

MONDAY

**Prince Edward Island
A Park, Says Visitor**

D.D. McArthur of Sturgeon Heights returned last week from a two-months trip to Prince Edward Island, the "Garden of the Gulf." It was his first visit back to his old home near Charlottetown in 47 years and he was thrilled with the quiet beauty and orderly progress of "The Island." With the small, beautifully kept fields, the island was like a large park, Mr. McArthur said. Farms are from 10 to 50 acres, and potatoes, the best in the world, are its largest crop.

The entire trip was made by bus which Mr. McArthur found an ideal method of travel. He went to Winnipeg over Canadian highways mostly gravelled, then south into the United States at Emerson. From there on the highways were hard surfaced, oiled and maintained daily and marvellous for motoring comfort. They stopped at all the large American cities—Chicago, Minneapolis, New York, as well as many smaller towns. All had paved highways, he said.

Back in Canada, the visitor crossed on the largest ferry boat in the world from New Brunswick to Prince Edward Island, a distance of 9 miles. A full length train can be carried on the three-deck ferry, as well as 300 cars and passengers.

On the return trip, Mr. McArthur went by bus to Boston, Rhode Island and New York before turning west.

He travelled through Montana where the crops of winter wheat were wonderful.

Crossing at Sweet Grass into Canada, the parties were at their best and he enjoyed them very much. The roads, however, were not as good as in the States.

But when the bus deposited him at Sturgeon Heights, Mr. McArthur was glad to be back on his farm again and to find his crop in good condition.

(Mr. McArthur, who is a son of Mr. Charles and Catherine MacArthur of Greenville was guest of his sister, Mrs. Bill Lamont, Churchill, during his recent visit.)

In Memoriam

MRS. CYRUS SMITH

The passing of Mrs. Cyrus Smith, age 72, which occurred at her home in New Glasgow, P. E. I. in the early hours of Sunday morning, April 25th, 1948, came as a shock to her many friends near and far. Although she had not been in good health for some weeks previous, hope for her recovery was entertained by her family until her condition became near and far a week before the end and on above mentioned her spirit took its heavenly flight.

Mrs. Smith whose maiden name was Nettie Bagnall, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bagnall, was a lady loved by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance, for her gentle and kindly manner and Christian fortitude.

She united with the Church of Christ, while in her youth, and gave of her talent as organist, for a number of years, until, due to an accident which made her a semi-invalid, she was confined to her home. Her suffering she bore with patient courage, and in her home her counsel was ever sought and her loving care went out to its members and her kindly hospitality to those who visited her.

Mrs. Smith loved flowers and her beautiful house plants were much admired when in bloom, especially. During her last illness she was kindly nursed and cared for by her cousin Mrs. E. Dickerson and her daughter-in-law, but all that willing hands and medical skill could do for her was of no avail and she was called to higher service.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, who at the time of his wife's death was very ill, and her only son Richard and a daughter-in-law and three grandchildren, Myrna, Orville and Norman. Also one sister Mrs. (Rev.) A. E. Simpson of Idaho, survives, besides other relatives who will cherish her memory.

**Czech Communists
Move Cautiously**

BY SYDNEY BROOKS

PRAGUE, Aug. 26 — (Reuters) — Czechoslovakia's Communist government has reached the end of the first phase of its development; it has gained power.

It now is entering the second phase, during which its position must be consolidated and its policies justified.

The regime has already surmounted several hurdles.

It has secured and confirmed its political power, enforced its new constitution, carried through elections, and solved the question of the presidency.

Ahead, great new problems are looming; and in this present period of stork-taking, Prague is wondering how they will be handled.

It is generally accepted that Czechoslovakia presents a special problem for Communism. For the first time, Communism holds power in an already highly-developed social organism.

Czechoslovakia is highly industrialized — so highly that her production outstrips her supplies of raw materials, making her largely dependent on her export-import trade, most of it still with western countries.

When Communism took over Czechoslovakia was socially well developed. Her standard of education was above normal for this part of the world. Her peasants, although by no means fully efficient, were a step or two above their neighbors.

Czechoslovakia, which owes her existence largely to the west, or to treaties negotiated in the west, has always looked to the west for her imports of culture as well as for copper and iron.

Need Economic Success

It is obvious to most observers here that Communism can achieve no lasting ideological success unless it quickly proves an economic success. Most important is that economic success will be impossible unless Communism can secure the co-operation of those elements in the population which provide efficient administration for the country's trade, transport and production.

In these circumstances, the question arises whether Communism can afford to carry its purges and prejudices too far, whether it might not be necessary for Communism to make some sort of pact with the surviving middle-class — to try to persuade, and educate rather than punish and coerce the remaining opposition.

"Declarations" from government and party leaders indicate that the Communist party here understands these special difficulties.

Since the end of the war, the country has lost many thousands of skilled technicians, craftsmen, administrators, and agriculturists through the expulsion of the German population from what was known as Sudetenland.

Since February, when the action committees started purging the national life, the country has lost more skill.

Party leaders have themselves acknowledged that the action committees often exceeded requirements. Personal prejudices were brought into denunciations. Capable administrators and useful workmen were deprived of their goods and their livelihoods for the worst of reasons at the time when the national economy needed all the impetus which skill and energy could put behind it.

Abused New-Found Power

In addition to the action committees, works councils and works committees in factories abused the unchecked power which the political changes had placed in their hands.

Stores were rifled, as if the country's reserves, so summarily taken over from their previous owners, were booty to be distributed among the successful revolutionaries.

Theft, graft, corruption, nepotism, developed even among the ranks of the "faithful." The prime minister himself, Antonin Zapotocky, a hard-headed trade unionist, with a knowledge of production requirements learned from the time when forced to denounce workers' leaders and the workers themselves for misusing funds, for maladministration and general laziness, for failing to report inefficiency among trade union leaders, for watching their own selfish interests instead of the interests of the state.

His frank comments show an awareness that any great disruption of the national industrial system could have had serious economic consequences.

Czechoslovakia's import-export trade deficit was steadily mounting. It was becoming increasingly difficult for her to feed raw materials to her industry and to maintain even the previous low nutritional standards of her population.

It may have been ideologically desirable to crush all opposition, to pull out the bourgeois root and branch, to throw non-conformists into prison or pursue them over the frontier; but it could be economic suicide.

And in the long run economic haza-kiri must mean political haza-kiri even if force is used to maintain the regime.

Agricultural Problems

Similar problems arose in Czechoslovakia's agricultural organization.

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AGE NO EXCUSE FOR LETHARGY

If you have forgotten how to play golf, swim or cycle, don't let your age keep you from releasing the technique.

The woman who uses "I'm too old" as an excuse to skip summer sports may be passing up a chance to improve her health and figure and to increase her social accomplishments.

Strenuous sports such as fast-moving tennis may be ill-advised. Milder sports, however, will not unduly tax the strength of a normally healthy woman who gradually conditions her self again to exercise.

When they gained power in February, the Communists had to decide whether to go straight into the organization of collective farms, with all the probable disruption which that would mean, or whether to continue with their announced policy of splitting the land up among peasant owners.

Like other Slav countries, they chose to split the land in blocks. They set 50 hectares as the limit for any single owner. They insisted that all who owned land must themselves work on it, and within these limits, they created what was in effect a whole new class of capitalists — land-owning peasants. Ranging over the whole field of the available evidence, observers here think that sheer economic expediency made it necessary for the Communists to keep away from the drastic policies advocated by their more radical wings and to undertake their transition to socialism with as little disruption of the national life as possible.

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