

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1948

The 1947 Year Book

One of the most prized volumes to reach the editorial desk annually is the Canada Year Book, which in recent years has grown to be a veritable encyclopaedia of official facts and statistics about our national resources, history, institutions and social and economic conditions.

Dipping into its 1,200-odd pages, one notes that the current value of farm capital in Prince Edward Island increased from \$59,927,000 in 1944 to \$62,824,000 in 1945.

Old age pensions statistics show an increase of pensioners in this Province from 1,904 in 1943 to 2,112 in 1947, representing a percentage increase of pensioners to population of from 1.98 to 2.25 per cent in the same period.

Family allowances on March, 1947, were being paid in this Province to 31,203 children, the total payments amounting to \$185,368 monthly.

Incidentally the chapter on Dominion-Provincial Taxation Agreements clears up one of the minor mysteries of our Legislative session of last year. This was with respect to the 5 per cent income tax on corporations, imposed by the Province but collected and expended by the Dominion Government.

The Year Book is obtainable in cloth binding from the King's Printer, Ottawa, at \$2.00 per copy, a price which barely covers the cost of paper, presswork and binding.

The Geneva Agreements

New light on Canada's benefits from the Geneva trade agreements has been cast by three senior officials appearing before the Senate committee on trade relations.

The officials are Mr. Hector McKinnon, chairman of the tariff board; Mr. J. J. Deutsch, director of the economic relations division, department of finance; and Mr. Hubert Kemp, director of commercial relations for the department of trade and commerce.

At Geneva there were 23 nations discussing the charter and negotiating trade agreements. Some 55 or 60 nations are now meeting at Havana to approve of the charter in its final form and to create the International Trade Organization.

This General Agreement on tariffs and trade contains practically the whole of the charter except the chapters relating to employment, cartels, and inter-governmental commodity agreements.

These eight nations are the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Holland, Belgium, Australia, Luxembourg and France. Great Britain also signed the General Agreement on behalf of Newfoundland and the West Indies.

In other words, the greatest part of Canada's trade already is covered by the General Agreement. Canada naturally hopes that the Havana conference will succeed but it would have little cause to regard even its failure as calamity.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow first Saturday after Epiphany.

Russia is scarcely attempting to mask the Greek "guerrilla" fighting for what it is, an invasion of Greece by Soviet armed forces.

High prices for food are rather painful to the housewife but they will have a stimulating effect on production so that Canada will be in a better position to continue her sales to Britain and in addition do her part under the Marshall plan when it gets underway.

The decision of the Department of Justice to grant petitions of right to wartime internees will be applauded. It is only just that now that the emergency is over those who think their detention was unwarranted should have the opportunity to have their case heard and their names cleared.

The League of Nations was founded this date 1920 to deal with post-war problems. The United States refused to participate, with the result the organization became more or less an unauthoritative, highly-paid, expensive bureaucracy, which suffered its first major setback when it refused to apply "sanctions" to Italy when Mussolini made war on Abyssinia.

This Province is noted for its sky-mindedness, due no doubt to the fact that farmers and fishermen, depending upon their own meteorological observations, are trained to keep their weather eye open night as well as day. Hence it is that we alone, of all Canada, were the first to discover these "soucers", which, curiously enough were observed also in that other horse-breeding territory, Kentucky.

Our farmers are to be furnished with printed, as well as personal, instruction on how to calculate and supply information that will lead to their having to pay Income Tax. There is, another, but much more expensive way, viz., prosecution for failing to supply the necessary information. There is at present the case of a farmer and produce dealer before the City Magistrate's Court which will cost a mint of money, having been adjourned for hearing again and again over several months.

We are to have an unusual number of Sundays next month when there will be five instead of the customary four. It will be the first time since 1920 that it happened and before that the five-Sunday February occurred away back in 1880. If 1900 had been a leap year, the five-Sunday February would have happened in 1903 but the one day that dropped out then put the five-Sunday event off for 12 years.

The policy in Indian affairs of encouraging the assimilation of Indians and Eskimos into the general population should greatly improve the lot of our aborigines. A statement by Mr. Hugh Kenney referring to Mrs. John Turner's Eskimo nursemaid gave publicity to the government's attitude which is in contrast to the traditional policy of subsidizing the Indian to remain with his people and stay out of the hurly-burly of modern life.

A Canadian Press despatch from Montreal announces the presentation by the French Government of the Jacques Cartier medal to Judge Phillip August Choquette on his ninety-fourth birthday. This medal, of which only fifteen were struck on the occasion of the Cartier celebration in 1934, was presented to Mr. Justice Arsenault when the French delegation visited Charlottetown in that year in commemoration of Prince Edward Island's discovery by the great French navigator.

The Winnipeg Tribune in its social page issued on December 31 has a leading article, "Introducing Winnipeg's Bachelors," which states: "During leap year women have the privilege of wooing. No satisfactory explanation has ever been given as to how this custom arose."

Newspapers are hard hit by rising prices and taxation. At present a sales tax amounting to more than 1 1/2 million dollars is imposed on the newsprint used by Canadian daily newspapers, while this tax does not apply to newsprint used even in such instances as the publication of comic books.

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Notes By The Way

Anything which brings stimulating, pleasurable relaxation is recreation. One man's work may be another's play. It is a matter of tastes and aptitudes. Recreation may be closely related, and makes a particular contribution to, our daily labor, as long as it is pursued as a continuation of work.

Tourists who come to Australia by air may be able to pick up a car at the airport to use while in the country. The scheme, known as the "road-air plan" was first worked out by the Automobile Association of Britain and details plans have been prepared. In-formation is being given to the Australian authorities on motor touring.

A London housewife has just appeared in an elegant two-piece suit of fine black serge. It has ruffled the envy of her neighbors and quite astonished the tailor when he was given the material to make it. The woman, who is in business for thirty years and he could not understand where such quality had been procured.

New uses are constantly being found for aluminum. Because of its strength, lightness, and resistance to rust, it is being used for a wide variety of purposes. The aluminum tube, usually in a pole of greater buoyancy than the regular hardwood poles. The aluminum pole floats on the water and is simple to retrieve if it is lost.

If your corner grocery, or the department and chain stores, or all the other stores in Canada, were today compelled by the Government to sell butter at no more than the present price, 38¢ per pound, what an outcry there'd be from all the people who make and sell butter! The Canadian gold mines are compelled to sell gold at the present price of 100¢ per ounce.

The rope-lashed balsal raft on which Norwegian scientist Thor Heyerdahl and five companions recently completed a 101 day drift across the Pacific has now arrived in Oslo, Norway. Heyerdahl, a 32-year-old Norwegian, enthusiastically undertook the journey to prove that the first settlers of the Polynesian could have come from South America.

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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.

BACON PRICE INCREASE

Sir,—Would someone please explain to me why the farmer should get only 4 1/4 cents of the recent 7 cent per pound increase in the price of bacon to Great Britain, and the packing houses get the remaining 2 1/4 cents per lb. Mr. Gillies tries to tell us that the reason for the farmer not receiving the full 7.00 per cwt. increase was because only a certain percentage of each hog was sent to Britain and the remainder was consumed in the Canadian market and therefore would not come under the new price.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

MAJOR MAY'S RECOLLECTIONS

The following interesting comments have been received from Major Fred P. May, formerly of Charlottetown and St. Eleanor's, now residing in Duncan, Vancouver Island, B. C.

PRODUCING HOGS

Sir,—In the last paragraph of a write-up in your issue of January 7th, under the heading "Consumer Pays," you quote a Dominion agriculture official as saying: "A farmer can produce 150 pound grade A hog on 700 pounds of a balanced ration at a cost of 3 cents per pound for the ration."

In the second place, the milfed sows at a sale at a station to home grown grain, together with fishmeal, is practically unobtainable at any price, and when purchased an odd box is available. It is only at a considerable advance in price over that quoted by your informant. The same error was made with respect to the value placed on fishmeal. This price is only at a considerable advance, wholesale, only at well over twice the cost mentioned.

In the third place, the net profit of \$17.25 per hog, it is purely fiction. It can't be done. Even at prices prevailing before the big increase in cost of feeds came into effect, it was only a narrow margin. It is only at a considerable advance in price over that quoted by your informant. The same error was made with respect to the value placed on fishmeal. This price is only at a considerable advance, wholesale, only at well over twice the cost mentioned.

Did Moses Cross The Red Sea?

(By Gene Currian, The Gazette) Cairo, Jan. 9.—The University of California African Expedition exploring Sinai Peninsula has discovered evidence that Moses and the Israelites did not make an exodus from Egypt across the Red Sea as believed by some biblical scholars but crossed a shallow body of water much farther north, according to Wendell Phillips, the expedition leader.

"The Sea or Lake of Reeds," Mr. Phillips said, "has generally been identified with the Red Sea to which the name was later extended. Many scholars believed that the north end of the Red Sea was much farther north in biblical times than it is now, in which case the Israelites might have crossed it by following the itinerary given in the Book of Exodus."

The Poet's Corner

THE SEER

Through fog and drifting cloud on his far height He glimpsed some faltering dawn denied to us And wondered at that lone face luminous With secrets foreign to our shrouding night.

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CHECK YOUR BEARINGS: We travel fast on the journey of life, striving to reach a haven of independence, before the evening of old age overtakes us. The New Year comes, another milestone, and bids us pause to check our bearings.

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