

THE GUARDIAN

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The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9, 1953

By-Election Thursday

The seat in Third Queens, vacated by the appointment of former Premier J. Walter Jones to the Senate, will be filled as a result of tomorrow's by-election either by a Liberal candidate or an independent farmer, there being no candidate representing the official Opposition.

At the General Election of April 26, 1951, Senator Jones went in with a majority of 219 over his Progressive Conservative opponent. He polled 1,149 votes compared with 930 for Mr. M. W. Wood, less than half the majority enjoyed by his running mate, the Hon. Dougald MacKinnon.

The two candidates in tomorrow's election are both farmers and livestock breeders. They have made their personal appeals to the electors and, apart from personalities, the question now is whether an additional Government supporter will be returned to a House in which the Opposition are heavily outnumbered or whether a critic who will not be identified with the official Opposition will be added.

The Belfast district, in any case, will make its own decision for its own reasons. Nothing that friends or enemies of the candidates outside may undertake to do is likely to influence the result one way or the other.

Power Interruptions

The disruption of light and power services over a large section of the city, resulting from a few fallen trees and broken branches in Monday's storm, was the worst experienced by our citizens for a long time. In several cases it took nine hours, and in one case almost twenty-four hours, to effect urgent repairs. It appears evident that the repair crews were too few in numbers, and inadequately equipped to do their work as expeditiously as was required.

No reflection is intended here upon the workmen; but a big plant like that of the Maritime Electric Company, with large resources to draw upon—and in this case with due warning from the weather forecasters that a storm was in the offing,—should be prepared to meet emergencies of this kind with greater efficiency and despatch. In other centres the most up-to-date facilities are available for such purposes, and interruptions, when they occur, are of very short duration.

While making every allowance for conditions of emergency, Charlottetown light and power patrons are not inclined to excuse a moment's unnecessary delay in repairing line damages. They pay a high rate for the facilities they enjoy; a large number of them now depend almost entirely on electrical power for cooking and other purposes, and repair facilities which might have been adequate twenty or thirty years ago, when domestic lighting was the main consideration, are simply not good enough today. It is to be hoped the Company will give serious consideration to this important problem, and make every effort to meet it more satisfactorily in the future.

Farm Labor Problem

Because they never have received a share of the national income, even in good years, proportionate to their numbers, farmers have had difficulty competing with urban industries in wages. During the past few years, notes the Windsor Star, this discrepancy in income has been less than formerly, and farmers have been able to pay better than usual. But there are other factors, such as hours and the hard labor which prevails on farms, which make many men prefer city work. Too often farmers have been compelled, unless they can hire a neighborhood man who is experienced and adept, to get along with inferior labor. And a farm hand is almost useless, except for simple tasks, if he doesn't know how to handle animals and machinery.

The problem is not peculiar to this continent. In the United Kingdom there now is a dispute resulting from the Agricultural Wages Board having given a boost to farm laborers. And this also involves overtime pay.

Overtime on the farms isn't comprable

to that in urban industries, which can gauge overtime to the demand for the products and resort to it when it is economically justified. Seeding, haying and harvest are not things which can be left over until the next month. The seeding just has to be done in the proper time, the hay must be brought in when mature, and the grain harvested when ripe. This makes long hours essential especially if rain should impede progress. And cows must be milked on Sundays just as on other days. Indeed, much of the farm work is done on what in cities would be regarded as "overtime".

With modern machinery farmers, says the Star, can get more work done in less time, and this has reduced somewhat the late hours. But it still is impossible to regulate work on the farms in the same manner as it is done in factories. Farmers are working with nature, and the climate and other natural forces aren't amenable to arbitrary rules of man. Nature sets the pace and farmers must adjust themselves to it.

Honorary Chiefs

At the next session of Canada's Parliament two distinguished Indian Chiefs will face each other across the Commons floor. "The other day," says the Winnipeg Free Press, "Mr. John Diefenbaker bowed his head to receive from Chief Snake of Starblanket Reserve the symbolic feathered headdress of the Cree Indians and the lofty title of Chief Eagle."

"It is hardly two years since another paleface of the Saskatchewan plains, the Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner, was initiated into the mysteries of the Blood Indian tribe. Mr. Gardiner, on suitable occasions, is properly addressed as Tsikum-Ina, Thunder Chief.

"Chief Eagle and Thunder Chief, when they doff their ceremonial feathers, swear allegiance to very different and opposing totems. On the election warpath and across the floor of the whiteman's mighty council chamber, they have been known to swing their political tomahawks with enthusiasm and dexterity.

"These may be paleface members of that council who will think it inconsistent that these Indian chiefs, whose tribes, for well on a hundred years, have smoked the pipe of peace, should shout their battle cries across the Commons floor. But it is in just this sort of verbal combat that the strength of the white man's pow-pow lies. Chief Eagle and Thunder Chief may be blood brothers of the plains, but as inheritors of our democratic traditions of free and vigorous Parliamentary debate they will continue to do honest battle for their own distinctive concepts of the public good."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Armed robbery, such as that of a service station in Summerside, is foreign to this relatively peaceful Island. A number of crimes of violence, however, have taken place recently and represent a most unfortunate development.

A Canadian, Arthur Napier Magill, himself sightless, is the director of Egypt's new demonstration centre for the rehabilitation of the blind. Staff will be supplied by the U. N. Technical Assistance Administration. There are more than 10,000 blind children alone in Egypt and much of the effort will be spent in their education.

The Bank Act comes up for its 10-yearly revision at the next session of Parliament. One of the questions expected to come before the committee is the possible reduction of the maximum interest rate from 6 per cent. In 1944 it was reduced from 7 per cent to 6. The legal maximum is only important, of course, when competition fails to keep the prevailing rate below what is allowed.

Max Reinhardt, American theatrical director, was born this date 1873 near Vienna. He was first a bank clerk and then an actor and director in Berlin. He employed the "apron stage" and devices even more striking to establish intimacy with the audience. He was a very great showman, and an erudite one. He went to the United States in 1935 and became an American citizen in 1940.

Canvassing in Charlottetown in the Provincial Cancer Campaign has begun under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Beaton. Much has been learned of the nature and characteristics of cancer in recent years but much expensive research must continue to be undertaken and the results made available to all before it can be considered finally conquered. Early diagnosis is still the most important step in its cure. By contributing now, we make that diagnosis more readily available.

Traveling More Lightly



The Poet's Corner

THE LITTLE WINDS The little winds are tired winds When summer's almost over; So many times they've turned each leaf And bent the heads of clover.

They've rippled pools, they've rustled corn And up tall hills gone questing; Now little winds are tired winds And need a day of resting.

And so, when any noon is still, No roadside bee naim quivers; When weather vanes have time to kill And not an aspen shivers—

One knows that little winds somewhere Behind high clouds are keeping; For little winds are weary winds And want a day of sleeping.

—Adin Ballou in the New York Herald Tribune.

Old Charlottetown And P. E. I.

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITIONS "Since the system was first introduced of holding annual Exhibitions of live stock and the products of the soil, as well as of the various industries of our Province, a vast improvement in all these departments has taken place.

For the past three years the exhibitions were Provincial in their character, and held respectively as follows: In 1876, at Charlottetown; in 1877, at Georgetown; and in 1878 at Summerside, and were open to competitors from all parts of the Province, thus stimulating the energies of our farmers and mechanics by inciting them to keen competition in the different departments in which they were exhibitors. Provincial Exhibitions, therefore, may be termed a school for the whole farming community, in which the people receive information applicable to practical purposes. Knowledge thus acquired has become of great value to them in their every-day pursuits. A desire to excel is to be found in every breast; and to give every facility to those who desire to excel in stock-raising and agricultural pursuits generally, is the bounden duty of our Legislature."

—The Examiner, Aug. 25, 1879.

Cars And Alcohol (Winnipeg Free Press) No driver in his right mind wants to use his car as a club with which to beat the life out of a human being. But the driver who has alcohol in his blood is not in his right mind. He may, unfortunately, think he is. To his friends he may appear to be quite rational as he steps into his car. Actually he is an irresponsible potential killer. About his right to drink there may be some argument; about his right to drive there is none. The problem is how to keep him from driving. It is this problem which will occupy a group of lawyers, doctors, traffic experts and alcohol research workers at the International Conference on Alcohol and Road Traffic. They will meet at Hart House in Toronto from September 9 to September 12.

One of the most obvious, if partial, solutions to the problem has been tried with some apparent success in Manitoba. That solution is the strict enforcement of just laws. The certain knowledge that severe punishment will follow if he is caught driving while drunk (or even while merely a trifle stupid from drinking) appears to have a deterrent effect. There is statistical evidence that this is so; while traffic accidents in this continent as a whole have

Notes By The Way

Opportunities to see Japanese films here are rare but if the current "Rashomon" screening is any example of their quality, the Japanese can compare with the greatest elsewhere in the beauty, power and maturity of approach of their motion pictures.—Ottawa Evening Citizen.

Some time ago scientists came to the conclusion that the bagpipes are of Egyptian, not Scotch, origin, and now they have announced that the first boomerangs were Egyptian, not Australian. If this keeps on, we shall soon be told that the automobile, the aircraft, the telephone, radio and television were Egyptian, not Russian, inventions.—Hamilton Spectator.

The official ceremony yesterday in turning of the first sod on the new Moncton Y. M. C. A. saw a great project in splendid community enterprise launched. Now long laid plans will be translated into solid form as a new building rises and when completed will be an invaluable asset in advancing community welfare generally, affording to youth particularly the opportunity not only for recreation but for learning all those things which make for a healthy and useful life.—Moncton Transcript.

It is not the potato, but what you eat with the potato that adds poundage to the human form. This is what home economists are now saying to calorie-conscious women in North America with its large potato crop. In recent years potato harvests have been growing greater owing to improved methods of production. The notion that potatoes cause excess weight has become the bane of the potato grower's life. It is the reason why the per capita consumption of potatoes in North America dropped from 191 pounds in 1909 to 101 pounds in 1952. Yet potatoes have a high food value. Nutritionists advise that a generous serving of potatoes provides as much as a fourth of the day's requirements of vitamin C, some of the B vitamins, iron and other important minerals as well

spiralled steadily upward, the Greater Winnipeg area has shown a substantial reduction in traffic accidents during the past two years. It is not possible to generalize from results achieved in a single area. But the men and women at the Hart House conference will be able to study not only what has been done in all parts of Canada, but in the United States and Europe. They will be interested in the results achieved by Manitoba's program of entrenchment and education, and no doubt the men responsible for Manitoba's traffic control will be anxious to learn from them.

as energy value. A medium-sized potato has about 100 calories—no more than a slice of bread, an apple or a banana. It has half the calories contained in a medium-sized piece of pie.—Toronto Star.

It is just as well, the Christian Science Monitor suggests, not to count international eggs before they are even laid. Thus it would be unwise to depend too much on the recent announcement of the Russian government, in its current budget, that expenditures on armaments will be reduced this year by three percent. For even if there is such a reduction—and no foreigner can possibly interpret the real meaning of the Russian figures—it is far smaller than the reduction in the United States military budget recently ordered by the Congress, which has lately cut the expenditures of the military services by 26 percent.

Before counting Russian eggs, as the Monitor observes, the American people should count their own.—Winnipeg Free Press.

The Age Old Story

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The Passing Scene

By Observer BREAD AND FREEDOM

A Labour Union official cites bread and freedom as the two main goals of organized Labour. It is a good phrase and one that is indicative of the change that has come over Unions in the last few years. It is not so long ago that their chief aim was "to get even" with employers and they had little time or inclination for fine phrases. These are the men who have no direct personal interest in Union affairs are apt at times to frown on the tactics of organized Labour, especially when these tactics involve strikes and threats of strikes which in our opinion are unnecessary and unwarranted.

It should be remembered, however, that organized Labour has had a hard uphill fight for even the most elementary concessions. It must be strange, indeed, if now and then some Union officials did not abuse the privileges that have come their way through years of hard struggle. I would say that, by and large, with lapses here and there, Union leaders in Canada and elsewhere have earned the respect and admiration of their fellow citizens. Even now, of course, some of them say and do unwise things, but so do employers on occasion. So does everybody else for that matter. We may as well not expect perfection, for the present at any rate, in any segment of society.

Mr. Dye (a chap with whom I reported to readers of this column in a previous article) tells me that in England there is general admiration for what the Trade Unions have accomplished in such a relatively short time. They have their irresponsible elements, and even some of their essential elements are bound to have, but in the main, Mr. Dye feels, the English "Union-man" is cautious and conservative in his outlook. The fear once held that when Trade Unions became powerful they would ride "rough-shod" over the rights of others has not been realized. I think that with a few possible exceptions the same can be said of Labour Unions and their leaders here and in the United States.

And even some of the exceptions are probably due more to inexperience than to willful disregard to the common good. Trade Unions were at work in England long before the movement began in earnest this side of the Atlantic. It is good to know that Labour Union leaders are aware that political and intellectual freedom must accompany material gains if these gains are to be kept inviolate. It is common knowledge that in countries where freedom no longer exists Labour Unions have been among the first to feel the heavy hand of the oppressor.

In the course of its growth and expansion it has almost inevitable that some measure of Communist influence should arise in the Labour movement. That the sum total of this kind of influence has always been small, and in most groups insignificant, has been due to the native good sense of working men generally. The attempts currently being made by responsible leaders to isolate even vestiges of Communist influence from the main stream of Labour Union life and energy deserves the praise and goodwill of all patriotic citizens. The domestic freedom which organized Labour has been able to achieve has been due largely to the sympathy which citizens generally have had for the rights and aims of Labour. So long as the Unions keep this in mind and act accordingly with due regard for other people's rights as well as their own, the liberties they now enjoy will be secure.

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