

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1933

Gathering Of The Clans

The annual Scottish Gathering under the sponsorship of the Caledonian Club of Prince Edward Island is deeply rooted in the traditions of this Island Province.

Tomorrow, following the custom of recent years, a Scottish chief will take part in the proceedings. Commander Arthur Avalon MacKinnon, R.N., Chief of the Clan MacKinnon, will be guest of honour at what has been designated "Clan MacKinnon Day."

As would be expected, where a main purpose is the encouragement of local effort, the greater part of the dancing and piping contests are restricted to residents of the Province.

We are fortunate indeed to have as judge of the piping and dancing a former champion of Highland Dancing of America, Mr. W. A. MacPherson of St. Thomas, Ont., editor of "The Piper and Dancer Bulletin."

Senate Reform

Senate reform is a Progressive Conservative platform plank in the present election and is also a long-term Liberal objective. The need for reform is far more pressing than is commonly supposed.

It is this excessive power which is at the root of the Senate's apparent impotence. Being able constitutionally to block any measure and initiate almost anything the Senate is all too well aware that it has no mandate from the people for anything in particular.

What is needed is a limitation on the power of the Senate to hold up legislation. A specific power to delay the enactment of a law for one or three sessions would probably be exercised on occasion.

For Pride And Comfort

Last March, when the First Lord of the Admiralty stated in his speech on the Navy estimates that Russia had the second biggest navy in commission in the world, some hasty readers may have wondered about the British.

The First Lord's clarification deserves the widest possible circulation, says the Ottawa Journal. The Royal Navy is indeed no mean navy. At the Spithead Review there were 190 ships. There was one battleship and there were nine carriers, 12 cruis-

ers, four Daring-class destroyers, 25 destroyers and more than 150 anti-submarine frigates, minesweepers, submarines and smaller warships.

In addition, it should be kept in mind that it was not possible to bring home to the review any warships from the Far East, the East Indies, or the South Atlantic stations, and there was only part of the Mediterranean Fleet and a mere token representation from the Reserve Fleet.

Thus the Royal Navy, plus its sister ships in the various parts of the Commonwealth, still presents to the world a very formidable force for peace, and to the Queen a shield against all enemies, says The Journal, adding: "When we couple this might with that of the United States fleet—as, God be thanked, we may—then we have something for pride and comfort. Oft times we sing too small."

Each Other's Tongue

Prime Minister St. Laurent has been telling Quebec audiences there is at least one highly commendable thing about his opponent George Drew—he has learned to speak pretty good French.

Mr. Drew, of course, is not by any means unique in picking up the tongue spoken by such a large proportion of this nation's people. "It's a happy thing to note," said the editor of Le Haut Parleur recently, "that our fellow-citizens of the English language are learning French more and more and making a real effort to imbibe at that great source of enrichment which the French culture provides."

This graceful and sincere approach to a sensible living arrangement, comments the Hamilton Spectator, contrasts wonderfully with the sour professionalism of our perennial hassle about "bilingualism".

French is a rich and beautiful language, with a literary treasure store every one should feel privileged to share. More than that it is a courtesy to our neighbours to learn their language, and only the most absurdly prejudiced and defensive individuals could feel irritation in making the effort. The language of unity is not exclusively French nor English, but as a bridge to true understanding, both great ethnic groups that have shared in the building of Canada should concede there is nothing better than to know each other's tongue.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Clan MacKinnon Day.

President Syngman Rhee says he has received assurances that if negotiations break down the 16 United Nations participating in the Korean war "are determined to fight with us jointly in complete unity of purpose."

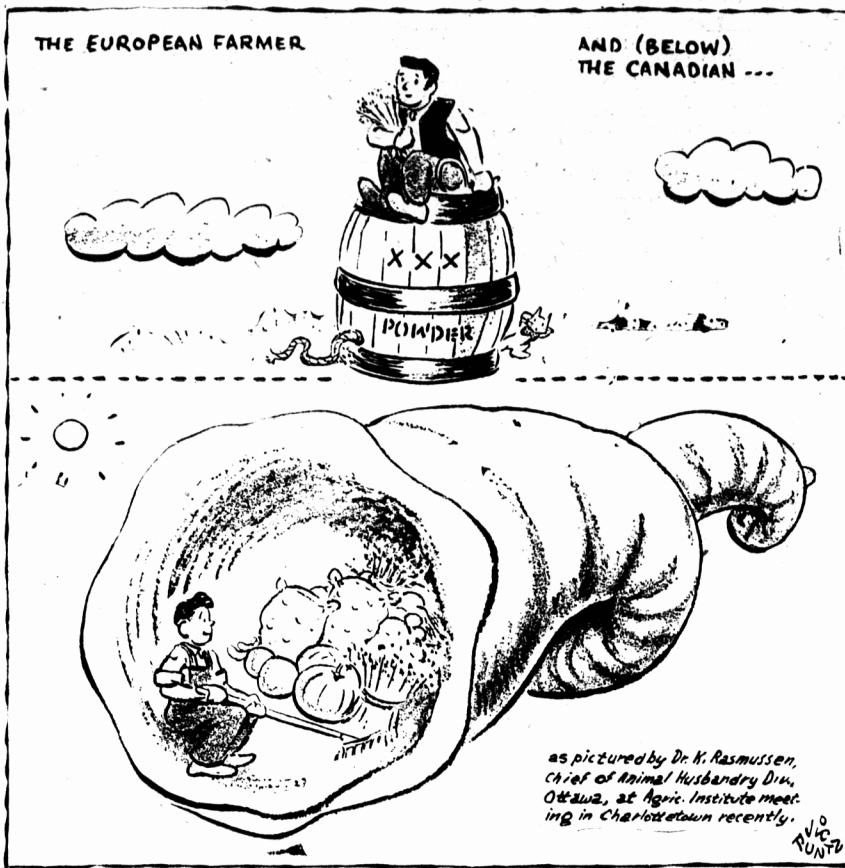
Canada and Mexico have concluded a pact enabling each country to establish a western and an eastern air service between the two countries. Montreal and Toronto are the Canadian terminals for the eastern services, Vancouver for the western.

Georgetown certainly has no reason to complain of any lack of co-operation by the Province and Maritime Electric. Within weeks of the need for more power for a proposed industry being made known a new line is being constructed to the King's County capital.

The same word with two meanings is being used by the leaders of the Liberal and Progressive Conservative parties of the other. Mr. George Drew has been charging the Government with "contempt" of Parliament, meaning usurping its authority. Prime Minister St. Laurent accuses Mr. Drew of "contempt", meaning criticising its votes of supply.

Gabriel Naude, French scholar and librarian, died this date 1653. Born in Paris, he studied medicine there and at Padua and was physician to Louis XIII. He visited the newly founded Ambrosian Library in Milan about 1620 and was enthusiastic at the idea of providing such facilities. He persuaded Cardinal Mazarin to authorize him to establish a similar library in Paris, acquiring some 40,000 volumes. He also established Sweden's first public library. He seems to have been the first to consider the problem of the methodical arrangement of a library.

Where We Sit



THE EUROPEAN FARMER

AND (BELOW) THE CANADIAN

as pictured by Dr. K. Rasmussen, Chief of Animal Husbandry Div., Ottawa, at Agric. Institute meeting in Charlottetown recently.

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 ESSONDALE WALL

Sir,—In the issue of Saturday's Guardian of July 4th, an interesting article appeared in your "News Notes Column" by J. A. Clark, D.Sc., about his trip through the lower Fraser Valley while visiting in British Columbia.

Being a resident of greater Vancouver and New Westminster for the past forty years, I am well acquainted with the route he travelled and I enjoyed reading his article very much, except for the part where he referred to the remarkable stone wall at "Essondale Mental Hospital", being built by a master mason who was a patient, and who died before the wall was completed.

Quite true, the man who did build this remarkable wall without the use of mortar, was a master mason, and also my father, but at the time was he ever a patient at Essondale, although he did have a few trustees working with him as labourers.

Coming to Canada in the year 1912 from Campbelltown, Argyleshire, Scotland, he settled in Vancouver and went to work at Essondale, where he completed the wall from end to end, as it now stands today. Had the Superintendent in charge at that time, noted this artistic piece of masonry which is almost one half mile in length, and in places as much of it underground as that showing above, would have been continued on around the property boundary, he had planned to use up the tons of rock that lay scattered over the hill-side when the land was cleared.

After working for many years at Essondale my father was transferred to No. 9, at East Columbia Street in New Westminster which is still under the Provincial Government and is known today as Woodland School. There he worked for some years before being superannuated.

He passed away in the year 1930, but his "great masterpiece" still stands, and it has withstood every element. It is quite true, and it is very noticeable to the passer by that the wall is not kept in repair, and any holes which may be seen are the work of the trustees, who like to pick out the small stones in their idle moments.

With due respect to the memory of my father John MacGougau, it is only fair for me to make this correction, and I can assure Dr. Clark that my letter is written in good faith, and without any cause of annoyance.

I am, Sir, etc. MARTIN MACGUGAU, New Westminster, B. C.

ROOTS OF CULTURE

Sir,—In his letter of July 24th a Former Teacher hopes that I have not obscured either the importance of "fundamental" grammar or the spirit and intent of my letter of July 2nd. With the utmost cordial feelings I assure him I did not. English is said to be "better" because it is presumed to be the English used by the foremost English writers in contrast with that used by uncultured English speaking people.

The former produces our classical literature, the supreme artist in which, like the inspired musician, reaches a point in artistic utterance when he or she is no longer conscious of technique. When a Paderewski in a fine musical passion his piano becomes an integral part of himself; and this perfect union becomes as it were a single living vehicle of self-expression.

The Age Old Story

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment; who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain; who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters; who maketh the clouds his chariot; who walketh upon the wings of the wind.

English grammar and that the Prince of Wales College is doing a splendid work in providing teachers for the graded district schools; also that the study of grammar is essential to the study of better English.

A Former Teacher would have me confine myself to fundamentals. Very well then! To begin, let me say: there would be no English language as it is or as good as it is had European culture and literature not rested on a Greco-Roman foundation. European literature has its beginning in Greek literature, and Greek literature begins in Homer, who incidentally is not the Homer generally represented to us. While one of the greatest poets of all time he was also a composite type in whom you have the ancient minstrel, the Norse sagaman, the 11th and 13th century troubador, and the modern guitar-playing singer.

Coincidentally the six-stringed guitar is a doublet of the cithara (Gr. kithara) which actually accompanied the recital or rather intoning of Homer's immortal Iliad and Odyssee. Homer lived about 900 B. C.

I bring forth these and the following facts in order to show how fundamental it is to us that the great creators of literature are tuned heart and soul to perceive beauty, poetry, music, and drama everywhere in Nature, like an Aeolian harp catching the least breath of air; that it is they (O!) who lay the foundation for grammar and that grammar, a later growth in the general plan, co-operates so as to enable us to enjoy their classical productions.

Greek poetry, music, and the expression of patriotic and warlike emotions in song and acting were inseparable from the 8th century to the 5th B. C. And where the Greco-Roman civilization, culture predominates this idealistic fusion gives an added superiority to European examples of creative art. The ancient Greeks were the greatest lovers of poetry, music, drama and song that ever lived. When the Greek drama was at its height of popularity fifteen to twenty thousand Athenians would sit in the open air theatre, from early in the morning until late in the afternoon. These theatres were the places where the great festivals which we now call musical originated. And never were there more capable adjudicators than the individuals in a Greek audience.

Finally, what was the foundation upon which this discussion began? Comment on grammar and rhetoric as used in an eight word sentence. What is grammar? A few remarks about Orthography; extremely less Etymology than we could get from an ordinary dictionary; but as it should be, a great deal to say about Syntax. What is syntax? It comes from the Greek and means to us "the order and functioning of the words in the building of a sentence." A sentence must have a subject and a predicate. For instance, the words "to think over" and "to think over" while etymologically correct are syntactically absurd standing alone.

In closing this discussion let me pass along a saying of Dr. Alexis Carrel, who not only knew his syntax but who in a much wider field was a master genius in bringing into a grand synthesis all the general physical laws governing man's life. Dr. Carrel, a long time member of the Rockefeller Institute and Nobel Prize winner wrote a book entitled "Man the Unknown". Published in 1933 it is a summing up of the life-work of the foremost specialists in all fields of anatomy, research. He was there that a specialist who does not have an

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SCOTTISH GATHERING

The Examiner of Aug. 16, 1877, records the details of what was probably the largest Scottish gathering to be held in Prince Edward Island up to that time.

It took place on the grounds of the Hon. Joseph Pope, at Charlottetown on the previous day. Five thousand tickets were sold, "though it is not probable that so many persons were upon the grounds at any one time." Some 300 excursionists attended from Pictou, among them Mr. Johnston, president of the Highland Society of Halifax, who was accompanied by his piper, Jack Patterson.

Among those occupying the grandstand were General Benjamin F. Butler and Judge Bond, of the United States Congress, Sir Robert Hodgson, Lieutenant Governor, Mayor J. S. Carvell, Hon. Joseph Pope, Hon. Frederick Brecken, Senator Howland and Hon. A. A. MacDonald. Colonel McGill is mentioned as being foremost in the conduct of the sports, in which the first prizes were awarded as follows:

- Heavy stone, Malcolm MacLeod, Valleyfield, 20 ft. 10 inches. Heavy hammer, John N. Morrison, Grand River, 76 ft. 9 inches. Light stone, Malcolm MacLeod, Valleyfield, 37 ft. 3 inches. Running leap, Samuel MacLeod, Strathalbyn, 16 ft. 9 1/2 inches. Hurdle race, William MacInnis, Strathalbyn. Light hammer, John A. Morrison, Grand River, 89 ft. 11 inches. Sack races, Malcolm Nicholson, Strathalbyn. Tossing Caber, James Gillis, Charlottetown, 27 ft. 5 inches. Running high leap, Neil MacLeod, Strathalbyn, 5 ft. 3 inches. Boys' running race, Horatio Bowness, Kensington. Gillie Callum, Daniel MacDonaid, Mount Stewart. Highland Fling, James C. McEachern, Charlottetown. Light hammer, Robt. J. Campbell, Charlottetown. All Comers' Flat Race, Charles Dockendorff, North River. Pipe Music, Colin Manning, Pictou; 2nd, Peter Ferguson, Charlottetown; 3rd, John A. MacDonald, Murray Harbor Road.

The Poet's Corner

THE SEA It keeps eternal whisperings around Desolate shores, and with its mighty swell Gluts twice ten thousand caverns, Till the spell Of Heavale leaves them their old shadowy sound. Often 'tis in such gentle temper found, That scarcely will the very smallest shell Be moved for days from whence it sometime fell. When last the winds of heaven were unbound, Oh ye! who have your eyeballs vexed and tired, Feast them upon the wideness of the Sea; Oh ye! whose ears are dinned with uproar rude, Or fed too much with cloying melody. Sit ye near some old cavern's mouth, and brood Until ye start, as if the seanympis quired!

Notes By The Ways

Exercise, according to a doctor, will kill germs. In this weather the very thought makes us sick.—Hamilton Spectator.

About the smallest package in the world is the person who is all wrapped up in himself.—Hamilton Spectator.

The child, in his ignorance, believes color is a subject easily mastered. The words, he finds, are mostly of one syllable. Thereafter his knowledge of the subject becomes blurred and overlaid, with a wealth of detail until it no longer surprises him to read, as he might have done the other day in an account of a display of fashions, of midnight blue wool and champagne light-weight worsted and dinner dress-etc. Experience has taught him that the colors of the rainbow are not enough, and that in describing the apparently infinite gradations of color human vocabulary has exhausted itself and has had to fall back on resemblances. Such proliferation of shades calls for some improvisation, and many of the names in use show subtle and rich imagination. It may, nevertheless, be not too early to consider where this tendency, which has recently become more marked, may lead. Shall we read that the hostess looked radiant in a lame costume in rhubarb and old rope? Will the bride leave for her honeymoon in a ginger-beer two-piece tweed suit, with cuffs and collar of bicycle-saddle brown and duckpond green hat? It is a formidable thought, and long before it happens, man—who in describing such things is already notoriously inarticulate—will have been driven into baffled silence.—(The Times, London).

While the experts of the air debate the time it will take the newest jet airliner to zoom halfway across the world, distressing news comes from Bombay. A pilot mistakenly set a British jet-powered Comet airliner down on the wrong airport and a herd of ponderous elephants may be needed to haul the gleaming ship to another airfield one and a half miles away.—Ottawa Evening Citizen.

If it has three leaves on each stem—avoid it. That's the best advice on how to prevent poison ivy. The innocent looking plant that runs wild along the roadside, up river banks, frequently near the times dangerously near to summer best looking picnic spots and some cottages and playgrounds, can cause a great deal of summer time discomfort—and even serious infection, warns the Health League of Canada. If a word of warning is not sufficient and you find yourself in contact with poison ivy—or even with the smoke from burning poison. 1. Immediately wash the exposed parts of the body with laundry soap and warm water. Make a thorough washing but do not scrub with a brush. Rinse several times. 2. Apply rubbing alcohol liberally to the exposed areas. 3. Next take a complete shower or tub bath. 4. Dress in clean clothing, and see that clothing which may have been contaminated is cleaned—either by laundering or with a cleaning solvent. 5. If a rash appears consult your doctor at once.—Toronto Daily News.

Three interesting little items culled from the news deal, each in their own way, with the question of temperatures. The Middle East reports a heat-wave, with temperatures at Baghdad rising to 120. Argentina experiences its coldest winter weather, the temperature having receded to 25 degrees, and by a humane decision of the New York City authorities letter-carriers in that city may, without prejudice to discipline, move their neckties if the mercury rises above 80. Temperature in other words, is a matter of degree—in more sense than one, what would be coolly regarded as delightfully moderate in the torrid environs of Kuwait may be sufficient to justify a sartorial modification among New York mail-carriers, while a casual seven degrees of frost, which make Argentinians shiver and think of a return of the ice age, would be a balmy summer air to the Northern Canadian Eskimo. And probably in every case there are those who avoid the issue by assuring all and sundry that it is not the heat they mind, but the humidity; not the cold which distresses them, but the dampness.—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Many people go to the open ocean beaches for bathing. They must enjoy it for they would hardly devote a vacation to punishing themselves. If that is the case then they presumably derive pleasure from being informed that the undertow is strong today and thus reminded that, before they have finished their swim, they may be dragged out to sea. It must give them much delight to see a great wave coming in and estimate that, by the time it reaches them, it will be 10 feet high. When it breaks, the effect will be to release tons of water that will fall with great force on their heads, crushing them under its weight. Even after they miraculously survive this they will be swept off their feet and washed up on the beach. Their noses will be filled with salt water. Great quantities of sand will have got into their hair and ears and in the pockets of their bathing trunks. Then, just as they are about to recover their equilibrium and get on their feet, another breaker will come rolling in and knock them over again. Should they have indulged in surf bathing they will not, of course, wait for the wave to break on top of them. They will outwit it by diving underneath.—Vancouver News Herald.

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