

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1948

Health And The Soil

Experiments are being conducted in Ontario
to find out whether there is a relationship
between mental ills and diet based on modern
methods of agriculture.

In this connection there are some interesting
general observations about the effect of
soil fertility upon the health of both animals and
human beings contained in the book "Malabar
Farm" written by Louis Bromfield following
his eight years experience in rebuilding the soil
of 1,000 acres of run-down land in Ohio.

Mr. Bromfield says that no insecticides or
sprays against either disease or insect pests are
needed by the farmers of northern France, where
he himself farmed for a number of years before
the last war. On his return to America it
struck him as strange that in a comparatively
new country there should be so many plagues
and blights and insect pests.

His experience at Malabar farm has convinced
him that all the sprays, dusts and poisons that
flood the American market are required because
plants have too little resistance to disease
and insects, and this lack of resistance is due
to the fact that they do not get proper sustenance
from soils that have been badly depleted with
little if any attempt by American farmers to
return the necessary elements of fertility. He
began his experiments in his one-acre garden
plot, where he applied a carefully balanced
fertilizer with barnyard manure, and has gradually
been extending the programme to the whole
1,000 acres.

Dealing with the effect of worn out soils on
the health of animals and human beings living
on them, Mr. Bromfield remarks:

"It has been widely recognized only recently
that the shortage of vital elements in the
soil can affect the growth, health, and intelligence
of the people in whole areas. In one southern
state where the soil has been badly leached
by generations of poor agriculture, U. S.
selective service showed a rejection record of nearly
75 per cent.

"The effects of mineral depleted or un-
balanced soils upon cattle is well established.
In certain areas of Florida and Louisiana one can
see cattle walking about in grass knee-deep with
their ribs and hip-bones showing while on ranges
of New Mexico and Arizona and west Texas,
where a superficial glance reveals scarcely any
vegetation at all, cattle look sleek, healthy and
well fed. The difference is one of the mineral
content of the vegetation, in the first case
highly deficient in balance regardless of its luxuriant
appearance, and in the other, highly balanced
and minerally nutritious though apparently
scrubby."

In a world where there is unlikely to be
sufficient food for a long time to come, Mr. Brom-
field sees the science of soil balancing and
restoration taking an increasingly important place
in the programme of North American agriculture,
not only to secure higher yields on the farms but
even more important to produce more nutritious
and healthy foodstuffs. The old and proved
method of rebuilding soil fertility by natural
fertilizers would seem to be the key to the situation.

Railway Wage Problem

Commenting on the railway strike settle-
ment, the Globe and Mail maintains that how-
ever the new wages are paid, the burden on the
national economy will be acute, and will be re-
flected in cumulative degree on prices and costs
of production. It says:

"From the standpoint of railway employees
looking at wage scales, the danger to the econ-
omy of the country might not be so obvious. No
group, however, can be unmindful of the effect
of its actions, especially one associated with
such a fundamental service as transportation.
The matter is complicated by the fact that the
unions decided to ask for a "dollars-and-cents"
increase, rather than a percentage increase, based
on the current pay. Thus, 17 cents may be a
just rise for some, a great deal too much for
others, and not enough for still other groups.
From this, two conclusions are to be drawn: one
is that the railways are having to pay more than
circumstances can justify; the other is that
some groups of their employees will remain as un-
satisfied centres of agitation. These are points
which will have to wait clarification, along with
other economic factors, in the passage of time
and the test of practice.

"But equally disturbing to those who have
been following developments is that the con-
tinuing trend in wage negotiations, linking wages
to the cost of living index instead of to pro-
ductivity and markets, can lead us into more and
more difficulties. Railway transportation in Can-
ada, on account of our small population and our
large geographical area, demands a relatively
larger proportion of the national production to
maintain it than in other countries. It is nowhere
evident that the national production is capable of
providing immediately, or in the near future, the
extra business which the strike settlement will
require. In that case, what now might be taken
as a victory may in time prove to have been a
defeat."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Governor-General in residence.

Bread rationing instituted in the United
Kingdom this date 1946.

With both Car Ferry steamers planked for
auto truck and automobile traffic, there should
be little or no hold up at-Trentine or Borden.

Still no band in the Square. Could not the
pipers, at least, be induced for a consideration
to give a tune once in a while?

Robert Burns, poet, died this date 1796:
"But Thou art good; and goodness still
Delighteth to forgive."

A Prayer in the Prospect of Death.

The Azores, where the Israel-bound U. S. A.
airplane is held, is the halfway stage from here
to Europe, and was largely taken advantage of
during the war.

The stock exchange barometer seems to fit
in with the U. S. A. political forebodings. Elec-
tion year usually spells bad for gamblers in
stocks and bonds. This year it is only more so.

Lord Macdonald will soon be among us to
extend greetings to the Highland host. "Come
a russian jew" is the nearest approach to Gaelic
we can recall at the moment.

City firemen, like doctors, have no sense
of security when they retire to rest. Monday
two night calls had to be responded to, while
the rest of us thanked goodness we had such
reliable, trustworthy citizens ready and willing
to guard and protect us from fire hazards.

A visitor, just returned from Newfoundland,
believes that Confederation may win out. The
business element in St. John's which previously
favoured a return to the pre-Commission Govern-
ment has swung round, and this is said to have
had a tremendous influence on the voters gener-
ally.

Halgionians here, and recently here, are
strongly advocating morning and evening pass-
enger flights between here and Halifax. The
principal objection is, of course, that that would
encourage trade with Halifax rather than with
the Island.

The Young Liberals of Ontario have swung
to the Conservative position of demanding the
end of legislation by government decree rather
than by Parliament. Perhaps there is hope that
their elders will soon be prepared to give up the
powers handed over for the "duration."

The stand of the New Brunswick command
of the Canadian Legion favoring compulsory
military training deserves the attention of the
powers-that-be. If there is one great lesson of
the years between the two wars it is that the
greatest danger to peace is the apparent weak-
ness of peace loving powers.

That Island history is a fascinating study all
who read scraps of it will concede. It is unfortu-
nate that it is nowhere in readily accessible form.
Any group looking for a worthwhile project could
do worse than start a proper card index of source
material. Such a work would enable writers on
any subject to get their information without
laboriously going through the undigested mass
of records.

Little dreaming that there would be in the
offing another Party Convention for the selection
of a new leader, Prime Minister King an-
nounced in the House of Commons that it had
been decided that the speeches and discussions
at the Liberal Convention would get free broad-
cast over CBC. Now the Conservatives will be
entitled to a similar privilege.

Now it is blood that is being flown from
Canada abroad. Blood serum for a patient in
an English hospital left Dorval Airport aboard
a trans-Atlantic plane, according to Red Cross
officials. They said the patient, identified in a
cable only as "Donovan," is suffering from undu-
lant fever complicated by a deficiency of
plasma protein in London, England.

The Moncton Transcript notes editorially
that Dalvay Beach, where the Governor General,
Lady Alexander and family are vacationing, is
among the most picturesque in Canada. "It may
be taken for granted," it says, "that the Vice
Regal party will enjoy their vacation on the
Island as the people of that Province and Mari-
times generally enjoy having them among us for
a few weeks." It expresses the hope that next
year New Brunswick will be honoured with the
privilege of entertaining Their Excellencies on
vacation. No happier choice could be made—
excepting, of course, a return visit to the Gar-
den of the Gulf.

According to the Bureau of Statistics its
index of prices farmers receive for their goods
climbed to a new all-time high in May, which
tends to offset the decrease in fisheries. Based
on 1935-39 equals 100, it was 293.3 in that month
compared with 234.2 a month earlier and 199.8
a year before. Compared with May, 1947, the
index numbers for all provinces registered sub-
stantial increases with higher prices for grains,
livestock, dairy products, potatoes and poultry
and eggs. The gain from the previous month was
mainly due to increased prices for livestock and
potatoes. Following are the provincial indexes
for May, with those for May last year bracketed:
Prince Edward Island, 279.1 (168.4); Nova Scotia,
222.7 (179.7); New Brunswick, 267.2 (191.7);
Quebec, 260.1 (205.5); Ontario, 247.3 (194.6);
Manitoba, 238 (204.7); Saskatchewan, 219.9
(198.4); Alberta, 233.5 (208.5); British Columbia,
234.5 (200.5).

-Notes By The Way-

Suggestion that trees be cut
down to eliminate starlings is on
all fours with a proposal to destroy
rose bushes to get rid of bugs. —
Toronto Telegram.

Optimists are sometimes born,
but all may become such with
practice by half trying, and all you
have to do is to smile, whether
you like it or not. Besides, it
makes you better looking and
more sociable. So never be an
optimist, but always an optimist. —
Wainland-Port Colborne Tribune.

Such things as the suppression of
individual liberties on the flimsiest
of excuses have a habit of gaining
ground before the average citizen
is aware of it, and it is easier to
stop it before it gets the security
of power than it is to unseat it
afterwards. — Edson (Alta.) West-
ern Signal.

The approach of spring, the
breaking up of rivers, the coming
of pussy willows, the appearance
across the skies of wild bird life
in formation to nesting grounds of
the north, and the song birds in
the trees is the one time that
man's attention is drawn to the
beauties of nature more than any
season of the year. — Humboldt
(Sask.) Journal.

A young mother we know was
having difficulty with her baby
crying so much. She went to the
doctor about it. He asked her if
she had the baby boy on one of
these fancy four-hour feeding
shifts. She said she followed the
plan implicitly. The doctor said:
"I thought so. All that's wrong
with this little fellow is that he
gets hungry and he hollers for
some food. You just feed the little
guy, and he won't cry." And, sure
enough, they began feeding the
little guy and he's fine and dandy,
thank you. — W. L. Clark in Win-
nipeg Star.

It is innate in man to try to im-
prove on Nature. Sometimes he
can, though in many respects he
has yet to succeed. By experimen-
tal means, for instance, Canada-
lian farmers now produce a long-
legged bacon-type hog, at which
the fat porker of a few years ago
would grunt in disgust. Efforts are
made to evolve a small turkey, to
fit the dinner plates of a small
family; progress has been made
with a baby beef type of steer, with
a maximum amount of choice meat
for the size of the carcass. It is
nice to know that the streak sheep
is not being forgotten. In Here-
fordshire, experiments are
proceeding to meet the demand for
lean meat on a thick, juicy leg of
mutton. A lamb has been produced,
a cross between Clun Forest ewes
and a Southdown ram, which
weighs 90 pounds at six months.
The leg weighs 1-4 pounds, the
loin and shoulder six pounds each,
and the breast 2-4 pounds. Cana-
dians are not much at eating
mutton, having a preference for
beef and pork. But if that Here-
fordshire lamb, or its counter parts,
can be raised in Canada, it might
be different. Even the stately "The
Leg" of London, England, becomes
enthusiastic. "The leg," it reports,
"has an exceptional amount of
thick, lean meat, and the loin was
thick and juicy." — Windsor Star.

Professional economists keep
talking about consumer resistance
and inability to buy at today's
prices. Yet the consumers continue
to buy and the economists do not
explain how they do it. The con-
sumers, for example, buy automob-
iles. They pay the higher factory
prices. In Canada, they also pay
the higher excise taxes. And yet
the cars pour off the showroom
floors into the city streets. How
do the people do it? All we can do
is guess. We'd say that the people
are drawing on their wartime sav-
ings. What they will do when the
savings are gone is another matter,
about which we would worry if we
were in the automobile business.
Finance Minister Abbott's budget
appendix shows that Canadianians
saved an average of 21 per cent of
their personal income in the "Last"
year they saved six per cent. In
terms of actual dollars, they saved
about three times as much in 1947
when a dollar was worth far more
than it is now. The budget figures
also disclose that three out of
four Canadian taxpayers earn less
than \$2,500 a year. But assume
that all of them earned so much.
They'd still have to buy a car in the
\$2,000 price field by using their on-
line surplus accumulating over a
bout a dozen years. Discouraging,
isn't it? — Vancouver Sun.

From the spacious days of Henry
Irving and Ellen Terry, Dame May
Whitty moved into the modern
world and the new medium of the
radio. Through that she was able
to display for millions the full per-
fection of the older and richer art
of the theatre. From childhood the
stage held her spellbound. Even at
82 it still kept its appeal for her.
On her 75th birthday, when asked
if she intended to retire, she re-
plied: "I am neither aged nor im-
pelled: I can still do my bit. I'll
keep right on doing it." This gal-
lant determination gave us some
of the most distinguished film por-
traits of the last decade. Moscov-
y miniatures (for she never aspired
to stardom), they all like the gull-
ible old lady in "Night Must Fall"
had a finish and persuasiveness
few others under the camera could
match. The list of her roles would
fill a volume of its own, a unique
collection of cameo each cut with
exquisite art. It must have been
a satisfaction for Dame May Whitty
to look back over the genera-
tions and realize how much she
had contributed to their entertain-
ment. Not many have the opportu-
nity or ability to leave behind
such a pleasant memory. —
New York Times.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

DR. MACDONALD'S SERVICES

Sir, — An item in Saturday's
edition of your paper reports com-
ments by Premier J. Walter Jones
concerning honors recently bestow-
ed on certain citizens. If his
citation of a country doctor refer-
red to our Dr. R.J. MacDonald as
you suggested in your footnote,
his remarks will have the whole-
hearted support of a great many
people.

In 1944, when I was attending
my first session as a member of
the Legislature, I mentioned the
matter of some recognition for Dr.
MacDonald to a member of the
medical profession. He heartily
agreed with me that it should be
brought to the attention of the
proper authorities, but at that
time the war was on and very few
honors were being bestowed on
citizens. Now that that is changed
the time has come when such
salutary services as Dr. R.J. Mac-
donald has rendered should be
recognized.

While not wishing to depre-
ciate the merits of those who have
recently received recognition, I
can assure you that if Dr. R.J.
MacDonald were to receive the
highest honors in the land, there
would be no one among his large
circle of acquaintances who would
say: "What did he do?"

I am, Sir, etc.,
THOMAS R. CULLEN
Midgell, P.E.I.

A PROTEST

Sir—I feel that an injustice has
been done to those who received
His Majesty's honors from the
hands of His Excellency the Gov-
ernor General, in the crude and
discourteous reference made by the
Premier of this Province, and re-
echoed in the local Liberal press.
These remarks were as insulting to
His Majesty and his gracious rep-
resentative, as they were doubt-
less intended to be to the recipi-
ents.

There is no doubt that thous-
ands of other citizens are worthy
of such honors, but the passing
of their selection into the hands of
a prejudiced politician would not
help matters. I understand that
none of those who received awards
on this occasion ever sought them
personally, and the announcements
came as a complete surprise. If
any complaint was in order, surely
it should have been made di-
rectly after the announcements,
and then quietly to those respon-
sible. To reserve such comment
and release it publicly after His
Excellency has bestowed the hon-
ours was, to say the least, in very
bad taste. All the recipients ap-
pear to be worthy citizens, some
of them with long records of meri-
torious service, and I think it
shameful that they should be held
up to ridicule and innuendo.

I am, Sir, etc.,
RURAL CITIZEN.

The Poet's Corner

IN A GARDEN

This quiet garden is a refuge for
Flickers and robins and bright
hummingbirds.
Racing their motors while they
hang to sip
The honey sweet from multi-
colored flowers.
Here orioles flash their black and
golden splendor
And sparrows dart while, hiding in
the hedge,
Small finches paint their yellow
on the green.

All day the water splashes in the
basin
Where birds come without fear
to seek its cool,
And air is filled with chattering
and wings.
Heart now starts singing in reply
and eye
Feeds upon light and color while
the ear.
Content to hear rustle of wings and
branch.
Splashing of water, blowing grass
and leaf.
Hears the whole garden blended in
one song.

—Helen Howland Prommel in
the New York Times.

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

FANNING'S FRUIT TREES

"A great many old apple trees,
left here by the French, are still
alive and bearing, and though it
might be seen by them, what the
climate was capable of producing,
it was long after the commence-
ment of the settlement before any
attention was paid to this branch
of husbandry. It is chiefly to our
late worthy Lieutenant-Governor
General Fanning that we are in-
debted for spreading, by his ex-
ample, a taste for fruit trees,
which, though not so general as
could be wished, is increasing, and
enough has been done to show
that perfect reliance can be placed
upon our climate, for producing
abundance of valuable fruit. When
I state that some of our fruit, the
natural produce of ungrafted
trees, is superior to the produce of
any trees we have yet imported,
fruit gardeners will be able to
judge what may be expected from
our climate, under a well directed
system of management. Mr. Beers

"IN THE NAME OF HIS MAJESTY"

THE INVESTTURE IN THE CONFEDERATION CHAMBER, FRIDAY, JULY 16th.



New Planning Act
Will Reshape Britain

(United Kingdom Information
Office)

Britain has just embarked on one
of her greatest social and econ-
omic experiments. Under the new
Town and Country Planning Act
which became law on July 1st all
development of land is now con-
trolled in the interests of the
Community.

Since July 1st Britain's 145
County and Borough Councils have
the new responsibility of drawing
up development plans for their
own particular area. They have
three years in which to submit
these plans to the central author-
ity. Local public enquiries will be
held if necessary in order that
everybody has the chance of appeal
against the Council's decisions, and
when the development plans have
finally been approved it will be
the task of the local authorities
gradually to carry them into ef-
fect. At the same time these plans
must be sufficiently flexible for
them to be modified and adapted
according to changing conditions
and must be re-examined at least
every five years. To enable local
authorities to discharge their new
functions they are given greater
powers for compulsory acquisition
of land and will receive increased
financial assistance from the Govern-
ment.

One of the main objects of the
new Act is to ensure that all land
development harmonizes with the
plans drawn up by local authorities.
The Act does not nationalize land
but nationalizes its development
values. Landowners will no longer
have the right to build on their
land without the consent of the
local planning authority. Under
previous law the planning authority
was liable to pay compensation
when permission to build was re-
fused. Under the new Act land-
owners will have to pay a develop-
ment charge if permission to build
is granted. Owners whose land
is compulsorily acquired will be
compensated for any loss of develop-
ment value out of a central fund
of £300 (\$1200) million which will
be made available for this purpose.
Claims will be dealt with by a new
body called the Central Land Board
who will also assess and collect the
development charges made to
landowners.

The new Town and Country
Planning Act is the most compre-
hensive measure of its kind ever
to reach the Statute Book in Brit-
ain. The first laws relating to the
planned use of land in Britain were
introduced in 1909. Since this date
there has been a number of Acts
dealing with different aspects of
town and country planning. The
new Act may be said to consolidate
or repeal all past legislation and at

of Cherry Valley, is said to have
already five hundred bearing trees."
—An account of Prince Edward
Island & Co., by John Stewart, Esq.,
1906.

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Lobsters By Air

(Wall Street Journal)

The case of the flying lobsters
is stirring controversy in Boston.
Live lobsters by the thousands
are taking to the air, riding the
airlines west and south from New
England and Canada's Maritime
Provinces.

The new boon to inland gour-
mets is based on two recent
achievements: Perfection of light-
weight packages to keep crusta-
ceans cool and moist, and reduc-
tion in airfreight rates by as much
as 50 per cent in little over a
year. Some of the airlines are
getting into the business with
vim.

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