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 Managing Director, J. R. Burnett; Associate Editor,
 Frank Walker.
 "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
 the Weakest Ink."
 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1946

P. E. I. Electric Power

Electrical power programs in every Province are reviewed in the current issue of the *Financial Post*, which says in part:
 Prince Edward Island has already installed turbines developing about half her potential hydroelectric power. Turbine installations on the Island at the end of 1945 totalled 2,617 h.p., the same as in 1944. A little more than 22% of this is generated in central electric stations. The balance consisted of industrial installations.
 There are now more than 6,000 customers for electric utility service in P. E. I., approximately 1,000 more than in 1939; and average consumption has increased from 574 k.w.h. to 750. Annual average bill in 1944 was \$37.78 (\$32.21 in 1939) though power costs have been cut from 5.61 cents per k.w.h. to 5.04 cents. Because of this growth in number and quantity of customers, 1944 revenue totalled \$230,596 against \$163,226 in 1939.
 Production and consumption of power has shown an encouraging increase the last two or three years. In 1945 production totalled 12 million k.w.h. (11.3 million in 1944). For the first eight months of this year 8,036,000 k.w.h. have been produced, an increase of 97,000 k.w.h. from 1945. All this power was consumed as primary power, since lack of coal makes production of secondary power impractical.
 If the Government-approved power survey discloses new power sites which may be economically developed, the result should have a vital effect on the whole Island economy. Production of dairy products, which now accounts for more than 25% of the total farm income, should show a decided increase from rural electrification. Modernization of the fishing industry is also largely dependent on greater use of electrical power.
 Present domestic power service is supplied by seven separately owned companies. The largest of these is operated by the Maritime Electric Co. at Charlottetown. A municipally operated plant at Summerside has a generating capacity of 1,533 h.p. and is Diesel-powered. Lines from here tie in with the 1,333 h.p. steam generating plant at Mount Pleasant. A 50 h.p. Diesel plant serves the O'Leary district and is operated by Champion Electric. Gordon Electric serves the nearby Alberton area with a 70 h.p. plant. Scales Co. at Kensington in the north operates a plant which generates hydro-developed power with capacity of 200 h.p. Another 70 h.p. hydro auxiliary at Montague ties in with the main plant line of Maritime Electric Co. at Charlottetown.

Veterans Land Act

Apropos the present controversy about the administration of the Veterans' Land Act, the *Halifax Chronicle* (Liberal) suggests that Hon. Mr. Ian Mackenzie might be interested in the following quotation: "And while many people enjoy putting ground in a garden, it's a different matter to look after a large vegetable garden, as many wartime Victory Gardeners have found to their sorrow. And another thing, and this is of great importance—you must have a permanent job or a steady source of income. There'd be no use tying yourself up with a place like this if your income were so irregular that you'd have trouble meeting your monthly payments."
 Its source? The handbook entitled "A Home on Civity Street" published by the Rehabilitation Information Committee in July 1945. It looks, comments the *Chronicle*, as though Mr. Mackenzie should catch up on his back reading of departmental pamphlets!

Less Livestock on Canadian Farms

According to the survey of the principal classes of live stock on Canadian farms as at June 1, 1946, a decrease in number was recorded in all classes—horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs—compared with 1945, as follows:
 Horses, 2,396,850 in 1946, a decrease of 187,950 since 1945. Milk cows, 3,913,900 in 1946, a falling off of 84,300 compared with the numbers at the corresponding date in the previous year. Cattle (including milk cows), 10,385,000 in 1946, a decline of 373,600 from 1945. Sheep and lambs, 3,378,400 in 1946, a drop of 243,600. Hogs, 5,377,300 in 1946, is a decrease of 648,300.
 The decline of horses on farms occurred principally in the Prairie Provinces. In regard to sheep, the only Province showing a gain over 1945 in numbers is Saskatchewan where a slight increase is recorded (518,400 head as against 513,200 in 1945). The all-over reduction in numbers of sheep for Canada was 243,400 or 6.7 per cent.

An Elephant's Bones

Picking an elephant's bones is how one New York newspaper describes the operation of salvage on the great junk heap in the New York harbor formerly known as the French de luxe liner, *Normandie*, just knocked down to the highest bidder for \$161,680.
 The war and a fire transformed the *Normandie*, once pride of the French Line fleet, into a marine elephant. Offered for scrap, the ship which originally cost \$40,000,000—the United States spent more millions when she became the *Lafayette*—brought a low bid of \$25,000. The highest of six bids was \$161,680. This is less than can be realized for the 10,000 tons

of brass, copper and other metals besides steel which the hull contains. Steel, at the present market for scrap, should bring about \$1,200,000. But getting it into marketable shape will be a long and costly process. There are few docks which will hold this vessel; it will take about 18 months to reduce her, with the aid of blow torches and big cranes, to marketable elements. This is an unglamorous end for a once proud ship but her bones at least can be of service to mankind in articles their metal can supply. That is more than can be said for many others which were victims of the war.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Kinsmen are on their philanthropic rounds today. . . .
 No one should today be ignorant of the necessity and blessings of missionary endeavours, for over the week-end all Churches, Catholic and Protestant, emphasized them. . . .
 Premier Jones will not be long at home on return from Ottawa, as he is due at Amherst's Winter Fair, at which his Province will be very largely represented. . . .
 The United Nations have already their own police force in uniform. The uniforms are gray, with United Nations shoulder patches. Currently the United Nations police number 55, operating under seven sergeants. The force will be gradually expanded till it becomes a battalion. . . .
 To correct the record. The Hon. Mr. Bridges did not defeat Hon. R. B. Hanson in the last election for York-Sunbury, as stated yesterday, for the good and sufficient reason that Mr. Hanson was not a candidate. . . .
 Music lovers are promised an enjoyable treat this evening, at the concert by the Y. M. C. A. Choral Club in the Heartz Memorial Hall. The Club, which is under the capable direction of Mrs. Edwin C. Johnstone, will give a varied programme of folk songs, religious music and modern numbers. Here is an opportunity of encouraging local talent in the highest field of entertainment and there is no doubt that the audience will be large and appreciative. . . .
 Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Anglo-Irish dramatist, politician, and orator, born this date 1751; grandson of Swift's biographer, Thomas Sheridan, he took to literature like a duck to water; he entered parliament and played a considerable part in parliamentary affairs, it was as a playwright he attained the highest distinction; in his comedies, wit, humour and Irish sparkle have preserved their charm and freshness. . . .
 Believe not each accusing tongue,
 As most weak persons do,
 But still believe that story wrong,
 Which ought not to be true. . . .
 Many readers, old and young, will regret the passing of Mr. Ernest Thompson Seton, who drew partly on youthful experiences in Ontario and Manitoba for writings and drawings on wild life which made him internationally famous. He died at his adobe residence on a 2,500-acre tract near Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the age of 86. Active to the end, the author of *Wild Animals I Have Known* and other stories revered by Canadian boys of two generations ago only recently helped place a roof on the 50,000-volume library at his 30-room residence and had completed plans for a 10,000-mile lecture tour. His early work reflected his background in Lindsay, Ont., Toronto and Carberry, Man., and much of it was included in Canadian school readers. Scenes from his earliest writing are believed drawn from Rosedale ravine in east-central Toronto, now a residential district. . . .
 The British Government have announced the restoration of free rubber trading and agreed that from now on, London rubber traders may make contracts for buying or selling physical rubber (except for liquid latex or sole crepe) for delivery from January 1, 1947. Approximately 20 per cent more natural rubber than at present will go into the manufacture of auto and truck tires and other products in the United States during the first quarter of 1947. At the same time, Mr. James W. Sears, director of C. P. A.'s rubber division, disclosed that the agency is considering an upward revision of natural rubber allocations to manufacturers during the last two months of this year. The proposal under study would allow an over-all total of about 35 instead of the present 30 per cent of natural rubber to be used in manufacturing. The program for the first quarter of 1947 would allow manufacturers to use about 50 per cent natural rubber and an equal amount of synthetic rubber. . . .
 The announcement by the Chancellor of the British Exchequer that the Government intend to introduce legislation as soon as Parliament reassembled to provide for the gradual substitution of cupro-nickel coins for the existing silver ones marks the end of another epoch in United Kingdom coinage. There will be no change in the denomination of the coinage, but the present silver content of the five shilling piece, the half crown, the florin, the shilling, the sixpence, and the silver three-penny piece will disappear completely. This carries to a conclusion a policy adopted soon after the 1914-18 war. By an Act of 1920 the standard fineness of all silver coins was reduced to 50 per cent. Before that date silver coins had contained thirty-seven fortieths of fine silver and three-fortieths of alloy. In 1939 the metallic value of the shilling was about 4½c, and it is now just over 10c, which is roughly the measure of the increase in the value of silver since before the war. Whereas the present price of silver is \$1.11 an ounce, the price of nickel is 1½c an ounce, and the price of copper less than a quarter of a cent an ounce.

Notes By The Way

Obviously it is desirable that the price of milk, as an essential food should be kept as low as possible as all times. But it has to be borne in mind that the farmer will do anything—go on strike or sell his dairy cattle—sooner than produce milk without proper return. It is better then, for the consumer to pay a few cents more for milk if he must than to be unable to buy it because of a short supply. But some clever people discover only when it is too late that one cannot do violence to the economic law of supply and demand with impunity. —*Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*.

A courageous man is George A. Pond, Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Minnesota. He has gone out on a limb to evaluate a farmer's wife at \$69,000—if she is a good one! In the course of his duties, Professor Pond asked farm account-keepers to tell him how much their wives co-operated in running the farms. The four years he worked in the United States, he had good pay and more leisure than any farmer in this Island. . . .
 A guaranteed minimum price for potatoes may be a very difficult matter, but if the farmers of this Province had political power, as a body, comparable to the power of the man who makes their machinery, the Government would find some way to guard the farmer against the painful uncertainty of never knowing what he is going to get for his crop. It is a first rate calamity to this Province that over 600 farms that once produced good crops are now abandoned and almost worthless. Cannot something be done to make farming a more encouraging business? . . .
 I am, Sir, etc.
 W. L. GREEN

Stanley Bridge.

"Kindheart And Sweetie-pie"
 (Peterborough Examiner)
 We are suspicious of any attempts on the part of Ottawa bureaucrats to represent themselves as nice, lovable friends of the public. The WPTB soap opera called "Kindheart and Sweetie-pie" was introduced by a newspaper called Mrs. Housewife and a greasy boulder called Mr. Household Councilor; they gave advice to the housekeepers of the nation, which was defensible if not commendable, but what made our gorge rise was the attempt of the bureaucrats, through these unsavoury puppets, to put themselves on a snugly friendly terms with the public. . . .
 Announcement that research work at the University of Illinois has resulted in a progressive and successful treatment of peptic ulcers will be welcomed by thousands of pill and powder users in this country. They are those who suffer from such stomach ailments as indigestion, heartburn, gas, and flatulence. Now look forward to better than an even chance of a cure. For, according to the University of Illinois doctors, they have succeeded in isolating a harmless, acid-resistant, and permanent elimination of the ulcer. In the past, victims of this common illness have had to be satisfied with treatments that brought only relief from current distress. They have had to gaze from behind their curtain, formed by a rigid diet, and total abstinence and watch with envy their strong-stomached friends enjoy life to the fullest. Yes, their day of freedom may be at hand but they are cautioned to wait for the victory before the celebration. There must be no dieting. A general breathing of pledges until they have tested this new medicine themselves and are advised, by their own physician that all is well. —*Windsor Star*.

A car nosed into the cross walk and waited for the traffic light to change. Most of the pedestrians long-sufferingly walked across the crosswalk, and seemed to take a dim view of having his rights infringed upon. He placed his foot on the hub cap, climbed up on the fender, walked across the hood, crawled down on the opposite fender and then to the road, where he went calmly and directly on his way. —*Winnipeg Tribune*.

A man busily engaged in public business should not be constantly badgered by reporters and photographers. Actions of his which concern the public are quite different matters of public concern and should therefore be made known to the public. Apart from that, it should be recognized that he has a right to reasonable privacy in his private life. —*Kingston Whig-Standard*.

Where chess is concerned, we think that people get into groups. There are those who admire, love and comprehend in varying degree the intricacy and beauty of the game. And there are those who would not disturb the peace of Falkbeer and Bohn beer. The latter group is by far the larger but that means no-bling to devotees of chess, who will bring out their pieces and play with them with the coming of long winter evenings, and who will resume or continue games played by mail against enthusiasts on this and other continents. —*Peterborough Examiner*.

"Nature never creates an ugly woman" avers a Chicago doctor who is also university professor. And then to escape the obvious retort that nature can't have travelled much, he adds: "The ugly ones have only themselves to blame!" The doctor philosophizes further: "If cosmetics on one woman can get a man, cosmetics on another woman will get him away." The logic of which seems beyond reproach: Indeed, the professor's whole approach to love and looks is intriguing. "Somewhere in the world there's a man to admire every woman. To catch them, perhaps the ladies had better wash their faces first, and read a good book to they'll have something to talk about." Plainly the moral of this professional version of Dorothy Dix is that one should not paint the lily nor gild refined gold. It will be comforting to the more honest of the countenance to feel that science is on their side and that Cupid's arrows are dipped in acids. —*Vancouver Sun*.

EXACT SLIDE RULE
 A slide rule is available which locates decimal points in mathematical expressions up to 10 places.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

POTATO PRICES

Sir—Yesterday one of my farmer friends told me the following story: "Last spring I paid out for seed, potatoes and fertilizer \$750. Just lately, I graded and sold two car loads which just about covered my cost. I have left the culls a few bushels of good stock and the memory of a lot of hard work." And he added, "It is no wonder the boys don't want to stay on the farm. The four years I worked in the United States, I had good pay and more leisure than any farmer in this Island."
 A guaranteed minimum price for potatoes may be a very difficult matter, but if the farmers of this Province had political power, as a body, comparable to the power of the man who makes their machinery, the Government would find some way to guard the farmer against the painful uncertainty of never knowing what he is going to get for his crop. It is a first rate calamity to this Province that over 600 farms that once produced good crops are now abandoned and almost worthless. Cannot something be done to make farming a more encouraging business? . . .
 I am, Sir, etc.
 W. L. GREEN

ONLY GERANIUMS MARK WHERE LIDICE STOOD

FRAGILE Oct 21—A patch of scarlet geraniums in a weed-grown field—that is the only indication today that humans ever lived on the spot that once was Lidice. The flowers survived fire, explosives and the industrious leveling operations of Nazi workmen, who even changed the course of a brook to erase all traces of Lidice. But the geraniums, left in a trampled garden when the woman who had tended them was shoved into a truck for the journey to Ravensbruck concentration camp, have thrived in the midst of desolation.

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Save Us From This

(Financial Post)
 The news cable from Britain reports that an old verse, written for the National Anthem in the 19th century, has been exhausted to be used as a prayer for the United Nations.
 Nor on this land alone —
 But be God's mercies known
 From shore to shore.
 Lord, make the nations see
 That men should brothers be
 And form one family
 The wide world o'er.

We're all in favor of prayers for the United Nations which stands in such urgent need of them. But we vigorously object to having an abominable piece of writing like the above attached even as a permissive appendage to our national hymn.
 The first three lines are an extremely clumsy, foot-in-the-mouth way of stating a worthy if platitudinous idea.
 The second last line when sung will be a dreadful-sounding squeal with the word fam-lee pronounced in a manner used by no English-speaking person excepting the Negro minstrel or Calypso of Trinidad. Doubtful authorities, we would say!
 We should have some protection against petty rhymes being incorporated by decree or by custom into our national and imperial institutions.
 Whoever advised His Majesty to give official recognition to this antique verse at a special service in St. Paul's certainly did him and the Empire an embarrassing disservice.
 Let this verse find its proper place in the waste basket. A new and better one can readily be contrived.

Old Charlottetown

(And P.E.I.)
 From Various Sources
 (Following is the first of a series of historical items drawn for the most part from the few standard works on Prince Edward Island, but diverging into less familiar fields as opportunity offers. Readers are invited to contribute if they so desire, but in every case authentic sources should be quoted for editorial guidance. The items are an offshoot of some articles on "Old Charlottetown" appearing recently on this page, but will be briefer and more diversified.)
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
 The first Agricultural Society was formed in Prince Edward Island in 1827 under recommendation of Governor Ready. Its objects were the publication of information, the importation of improved live stock, and the introduction of improved seed.
 The first grant to the Society was 30 pounds, and the first annual report in 1826 shows the beginning of the modest pleas that ever since have been sent to our Legislative bodies. The report says: "Your committee further observe the sum of thirty pounds has been placed at the disposal of the Committee of the Agricultural Society, and regret that a country so eminently agricultural should have so limited a sum at its disposal."
 In 1830 the grant had increased to 150 pounds, but by 1865, when Government assistance was withdrawn, it had decreased to 100 pounds.
 In 1845 the institution changed its name to "Royal Agricultural Society" in honour of its royal patron, Prince Albert.

The Poets Corner

ON MY RAYONET

Upon my window-sill I laid my knife
 My hands had polished till it gleamed
 Like brass
 A thing of pain and passion, hate
 and strife,
 That knew the taste of blood. Now,
 like a glass,
 I saw clear-mirrored on its slender
 blade
 The things of peace . . . old fruit
 tree flowering
 A bit of cobalt sky, sunlight and
 shade,
 And all the lovely gifts that make
 the spring.
 Then to my mind came the old prophecy,
 That some day—like the picture on
 the blade—
 Greed's ancient weapons would no
 longer be
 Fashioned for hate and death, but
 only made
 For peace, and man—beneath the
 evening stars—
 Would talk of brotherhood instead
 of wars.
 —William D. DeCoste, Canadian
 Army. (Formerly of Charlottetown.)

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