

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24,

Wasteful Puffs

The following comment from the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) leaves nothing unsaid: "Among the many publications put out by the Government for the better information of the Canadian public and the praise and glory of those in authority in Ottawa is a bi-monthly periodical issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Like the others—and no more and no worse than they—it is devoted to showing the good work being done on behalf of the veterans by the Federal Government with sides on veterans themselves.

"The issue to hand includes a farewell from Senator Ian Mackenzie and a hail from the new Minister, Hon. Milton Gregg. Mr. Mackenzie remarks modestly that he leaves the department in the knowledge "that the veterans of no country in the world have a more complete legislation programme. " Mr. Gregg says the "job which has been done by the department is a monumental one."

"Thousands of dollars are spent annually by Government departments on such puffs as these. They are paid for with taxpayers' money including contributions to the Federal treasury from good Conservatives, Social Creditors and C.C.F.'ers. They are a thorough-going waste of public funds and it is high time they were conigned with other extravagances into the limbo of wartime practice."

Multum In Parvo

The difficulty of "seeing the wood for the trees" is exemplified in the comprehensive reports presented at last week's Agricultural Council meetings, embodying about a hundred recommendations and suggestions of far-reaching importance on practically every phase of our farming industry. These reports are covered extensively in the press, and no doubt will be given due consideration at our farmers' meetings this week, and by our legislators who are also meeting opportunely at this time. The average reader, however, is likely to be confused by the multiplicity of the matters discussed, and will perhaps appreciate the following attempt at condensation of the more important points made by our agricultural officials:

Special emphasis is placed on the need of practical and simplified courses in agriculture in the public schools and Prince of Wales College. Textbooks on basic agriculture should be approved by our own specialists, and provision made for keeping them up to date by the addition of yearly summaries. Establishment of scholarships and bursaries for agricultural students is recommended; also an extension specialist in plant pathology and the holding of annual field days in connection with plant disease and insect control. To the existing farm organizations should be added potato and grain production clubs, and more general use made of the press and radio in disseminating agricultural information. Fuller reports are needed with regard both to weather and marketing conditions.

Establishment of a permanent livestock committee and of a central selling agency for dairy products is suggested. Veterinary assistance for inoculations and other services should be made available to breeders on a basis comparable with the services provided to potato growers. An animal nutritionist should be appointed by the Provincial Government, and there should be established a joint Dominion-Provincial bonus policy for inspected and approved bulls patterned after the Provincial boar policy. The present hog population of 100,000 should be increased to 150,000 annually, which would require approximately 275 bushels of mixed grain per farm plus protein supplement for finishing. More general use of sows from advanced registry stock is required, also a larger test station for advanced registry and more experimental work with hogs at the Dominion Experimental Station.

The Province should be made a disease free or restricted area for poultry, and a poultry pathologist, with adequate laboratory facilities, should be placed at the Experimental Station. The policies of bonusing brooder stoves and purchase of breeder cockerels should be continued, and provision made for a steady supply of feeds. Marketing of poultry should be done co-operatively, either by amalgamating the existing assembly units, or by an entirely new organization. There should be inquiry into the feasibility of establishing sales pools, and provision of refrigerator cars for handling eggs during the June-September period. The 1940 statute pertaining to licensing of all first receivers of poultry products should be enforced, and provision made for more housing units and for a new laying house at the Experimental Station.

Grain production should be increased to the extent of from two to three acres per farm, and the potato acreage held in a balanced relationship with other field crops, with a provincial limit of 40,000 acres of potatoes annually. Limestone consumption should be doubled to a total of 40,000 tons annually. Commercial fertilizer should be distributed more equitably as between potato and other crops, and more attention given to improving the magnesium content of the soil.

A central marketing board to handle the potato crop is recommended, along with legislation licensing all truckers and loaders engaged in handling and transporting potatoes for export. More frostproof potato storages in approved areas are required, also a starch factory

equipped to operate all winter, and a plant to disinfect second-hand potato bags. Potatoes should be sold on grade in local retail stores, and should be exported only in new packages, stamped "P. E. I. Potatoes", with the grade number eliminated from the package and placed on the tag. All seed exported should be marked as to origin, and every tubestock grower required to place his full name on every sack tag for export. More attention should be given to growing and marketing our horticultural crops, and a fieldman should be employed in this connection by the Provincial Government. There should be provision for advanced training in horticulture, for quick freezing and cold storage facilities for fruits and vegetables, and for insuring adequate disposal of cull piles to curtail blight infection.

There is need also of a qualified forester in the Provincial Department of Agriculture and of the teaching of forestry in the schools. Forestation projects on abandoned farms should be undertaken, and there should be legislation to regulate the sale of pitprops, pulp wood and other immature crops of trees.

Soil conservation measures and control of pests and plant diseases bulk large in the recommendations, and are evidently regarded as of prime importance in our agricultural economy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Farm week begins with first of a series of conferences.

It must be plain to all the sooner the United Nations cease their talk and resort to action the better for the peace of the world.

Tourist cabins unoccupied may command higher rents when the season comes round. Meantime no one wants a tourist cabin at any rental.

Opening of the First Session of the Forty-sixth General Assembly of His Majesty's Province of Prince Edward Island. Government is undoubtedly the Island's fastest growing business.

Setting up the P. E. I. Agricultural Council represents a very real advance. At Confederation agriculture was placed within the jurisdiction of both Dominion and provinces and all too often in the past the respective governments have gone ahead with little regard for what the other was trying to do.

Feast of St. Matthias—the disciple selected by the casting of lots, (secret ballot) for appointment to the apostleship in succession to Judas. Some critics identify him with Nathaniel; a qualification for election was association with the Apostles from the baptism of John till the Ascension.

George Moore, British novelist and dramatist, born this date, 1851. Was much influenced in early life by Zola, Flaubert and Maupassant, and his novels are strongly realistic. These include, A Modern Lover, Esther Waters, Celibates, and The Brook Kerith. He also wrote Modern Painting, in which he sharply attacked the Royal Academy and other art institutions; Hail and Farewell, Ave, Salve, Vole (3 vols), some verse, and the plays The Strike at Arlingford, The Bending of the Bough, and Elizabeth Cooper.

It is heartening to learn authoritatively that civilization prevailed 4,000 years before the birth of Christ, and is at least 6,000 years old. The Iraq Department of Antiquities reports today it had discovered traces of perhaps the world's earliest civilization. The department said the discovery, in Southern Iraq near Ur of the Chaldees, is "a civilization older than the Alubaid civilization, which dates more than 4,000 years before Christ." That being so, then what about modern puny claims to social advancement?

It is usually loopholes in the law that legislatures are called upon to plug after an individual has managed to get away with conduct obviously intended to be barred. Now, however, Parliament has to deal with the problem of the Crown conducting a prosecution for an offence which Parliament had clearly indicated was not so triable. Indications are that the Criminal Code will very probably be amended so as to make "conspiracy" as well as the actual publication of a defamatory libel triable only in the province in which the publisher lives.

Here is how the respective provinces fare regarding veterans loans. Almost 3,000 loans—amounting to \$5,211,661—have been made under the Veterans' Business and Professional Loans Act, it was disclosed recently in a Government return tabled in the House of Commons. Of the 3,657 applications—for a total of \$6,477,595—at last Dec. 31, 2,959 were approved. Greatest number approved in any one province were 1,166 in Ontario, for a total of \$2,030,291. Other figures: British Columbia, \$732,171 (377); Alberta, \$980,541 (537); Saskatchewan, \$461,281 (269); Manitoba, \$322,278 (174); Quebec, \$389,747 (227); New Brunswick, \$98,860 (68); Nova Scotia, \$141,782 (100); Prince Edward Island, \$54,707 (41).

"As an Englishman I have always felt more foreign in America than anywhere in Europe (says Mr. Aidan Crawley in a BBC service) because in the United States the great adventures of life are still mainly in the technical field, whereas in Europe they are mainly in human affairs or in the realm of ideas or social organization. To drive into New York across the New Jersey Skyways is a thrilling experience and one's imagination soars with the endless possibilities of further engineering feats in a continent which is still so undeveloped; but to drive into Rome is to conjure up visions of all the men who have lived there and the beautiful things they have created, and to wonder how its present inhabitants measure up to them; it is an exaggeration which still contains much truth to say that in Europe one is more interested in a man's character than in the way he earns his living."

Notes By The Way

We have often thought that there are too many organizations in Canada, that they hold too many meetings, and that they hear too many speeches. People might be better off if they listened less, and thought more. They might be better off if they studied things for themselves, instead of expecting somebody else to do the studying for them, and contents it into a 20-minute oration.—Calgary Herald.

It is pretty generally recognized that it is much better, cheaper and safer to prevent sickness than to try to deal with it after it occurs, and so we have immunization against communicable diseases, various measures dealing with sanitation, inspection of food and places where food is handled, etc. These measures are aimed principally at avoiding diseases that may become epidemic, but there is much that all can do to avoid other diseases which take a tremendous toll in suffering, expense and untimely death.—Pembroke Bulletin.

From Plymouth, Mass., comes the pathetic tale of a nine-year-old boy expressing forgiveness to a brutal father who had beaten him into unconsciousness. The percentage of parents who resort to such inhuman treatment is infinitesimal. It is an unnatural parent who would so abuse his or her own child. But, such incidents do happen. If ever lashes were warranted, certainly they are in such instances. Letting the culprit feel some of the pain he so sadistically administered to a child would have a good effect. The language of the lash leaves an impression upon the mind as well as upon the body.—Windsor Star.

Mellaha is in Tripolitania and is directly south of Malta. The Americans are using Mellaha as an air base again. Gallant Malta held out all through the war. When the Italians and Germans tried to dislodge the British from the strategic island, they failed. Malta was a British and Allied strong point. Now, Mellaha is another strong point. It is on the edge of the Mediterranean. From its airfield warplanes can skip across to cover the sea and to cover Italy and other countries on the European side of the Mediterranean. Reopening of the air base at Mellaha is another step in the war of nerves by which the British and Americans are preparing for eventualities. The Mediterranean has been a strategic area ever since the Christian era began. Possession of the sea routes is cherished. Whoever controls the Mediterranean also controls a large portion of the world.—Windsor Star.

It's becoming more and more apparent that television cameras are not kind to those who are of medium height or less. Especially men. There is something about the camera or transmission which distorts the human figure into being very short of limb. This can amount to a definite handicap to performers and is something which the costume department will probably have to try to overcome. Any man under 5.8 who gets in front of a television screen ever since the long jacket era began. He will look ridiculous. The one who answers for him is medium or close-up views or to sit down. This distortion also can extend to the girls and especially ballet dancers. It's pretty funny, even silly, when the camera moves in to show the lower half of the figure in action. For let it always be remembered that the New York City Ballet dancer could well be Groucho Marx.—Variety.

On the average, Americans smoke 115 packs of cigarettes a year, but the inhabitants of New York State smoke an average of 132 packs a year. The higher figure is accounted for largely by New York City, where many of the residents are nervous people who smoke a great deal and sometimes bite their nails. Some New Yorkers, in order to cut down on smoking expenses, have been buying their cigarettes not in New York (where the three-cent state cigarette tax brings the cost of popular brands to 20 cents a pack) but from "cut-rate" firms across the Canadian border. The next largest group has been no such cigarette tax. Last week in Trenton, Governor Alfred E. Driscoll moved to cut out the cut-rate business. He asked the New Jersey Legislature to tax cigarettes 3 cents a pack, just like New York.—New York Times.

The population of Ontario is formed predominantly of people of British stock. According to the Ontario Bureau of Statistics and Research, people of British origin constituted 72.07 percent of the population of this province at the time of the 1941 census, a slight decrease from 1931 when they formed 74 percent. Numerically they increased by 190,099 during this period. The next largest group is the French race, which in 1941 constituted 9.87 percent of Ontario's population. Of the 373,991 people of French origin, 166,173 live in rural areas. The greatest concentration of French stock is in the Ottawa Valley, in the southwestern part of the province in the counties of Essex and Kent, and in Northern Ontario. Other racial groups having more than 25,000 persons in 1941, were: German, 167,102; Netherlands, 73,001; Jewish, 69,875; Italian, 60,096; Polish, 54,998; Ukrainian, 45,188; Finnish, 26,827; and Scandinavian, 27,226.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

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.

THE MARGARINE BAN

Sir,—One way to reduce the cost of living, and benefit the economy of Canada, would be to remove the ban on the sale of oleomargarine—this product to be manufactured in Canada under Government inspection, thus making available much of our dairy product for export.

By falling in the exportation of such valuable products as butter and cheese (so basic to the country) we farmers will be the great losers. For the many thousands, to be added to our population in the near future (who may never have seen butter) must share in our scant butter reserves; remembering too the large percentage of our people who would prefer butter substitute, to none at all or do without.

So far as I'm aware, any nation that permits the use of oleomargarine has not harmed its dairy industry, the contrary being the case.

The farmers for decades, in our country, have suffered through protected interests. Now that the walls of protection are being levelled down—bringing in a new day—let us for shame sake if for no other reason, wipe off the "Oleo Ban Act" from the laws of our Canada.

I am, Sir, etc. SEEDY FARMER Tryon, P.E.I.

THE NEW DEMOCRACY

Sir,—Another of our institutions upon which Time makes but little impression is our Canadian Parliament at Ottawa. Engrossed with matters of relatively minor importance the great issues of the day receive scant attention. While the world deplores the continuous and more and more unreasonable rise in wages Parliament pounces upon the perfectly simple problem of the high



WHERE YOU CHOSE TO BE

Summers, when the years were young, You climbed this hill, you chose This graveyard for your own between The spruces and wild rose.

The winds here had the sea in them And the cows' sweet breath, Wood-thrushes called from hill to hill, Death here was not like death.

Dark sprucewoods where the sun came up A green farm where it set, Church to south and school to north, Here all the good things met.

Small boys and big geographies Went past along the road, Folks in Sunday-meeting clothes, The hayrack's honeyed load.

Here were captives home from sea A hundred years ago, Old babies rocked to sleep for good Under the Spring or snow.

The lichened slates with willow trees Weeping lovely lace Where the young wild rabbit showed His shy, wrinkled face.

Now on the island where you found Wild strawberries and love You lie in the graveyard of your choice, And the sea winds blow above.

Deer stare at the tinkling cows; Rest, where you chose to be, The high fog comes in over the hill

With gray eternity.

—Robert P. Tristram Coffin in The Atlantic Monthly.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

"In this Island, the Government expends \$108,846 annually in education. The amount now paid for what is known as the higher education is \$17,000 yearly, the practical effect of this higher education is to unfit the recipients for farming altogether (it should not be so, but it is). They aspire to the learned professions, for which there is not half room enough on this Island. Some of them make their good mark, but of many we do not hear much; but we know they have left the farms to be worked by their parents as best they can. Our Superintendent of Education, in his report, recommends that \$2,000 of the \$17,000 should be set apart for instruction in the science of agriculture in the public schools, and that a competent professor of agriculture should be appointed in Prince of Wales College to instruct and train students, and to lecture throughout the Province. But I contend that at least one-half of the \$17,000 ought to be applied for that purpose. It cannot make things worse than they are." —"Plowman" in The Island Guardian, April 15, 1938.

FINAL CLEARANCE Men's Overcoats Tuesday morning we offer the balance of our Men's Overcoats at a price that will sell them quickly. Coats worth \$32 to \$40. OUT THEY GO 19.75 MEN'S SUITS 20 Worsteds Suits in brown, grey and blue stripes. These are last season suits. Good quality but only one of a kind. Regular prices \$46.50. ON SALE TUESDAY AT 35.00 TWEED SUITS 15 Tweed Suits in various shades. Worth to \$45. ON SALE TUESDAY \$25 PARKAS - WORK JACKETS - MACKINAWs 33 1-3 OFF HENDERSON & CUDMORE WHERE QUALITY IS SURE

Lenten Meditations

(From The Times) HIERARCHY OF VALUES

No one will deny the importance of priorities in a time of financial crisis like the present. If the principle of value to life and health is once accepted as final, the claims of the sweet ration cannot be compared with those of bread, and who doubts that coal is prior to cosmetics? However painful it is to face the lack of things which are normally taken for granted, a Christian will loyally accept every privation which is really necessary.

In a war-time speech Lord Woolton struck a note of warning against falling to apply the principle of priority to the things of spirit. "After the last war," he said, "we passed through a desperate state of disillusionment. One of the causes of this was that our sense of values went wrong. We did not put spiritual values first, or even second; and so we lost something which we could not afford to lose."

If this was a true diagnosis of the causes of the nation's failure to recover its spiritual balance after the First World War, it applies with greatly increased force to the present situation. For Christianity reveals a hierarchy of spiritual values which governs man's life on earth, and inescapably determines its issues, as surely as in the physical sphere the maintenance of human well-being is governed by the wisely proportioned use of supplies of food and other requisites.

That the eternal is prior to the temporal is the subject of one of the greatest and most penetrating of Christ's sayings: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things" (food, drink, clothing) "shall be added unto you." Here lies the remedy for preoccupation with the common necessities of life: for the life is more than food, the body than clothing.

Freedom from want and fear, he says, is attainable only by "making it your first care to find the Kingdom of God." In the spiritual order in which God rules "these things" are the sure products of cooperation in service to Him and to one another. Seek then the greater, and you shall find the less.

at the psychological moment, the Second World War might never have been fought. Surely from the tragic experience of the First and Second World Wars we have wit and wisdom enough to avoid a Third? One would imagine that knowing the causes of failures in the past would make for success in the future. But it does not work that way. The national and international games are played with different sets of rules, different umpires and different codes of honour. Until nationalism abdicates in favor of internationalism there can be no lasting peace on earth, nor goodwill towards men.

I am, Sir, etc. VERNON CROCKETT, York, P.E.I.

BATHAMPTON, Somerset, England — (CP) — Rats ate flowers and candles on the altar of St. Nicholas Church.

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