

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1950

Victoria Day

Though in some parts of Canada Empire Day and Victoria Day are observed on successive days, in this Province and throughout the British Commonwealth generally both anniversaries are synonymous. Victoria Day—the finest holiday of the year—is celebrated in memory of the birthday of the great and good ruler Queen Victoria, whose name stands out as a symbol of all that is best in sovereignty and in domestic felicity.

Notwithstanding wars and revolutions which have spelt the doom of other monarchies, the British Throne remains the symbol of unity for the greatest Empire the world has ever seen. The name "Commonwealth" now is more generally preferred, but there is no reason why our Imperial achievements should be forgotten. They are summed up in the words Freedom and Justice.

It was a curious gesture on the eve of Victoria and Empire Day for officialdom at Ottawa to decree the abolition of "Rule Britannia" in the Royal Canadian Navy; but we doubt whether Mr. Churchill's fears that this means the severance of a link with the past are wholly justified.

Short Memories

Mankind is blessed or cursed with a remarkable capacity to forget. We are but briefly out of the season for overcoats and rubbers, when the height of human bliss seemed to be the prospect of discarding those encumbrances. Now, of course, we give not a passing thought of thankfulness to be rid of them but instead are impatient at any shortcomings of the weather by summer standards.

Forgetfulness is a very valuable ability of course. It would be very painful indeed to continue to relive all ones failures, shortcomings and disappointments, but it is also very encouraging to humbug. Politicians commonly rely heavily on the capacity of the public to forget, and as long as their conduct does not touch the voter too personally and sharply, the reliance is usually justified.

When we wish to recall precisely some name or event, it often would appear that an efficient memory would be most valuable. If it were possessed, however, the chances are that so much would be stored that there would be no opportunity for properly considering any of it.

Premier McNair & The U. N. B.

Premier McNair has tendered his resignation from the Senate of the University of New Brunswick from motives which do him much credit. He states that his appointment was made before he became Premier of the Province, following which he continued to serve on the board without giving any particular heed to the political implications which might arise.

Premier McNair recalls that on different occasions, he had suggested that the Province's assistance to the University should be placed on a stable and more permanent footing. This would involve raising the present annual statutory grant of \$25,000 to a

proper level, consistent with reasonable needs. The current arrangement, for all practical purposes, calls for financing by the Province of the yearly deficits of the University's operations. "Apart from the uncertainties in the situation," he states, "it could be misconstrued, by those minded to do so, as making the University dependent upon, and therefore subservient to, the Government of the day. I feel we will all agree that this is not a desirable condition, and I am strongly of the opinion that it should be corrected as soon as can be done, possibly at the 1951 session of the Legislature."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The new Maritime 100 mile ferry service to carry 1,000 passengers, will ply between Yarmouth, N. S., and Bar Harbour, Maine.

Charlottetown's new nursery service should prove a boon to mothers. The idea could well be developed to meet the needs of working mothers as well as those going shopping.

The Salvation Army has suffered in its financial campaign because of the flood emergency, yet has not complained at all of its own added difficulties. It is important for all to remember that fact and continue to give generously at other seasons.

Shooting geese out of season seems to be an expensive pastime. The loss of wildlife however, resulting from the practice is of greater value than even the maximum fines.

Today, according to much modern authority, is Empire Day, when schools are expected to conduct patriotic exercises. Tomorrow, Victoria Day, is a holiday and school pupils will have little interest in organized celebrations.

The holiday coming when it does seems likely to put a crimp in Safety Week endeavours. Holiday drivers are notoriously accident-prone, and Island ones are probably not very different from others.

More cheese and butter production is predicted from Ottawa — cheese for export and butter for surplus. What the powers-that-be must do is to create a greater home demand for butter which they could if they would.

John Davidson Rockefeller, American millionaire oil and railway executive, died this date 1937. He made many gifts to educational and other institutions, and established the Rockefeller Foundation "for promoting the well-being of mankind throughout the world."

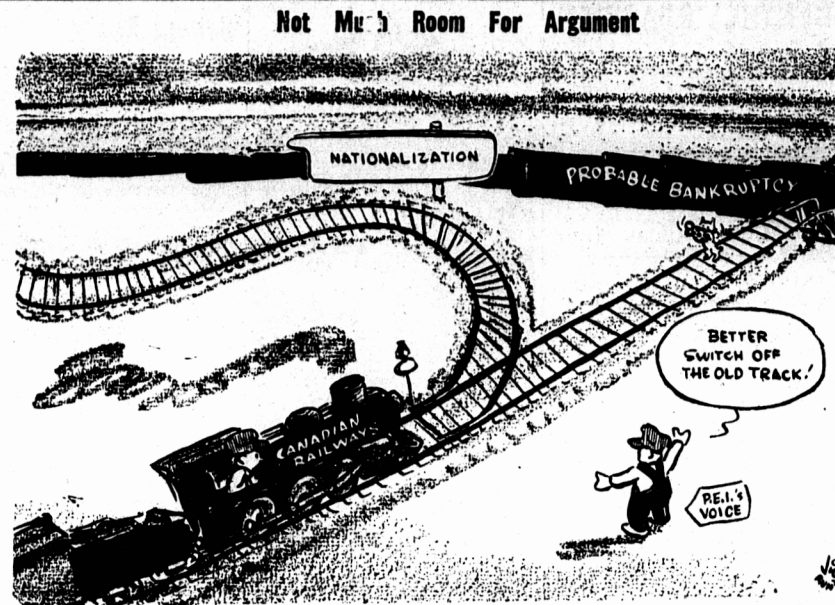
There will be a new Provincial Government soon—just as soon as it is decided whether Hon. Mr. Matheson, Hon. Mr. Darby or Hon. Mr. Cullen will be the new Premier in place of Senator-to-be J. Walter Jones, now on holiday presumably prior to removing to Ottawa.

Nine years ago, on May 24, 1941, the British battle cruiser "Hood" was sunk by the German battleship "Bismarck" in an engagement off Greenland. A long-range shot found a vital spot and touched off the Hood's magazines. When she blew up, with the loss of practically all hands, the Royal Navy suffered its heaviest single blow since the start of the Second World War and one that could not go unavenged.

Out in the main current of the Red River, writes a correspondent at Winnipeg, "the waters sweep timbers, buildings, crates, furniture and other large objects swiftly northward. In the back waters of the flood are the small things that were once part of someone's home. You come across a child's sodden doll. You see a dead cat or dog floating side by side with a doer or a cedar chest, or a water-logged mattress slowly sinking under water. It's surprising how many things float—even for a little while. It would be impossible to salvage them even if they could be used again.

Besides shortening distances, the Chignecto Canal would make it possible for little coastal vessels, not suited for the long open-sea voyage around Nova Scotia, to carry much of Prince Edward Island's trade — this because it would open up an inland navigation route. Nothing would do more than this waterway to stimulate the economy of Prince Edward Island, create new opportunities, and reverse the downward trend of that province's population, which has actually declined rather than increased since Confederation. It should be emphasized too that the Chignecto Canal would similarly benefit the economy of the other Atlantic provinces, all of which suffer in common from the burden of excessive transportation costs.

The Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.



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.

AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Sir—With your kind permission I should like to add a P. S. to my letter of recent date regarding the electrical inspection service of this Province.

While it is a well known fact that this service, in country places at least, as a general thing, is very slow it is but fair to the men of this service to state that these delays are in part at least the result of a very inadequately staffed force, two men I believe being responsible for the inspection service of this whole Province. A determining factor too in the speed of this service, whether wise or otherwise, is a commendable desire on the part of these men to conserve the taxpayer's money by making as many inspections as possible at one trip.

On Keeping A Diary

(Bruce Hutchison in the Winnipeg Free Press) All ex-diaries (and who isn't an ex-diary?) will find a certain melancholy comfort in the diaries of President Roosevelt, recently published. It turns out that this great man couldn't keep a daily diary any better than anyone else.

P. E. I. & Chignecto Canal

(St. John Telegraph-Journal) The government of Prince Edward Island, in presenting its case to the Royal Commission which is studying this country's transportation structure, has used the construction of the Chignecto Canal. This was to have been expected, for the vital project would immeasurably benefit the province in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

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Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) GARRISON INSPECTED "His Excellency Sir Donald Campbell, Bart., having intimated his intention of visiting the Barracks, Stores, &c., in this garrison, on the 28th instant, at the hour named—12 o'clock—proceeded to the Barracks, accompanied by the Commandant, Lieut. Col. Lane, Town Major, where on his arrival he was received by L. Y. Nash, Esq., in charge of the Ordnance and Barrack departments, and James Lane, Esq., in charge of the Commissariat department.

The Poet's Corner

THE PASTURE FIELD When Spring has burned The ragged robe of Winter, stitch by stitch, And deftly turned To moving melody the wayside ditch.

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