

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, 1946

Be Warned

In reference to the discussions in Parliament over the interference with the freedom of the Press by a Royal Commission in Alberta, the following is reproduced from The Journal of the Institute of Journalists:

"We must realize we are living in the twilight of democracy. That is why freedom of the Press is so important. Yet at this terrible crisis we have restrictions imposed on the Press under the guise of national necessity. Those who impose the restrictions do not appreciate how great a disservice they are doing to the common good and the public interest—whether they impose restrictions on the consumption of newsprint, on free travel of correspondents, or on transmission facilities and communications.

"Twice recently, in speeches to the Kent and Edinburgh Districts, the General Secretary of the Institute has warned journalists that the freedom of the Press has never been in greater danger and has emphasized the need for the keenest vigilance."

Outlook For Wool

According to a Western farm exchange, prices for raw wool should hold up well during the present year. World consumption of apparel wool (about 80 per cent of production) is about 15 per cent above pre-war level; and as at June 30, 1947, world stocks of apparel wool were about 900,000,000 pounds less than the year before. Wool has been moving rapidly into consumption in Europe, where, as quickly as possible, large purchases have been made for manufacturing purposes. The British textile industry has increased its export volume of wool cloth by about 50 per cent since the beginning of 1947, and the industry is manufacturing about 22 million linear yards of wool cloth per month, which is approximately 25 per cent more than in the final stage of the war.

There is evidence, according to the Canadian Co-Operative Wool Growers Limited, that the demand for fine wool is falling off somewhat, and turning to the medium grades, which are in greater supply. This means that high prices for the finer wools are turning buyers toward the less expensive grades. The sheep population of Australia, for example, is about 29 million less than it was five years ago. Production is, therefore, down about 16 per cent. South African sheep-growers are showing some tendency to switch cattle, and in the United States the production of fine wools has shrunk about one-third. World production of fine wool, consequently, is at a lower level than at any time during the past two decades, while the volume of cross-bred or medium wool is still above any pre-war year and close to the wartime peak.

In Canada, the sheep population has been declining. Total wool production in 1946 remained about 19 million pounds, as compared with less than 15 million pounds in 1940. The quantity of shorn wool has been dropping since 1944, whereas pulled wool has increased. The total requirement of wool in Canada, or domestic disappearance, shows a very substantial increase over the pre-war period, 1935-1939, when it averaged just over 60 million pounds yearly. The disappearance in 1946 was 112.6 million pounds.

Nurses Honoured

Of general interest is the reference in the English press to a proposed memorial in Westminster Abbey in honour of nurses from the Commonwealth and Empire who lost their lives during the war. At that time, a large number of nurses from overseas volunteered for the forces, and about 1,000 of them lost their lives. In recognition of the work done by these nurses, the Nursing Mirror is appealing for 250,000 pounds. The Queen is one of the patrons, and so far 52,000 pounds has been raised, 42,000 pounds of this by nurses themselves.

The fund is known as the "British Empire Nurses' Memorial Fund," and the money will be used to furnish a memorial chapel in Westminster Abbey, in which will be enshrined a roll of honour of the fallen. It will also establish memorial travelling scholarships for nurses of the Commonwealth and Empire. Mr. Hugh Eaton, the artist who designed the Battle of Britain window in the Abbey, has consented to prepare one for the nurses' chapel.

Astronomical Figures

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates that Canadians in the year 1947 received gross personal incomes amounting to the record sum of \$10,259,000,000, an increase of \$723 million over the previous year's total earnings. In the category of expenditures, the trend is parallel. Last year personal expenditures by the people of Canada on goods and services totalled \$8,711,000,000, again a record figure and \$1,029,000,000 more than they spent in 1946. And, of course, this reveals that whenever incomes rise, prices follow the spiral, although in the past year these factors were in reverse position. This was because of the abandoning of price ceilings, controls and subsidies, with the consequent result of increases in costs of goods and services, then the cycle was completed with demands for higher wages and salaries to catch up with mounting prices.

While the figures on both sides of the ledger reflect a prosperous state of the national economy, the picture is marred by the disclosure in another branch of the statistics, that Canadians did not accumulate nearly so much money in savings in 1947 as in the previous year. This is undoubtedly due more to the fact that living costs mounted rapidly last year than to non-observance of that inherent quality of thrift which always was a noteworthy feature attaching to Canadians. Last year the Bureau's report shows personal savings as totalling \$768 million, or 7.5 per cent of the personal income, this representing a precipitous decline in value of 50 per cent from 1946 when personal savings amounted to \$1,536,000,000, or 11.1 per cent of the personal income.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Boy Scout and Girl Guide Week activities. Board of Trade dine together this evening.

Charlottetown can sympathize with the plight of Toronto which is having its power load "shed" at intervals. We have been through it and know how unpleasant an experience it is.

The Federal Government is getting ahead with its pre-election programme like a house on fire. About the only people failing to benefit to any extent are (apart from Summerside), those of this "side-line" province.

Belated justice is being done to student veterans and pensioners. Much hardship could have been avoided by tying allowances and pension rates to the cost of living index from the beginning.

The Island is falling down badly in the matter of immigration. It would be worth while for the Provincial Government to select two or three industries, say pottery making and perfume making, or paints and varnishes, and bring in the necessary skilled workers to get them started.

Hon. George Drew must be feeling pretty good on the eve of an Ontario provincial election to discover the electorate is still behind him—at least so far as Huron is concerned. His following in the Legislature of 90 is undiminished since the general election in 1945.

The show of British naval force in the Falklands should let Chile and Argentina know that although Britain today places no obstacles in the way of any member of the Commonwealth going its own way she has no intention of allowing other countries to poach on her preserves.

It is strange to see the Ottawa government, which has operated one of the most completely controlled economies in the war and post-war world, now making use of the Combines Investigation Act to seek out those nefarious individuals who would conduct trade on any basis but that of cut-throat competition.

A new psychological writer in a book entitled Adventures of the Mind, indicates that modern labour leaders are "a throw back" to pre-civilization. An interesting chapter deals with modern political myths, in which he shows how in some countries the leaders have taken the place of the old tribal magicians and, by creating a new political mythology, have induced "a mysticism of violence and collective terror, patterned to a large extent on ancient examples."

Mr. Bernard Baruch, financier, and statesman, New York, is an optimist. "The break in commodities had to come," he says. "Every one in the world feels hunger stalking at his door. Every country in the world is planting the largest food crop in history. If we can get peace, if only an 'armed peace', we will have enormous activity in business. Everybody in the world wants something."

Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany died this date 1546. The reforming movement spread peacefully, but disorders sprang up among the nobles who resented the oppression of the princes and the hierarchy, and also among the peasants, who had given a ready ear to Luther's assertion of the equal freedom and value of all men in God's sight. Luther condemned all excesses, sometimes in violent language, and sought to vindicate the law on the one hand and condemn tyranny on the other.

The new letters patent for the Governor-General announced by Prime Minister King last October and recently referred to in the House of Commons permit the Governor-General to exercise all the powers and authorities of the Crown with respect to Canada. This was apparently intended to make some formal changes possible in diplomatic usage. A more striking result is to confer on the Governor-General power to confer titles of honour and to regulate precedence.

Though we are told officially that everything was square and above board in the matter of war contracts, yet Trade Minister Howe in answer to a question admitted that "Renegotiation" of such contracts had brought the Dominion Government a return of \$478,754,000 overpaid. Mr. Howe said there were no contracts deemed "exorbitant" but there had been "renegotiations" and agreements with 1,366 firms that brought back that amount. In 12 other cases involving \$4,428,000 where a ministerial order had been made for settlement, 12 had been appealed to the Exchequer Court. Two involving \$760,000 were settled, leaving 10 before the court. In another, amounting to \$33,000, the time for an appeal had not expired. A second, involving \$11,000, had gone past the expiration of the appeal period, and steps were being taken to enforce payment. Finally, in one case of \$139,000, the company had gone into bankruptcy. The Government had collected \$13,851.

Notes By The Way

The average person consumes two or three quarts of food and drink every day, but in the same time he takes into his lungs from 10,000 to 12,000 quarts of whatever atmosphere happens to be around. Most of the soot and other pollution in this air is caught and held in his respiratory system. — CIL Oval.

A prominent clergyman with a statistical bent recently figured out that every living person has had 16,777,216 ancestors. This probably explains how genealogists make a living—culling out the horse-thieves and other low characters certain to form a percentage of any sixteen million people. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

Now the London school superintendent thinks it would be a good idea to add a baby-sitters course to the secondary school curriculum. Why not go the whole hog and run ten-minute periods on everything under the sun from fishing to fission, and forget all about this business of education?—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

We read with some astonishment the statement of an official of the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles that "impatient husbands" are to blame for the inferiority complex which women have about driving. What "inferiority complex" is that? Is it a purely Massachusetts phenomenon? —Victoria Times.

A professional driver, honored not long ago for many years and thousands of miles of accident-free operation of a motor vehicle, attributed his record to the fact that he made it his policy to regard every other driver on the highway as a "danged fool" who might do anything, and to govern himself accordingly. It seems that it is what the law requires. —Sault Ste. Marie Star.

The famous Lloyd George's son, his successor in the earldom, has arrived in the United States on a lecture tour. He announced on landing that he has come to seek life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness which, he says, are not obtainable in Britain under the most inefficient and incompetent government since the reign of the Stuarts. Bright lad! He knows just how to introduce himself (flatly "everything") to the greatest capitalist country on earth. —Toronto Star.

While regarded by many as the colorless months, Winter actually is a time of much pure color, the crystal clearness of the Winter skies, blue green in the sunshine of mid-day, soul-moving crimson, mauves and purples in many shades, soft, pearly ones of great depth, at even time skies sometimes almost pure golden, other times vivid red. Then there are the many colors of the bushland, the warm umbers, the soft tones, Venetian reds, the deep purples. Even the snow itself is far from white, but rather blue tones, yellows, perhaps mauves here and there, or other shades reflected from the skies. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

The Prince of Conde, desiring to test his young son's ability to handle money, gave him 50 louis d'or to spend while he himself was absent in Paris. When the Prince returned home, the boy came running to him and triumphantly announced: "Father, here is the money. I have not touched any of it." The Prince, without making any reply, took his son to the window and quietly tossed the money into the street. Then he said: "My son, if you have neither virtue enough to give away your money, nor the wisdom to spend it, always do this in the future, that the poor may have a chance of it."—Christian Science Monitor.

Thomas A. Edison had invented his talking machine in 1877, and 10 years later he started research to provide a picture accompaniment to his phonograph. By 1888 he had a film, and the next year he produced the peep-show Kinetoscope. It was intended to see his show you put a penny into the slot and looked through a small window at a pin-size movie which lasted quarter of a minute. Readers who are interested in such studies may compare the movie taste of those fine audiences with what is liked by movie-goers today. Receipts for the opening day of the peep-show were: U. S. Battleships, 25 cents; Joseph Jefferson's "Rip Van Winkle", 13 cents; "Ballet Dancer" \$1.05, and "Girl Climbing an Apple Tree" \$3.65. —Royal Bank Bulletin.

Now all kinds of people not normally called profiteers have been pushing up prices, and if it was only "big business" the committee would have a cinch. Corporation profits are available in detail to government and to the public—except for institutions with all shares privately owned. But what about all the vast range of producers and distributors; what of those who by reducing output per man-hour have been pushing up prices, what of those whose products and services are in so much greater demand than those of other members of the community that they are able to demand a higher toll than they normally would? "Taking all the market can bear" is one of the most plausible and most meaningless of all current catchphrases. Who doesn't? Is it not plain that profiteering is the result of inflationary pressure and shortage? —Hamilton Spectator.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

HORSE RACING ON SUNDAY

Sir,—I see by the despatches in your paper the report of the Sunday horse races at Dartmouth, N. S.

I was surprised to see so many of our Island horses, owners, and fans, Members of our driving club deliberately going over, knowing they were to take part in the Sunday racing and the commercializing that goes with it.

Talking with one who visited these races, he was so surprised at their holiday spirit that he never went again. One excuse was for Sunday races was that the soldiers and war workers were in the way they required Sunday amusement, now they are gone. Now what? It looks as if we have some weaklings in our Charlottetown driving club who should think things over before they accept any old date that is thrown at them. We have enough horses and enthusiasts here to be able to say "no horse racing on Sunday or we stay at home."

I am Sir, etc. RACE FAN.

HOSPITALS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Sir,—In view of the criticism often heard in our midst about the CCF treatment of privately owned hospitals under the government hospitalization plan now in force in Saskatchewan, I submit for your readers' consideration the following synopsis of an item published in the February 4th issue of a Regina newspaper, "The Commonwealth."

In this item it was pointed out that privately owned hospitals operated by Roman Catholic religious orders received in 1945 a proportionately greater financial return from the Saskatchewan Hospitalization Fund in relation to their costs of operation than any other group of hospitals in that province. Moreover, it is stated that under the improved system of payment for 1946, the Sisters' hospitals will be paid at rates reflecting their full cost of efficient operation including an allowance for CCF contribution services of the Sisters, determined on a basis more generous than under any similar program on the continent of North America.

At the present time the Saskatchewan government, in setting rates of payment, recognizes the "contributed" or "donated" service supplied by the Sisters. Accordingly, in the accounting system now in use in every privately owned as well as in every publicly owned hospital for its operating expenses, each Sister is shown as receiving a "salary" equivalent to that of a graduate nurse or other employee of the hospital staff. Moreover, the Sisters or Sisterhood are free to spend such "salaries" paid by the CCF government in any way they wish.

The following excerpt from a letter written by the Sister who is President of the Catholic Hospital conference of Saskatchewan to the chairman of the Health Services Planning Commission of Saskatchewan as related in the newspaper item speaks for itself: "The formation of the fact that hospital Sisters were definitely free to dispose of their 'salaries' in the same manner as other hospital administrators and employees was received with gratification. We are appreciative of this eminently fair solution of a problem that has in the past given us some concern. The government has already received our assurance that in our traditional practice we provide the best in hospitalization to the people of this province, the Sisters will continue to utilize their 'salaries' as heretofore in making capital donations to the hospitals on the occasion of expansion and development."

I feel, Sir, that the above information should suffice to dispel any existing false notions of some of our Island people may have regarding the treatment given to privately owned hospitals in the province of Saskatchewan. I am, Sir, etc. ILLUMINATOR.

MR. GILLIES REPLIES

Sir,—In the Guardian of February 14th, Mr. R. A. Profit of Freetown assumes the responsibility of replying to some comments I made, in an earlier issue of your paper, upon a press report of an interview with the Hon. W. F. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture, following his return from the annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture at Brockville, Ontario, and just why, Mr. Profit? Is the mystery?

Mr. Profit says he has no intention of answering "the full content of my letter" for which reticence there is no need for apology, as the reason should be quite obvious without undue strain. But he does make a couple of observations that call for attention: first, that Hon. Mr. Stewart's report of the C.F.A. meeting at Brockville was correct. Mr. Stewart, as far as I am aware, did not give a report of the Brockville convention, only a press review of impressions gained while at the meeting, and it was to these impressions, as reviewed in the Press, that I took exception lest the public too might receive wrong impressions. Mr. Profit's observations, therefore, do not detract from what I had previously written, nor does it correct the alleged error in the Minister's conclusions.

His additional remarks—that Mr. Stewart's presence at the convention was greatly appreciated by officials of the C.F.A. I can readily understand, as Mr. Stewart's presence would grace any setting, whether in the home, in the community, or attending outstanding affairs of state. The second observation by Mr. Profit is centered around the alleged solidarity of the Western grain producer in his desire that Eastern livestock feeders should continue to enjoy the present freight free policy of the Dominion Government as applied to importations of Western grain, and which I disputed, and quoted, in support of my contention, the action of Western delegates to the National Poultry Council Convention at Toronto, when they voted solidly against it. Mr. Profit contends that this N. P. Council is not primarily a producer organization and that representatives for the most part are dealers in poultry feeds. Mr. Profit is greatly in error in making these statements, or my information to the contrary is definitely incorrect (a check, now underway, will officially decide this point at a later date). The N. P. Council, I am informed, represents large cooperative producer units in Western Canada. All its directors are producers only, with one exception, and this one is a dealer-producer, but a much larger producer than dealer. This requirement is a matter of policy with the organization, and must be strictly adhered to by regulation. It has the full support of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, as instanced by the fact that Mr. W. A. Brown, Chief of the Poultry Division of the Federal Department, and associates in office, were in attendance at all sessions, intensely engaged in all activities, suggesting and directing towards a destiny that was the ultimate objective of the Association. Criticism of the N. P. Council is finally climaxed by saying, "It is not affiliated with the Federation of Agriculture." This, in Mr. Profit's estimate, is the unpardonable sin. Does he really feel that no good can come from any agricultural organization unless it is affiliated with the C.F.A.? It reminds me of the story about an elderly Scotchman of Presbyterian faith, who, in his younger days, wooed and wed the girl of his choice, but she belonged to a "Methody" family. They got along in life tolerably well, in fact creditably so, notwithstanding the handicap. The only drawback which actually was a source of continuous grief was the fact they could not worship together, and may best be described in his own words: "We start out to Church each Sabbath morning together and, when we arrive at the corner of Grafton and Prince Streets, she goes down to that that Methody Church and I have to go into the House of the Lord alone."

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The resolution submitted as from the "Western Agriculture Conference" asking the C.F.A. to deal with producer affairs only through the C.F.A., and its affiliated groups, is a typical exhibition of wire pulling and unworthy of consideration by any responsible agricultural organization. I trust the C.F.A. was above stooping to such tactics. It goes to show, too, that there is no such thing as "unanimity" of opinion among Western agricultural groups in any problem, or its solution, including the "Federal Government's freight free policy on shipments of grain to Eastern livestock feeders, as maintained in my letter to which Mr. Profit volunteered to reply.

I am Sir, etc. J. A. GILLIES.

INDIANS AND LENOX ISLAND

Sir,—I have no desire to enter into a controversy with my good friend Doctor MacNeill, and with this letter the matter under discussion will close so far as I am concerned. At this late date I find it hard to understand what is Doctor MacNeill's object in criticising what is now being done to improve the conditions of the Indians of this Province. The Department of Indian Affairs, after an exhaustive investigation, has decided to concentrate them on Lennox Island. The place may not be ideal but it is doubtful that, weighing the arguments pro and con, a better place could have been chosen. Lennox Island is the home of the Indians of this Province. It did not matter where they wandered to, they invariably returned to the Island. The Chief has always resided there; it is where their church is; it is there they celebrate each year the feast of their patron Saint, St. Anne; they wouldn't have it otherwise. It is true that a difficulty of communication exists, in the spring and fall owing to ice conditions. This condition is now much ameliorated owing to the Island being connected by telephone. Under modern conditions a plane can take land there at any time and take a patient to the Hospital. The presence of a trained nurse on the Island will go far in taking care of emergency cases, and a Doctor can be flown there when ice conditions prevent crossing over otherwise. An emergency hospital room with dispensary and trained nurse in attendance, and if necessary a Doctor flown over, will go a long way to remedy past hardships.

May I further say that in the past car loads of ash and white maple have been imported from New Brunswick to supply material for basket making for the Indians of Lennox Island, Morrell, Scotch Fort, and Rocky Pt. Reservations. The cost of bringing over this material and distributing it to the different Reservations was so expensive that it exceeded the returns from the sale of the baskets. With the Indians concentrated on Lennox Island such material can be imported direct to Lennox Island either by train or better still, by schooner to the Island, thus effecting a considerable saving in freight and distribution. The ferry that heretofore operated between Lot 16 Wharf and Grand River has been turned over to the Department and will be used if necessary to carry heavy freight between the mainland and the Island.

With a Parish Priest, the Indian Agent, the teachers, the trained nurse and social service nurse located on the Island with materials for basket making, home handicraft, with instruction in sewing, mending, knitting, darning, etc., with instructions in manual training for the boys, with the organization in classes of nursing, with Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, all under direction; with sports, with moving pictures, radio, with concerts and other entertainment, it does seem to me that the Indians will in the future be happier and more contented than they have been in the past.

There is now a vegetable cellar on the Island; there will be a store there, and all the advantages within reason that a small community needs. What more can be expected in a fostering way from the Department of Indian Affairs? In conclusion, Doctor MacNeill complains that in the past forty years he was able to do little to better the sad conditions of the Indians because no one would listen to him; his was "he wailing in the wilderness." It is not from the Minister in charge, from the Deputy Minister and his secretary, from the Superintendent, from the Doctors in charge and from all officials with whom in the past nine years I came in contact I received the most cordial and sympathetic consideration, and all at all times showed a genuine desire to do everything possible to work out a scheme by which this sad condition of the Indians could be greatly improved and bettered. I will write no further. My efforts in the future, as in the past, will be directed towards cooperating with the Department of Indian Affairs towards the ends mentioned above.

I am Sir, etc. A. E. ARSENAULT.

Lenten Meditations

(From The Times) FACILE OPTIMISM FUTILE

"God's in His heaven, all's right with the world," says Browning's Pippa as she passes through Asolo in the spring morning. Today her song may seem to mock a world black with clouds of crisis and bereft of the assurance of faith. A disillusioned world, suffering from the consequences of its failure to live a self-dependent life, is pitifully slow to return from exile to its natural home under the roof-tree of God.

Subject though it is to amazing changes of mood and outlook, it refuses to face the one change of mind which can save it from utter frustration and the loss of nerve that leads to complete breakdown. To be sure, Pippa's exulting hymn has often been the carol of unscrupulous credulity which misreads Christianity as completely as it distorts the facts of life. To believe, indeed, that "God's in His heaven" is to draw water from inexhaustible springs of hope and power. But "all's right with the world" in the near view is so far outside the fiery ordeal of the time that it sounds like the fantasy of a bemused girl.

And yet man cannot commit mental suicide and yield to a despairing pessimism which consigns to perdition and contemplates the tragedy of defeat. The greatest need of disillusioned men and women now is a recovery of confidence in life. If this is to be found anywhere, it must come from outside and above themselves. Facile optimism is futile, as futile as pessimism. Man has come to a "narrow place, where there is no turning"; he can march forward into light or reel backward into darkness. A clear recognition of this is the first sign of life's new dawn.

"God's in His heaven"; but it is at least as vital to man's condition that in Christ God has come to earth. "All's right with the world"; "We see not yet all things put under him, but we see Jesus." Christ's Gospel is that, whatever be the world's condition, God is here and, with man's consent and cooperation, He can set things right. The alternative is ruin.

I am Sir, etc. A. E. ARSENAULT.

THE CASE FOR BUTTER

Sir,—Butter producers as a group must face reality and not throw all to the wind on some ideal the world is not ready for. Let me state a few realities on this question, of oleo-margarine importation or manufacturing and on the price of butter. First, few people seem to realize what a highly nutritious food butter is—one of the cheapest sources of calories, and may best be described in his own words: "We start out to Church each Sabbath morning together and, when we arrive at the corner of Grafton and Prince Streets, she goes down to that that Methody Church and I have to go into the House of the Lord alone."

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May I further say that in the past car loads of ash and white maple have been imported from New Brunswick to supply material for basket making for the Indians of Lennox Island, Morrell, Scotch Fort, and Rocky Pt. Reservations. The cost of bringing over this material and distributing it to the different Reservations was so expensive that it exceeded the returns from the sale of the baskets. With the Indians concentrated on Lennox Island such material can be imported direct to Lennox Island either by train or better still, by schooner to the Island, thus effecting a considerable saving in freight and distribution. The ferry that heretofore operated between Lot 16 Wharf and Grand River has been turned over to the Department and will be used if necessary to carry heavy freight between the mainland and the Island.

With a Parish Priest, the Indian Agent, the teachers, the trained nurse and social service nurse located on the Island with materials for basket making, home handicraft, with instruction in sewing, mending, knitting, darning, etc., with instructions in manual training for the boys, with the organization in classes of nursing, with Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, all under direction; with sports, with moving pictures, radio, with concerts and other entertainment, it does seem to me that the Indians will in the future be happier and more contented than they have been in the past.

There is now a vegetable cellar on the Island; there will be a store there, and all the advantages within reason that a small community needs. What more can be expected in a fostering way from the Department of Indian Affairs? In conclusion, Doctor MacNeill complains that in the past forty years he was able to do little to better the sad conditions of the Indians because no one would listen to him; his was "he wailing in the wilderness." It is not from the Minister in charge, from the Deputy Minister and his secretary, from the Superintendent, from the Doctors in charge and from all officials with whom in the past nine years I came in contact I received the most cordial and sympathetic consideration, and all at all times showed a genuine desire to do everything possible to work out a scheme by which this sad condition of the Indians could be greatly improved and bettered. I will write no further. My efforts in the future, as in the past, will be directed towards cooperating with the Department of Indian Affairs towards the ends mentioned above.

I am Sir, etc. A. E. ARSENAULT.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

FREE PORTS SUGGESTED

The trade and commerce of the Island was the subject of grave discussion by the Legislative Assembly in 1825. They called attention to the Act of the British Parliament, regulating trade between His Majesty's possessions in America and the West Indies, and other places in America and the West Indies, whereby the monopoly of colonial trade had been relaxed, and a more extensive market opened to the commerce of the British possessions, greatly to the benefit of the neighboring colonies, each of which has one or more ports from which the free trade may be carried on, but no port in this Island is named in the Act, whereby it is deprived of this commerce; and begged His Excellency to bring the matter to the notice of the Secretary of State, with a view to having one or more Island ports thrown open to this trade. These suggestions Charlottetown, the Rivers and Richmond Bay benefit ports which would most benefit the trade of the Island, by being made free ports. — Warburton's History.

Lenten Meditations

(From The Times) FACILE OPTIMISM FUTILE

"God's in His heaven, all's right with the world," says Browning's Pippa as she passes through Asolo in the spring morning. Today her song may seem to mock a world black with clouds of crisis and bereft of the assurance of faith. A disillusioned world, suffering from the consequences of its failure to live a self-dependent life, is pitifully slow to return from exile to its natural home under the roof-tree of God.

Subject though it is to amazing changes of mood and outlook, it refuses to face the one change of mind which can save it from utter frustration and the loss of nerve that leads to complete breakdown. To be sure, Pippa's exulting hymn has often been the carol of unscrupulous credulity which misreads Christianity as completely as it distorts the facts of life. To believe, indeed, that "God's in His heaven" is to draw water from inexhaustible springs of hope and power. But "all's right with the world" in the near view is so far outside the fiery ordeal of the time that it sounds like the fantasy of a bemused girl.

And yet man cannot commit mental suicide and yield to a despairing pessimism which consigns to perdition and contemplates the tragedy of defeat. The greatest need of disillusioned men and women now is a recovery of confidence in life. If this is to be found anywhere, it must come from outside and above themselves. Facile optimism is futile, as futile as pessimism. Man has come to a "narrow place, where there is no turning"; he can march forward into light or reel backward into darkness. A clear recognition of this is the first sign of life's new dawn.

"God's in His heaven"; but it is at least as vital to man's condition that in Christ God has come to earth. "All's right with the world"; "We see not yet all things put under him, but we see Jesus." Christ's Gospel is that, whatever be the world's condition, God is here and, with man's consent and cooperation, He can set things right. The alternative is ruin.

I am Sir, etc. A. E. ARSENAULT.