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Editor and Managing Director, J. H. Burnett;
Associate Editor, Frank Walker

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1948

Warning Re Mussel Mud

Recently Agriculture Minister Gardiner, in
discussing the grant for reclamation of Maritime
marshlands in the House of Commons, admitted
that the amount for Prince Edward Island would
be small, but added that the Government con-
templated some form of compensatory agricul-
tural assistance to this Province. He instanced
increased use of mussel-mud for fertilizer as one
of the projects he had in mind.

Mr. Gardiner had probably been reading the
reports of the last session of our Provincial Legis-
lature, in which this subject was discussed at
considerable length. It is problematical, how-
ever, to say the least, whether the return to use
of mussel-mud as fertilizer on an extensive scale
would be of much material benefit to our farm-
ers.

In this connection it is worth recalling the
findings of a Royal Commission of Conservation,
headed by the Hon. Clifford Sifton, which re-
ported to Parliament in the year 1911. This
commission found that of all the causes leading
to the decline in our oyster fisheries, "it is the
mud-diggers that take the palm as agents of
destruction. When winter comes and the ice
forms, great power digging machines can be
seen dotting the ice over the oyster beds. The
farmers consider that the mud and oyster shells,
with their large percentage of lime, are valuable
as fertilizer for the land and every winter these
machines cut the oyster beds to pieces and suffo-
cate all the oysters round about by the deposits
of mud that settle down. . . . These conditions
have since been remedied, in part at least, by
legislation; but restrictive measures were adopt-
ed with such slowness that extensive damage has
been done which is irreparable."

The report notes that "this evil has been
particularly evident in Prince Edward Island and
it is extremely doubtful, in the case of the sandy
loam of that Province, whether the fertilizer of
mud and decomposing oyster shells has all the
virtues ascribed to it by the farmers. The caustic
action of the lime destroys the rich vegetable
humus, an especially necessary constituent in
light soils."

The Commission of 1911 goes on to quote
Dr. Cyril G. Hopkins, one of the most eminent
agricultural authorities on agriculture in the
United States, as saying: "This use of lime on a
soil which is already deficient in nitrogen or
other plant food, only serves to still further ex-
haust the soil of its meagre supply of these ele-
ments. Without a doubt, this is the most com-
mon condition and the most common effect of
the continued use of caustic lime. It is true that
the immediate effect is usually somewhat in-
creased crops, but it should be borne in mind
that when a farmer pays out money for lime to
be used for this purpose, he is purchasing a
stimulant which will ultimately leave his land in
worse condition than before, especially in the
loss of nitrogen and organic matter."

It may be that we can now find good use
for our mussel-mud resources, and without dam-
age to our oyster industry. But before embark-
ing on an extensive programme such as Mr. Gar-
diner appears to have had in mind, it would be
well to consider whether there are not more ser-
viceable ways of improving agriculture in this
Province with Federal assistance.

Annual School Meetings

On Tuesday, June 29, the annual school
meetings are to be held throughout the rural
communities of the Province. These meetings
are extremely important, for upon them and the
action taken thereat depends to a great extent
the school service which will be provided the
children during the coming term. As empha-
sized in a circular issued by the Department of
Education, among the several duties of the vot-
ers at these meetings three are of outstanding
significance. These are: the election of trustees
who will realize their responsibility to the chil-
dren of the district, and will endeavor to dis-
charge it efficiently and well; the provision of
sufficient funds to ensure that the school and its
surroundings will be clean, comfortable and re-
asonably well equipped; the provision of adequate
supplement to enable the trustees to secure or
retain the services of competent teachers.

In many districts the increased supplements
voted last year were instrumental in enabling
the districts to secure properly qualified teach-
ers. Districts unable to make proper provision
because of the small amount of taxable property,
and districts unwilling to provide adequately for
their schools, had great difficulty in maintain-
ing any kind of school service. Although, for the
coming year, the Department again faces a
teacher shortage, it is hoped that with the dis-
tricts voting generously, the Government paying
considerably higher salaries and continuing the
payment of duplicate supplements, the situation
may be improved and, for the future, larger num-
bers of more capable young people may be in-
duced to enter the teaching profession.

Districts are advised to lose no time in re-
engaging or engaging qualified teachers. The
Minister of Education has expressed the hope
that since the provincial land tax has been re-
moved, districts will be more generous in provid-
ing for teachers' supplements and school im-
provements generally.

It is hoped that all the meetings next week
will be largely attended by our rural citizens of
both sexes. This is the first and most im-
portant step towards ensuring educational im-
provement.

EDITORIAL NOTES

One day more till the Plebiscite.

Tomorrow the Fifth Sunday after Trinity.

The next big convention here will be the
Lumbermen who will be with us Tuesday and
Wednesday.

The expected has happened in two instances
on Friday, the C. C. F. were returned for a sec-
ond term in Saskatchewan, and Governor Dewey
was chosen Republican nominee for U. S. Presi-
dential election in November.

Prince Edward Island has been getting con-
siderable favorable publicity at Ottawa during
the dying days of the House. Our representa-
tives are of different political stripe but usually
remember that they are Islanders, first, fore-
most and most of the time.

The Legion's "Get-out-and-vote" campaign
is a real contribution to the success of the
Plebiscite. Unless voters turn up at the polls
in very large numbers the result cannot reflect
the wishes of the majority and will mean only
so much wasted money and effort.

The pacifists are coming out in the open
again, at least in the United States. After
weakening the Western world and encouraging
the ambitions of dictators until war resulted
one would think that they had learned their les-
son.

Much dissatisfaction is still being expressed
over the policy of leaving an overall freight rate
enquiry to the Board of Transport Commission-
ers. The various provincial governments take
the stand that as it is questions of policy that are
to be decided a Royal Commission should be ap-
pointed to make the necessary recommendations.

A million-and-a-quarter is alleged to be
provided in the Federal Estimates for expendi-
ture in this Province. This is a mistake. A mil-
lion of it is to connect the mainland with the
Island, and rightly is a Federal outlay provided
for in our Confederation agreement. The cost of
the Car Ferry and its ports' up-keep is debited
to Canadian consolidated fund.

When General Lucius Clay, U. S. Military
Governor in Berlin, declares the Russians "can-
not drive us out by any action short of war," it
is ominous and makes one "furiously to think."
To this must be added Defence Minister Claxton's
statement that Russian conduct has made de-
fence a matter of major Canadian Government
policy. The Dominion's three regular forces will
be recruited beyond the present target of 42,000.

Charlottetown's police force, and in fact all
police on the Island, have escaped the tendency
elsewhere to constitute themselves, policeman,
judge and executioner. There have been sev-
eral cases recently in the central provinces of
policemen shooting down criminals' escaping
after relatively minor offences. A policeman is
armed, if at all, for self defence. His weapons
are not supposed to menace lives, not even those
of lawbreakers.

The United Nations Charter signed this
date, 1945. The U. N. is successor to the un-
fortunate League of Nations which came a crop-
per over the question of the application of
"sanctions" in the case of would-be belligerent
nations. The U. N. is doing good work, but is
largely handicapped by the opposition attitude
of U. S. S. R. and associate Communist nations.
It is now trying its utmost to settle the Palestine
and Berlin situations, the outcome of which will
more or less decide the fate of the U.N. itself.

Politics make strange bedfellows, and like-
wise provides odd infantile instructors. Those
vastly dissimilar men, Prime Minister Clement
A. Attlee, and wartime Prime Minister Winston
Churchill came under the influence of the same
governess when they were boys, it was disclosed
in "Clement Attlee: an Interim Biography," writ-
ten by Roy Jenkins, Labor Member of Parlia-
ment. This governess, a Miss Hutchinson, found
Winston extremely strong-willed but she gave no
opinion of her subsequent charge, Attlee. Young
Attlee, son of a lawyer, did not go to school until
he was nine but was taught at home by his
mother and a succession of governesses. At
Haileybury College, an English public school,
Attlee was one of 72 boys thrashed by the
headmaster for absenting themselves from classes
and staging a demonstration upon the Relief of
Ladysmith in the Boer War. Attlee became a
Socialist after a visit to a boy's club in the East
End of London, but Jenkins writes "there was
nothing of the professional rebel about him."

The technical language and terms used by
bureaucrats in answering correspondence, may
not be intended to mystify recipients, but fre-
quently they do. A typical example is given
in the U. S. Plumbing and Heating Journal. A
plumber recently wrote to the bureau of stand-
ards in Washington stating that he had found
hydrochloric acid good for cleaning clogged
drains. The bureau wrote him: "The efficacy of
hydrochloric acid is quite indisputable but the
corrosive residue is incompatible with metallic
permanence." The plumber was pleased and re-
plied that he was glad the bureau agreed. The
bureau wrote again: "We cannot assume re-
sponsibility for the production of toxic and
noxious residue with hydrochloric acid and sug-
gest that you use an alternative procedure." This
pleased the plumber, who wrote thanking the
bureau for agreeing with him. The bureau finally
wrote him: "Don't use the hydrochloric acid. It
eats hell out of the pipes."

Notes By The Way

Every family tree produces some
susp. — Brandon Sun.

No matter what the cut—hair or
beef—the price is apparently go-
ing up. — St. Catharines Stand-
ard.

Probably those blank spots in
early history, about which so little
is known, were the jills, when ev-
eryone was eating regularly. — Ed-
monton Journal.

Psychologists say babies can
show intelligence at the age of four
weeks. So it may not be wind on
the stomach which makes them
look so disgusted. — Brandon Sun.

A young author sent a manu-
script to an editor with a letter in
which he stated, "The characters
in this story are purely fictional
and bear no resemblance to any
persons, living or dead." A few
days later he received his manu-
script with the pencilled notation:
"That's what's wrong with it." —
Reader's Digest.

Following an urgent appeal from
the Canadian government, 10,000
tons of Australian scrap steel are
to be sent to Canada. The sale
will relieve a definite shortage in
Canada and supply Australia with
dollars. There have been inquiries
about Australian steel plates and
sheets for Canada. Australian ex-
ports to North American countries
are on the increase and for the
first nine months of this financial
year were valued at \$96,000,000. —
Australian News.

It is true that athletics in the
school can be overdone, but it is
also true that all work and no play
is good for neither Jack nor school
boy, and the indulgence in athlet-
ics in moderation ought to build
up the physical body to such an
extent that the mind of the boy
in good physical condition will be
able to grasp the studies than that
of the youth who plods wearily a-
long without any variations in
sports or other physical exercise. —
Chatham News.

Now tobacco is taking centre
stage in the big world play pro-
duced by major powers. It is Or-
iental tobacco produced by Tur-
key and Greece for export. The
crop is a primary production in
the two countries, a particularly
vital part of their economies. Thus
there has always been keen rivalry
between Greece and Turkey in
world markets, a rivalry extending
into the diplomatic field. Inasmuch
as the United States and Great
Britain have gone to great lengths
to protect the two Eastern Medi-
terranean nations from Commun-
ist invasion, there is no surprise
attached to the moves of Russia
to upset the tobacco carts. First
of all, the Soviet bought up all
the same kind of tobacco grown
in Bulgaria. This was mixed with
the Russian Black Sea tobacco and
dumped on consignment in the
United States. As a result, the
market price was lowered for the
Turks and the Greeks and the de-
mand was reduced. At the end of
the 1947 season, the two countries
had a surplus of about 200,000 tons,
and a world demand of only 100,000.
The next Soviet move is recent.
The Russians are pressing a deal
with the Turks to buy up their sur-
plus. The aim is said to be twofold:
to woo Turkey closer to the So-
viet Union and farther from the
United States, and to stir up a new
rift between Greece and Turkey. —
Fort William Times-Journal.

A Briton who became a Zulu
kinglet is to be honored by hav-
ing his "life" written. He is, or was,
John Dunn, who went out to
South Africa some 80-odd years
ago and settled in Zululand, where
he adopted the native mode of life
and acquired great influence. One
among his swarthy neighbors. One
day he thought much of him and so
did Sir Garnet Wolseley, who, af-
ter the Zulu War, secured his ap-
pointment as one of the 13 "king-
lets" to control the area. All went
well until Dunn died. Like the Ab-
sent-Minded Beggar, he "left a lot
of little things behind him." They
emerged in the formidable shape
of a family of 79 children, who
could not agree among themselves
how father's property should be di-
vided among them. The difficulty
was in fact, out-formed the
Mormon. It is too much to hope
that the forthcoming "life" will
contain a full pedigree. — Man-
chester Guardian.

The battle of the hoppers is on
in deadly earnest in the south-
western section of Saskatchewan
and farmers are engaged in an all-
out attack on the pests. The area
where there was crop failure or
low yield last year, because of lack
of moisture, was known to be hea-
vily infested with hopper eggs and
this Spring the conditions have
been highly favorable for the hop-
pers. They are still small and at
the particularly greasy stage for
the juicy, tender young grain. Tons
of poisoned bait are being spread
by the farmers, who are employing
every vehicle they can press into
service to haul the bait from the
mixing stations set up by the mu-
nicipalities in the badly infested
areas. — Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to
the discussion by correspon-
dents of questions of interest
The Charlottetown Guardian
does not necessarily endorse
the opinion of correspond-
ents.

TEACHER TRAINING BUNGLED

Sir,—In recent letters to you, the
following facts have been estab-
lished:

That there is in this Province
an utter lack of a uniform method
of school teaching. That this is
caused by the failure of the De-
partment of Education to give the
teachers any guidance or effective
supervision.

That it causes pupils to become
confused and discouraged, to dis-
continue attending schools, thus
destroying noble ambitions and
hopes. That it causes parents to
become vexed and disappointed,
teachers to become annoyed and
discontinue teaching. Trustees and
ratepayers to become frustrated
and indifferent.

That the proposed plan of the
Department to employ six teacher-
assistants will be futile and will
not justify the expenditure in-
volved.

That a simple, inexpensive, work-
able and effective method of
teacher guidance could be provided
by mailing printed instructions to
the teachers at regular intervals
and that it is the duty of the De-
partment to provide such guidance
also effective supervision.

However, when the Department
has failed in this duty for the wel-
fare of our children, of our Pro-
vince and of our country, it is to
be hoped that interested citizens
will, at every opportunity, discuss
this urgent problem with others,
bring it to the attention of Clubs,
Institutes and Societies and finally,
that these citizens and groups will
make their convictions known to
the Department of Education in
no uncertain terms, because then,
and not until then, will it provide
guidance and supervision in a
practical manner.

In other words, are the people
going to continue to sit idly by
while so many children are de-
prived of an opportunity to re-
ceive an education by the condi-
tions cited, or are they going to de-
mand the much-needed cor-
rections be made before the begin-
ning of another school term?

I am, Sir, etc.,
"PARENT"

TIDES AND WHEAT

Sir,—In your Saturday feature,
"The Educational Horizon", re-
cently there was a keen article on
"Tides"—the alternate rising and
falling of the water in the oceans
—which reminded this farm read-
er of the steady tides of cereal
grains from the world's fields each
year. In terms of wheat, for ex-
ample, I saw a table indicating the
overall production of wheat for all
countries between the years 1923-
1938. The wheat-sown area had
steadily increased from 281.6
million acres in the former year
to 358.7 million acres in the latter;
but, despite regional and local
"crop failures" and "bumper yields"
the average yield per acre held
stubbornly at an overall figure of
between 13½ and 14½ bushels per
acre. There was no sign in this
world picture of the jittery price-
levels across those same years,
ranging from \$1.45 to the depres-
sion figure of \$0.37 to the farmer.
On the other hand, neither was
there the slightest reflection in
those "cereal tides" of the seasonal
variations in the crop yields of the
various countries.

A student's reaction to the above
statistical scene seemed to blend
interestingly into your writer's
story on "Tides", with the follow-
ing quotations from the writings
of Emerson: (a)—"The seven seas
are all one sea and, truly seen,
their tides are one"; (b)—"Pacific
deep and Himalayan height, alike,
are lost in the majestic curve of
the globe".

My own reaction to "the steady
tides of wheat from year to year",
is that the international federat-
ion of the world's farmers are on
the right track in their aim to
"harness the price structure" at
fair levels to all concerned. So, in
the circumstances, I would like to
record one reader's disappointment
at the action of the United States
Senate the other day in adjourn-
ing without ratifying an accord
which had been duly signed by 36
nations, at opposite sides of this
cereal counter. This may seem to
be smart "politics" at the moment,
but the scuttling of this multilat-
eral wheat pact seems to have
pleased Argentina and the leaders
in the Kremlin, and this is a fair
enough sign, to me, that the ac-
tion is to be deplored!

I am, Sir, etc.,
STUDENT.



OVERTONES

I heard a bird at break of day
Sing from the autumn trees
A song so mystical and calm,
So full of certainties,
No man, I think, could listen long
Except upon his knees.
Yet this was but a simple bird,
Alone, among dead trees.

LONDON — (CP) — Ostrich
feathers will be a feature of
British women's summer hat
styles, says John Van Duren, 63,
of South Africa, who left for the
transvaal with orders for 20,
000 plumes.

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Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

UNVARNISHED NARRATIVE

"To be able to claim descent
from Lord Selkirk's settlers is to-
day in Prince Edward Island some-
what equivalent to the pride of a
New Englander whose ancestors
came in the Mayflower. But, ac-
cording to Walter Johnstone ("Tra-
vels in Prince Edward Island in
1830"), those settlers were lacking
both in piety and in education. It
was told that they were in the
habit of 'spending their Sabbaths
in the most unprofitable manner
possible.' Many of them could not
read at all, and scarcely any pos-
sessed a single copy of the Scrip-
tures. They used to meet on the
sacred day in crowds in an open
space of the woods, where 'all
kinds of amusements went on'—
running, wrestling, leaping, throw-
ing the stone. The older people
watched and laughed at the feat-
ures of the young, 'filling up the vacant
moments with worldly conversa-
tion.' Mr. Johnstone had seen
young men retiring on horseback
from a place of worship 'in all the
precipitate hurry of cattle-dealers
from a Scotch fair,' after they had
'sat too long at the bottle.' A law
paper was sometimes read in the
middle of a group after service was
over, and the merits of a case were
freely canvassed as if on a week-
day. Even young women who had
been reading on a Sunday 'what-
would try a horse race as they re-
turned home.

"Another falling of the Islanders
called forth his denunciation. The
habit of drinking rum was so
established that all else was sacri-
ficed to the gratification of this
propensity.' They would have their
rum even on the way home from
church, if they could find a tavern,
and for travelling any length in
the woods they must carry a bot-
tle in their pockets. Mr. Johnstone
details a series of gruesome tra-
gedies caused by the prevailing
intemperance. He describes a 'voci-
ferous' court of law held in a tavern
at which he happened to call,
where the three magistrates sat
on a plank with their coats off,
and a free fight seemed imminent,
almost everyone being more or less
under the influence of liquor. No
Bible was to be found on this oc-
casion, and the witnesses were
sworn on the Book of Common
Prayer.

"But, as he travelled through the
scattered settlements, our visitor
saw always more to praise than to
blame, and high indeed was his ap-
preciation of the pioneer clergy-
men in their strenuous labours.
There was the venerable 'Parson'
DesBrisay, a courtly figure in his
eighteenth century costume, who
for over forty years had been gar-
rison chaplain in Charlottetown.
There was Bishop McEachern, be-
loved by Highlanders of all creeds,
who had gone through more bod-
ily fatigue in attending to the uti-
lities of his office than any other
man I know of on the Island. But
with him the author once crossed
swords on the subject of teaching
the Indians to read. The Bishop
declared, probably with much
truth, that 'they would not thank

any person to teach them to read,
and would rather go a-fishing.'
Mrs. Ada MacLeod in the Dalhousie
Review, April 1923.

NORWICH, England — (CP) —
Business of Norwich Assizes was
completed in five minutes when
the jury was instructed to return
a verdict of not guilty in the
only case of the calendar.

WATFORD, England — (CP) —
Sir John Loudon, 86, director of
the food ministry's bacon and
ham division, died recently.

GENTLEMEN

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