolds is not; he has gained ten pounds.—New York Herald Tribune.

Great care should be used in displaying the flag of our neighbor, the U. S. A. It is no compliment to our summer visitors to wave their flag in their faces; they know that such flag-waving is done for money, and many of them are offended by it. What is more, they want to see the Union Jack or the Red Ensign here. If they could not bear to leave their flag for a week or two, they would have stayed at home. The Soviet Union is driving hard create hatred of the West among the peoples of the Middle East. Never was it more important than now for the Western democracies to make a supreme effort to achieve a better life, and thus win their trust and friendship.—Peterborough Examiner.

No language is in more universal or consistent demand in the world than English. The British Council's annual report says that if it devoted almost all its resources to teaching English abroad it could not meet more than a fraction of the ceaseless demand. Wherever the council operates — and almost the only countries excluded are those behind the Iron Curtain — national governments are asking it to arrange training courses in English for teachers in schools and universities. And specialized groups, such as scientists, doctors, members of government services and the armed forces, are always seeking a limited knowledge of English for professional purposes. These the council teaches direct. — London Daily Mail.

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