

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1952

Criminal Code Revision

History tells us that the ancient Britons considered it a point of honour to go armed to public meetings, the most enthusiastic applause being given by shaking their weapons. That sort of thing is out of date for Canadians, the draft revision of the Criminal Code making it an offence to be in possession of offensive weapons at or on the way to a public meeting.

It is also to be an offence to mislead the police by making false accusations against a fellow citizen. It is to be no longer essential for the complainant's testimony to be corroborated in sexual offences, although the judge is required to instruct the jury that it is not safe to convict without such corroboration. Trespassing at night is to be an offence, presumably as a measure against peeping toms, and vagrancy continues to be a substantive offence. The definition of "game" will mean a game of chance or mixed chance and skill.

Two new offences, criminal negligence resulting in death and criminal negligence in operating a motor vehicle are created, the first being punishable by life imprisonment, the latter by five years. Trial by jury is compulsory for indictable offences except where the code provides otherwise. The accused on preliminary enquiry will elect trial by a judge or by a judge and jury, rather than making the choice between jury and non-jury later.

New rules of procedure are laid down governing the "right to begin" which is really a question of having the last word. The prosecutor is always to be entitled to a reply and when more than one accused is being tried if any one of them calls witnesses all must present their case before counsel for the Crown.

Perhaps the historically most important change proposed is that when a judge has refused habeas corpus it will no longer be possible to renew the application before the same or another judge. Instead an appeal is provided for from the judge's granting or refusal of the writ.

Trade Envoys' Visit

The eight assistant Trade Commissioners who have been visiting the Island prior to taking up their posts are to be an important contact between our producers and exporters and the market in the countries to which they are proceeding. They can and we are sure will be very valuable in making this Province and its products known.

Their work, however, is valuable largely because of its personal nature. It is the direct contact with individual buyers and consumers even more than the channelling of information that makes uninterested strangers into friendly customers. Our own businessmen can help establish such relationships by getting to know these representatives, making it easier for them to place future relationships on a personal as well as purely business basis.

The Price May Be Cheap

Under the above heading the Ottawa Citizen answers critics who have expressed concern lest the new arrangement for the emergency disposal of an otherwise unsaleable meat surplus should cost Canadian taxpayers as much as \$15 million. If the deal, to which Britain and New Zealand are parties, does succeed in tiding over the livestock industry until exports to the United States can be resumed, even \$15 million may not be a high price to pay. A bill of some kind is inescapable, and its ultimate dimensions depend on how quickly the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Saskatchewan can be eliminated.

The consequences of the outbreak, says the Citizen, are being felt in every part of Canada, in the dairy as well as the livestock industry, and in other businesses engaged in processing or exporting animals. It is, indeed, a national disaster, more costly to the country than most of the large-scale fires and floods which Canada has experienced in recent years. Cheaper meat for Canadian consumers is an offsetting advantage, but only to a limited extent. The livestock business is still geared to export, and domestic consumption cannot be expected to fill the vacuum left by loss of the American market.

The arrangement whereby Canada gets a temporary re-entry into the British market for beef, which this country voluntarily

relinquished in 1948, is to be regarded as a stop-gap. Supposing shipments (including pork) total 40 million pounds as a result, this amount is less than one-quarter of the beef and beef cattle exports to the U. S. last year.

The most urgent problem is to wipe out foot and mouth. Unless this can be done quickly, the cost to the Canadian economy, in terms of subsidies and unemployment, may be materially greater than a possible \$15 million for swapping New Zealand for Canadian meat in the American market. Resumption of exports to the U. S. cannot take place until two months after the Secretary of Agriculture has made a formal declaration that the malady has been exterminated.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The R.C.A.F. Association, meeting in its third annual convention in Ottawa on the 22nd-23rd, is composed of veterans but its outlook is definitely forward.

The temperature of 32 degrees Fahrenheit reported for the Gulf waters of last week may be warm enough for fishing but a man who goes overboard in such near-freezing conditions has little chance of living more than minutes.

The Braemar Royal Highland Society have decided that, with the approval of the Queen, the Braemar Gathering will be held this year as usual. The date will be Thursday, September 4.

The grounding of the Blue Prince off Malagash will entail considerable loss to this Province by the interruption of our inter-provincial trade with Newfoundland. The removal of the live-stock from the ship would indicate that there is no immediate prospect of its being re-floated.

Dr. C. J. Tidmarsh, formerly of Charlottetown, chairman of a committee on Athletics at McGill University has reported on the danger of irregularities, and states that the committee is convinced that the University should take over direct and effective responsibility like any other university department.

The last census of the Dairy Industry conducted for the year 1950 shows that there were a total of 1,839 butter and cheese factories and condenseries in Canada employing 22,563 persons and paying 45 1/3 million dollars in wages. These factories alone had an output for the year valued at \$386 million dollars.

The Community Planning Association, whose provincial division has its annual meeting today, devotes much thought to convincing the public of the necessity of planning. As is not altogether unusual, however, the general public seems aware of the unfortunate results of unplanned development and wonders just when the various levels of government are going to improve matters.

The removal of restrictions on bank credit, the latest concession by the Federal Government, is appreciated by the commercial community which had been seriously handicapped, and in some instances had to have recourse to financial expedients which ultimately became harassing. Now they can again consult their bankers and get the reasonable accommodation they require.

Alexander Pope, English poet and satirist, was born this date 1688. He showed a literary bent at an early age, publishing a volume of poetry, "Pastorals" when he was 21. Unduly sensitive, he quarreled frequently and vigorously. "The Dunciad" was intended to extinguish the Grub Street writers but its brilliance had the effect rather of keeping alive the memory of those who are lampooned in it.

Six young farmers, three men and three girls, will represent the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs on a tour of Canada and the United States. They will leave Britain on June 5 and will be the guests of the Junior Farmers Club of Ontario. These visits are the great event of the year in young farming circles and endow the selected candidates with a status which carries its obligations in a round of winter lectures on their return to the U.K. and their home club.

We still have Summer and Fall to negotiate, but it is announced that a big year is before us for toys, and kiddies are going to frolic with a lot more toys this year than last. Estimates of volume increases range from five to 10 per cent over last year, with biggest gains expected in vinyl toys, rubber goods, dolls and doll clothes, mechanical toys, housekeeping toys, boxed games, and books. Prices are expected to hold at last year's levels but may be reduced in some cases, with increases in unit sales outweighing cuts.

Possible Unforeseen Developments



Old Charlottetown

LAND DIFFICULTIES From the report of John Hamilton Gray, Joseph Howe and J. W. Ritchie, Esqs., Commissioners appointed to inquire into the differences prevailing in Prince Edward Island relative to the rights of landlords and tenants, 18th July, 1861: "Perhaps no three men in British America were ever called to arbitrate upon interests of the same magnitude, or questions of greater delicacy affecting the welfare of larger numbers of people. If a judge or juror about to decide the title to a single estate feels the responsibility of his position, the undersigned may be pardoned for admitting that, with hundreds of estates and the interests of many thousands of persons dependent upon their adjudication, they have only been sustained by a very sincere desire to restore peace to a disturbed Province."

Notes By The Way

"Most unique record" says a newspaper headline. Use of "unique" with a qualifying word is common, and always inaccurate. "Unique" is defined in the Oxford as "being the only one of its kind, having no like or equal or parallel to it"—thus if there are only two objects of a kind in the world neither is unique. "Unique" means much more than "unusual" or "rare" and is not a synonym for them. —Ottawa Journal.

Flowers were blooming in North-western Ontario gardens in April this year. For a month the major portion of the province of Ontario has had warm sunshine, temperatures reaching the eighties in Thunder Bay, the nineties in Rainy River and Kenora. Before us lie six months of Summer and Fall weather, six months of foliage. Nevertheless, there are literally hundreds of thousands of Canadians who look upon Northwestern Ontario as the "frozen north."

More than a year ago some Calgary youths snowballed an army jeep, and one of the officers got out and struck one of the youths. District court this week awarded damages to the boy. We aren't in a position to quarrel with the court's application of the law, but things have come to a pretty pass when decent citizens can't administer on-the-spot discipline to youngsters who badly need it. We know that it's an offence to strike someone else's children, but if the public insists on strict observance of that law then it is betraying the best interest of the children themselves. What's a person to do when some impudent young brat starts pestering people who are minding their own business? —Calgary Albertan.

This spring has even that old Indian bamboozled. All through February and March when the snow was disappearing he puffed his pipe and said: "We pay for this later." But when April came with the heat waves, his puffing became uncertain. He grunted: "Wait and see." Frost came. No lilacs this year. But now the lilacs are in full leaf, and many trees almost in full leaf. Perennials are shooting up green fingers. The normal schedule. Midsummer dust storms are beginning to exchange real estate in Manitoba for real estate in Minnesota. The old Indian is about ready to turn his weather twig and his pet bunion. —Winnipeg Tribune.

Motorists tons tons of garbage on to the highways of Western Ontario, bottles being a major feature of this discarded rubbish. One result has been the creation of a new hazard—broken glass on the roads. The bill for cleaning up this debris falls on the taxpayer. Dead animals are part of this

"Looking back at the origin of these happy disputes it is apparent that the granting of a whole Colony in a single day, in huge blocks of 20,000 acres each, was an improvident and unwise exercise of the prerogative of the Crown. Had the proprietors, however, formed themselves into an Emigration Society, and committed the colonization of the Island on a rational plan for their mutual advantage, there is every reason to believe that, with the surplus population of the British Islands to draw upon, they might have fully peopled Prince Edward Island in a few years.

"But there was no plan, and no co-operative movement among the grantees. Some of them early entered upon the duties of colonization in a spirit of judicious enterprise, and with a liberal expenditure; but others did little, and that little often unwisely, while the majority did nothing. The emigrants sent out by the few were disheartened by the surrounding wilderness owned by the many, who made no effort to reclaim it, or were tempted to roam about or disregard the terms of settlement, by the quantity of wild land with no visible owner to guard it from intrusion. By mutual co-operation and a common policy, the proprietors might have redeemed the grants of the Imperial Govern-

ment from the charge of improvidence. The want of these indispensable elements of success laid the foundation of all the grievances which subsequently afflicted the Colony."

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.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Sir—I am not in the habit of writing letters to this forum but I would like to publicly voice an appreciation of Schurman's School Parade.

On Thursday, last, it was our misfortune to lose out in the spelling competition. Last year we held with pride the first place silver shield.

This year we lost it in fair and square competition. We are offering no alibis. The best teams won. I cannot see that the fact that we live 18 miles from Summerside has any bearing on it. Congratulations to Mount Pleasant and North Bedouque. Last fall we took third place in the quiz, being beaten by Central Bedouque and Cra-paud.

I am quite proud to say that my pupils took both defeats with a smile, which is the greatest lesson that these competitions teach. They are keenly contested and much enjoyed by the pupils. So let not us older people spoil it for the pupils by criticizing and making it a verbal football. As M.C. Charles Linkletter is tops, making all the children feel at ease and if he praises everyone for honest effort, why not? The master of spelling and quiz, Mr. Mercer, is also fair and square as well as others who take part.

Let me again say thanks to M. F. Schurman & Co., who make it all possible. May they continue in business and keep up Schurman's School Parade for many years to come.

I am, Sir, etc. WANDA MURPHY Teacher, Sea View.

The Poet's Corner

The Age-Old Story

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female created he them. . . . And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

There is no time like Spring. When life's alive in everything. Before new nestlings sing. Before cleft swallows speed their journey back. Along the trackless track—God guides their wing. He spreads their table that they nothing lack,— Before the daisy grows a common flower. Before the sun has power To scorch the world up in his noontide hour. There is no time like Spring. Like Spring that passes by. There is no life like Spring—life born to die,— Piercing the sod, Clothing the uncouth clod, Hatched in the nest, Fledged on the windy bough. Strong on the wing! There is no time like Spring that passes by. Now newly born, and now Hastening to die. —Christina Rossetti.

Like A Piece Of Ice

(The Gazette, Montreal) Canada has not as yet developed a mature economic system. But it is heading that way. And what is the proof? The proof, apparently, is that "today anywhere from 25 to 40 per cent of your total population is made up of civil servants."

This was the theme of a speech in Montreal by Dr. George F. Davidson, Deputy Minister of Welfare, Department of National Health and Welfare. It having 25 to 40 per cent of the population in the civil service is a sign of national immaturity, just how many civil servants will we have when our maturity is complete?

It is often said that Canada really isn't going socialist. To talk that way is just plain silly, and so forth. But it may be asked, not unreasonably, just how many people have to be in the civil service before the dividing line between the socialist and the non-socialist state has been reached?

The situation may be put another way—in terms of money. It will be found that last year government expenditure on goods and services was not far short of one quarter as much as the total personal expenditure on goods and services of all Canadians.

According to the calculations of that respectable C. F. F. Mr. W. Ross Thatcher, the federal Government alone next year proposes to spend 21 cents in taxes out of every dollar that is earned in the country. Here again the question may be asked: How much more should be spent by governments in order to make us rank as a socialist country?

It is perfectly true that a good civil service is essential for good administration. Efficient and honest civil administration certainly distinguishes a mature country from an immature one. And it is also entirely true that the civil service should be considered a fitting and honorable career for men and women of honesty and talent.

But growing up is not just a matter of size alone. A mature country is better judged by the quality of its civil servants, and the purpose they serve, than by their number. For if a civil servant becomes too top-heavy, the economic burden for the country is very serious.

Dr. Davidson was including in his estimate of civil servants all who are employed in government operations, such as the Trans-Canada Air Lines and the Canadian National Railways. No doubt a Trans-Canada pilot or a C. N. R. porter is paying his way, by providing direct services to the public.

But the fact remains that a high percentage of the civil service is not directly productive. It is engaged in handling money, produced by the labor of others. Dr. Davidson estimates that between 25 and 40 per cent of Canadians are civil servants. A high proportion are likely engaged in occupations that do not increase the national wealth but actually diminish it. They are a heavy charge upon the general economy. For much of the money that is raised in taxes and spent by the Government diminishes in the costs of being handled.

This recalls the story about a certain King who had called his ministers together for a council of state. The King described how he was perplexed by the way the money raised by taxation in his realm became so much smaller when it finally reached its objectives. He asked if any of his ministers could provide an explanation.

The council of state was being held at a very long table, down which sat many ministers. At the far end of the table a minister said that he would endeavour to provide an explanation. He drew towards him the pitcher of ice water. He lifted out a big piece of ice. He held it up for the King to see, and the King perceived that it was a very big piece of ice indeed.

Then the minister asked the one seated next to him to pass the big piece of ice down to where the King sat. It was a slow process, as there were many ministers. One after the other handled the ice. By the time it had reached the King, it had become quite a small piece. "Do you see, Your Majesty," said the minister at the far end of the table, "how much smaller that piece of ice has become with so much handling?"

The King pondered the piece of ice in his hand very solemnly. "Yes," he said musingly, "now I understand."

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