THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa.
The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
Editor and Managing Director J. R. Burnett.
Associate Editor Frank Walker

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, FEB. 18, 1950

Farm Marketing Measures

Of special interest in the Speech from the Throne at Ottawa is the four-point programme proposed as a means of combatting falling agricultural prices and shrinking foreign trade. This will involve action to provide more price support for farm and fish products by placing price-support legislation on a permanent peacetime basis; extension of the Government's monopoly over the sale of wheat; participation in international efforts to reduce world trade barriers, and assistance to such countries as the United Kingdom and other traditional customers of Canada, to enable them to earn more dollars with which to increase their purchases in this country.

The programme will involve changes in the Agricultural Prices Support Act, the Fisheries Price Support Act and the Agricultural Products Act.

It was under authority of the latter measure that the Agriculture Department established food buying boards in connection with meat, dairy and special products. The need for continuing the buying authority of the meat and dairy boards stems from the 1950 Anglo-Canadian contracts for bacon and cheese.

The Speech reiterates the policy of the Government to continue efforts to get trade barriers reduced, which will involve tariff negotiations this year with numerous countries. It is also indicated that the Government is pursuing policies designed to develop new markets for Canadian products.

These measures are of far-reaching importance to our farm and fishery producers, and it is hoped will be given priority on the order paper for discussion and action.

Mud Into "Paving"

From earliest days of settlement the lack of satisfactory road material has been a handicap in this Province. Few natural obstacles present themselves in the opening up of highways but when it comes to providing a roadbed and surface, the Island soil is sadly deficient. In Spring and Fall it is the rule rather than the exception for roads to become impassable, and it is during these seasons, ironically enough, that there is greatest need for the movement of fertilizers and heavy produce. It will be, therefore, with more than a little interest that Islanders receive the announcement of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that a chemical process has been developed to convert a mass of mud into a stable surface capable of supporting heavy vehicles. The process is based on calcium acrylate which is absorbed by the soil particles. Sodium thiosulfate and ammonium persulfate are then added, causing the calcium acrylate molecules to "lock together." The stabilization process is claimed to produce in less than five hours, a stable, tough and somewhat rubbery surface on a beach, "soupy" road or muddy pasture. The possibilities for improving our secondary roads would seem to warrant serious investigation.

Gargantuan Activities

Construction of a pipeline from Edmonton to Superior, Wisconsin, has set the wheels humming in many Canadian industrial plants and will provide hundreds of jobs for workers during the coming summer.

Already, a factory in Port Arthur has received a $650,000 order for plasticized coal tar which will be used to coat the pipeline; another firm, in Oshawa, has been given a $280,000 order for fibreglass to be used in wrapping the pipe; two of the largest tankers ever built in Canada have been ordered at a cost of $7,800,000; a factory has been built to roll 16-inch pipe—a new product for Canada. So far Canadian industry has received more than $18,000,000 in orders as a direct result of the proposed 1,150-mile pipeline, with every prospect of more to come.

Actual construction of the line will provide jobs for 1,500 workers for many months. The job of delivering 175,000 tons of steel pipe to the site, coating it, wrapping it in fibreglass and burying it to a depth of 3½ feet for a distance of 1,500 miles is a gigantic job.

Here are a few eye-opening figures mentioned in the Imperial Oil Review. Merely to fill the pipeline will require 64,300,000 gallons of oil—sufficient to supply the whole of Canada for six days. That much gasoline would drive a car 46,300 times around the earth.

The steel in the pipes would make 2½ ships the size of the Queen Elizabeth. Oil in the line will require 26 days to move from Edmonton to Superior. Earth from the trench in which the pipe will be placed would make a pile 100 feet square and more than a mile high—an odd-shaped but impressive pile.

The company building the pipeline seems to be losing no time. Work is already in progress at pumping station sites in Edmonton and near Ermine, Sask. Pipe has been delivered near Gretna in Manitoba. The first 450-mile section, with a capacity of 95,000 barrels of oil a day between Edmonton and Regina, is expected to be completed this year. The second section, east of Regina, from which the proposed Winnipeg refinery will draw, will be completed next year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The prospects for a Provincial Museum seem to be steadily improving.

* * *

Congratulations are in order for the operators of the Wood Islands ferry service on the favorable impression their service has made upon the Maritime Commission.

* * *

Unemployment is not a particularly serious problem here, but the suggestion is a prudent one, that as many of those little jobs as possible be undertaken now before skilled labour becomes practically unobtainable in the Spring.

* * *

Decision of the Canadian Horticultural Council to train the corner grocer and others in the proper handling of perishable products should prove of advantage to the middleman and consumer as well as to the farmer.

* * *

"An English school master (says BBC London Letter) once asked a Welsh boy this question: 'If a farmer had ten sheep in a field and three got out, how many would be left?' 'None,' said the boy. 'You don't understand the question,' said the schoolmaster. 'But you don't understand the sheep,' said the boy."

* * *

Members of the Boy Scout Association, Girl Guide Association and others will tomorrow pay homage to the memory of their founder, Lord Robert Baden-Powell of Gilwell. "B-P" as he was affectionately known, not only founded Scouting and Guiding but profoundly influenced the ideas of educationalists the world over.

* * *

Australia's Minister of Commerce finds it "curious" that Britain should use substantial amounts of dollar exchange to buy Canadian wheat while refraining from taking the Australian product. The explanation, of course, lies in the very high quality of wheat grown in the Canadian West. Like P. E. I. Certified Seed potatoes it commands a market even in the face of low-priced competition.

* * *

"Reasonably good business conditions but some recession from the peaks achieved in 1949", is the outlook seen by the Bank of Montreal in its monthly business review. One of the most reassuring elements is the probability that new capital investment in plant, equipment and housing will continue on a large scale. A small rise in unemployment, a lessening margin of increase in labour income and a slight decline in farm income, the bank said, may cause some "diminution in the flow of personal income and expenditure in 1950."

* * *

Quebec farms are now 50% provided with electricity, somewhat less than in Ontario and B. C.; considerably better than in other Provinces. Considering economic and geographic factors, says the Letter-Review, this would justify the statement that private enterprise in this field in Quebec has done at least as well as Government undertakings in other Provinces. It should be noted that Quebec Hydro is not a Province-wide publicly-owned undertaking. It really covers the Montreal area only.

* * *

Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, died this date 1546. After his quarrel with Rome in 1517 over the Augsburg Confession, the German reformation began, intensified by Luther's publication of "An Address to the Nobility of the German Nation, on the Liberty of the Christian man, and the Babylonian Captivity of the Church." He refused to retract anything he had written or said in the controversy, and was condemned by the Diet of Worms; retiring to the castle of Warburg, he wrote pamphlets and completed his translation of the New Testament; he then resumed travelling, preaching with unabated zeal, condemning all excesses, seeking to vindicate the law on one hand and condemn tyranny on the other. He sent a sharp reply to Henry VIII of England on the seven sacraments, attacked Erasmus, quarrelled with Zwingli on the sacramental question. There are few incidents in Luther's life after the drawing up of the Augsburg Confession, the high-water mark of the German Reformation.

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.

POTATO GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Sir,—Almost a year has passed since the Directors of the P. E. I. Potato Growers Association were instructed by a "resolution" passed at its annual meeting to have a questionnaire mailed to all of its (so-called) members, asking if they were in favor of re-organization under The P.E.I. Co-op Societies Act, and if the majority were in favor, plans for such re-organization were to be drawn up, with the aid of a three man committee (which was named), and such plans as decided upon be placed before a general meeting which was to be held within three months.

To date no questionnaire has been received by the members.

This, Sir, was a counter resolution to one the writer had sponsored, which asked the meeting to approve of immediate re-organization under the P. E. I. Co-operative Societies Act.

Farmer J. P. Hooper and Mr. Rupert Godfrey, led the debate against the original resolution and after several hours of such, were successful in having this counter resolution adopted.

No doubt those men were sincere in opposing the original resolution, on the grounds that, first, the meeting was not sufficiently representative, second, the members did not know enough about co-operation to vote on re-organization under such a set-up, and several other well intended reasons.

For the information of the readers of this letter and those "interested" in the future of the Potato Growers Association I would point out that the 1948 annual meeting of the P. E. I. Potato Growers Association (held in 1949) was just as representative of its members as any other held the past eighteen years; also the fact that it was organized as a co-operative, and after over 30 years of business as such, it should not be necessary that its members have to study what co-operation is before they can vote on re-organization.

Yes, Sir, the majority of the members who supported the counter-resolution have been attending the annual meetings since the writer attended his first one in 1931, and were always considered representative enough to transact the necessary business until 1948, when suddenly it was learned they were non representative.

Now that the members who do attend the annual meetings have had almost a year to study what a Co-operative is really meant to be, should now be acquainted with the fact that they are members (in name only) but have not anything—not even a membership card to prove that they own 5 cents worth of assets in an organization they built, and that claims assets of $100,000.00. This fact, alone, should be sufficient reason for the stay-at-home members, to attend the coming annual meeting and support any measure that will guarantee for them a proportionate share in this organization and if that is not possible, compromise for not less than a membership card.

I am, Sir, etc.
R. E. CONNELLY.

Dunstaffnage, P. E. I.

The Poet's Corner

TIME GOES BY TURNS

The lopped tree in time may grow again,
Most naked plants renew both fruit and flower;
The sorriest wight may find release of pain,
The driest soil suck in some moistening shower;
Time goes by turns, and chances change by course,
From foul to fair, from better hap to worse.

The sea of Fortune doth not ever flow,
She draws her favours to the lowest ebb;
Her tides have equal times to come and go,
Her loom doth weave the fine and coarsest web;
No joy so great but runneth to an end,
No hap so hard but may in fine amend.

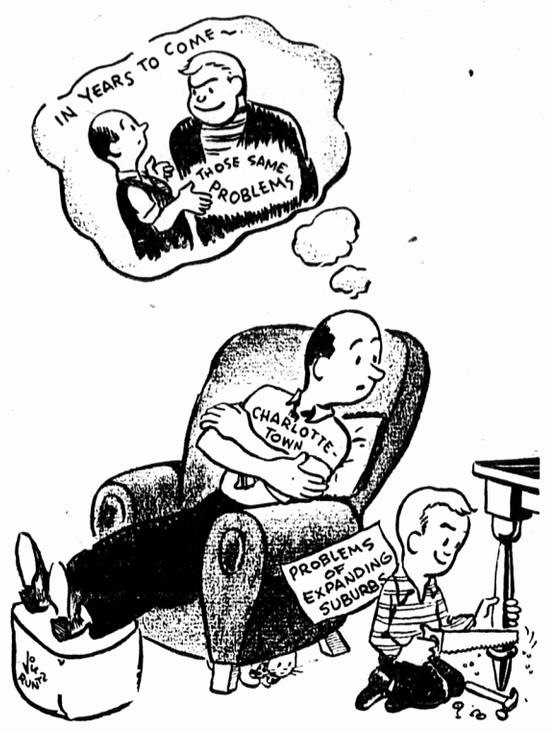
Not always fall of leaf, nor ever spring,
No endless night, yet not eternal day;
The saddest birds a season find to sing,
The roughest storm a calm may soon allay;
Thus, with succeeding turns, God tempereth all,
That man may hope to rise, yet fear to fall.

A chance may win that by mischance was lost;
That net that holds no great, takes little fish;
In some things all, in all things none are crossed;
Few all they need, but none have all they wish—
Unmingled joys here to no man befall;
Who least, hath some; who most, hath never all.

—Robert Southwell (1561-95).

The province of Ontario is the world's greatest producer of nickel.

To Be Taken In Hand Now-- Not Later



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

AN ARCH-DECEIVER

"In the autumn of 1805, the people of Guernsey, owing to a depression of trade, were induced to think of emigrating to some other country, when a Mrs. Burns came to Guernsey, and posted up a number of very flattering handbills; the people, on seeing these, flocked to her at her lodgings, where she had a map of Prince Edward Island, showing that the principal river thereof ran through her land; pointed out the facility by which the settlers, by this means, could transport their produce to the Charlottetown market; that those who purchased land from her might choose their portions on the banks of the river, that each person should have one-fifth of his purchase clear land fit for the plough, and that the land was free from all kinds of taxation, having bought the quit rent from the Government, with many other flattering inducements, equally false, that can be fully substantiated.

"By these means, she obtained from different people the following sums at 20s sterling per acre: from J. Lelacheur, £640; Hilery Roberts, £50; Daniel Machon, £25; Charles Phillips, £50; Mrs. Jamanon, £10; Thomas P. Richards, £4; Henry Brehaut, £70; Thomas DeJersey, £25; John DeCodvil, £100; Mrs. Hide (widow), £70; Miss M. Phillips, £10. Total — £1,054.

"What think you were the feelings of the people, on arriving here, to find that the land we had bought, and thought to occupy on the banks of the Hillsborough was long before in the possession of others, and therefore did not exist for us . . .

"To crown the whole, this arch-deceiver and polished hyprocite made the most solemn appeal to her Maker, with hands and eyes uplifted, that if she had told us any untruth, she wished the gates of Heaven might be shut against her!"

—From a letter in the Colonial Herald, Nov. 4, 1837, by James W. Lelacheur, Murray Harbour.

The Age-Old Story

This God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our Guide even unto death.

CITY MANAGER?

HALIFAX, Feb. 17 —(CP) —A plebiscite will be held here some time in October to decide whether the citizens of Halifax favor a city manager form of government. Decision to hold the vote was unanimous at last night's City Council meetings.

Party Labels

(Ottawa Journal)

Up in London, Ont., some Progressive Conservatives want to drop the word "Progressive" from their party's name, get back to "Conservative."

This, we confess, leaves us unexcited. Important it may be that a man who is a conservative should know what he wants to conserve, that a man who believes him elf progressive should understand towards what he's progressing, and that a man who thinks himself a liberal should know what he is being liberal about. But with a party, which inevitably embraces people of all sorts of ideas and temperaments, a label amounts to little. The proof is in the fact that, as everybody knows, we have liberals and progressives in the Conservative Party, and tories and reactionaries in the Liberal party—have today and always have had.

And the truth is that here, as in Britain, names and labels of parties have never meant much; emerged mostly from terms of abuse. "Tory", by which the British Conservative Party was long known, and still is known by some, was an Irish word applied originally to Celtic and Catholic outlaws among the bogs. It was shouted with vilification to suggest that the English party of Church and State was ready in its heart to plunder and murder its opponents—the supporters of advanced Protestantism and parliamentary liberty. "Whig", on the other hand, was a Scotch word applied to the fanatical Covenanters who, in the cause of extreme Protestantism, had menaced the throne and beaten to death an archbishop before the face of his agonized daughter.

* * * *

Now "Whig" was shouted by the Tories to suggest, with the same want of truth and scruple, that all English politicians who favored the Nonconformists and opposed the Court were a band of rogues and ruffians. In that pretty way the party label system was founded with that rancorous travesty of each side by the other which has belonged, in degree at any rate, to the thing ever since.

The label "Liberal" was borrowed from Spain and France; was first used in an English magazine called "The Liberal" (Leigh Hunt was the editor). The Tories, when they too felt the need of a new label, hit upon "Conservative". Reform was coming. Sir Walter Scott, frightened by it, cried out that "unwashed artificers will henceforth choose our legislators". The thing, then, was to appeal to the middle classes who, having got what they wanted for themselves, would oppose giving the same things to the workers. Thus it was that Croker, a sort of Tory boss in his day, suggested the name "Conservative". Not everybody liked it. MacAulay spoke of "Conservative" as "the new cant word". To Peel it seemed just the thing. Disraeli, though, detested it, later Randolph Churchill tried a new label: Tory Democracy.

In similar nonsense, or in a great deal of it, came our own party labels. In Ontario were the "Grits", the "Reformers", the "Tories". In Quebec were the "Rouges", and the "Bleus". To Ontario "Grits" and "Reformers" the "Tories" were the Family Compact people, "Grits" and "Reformers" were rebels; traitors. In Quebec the "Blues" said the "Rouges" were anti-Catholic, freemasons and free thinkers. The "Rouges" said the 'Bleus' were Ultramontanes.

* * *

Out of this vituperation of one side by the other emerged the "Liberals" and "Conservatives". John A. MacDonald, trying to bring political order out of chaos, and incidentally to steal as many Liberals as posible from the Liberal Party, created the "Liberal Conservatives". But the label "Conservative" stuck; even the label "Tory". The Liberals, on the other hand, continued long to be the "Grits".

The Conservatives, beginning with World War I, started new labels. First they tried "National Conservative"; then went back to "Liberal Conservative", then became "Progressive Conservatives". So far as party fortunes went, nothing much changed.

We doubt whether much would change with a return to "Conservative". Because we doubt much that today people are born into the world as "little Conservatives or little Liberals". And we doubt also that people today bother much about labels. We think it is the leadership, the record, the temper and policies of a party that count—not what it calls itself— that in short it's the goods in the can that the public looks for not what's on the label.

Notes By The Way

A University of Toronto professor has been debunking the beaver. "The beaver, in spite of what is said in popular stories is not a good woodsman," Dr. Leonard Butler, assistant professor of genetics told an audience recently. "He often fells trees indiscriminately, and makes no attempt to use more than a fraction of the trees he chops down." Uncanny—just like humans! — Hamilton Spectator.

Congress probably will be asked to help out with the designing of the 150 Marshall Plan, for it involves the lifting of restrictions on use of dollars by Europeans—restrictions which were written into the original Marshall Plan legislation. To do so would lessen the appeal of the Marshall Plan to some Americans who now enjoy the exclusive markets its creates for them with dollars. — Christian Science Monitor.

There were some people, during the war who bemoaned the prospect of a steep rise in crime when peacetime returned — when the "bad element" among discharged men would make trouble with the guns they had learned to use. This bogey has never materialized. Instead, we find that boys and girls who were growing up all around us when the fighting was on in Europe are the headaches. It is time for organized constructive action to delve into the root causes of the trouble and to find remedies for it. The streets should be made safe again. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Edmonton's 1949 traffic death rate, all will agree, is nothing to be proud of. Reported by the Edmonton Safety Council to be among the highest on the continent, it appears as a black blot upon the record of what was, in virtually all other respects, another very bright year for the city. On the basis of the first 10 months the final figures for the remaining two not yet being available, Edmonton stood second among 47 reporting cities in the number of deaths per 10,000 vehicles. The figure stated in this way was 8.5. In relation to population, our rate was little better, only 13 of the North American cities exceeding it.— Edmonton Journal.

It must be apparent to anyone that Canadians must eat more fish if Canada's fisheries are to prosper. The export trade has been an important part of our fisheries and will continue to be, but we are not making the most of our opportunities if we fail to sell fish in our own country. The average Canadian eats much less fish than his counterpart in many other lands. Those who know tasty fish dishes eat them willingly. For them, eating fish is no patriotic duty, but a true delight. Who, for instance, feels it an unpleasant duty to eat salmon mayonnaise, broiled mackerel with lemon-tips, or a fine halibut steak?—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

The propaganda put out by British Columbia tourist organizations has long had a bemusing effect on people in other parts of Canada, leading them to drop everything and rush out to the coast to play golf at Christmas, "follow the birds to Victoria," and generally enjoy that never-ceasing sunshine and warmth the travel folders talk about. But it comes as a surprise to find that this same propaganda has also had its effect on the B.C. legislature, leading it to imagine that its province never has any winter weather. This is the only explanation for that extraordinary clause in the B.C. workmen's compensation lay which provides for compensation to workmen for illness caused through sunstroke but says nothing about frostbite. —Edmonton Jaurnal.

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