

THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1853)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office
Department, Ottawa.
The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, DEC. 31, 1949

On The Threshold

In a few short hours, we must cross
another year's threshold and watch the Old
Year totter into the night. We shall part
friends, though not reluctantly. If the Old
Year did not fulfill our brightest expecta-
tions, neither did it justify our darkest fore-
bodings. We asked much of it, and it has
not wholly failed us; the best of our hopes
remain for the future.

"For like a child, sent with a fluttering light,
To feel his way along a gusty night,
Man walks the world; again, and yet again,
The lamp shall be by fits of passion slain;
But shall not He who sent him from the door
Re-light the lamp once more, and yet once more?"

"To travel hopefully is a better thing
than to arrive, and the true success is to
labour." This is a thought we might well
take with us into 1950. It will be a troubled
year, of course, with Communism more
rampant than ever and the debris of the last
war still covering many parts of Europe;
but at least there has been a beginning of
the task of setting world affairs in order.
The North Atlantic Treaty and the Council
of Europe for Western Europe have been signed;
the Soviet blockade of Berlin has been
terminated; the United Nations General As-
sembly has approved international control of
Jerusalem, and sovereignty has been formal-
ly transferred to 77,000,000 people compris-
ing the United States of Indonesia. These
are concrete steps and hopeful portents.

Viewed through the eyes of other na-
tions, Canada is perhaps the brightest spot
in the world today. We have freedom of
worship and ordered government; we have
abundance of the luxuries as well as the
necessities of life, with huge resources in
farms and forests, oil and minerals, fisheries
and industrial plants and development pro-
jects of all kinds. We enjoy harmony at
home and prestige abroad. Our ties with
our great neighbour to the South, in mat-
ters of defense as well as in trade and com-
merce, have never been more firmly cemented;
and while currency difficulties and
the setback in British agricultural purchases
are causing some concern, these are prob-
lems in which we hope to see some im-
provement during the coming year.

In this Province, with an increase of
over a million and a half dollars in the gross
value of our field crops this year, and with
many other evidences of progress agricul-
turally, the future can be faced with a full
measure of confidence. We may look for-
ward to participating more and more in the
advantages of Confederation, and of suffer-
ing less and less from the drawbacks consequent
upon our insular position. An aggressive
drive for the transportation and other
improvements we require should be launched
early in the new year, and made effective
by united and unremitting effort on the part
of all concerned.

In our own private lives during 1949
there have been disappointments, perhaps
tragedies; but there have been happinesses
also, and consolations. If we could see
them, the causes are manifold for looking
with bright faces to the future.

To all our readers, young and old, at
home and abroad, we extend our very best
wishes for a joyous and prosperous New
Year.

Farm Support Prices

In a recent article Mr. Gilbert McMillan,
president of the Dairy Farmers of Canada,
writes: "If there were the slightest indica-
tion that other groups were prepared to ac-
cept cuts which would decrease the farmer's
costs perhaps he (the farmer) would be pre-
pared to meet them. But what have we?"
Mr. McMillan goes on to list recent de-
mands for higher pay of organized labor
and increased costs of some materials.

Dairy farmers, comments the Ottawa
Journal, are declaring that should the Gov-
ernment agree to accede to the UK demand
for lower prices for cheese, such lower
prices would set the pattern of prices for all
dairy products and could well mean a loss
as high as \$50 million to dairy farmers.
They already figure a loss of 10 per cent
or around \$50 million, as a result of the in-
troduction of margarine. On the other
hand, they argue that by paying a small
subsidy on exported cheese only, the whole
dairy price structure could be maintained at
present levels for a cost to the public treas-
ury of about four million dollars. Faced
with the argument that support prices would
mean maintaining present consumer prices,
and that consumers are demanding reduc-
tions in the cost-of-living, the producers' an-
swer is that general purchasing power has
not been reduced, that average wage levels
are today higher than ever before and that
consumers in Canada can afford to pay fair
prices for their food.

The Simple Life

We tend to think of life as becoming
more and more complicated, but it requires
very little thought to discover that the op-
posite is the case. On the farm, for in-
stance, the transition from self-sufficiency
to a commercial basis means that the farmer
and his wife no longer produce or manu-
facture the hundred and one articles of
everyday use. Tools, machinery, fencing,
lumber, fertilizer, feed, foodstuffs, clothing
and even entertainment are no longer home
made, but obtained in exchange for money
from a few cash crops. Individual life is
thus simplified, while the social structure be-
comes complicated and our inter-dependence
increases.

With this development, the social and
political responsibility of the individual also
grows, and the result should be that the av-
erage individual would tend to take a
greater part in community and national af-
fairs than did his father. Failure to do so
must inevitably lead to submission to the
dictates of the few in an ever increasing
proportion of one's affairs.

EDITORIAL NOTES

- Festival of St. Sylvester.
First Sunday after Christmas.
Circumcision.

The report that noise may some day be
used to operate engines indicates the exist-
ence of a source of power suspected only by
demagogues.

With the setting in of real winter weather
there is no longer the problem of the
pedestrian-splashing car driver, but instead
is the half-blind one from fogged up wind-
shield and windows.

The twenty-five per cent reduction in
steam powered passenger trains will cer-
tainly conserve coal supplies, but at the cost
of slowing the pace of the industrial life of
this country.

The P. E. I. Industrial Corporation's
M.V. Eskimo is temporarily on the run be-
tween Halifax and St. Pierre. A few years
ago for a Provincial Government vessel to
have gone into that trade would have caused
a sensation, particularly among the rum
running fraternity.

The C. N. R. makes an unfortunate
start for 1950 by decriing our Maritime
coal supply, and making that an excuse for
cutting down our already attenuated train
services. Evidently this was done at the in-
stance of the old directorate, and before the
new under Mr. Donald Gordon got their oar
in.

John Wycliffe, English religious reformer,
died this date 1384. He was a fellow
and master of Balliol College, Oxford, and
was a power in Oxford before he was known
to the outside world; he challenged the su-
premacny of the Pope, and in 1379 published
"De Officiis Regis", declaring the King's to
be above the Pope's jurisdiction. He trans-
lated the Bible and organized a body of poor
priests who spread his teaching throughout
the land. A revolt followed, but he him-
self was unharmed, and died at Luttre-
worth as stated.

At the start of a New Year we look
back only to see what we have with which
to face the future. We look ahead to see
what we intend to try to do with it. Look-
ing back most of us here have much to be
thankful for—an uniquely fine succession
of seasons, Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall, all
ideal, and comparing favourably with those
within living memory. There have been
good crops and fishing, good prices, good
employment, good health without epidemic
of any kind, and good feelings generally
within the Province. A Province where
every prospect pleased, and hopes expressed
for another of the same in the year we are
about to enter.

The old year goes out tonight, taking
with it the kindly spirit of one of our col-
leagues on The Guardian staff—Miss Katie
Irving, who went to her reward yester-
day. Katie, the name she was gener-
ally known by, was of a quiet un-
ostentatious disposition, devoted to her pro-
fession, her church and her family, while
at the same time spending much time visit-
ing the sick and shut-ins. Her cheery opti-
mism made her a welcome visitor, and her
friends were legion. Miss Irving spent over
fifty years in the service of The Guardian,
and during the whole of that time was never
known to be late for work. A strict disciplinarian,
keeping the juniors and learners well in hand while teaching them the way
they should go, she will be greatly missed
by them and her memory ever held dear.
The funeral takes place today from her late
home on Grafton St. to the family burying
ground at Sherwood.

May He Bring Happiness To All



The Present With A Future

New Year's always comes on 1st,
January, and this year it comes on
a Sunday. All right; but what day
of the week did it come last year?
What day will it be next year? And
the year after that? That's hard-
er to answer! And wouldn't it
make things much easier for every-
one if New Year's always came on
Sunday? And all holidays would
fall on the same day of the week
perpetually.

"They would, too, when we have
The World Calendar. There is no
reason against such a sensible ar-
rangement; and all we need to do
is to get this new method of keep-
ing track of the passage of time
put into effect.

If you do not think modern pro-
gress demands this revision of our
time system, ask your grandfather
to tell you about a similar con-
fusion existing before the adop-
tion of Standard Time Zones.

Our present calendar is completly
out of date. It was inaugurated
by Julius Caesar as long ago as
45 B. C. and adjusted by Pope
Gregory XIII in 1582 in order to
rectify the errors in the Julian ar-
rangement that had become in-
creasingly apparent. These so-called
Julian and Gregorian calendars
were admirably suited to their day
and age, but do not provide ade-
quately for our modern needs.
They're as old-fashioned and anted-
ated in this advanced era as
driving down Broadway in a sur-
vey with a fringe on top.

The trouble with our present
calendar is that the quarters of the
year are not equal, the holidays
slide all around the week, and we
all have a hard time remembering
special events, when they came in
previous years, when they'll come
this year or the next. Industry and
government waste millions of dol-
lars annually through the vagaries
of our present outmoded time sys-
tem. In fact, it is a costly burden
to all levels of society.

Becoming more and more con-
scious of the inconveniences im-
posed by our present calendar,
people have for some time now
been giving thought to means of
correcting these difficulties. With
the result that they are almost
unanimously behind one proposal
for a new and stable calendar - -
The World Calendar.

The perpetual World Calendar
of 12 months and equal quarters is
the ideal solution. This new cal-
endar will be the same 12 months
long, have with the same names
and in the same order, but it will
have four equal quarters with
exactly the same number of days.
The first day of each quarter will
always be a Sunday, the last a
Saturday; and in each month there
will always be 28 weekdays plus
Sundays. The leap-year adjustment
is taken care of by placing an extra
day at the end of the first half of
the year. A year's calendar is just
the same as the next holidays and all.

This proposed civil World Calen-
dar has been endorsed by labor

Table titled 'THE WORLD CALENDAR' showing a perpetual calendar with months from January to December, days of the week, and dates.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

UNION PRAYER MEETINGS

What appears to have been the
first Union Prayer Meeting in
Charlottetown was held one hun-
dred years ago this New Year's
Day. A notice advertising the
meeting appeared in The Islander
of Dec. 28, 1849, and reads as fol-
lows:

"A meeting for Prayer will
(D.V.) be held in the Wesleyan
Methodist Chapel, on the Even-
ing of Tuesday next, being New
Year's Day, to which Christians
of every denomination are re-
spectfully invited, who are of
opinion that such a meeting would
be an appropriate commencement
of the New Year, and tend to
promote the observance of I John
III, 23 verse: 'That we should be-
lieve on the name of his son
Jesus Christ, and love one another
as he gave us commandment.'
The exercises will be conducted
by different Ministers, and will
be commenced precisely at seven
o'clock.

"E. Botterell, S. T. Rand, R.
MacNair, John Orlebar, R. N."
Meetings of this kind were con-
tinued as a New Year's Day cus-
tom, as appears from subsequent
newspaper notices. The announce-
ment for the following year, from
The Royal Gazette of Dec. 24, 1850,
reads:

"UNION PRAYER MEETING.
At a meeting of the Ministers of
the various Protestant Denomi-
nations in Town, it was unani-
mously resolved that a Prayer
Meeting for the promotion of
Christian Union be held in St.
James' Church on Wednesday
evening, January 1st, 1851, at 7
o'clock, the bell to ring at quarter
to seven."

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the
discussion by correspondents
of questions of interest. The
Guardian does not necessari-
ly endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

FARM PRICES

Sir,—In your feature column,
"Among The Farmers", I observe
that the Federation of Agriculture
finds "markets are unsettled,
prices are dropping and U. K.
contracts are in a state of con-
fusion. . . However, we do not be-
lieve there is any reason for
panic. Farm prices are again the
first to drop; the main reason be-
ing that farmers are not organized,
but are depending on the
Government or someone else to
protect their interests. . ." (Guardian,
Dec. 24).

There is a lot in the above few
lines, and still more food for
thought between them. It is sin-
cerely to be hoped that increas-
ing numbers of our primary pro-
ducers will ponder the above
statement, and rally to their vari-
ous organizations and their rural
leaders, who speak in their name.

Only this morning I read the
following paragraph at the break-
fast table for the information of
those concerned: "A decrease of
just \$100,000,000 in the value of
farm production in Ontario for
1950 was predicted yesterday by
Agriculture Minister Kennedy.
With farmers having to pay more
for the things they have to buy
and getting less for the products
they sell, they'll curtail produc-
tion to that extent, he said."
(Toronto Globe and Mail).

There was a text for a rural
breakfast-table. Believe me when
I assure you that full advantage
was taken of it, and it was momen-
tarily difficult to prevent every-
one speaking at once; but the
thought I liked best ran this way:
"Mr. Kennedy should have added;
and there will be just \$100,000,000
less farm orders for the products
of the factories, mills and stores."

LOOKING AHEAD.

The Age-Old Story

Now in its twelfth month, that
is the month of Adar, on the
thirteenth day of the same, when
the King's commandment and his
decrees drew near to be put in ex-
ecution, in the day that the en-
emies of the Jews hoped to have
power over them, (though it was
turned to the contrary, that the
Jews had rule over them that
hated them.)

The Poet's Corner

FROM GOETHE

The future hides in it
Gladness and sorrow;
We press still through,
Naught that abides in it
Daunting us,—onward!

And solemn before us,
Velled, the dark portal,
Goal of all mortal;—
Stars silent rest o'er us,
Glaives under us silent.

While earnest thou gazeest
Comes bodings of terror,
Comes phantasms and error,
Perplexing the bravest
With doubt and misgiving.

But heard are the voices,
Heard are the Sages',
The World's and the Age's!
"Choose well; your choice is
Brief and yet endless.

Here eyes do regard you
In Eternity's stillness;
Here is all fullness,
Ye brave, to reward you!
Work, and despair not!"
—Carlyle's translation.

Notes By The Way

There used to be an old saying
that if one took care of the pennies,
the pounds would take care of
themselves; but that is too old-
fashioned to bother with nowa-
days. It has to be brought up to
date. It should read that if the
Government takes care of the
millions, the billions will take
care of themselves. If the Gov-
ernment does not take care of the
millions, the taxpayers will
take care of the billions. — Strat-
ford Beacon-Herald.

The National Rifle Association
in the U.S. claims that in the
many years for which statistics
were compiled none of its 200,000
members had accidentally shot
anyone. A senior official of the
Canadian Small Bore Association
— now the Canadian Civilian As-
sociation of Marksmen — main-
tains that for the 15 years he has
been connected with it, not one
of this group has been responsible
for an accidental killing. This
revelation is highly significant. It
obviously indicates that safety
rules drilled into one on the large-
range are observed in the bush.
It gives the answer to how ac-
cidents with firearms can be
drastically reduced. — Quebec
Chronicle-Telegraph.

Lady Mendi, so long one of the
most interesting personalities in
Paris, where her husband, Sir
Charles Mendi, was press attache
to the British Embassy, was not
only famous as a hostess, but was
herself an entertainer and did
everything to divert her guests,
even to standing on her head be-

fore the assembled company. She
has also been known to enter a
room turning handspings. She
wanted to make the stage her
career and did in fact go on the
stage for a time, but gave it up as
she did not feel she was a success.
Generally regarded as an Ameri-
can, she was in fact Canadian and
came from Nova Scotia. Her
maiden name was Elsie de Wolff.
Her passion was decorating peo-
ple's houses, for which she re-
ceived very high fees. Many a
gloomy Victorian interior was
transformed by her magic touch to
something gay and lovely. Her
bathroom, which all her friends
were taken to see, was a riot of
dolphins and mermaids and min-
nows. It cost her thousands. She
spent £2,000 a year on flowers
alone. Now, aged 82, she still lives
in Paris in her fabulous home in
Versailles, the Villa Trianon. —
London Recorder.

For years now the people of
Canada have had dinned into
their ears the superiority of the
New Zealand Government in its
manner of doing things. The CCF
leader, Mr. Coldwell, never missed
a chance to sing the praises of
socialistic New Zealand. Now that
the New Zealand Labor-Socialist
Government of Prime Minister
Fraser has been defeated by the
people for whom he is al-
leged to have done so much, per-
haps we can get back to thinking
about some of the good things
Canadians can do for themselves
without any government under-
taking to do everything for them
—at great expense. — Lethbridge
Herald.

APPRECIATION
We wish to thank our many Policyholders for their liberal
patronage during the past year, assuring them that our efforts
to provide a complete Insurance service will not be relaxed.
The Management, Staff and Agency organization join in ex-
tending to all, the Season's Greetings.
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