

THE GUARDIAN

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Who Was Responsible?

Who was responsible for the fact that Prince Edward Island, the leading agricultural Province of the Maritimes, was ignored in preparing the itinerary for the fifty prominent world agriculturists who are touring Canada and the United States, opening with a visit to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on May 21-23? While in our sister Provinces they will be the guests of their respective Provincial Departments of Agriculture, and will take in the Annapolis Valley and sections of the Saint John River Valley.

It is announced that the party will travel from Truro to Quebec over the Canadian National Railways. Time was when such tours were under the exclusive direction of the C. P. R. and the Maritimes were usually left out of the picture altogether.

Our Provincial Government should get busy immediately with a strong protest against this treatment, and with a view to having the schedule changed so that at least some of these important visitors may have an opportunity of visiting us later in their tour.

Unconvincing Alibi

Commenting on the excuse advanced for taking the car ferry Abegweit to Montreal rather than to a Maritime port for overhauling—namely that the vessel's captain had advised this course—the Moncton Times remarks:

"If this circumstance was the sole motive for the Canadian National Railways board of directors awarding the work to Canadian Vickers and not to the lowest tender—the Saint John Drydock Company—then the railways' directorate have been responsible for making, to put it mildly, one of the most curious decisions apart altogether from the other aspects of the case already mentioned, that of discrimination.

"And this discrimination was all the more glaring in that it was created by the action of an agency or an operator for the Federal Government of a Government-owned ship, for the overhauling or reconditioning of which the responsible cabinet minister is reported to have stated that the job would go to the company submitting the lowest tender.

"The decision of the operators' directorate even goes further than an evident negation of the statement, or policy, if you like, of the Federal Minister of Transport. It reaches the height of absurdity, if the contention of the car ferry captain was the guiding principle in awarding the contract to the Montreal concern rather than to the lowest tenderer in Saint John.

"The point is as plain as it is absurd—if the so-called navigational dangers constitute a hazard to sailing the Abegweit around the Nova Scotia coast to Saint John, are not the vessels of Canadian National West Indies Steamships exposed to the same asserted dangers every voyage they make from Saint John to Halifax or from Halifax to Boston?

"There is really no need to go further by way of illustration, but it might be added for the record that every week throughout the winter season of navigation bigger ships than the P. E. I. car ferry—among them the large trans-Atlantic "Empresses" of Canadian Pacific Steamships—ply the Halifax-Saint John route, and without any mishaps. Except these C.P.S. liners, few, if any, of the other craft are nearly as well equipped with the modern navigational aids such as radar that are to be found on the Abegweit."

Education in Germany

The greatest single fault of the German education system, notes a writer in the New York Times, has always been its authoritarian pattern. Highly centralized, the system took its orders only from above. More important, the school system was always kept isolated from the people themselves. This pattern, centuries old, was solidly fixed in the German structure; it became even more firmly entrenched during the Hitler regime.

Germans, in the past, regarded as "interference" or "outlandish," any such concept as the democratic system of control, with its boards of education composed of laymen; with its parents' organizations and school committees; with its community and press interested in every facet of the school function.

When American educational advisers reached Germany after V-E Day they were aware that they had a major job on their hands in unshackling the German school system from its traditional controls. One of the early directives issued by the Allied Control Authority enumerated basic principles to bring more democracy into German education. Among other things, it called for "effective" participation of the German people in the reform and administration of the school system.

Today Munich, in Bavaria, is the center of an interesting long-range experiment toward the achievement of democratic education. Basically, its purpose is to determine whether it is

possible to interest German laymen in their educational system. The program is being directed by the Education and Cultural Relations Division of the Office of Military Government of the United States.

The experiment has been in progress for the last six months in about a dozen Bavarian cities, ranging in population from 5,000 to 50,000. Dr. Ralph P. Gallagher, a New Jersey educator, was brought to Germany to set up a "local initiative project" to broaden the school base. To thrust out school problems in the open, he arranged numerous public meetings which were well attended.

On the basis of the first half-year's experience, American educators in Germany are confident that they are on the right track. They feel that unless the mass of German people can accept responsibility for a more democratic school program, little permanent value can be expected.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Clean-up at Kensington to be followed in Charlottetown. Beautification is the order of the day.

The recent rainfall in the Prairies, just when it was most needed, was a blessing to all Canada as well as to wheat fields on which it fell.

Judging from the advertised mortgage sale of O'Leary's electric plant by the Provincial government, the electrification programme is not going according to plan.

The Fisheries Federation has done the right thing in accepting the Provincial Liberal Association's offer to submit their brief on price support to the Prime Minister officially. The interests of the industry come first, and the unfortunate incident of Tuesday should not be permitted to interfere with this primary objective.

The setback to strawberry growers by the withdrawal of the Matthews-Wells Co. from the market is regrettable, but more than likely what the growers will lose in preserving they will gain by selling fresh strawberries on the open market, our product being reaped slightly after the mainland supply has been exhausted.

It has become traditional for insurance companies not merely to reimburse losers but to take active steps to keep losses to a minimum. The Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association is following that policy in promoting health by providing additional funds for fellowships in public health training.

The growth of great cities changes many values. In small communities it is a virtue to destroy garbage by burning it in an incinerator, but smoke reduction experts blame the practice for much of the "smog" which has irritated different urban areas.

Veterans' Land Act authorities are pointing with pride to a young R.C.A.F. veteran who made a success in Ontario of a 100-acre farm on which for 40 years no tenant farmer had been able to make a living. His success, they claim, is due to expert advice as to the particular problems of that piece of land and to his attending agricultural short courses. An additional factor appears to have been his ability to finance the necessary improvements.

Christopher Columbus, discoverer of the Western World, died this date 1506. After gaining the support of Queen Isabella of Castile, he set sail on his first voyage on Aug. 3, 1492, with three ships. On Oct. 12 they came to land at the Bahama Islands (Watling Island) and spent three months scouring the West Indies. He then returned, and was welcomed by the King and Queen of Spain. He accomplished much on subsequent voyages but added little to his first achievement. He never realized that he had made the greatest discovery in all maritime history.

Advertisers should invest five cents of every advertising dollar in research to make the other ninety-five cents do a sharper job, Marion Harper Jr., president of McCann-Erickson, New York, said at an advertising and sales promotion conference sponsored by the Ohio State University. Advertising's basic problem today is a knowledge problem—at every level, he said. Customers now are more selective, competition is keener, top management is more inquisitive, and "it is important in the present market to know what the customer is worth, what it costs to get him or her, and what it costs to hold the buyer. Why not challenge your product in consumer acceptance and appeal, in your advertising appeal, your marketing appeal, your advertising dollar, your merchandise at point-of-sale?"

Output of butter has continued to gain up to now, the total production of creamery butter for the first four months of this year showing an advance of nearly 5,000,000 pounds or seven per cent over the same period of last year. This is attributed partly to improved supplies and lower prices of feed grains during the past winter, enabling the farmers to better the feeding and productivity of herds. To the end of April margarine production has exceeded 18,000,000 pounds, equivalent to about 36 per cent of butter output during the same period, and marketing of the butter substitute in the last two months pointed to production of around 80 million lbs. and capacity of 100-200 million lbs. annually. The Government has yet to answer the Dairy Council's inquiry as to whether support buying of butter is to continue and if so, at what price of purchase and re-sale; or alternatively whether some other method is to be adopted, such as subsidizing the difference between the floor price and the actual prices of sale on a free market or exploring the possibilities of export sales. The pressure of the situation (says Montreal Gazette) is steadily mounting to force the Government to decide whether it will continue to try and control the problem by artificial means or leave butter to establish a free competitive position and price level against margarine without controls.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

BACON HOG PRODUCTION

Sir—I wonder what oddities in the hog-growing business think of the following twin paragraphs from a frontpage story in May 14 issue of The Guardian:—If they are still interested in the markets, and remember the days of \$6 per hundredweight in the not-so-long ago?

"Government officers estimated tonight that Canada will fall short of her 160,000,000-pound bacon contract with the United Kingdom in 1949 by more than 60,000,000 pounds.

"The U. K. commitment is for 160,000,000 pounds during the current year at a cost of \$36 a hundredweight for No. 1 sides. Payment is made in hard currency."

It makes interesting and not overly-encouraging stuff for the record; shows what must have been in the mind of the economist-philosopher when he said: "New times demand new measures and new men"; and synchronized with Prime Minister St. Laurent's reminder to a Summerside audience: "We are consuming two-thirds more pork than in 1938."

The fact that the farmer can move into the hog business—and also out of it—with about equal enthusiasm, is plain enough from the figures, showing that 1949 totals for Canadian hogs are only about half of the 1943 levels. This may be considered, in the free enterprise sense, a democratic privilege. I would be among the first to agree; but I wouldn't care to have the assignment of showing that it is good business technique.

Of course, in 1943 we had literally mountains of "feed" and a fair supply of rural labor; both of which are at modest levels today. Nevertheless, it is very poor business technique!

I am, Sir, etc., FRANCOIS.

P.W.C. BOARDING RESIDENCE

Sir.—In your issue of the 16th you made this comment: "If we ever have a boarding residence in connection with Prince of Wales College we will evidently need a philanthropist like Lord Beaverbrook in our midst."

Now Sir, it is my conviction that the average unlearned reader will overlook the modifier "evidently" and take the comment to mean that the people of this Province are financially unable to provide a residence at P. W. C. If readers hastily assume that to be your conviction, then its influence on some will be very regrettable, because it is absolutely incorrect to believe this Province is financially unable to provide such a residence. The proof of that assertion is within our very midst.

That is, one section of our population is erecting and expanding residential schools and facilities in many parts of the Province. Therefore, when one next can do so all can do likewise. But the trouble is that our so-called leaders are not leaders at all. In fact, they are not even followers of public opinion or wishes, because the people have requested that a residence be provided and people do not ask if they are not prepared to pay the cost.

This situation could be compared to you, Sir, directing your staff to prepare a special issue of your newspaper and the staff replying that you could not afford to do so. Then after you assure them otherwise, they say in effect, "Well then at some indefinite time in the future we will do so." This situation re the residence is just as ridiculous as that one would be.

Previous to the establishment of practically every public service, everyone can recall having heard, especially from members of government, that obsolete comment "there is no money to do it." Many will remember one of the most recent of such situations, i.e., extramural treatment of Tuberculosis, where breadwinners were ill with T. B. and the dependant families had been refused financial assistance by the Government on the familiar excuse that there was no money for this purpose. The people said they could and would provide the necessary money in the form of a health tax. Since then they have been paying several hundred thousand dollars annually in this way, while only some \$30,000 of it is used for extra-mural work.

The same applies to the urgently needed residence at P. W. C. and other educational reforms; the people have requested them and will pay the cost without the assistance of a philanthropist, if necessary, just as they have provided and are paying for extra-mural and all the other public services, if their public servants (the government) will be guided by their requests.

It is regrettable, but true, that public SERVANTS can delay the fulfillment of the people's wishes and in this case, re a P. W. C. residence, deprive the youth of its urgently needed benefits.

I am, Sir, etc., "PARENT"

G. F. Hutchison & Son

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55 GRAFTON STREET

THIS GREAT SPORT CALLS FOR CLOSE STICKING TO THE LITTLE OL' RULE BOOK—



Notes By The Way

Almost as much of a nuisance on the highway as the speeder is the slow-poke, who unnecessarily ties up all traffic behind him and causes accidents when motorists swerve out of line to pass him.

Before the white man came to the Prairie West the Indians lived well at certain seasons of the year. There were millions of buffalo fattening on the lush Prairie grass, there were native fruits, fish in the streams, and tea and meal to be had at the trading posts for the furs which abounded.

Nine-tenths — probably a higher proportion — of the accidents that occur in traffic and that lead every day of the year to such needless and thoroughly preventable loss of life and property are due to criminal culpability on the part of drivers.

In Ontario the other day they sent a man to jail for an indefinite period because he is an habitual criminal. He'll stay behind bars until the authorities decide to release him, which may be never. And they can do it, too, because it's the law. We like this law about habitual criminals.

The Toronto Globe and Mail has attributed to Dr. Gordon Bates, general director of the Health League of Canada, the statement that a world record for immunity from diphtheria has been set by Toronto during the last 18 months.

ENLARGE INDIAN LIBRARY CALOUTTA, India — (CP) — The National Library here, largest collection of books in India—about 700,000 — will be enlarged by the addition of 75,000 books from the private library of the late Sir Ashutosh Mukerjee former vice-chancellor of Calcutta University.

LIVERPOOL, England — (CP) — A device to be fitted to cotton looms in Lancashire is expected to cut the 3,000,000 daily thread breakages in half.

ATTENTION CANCER CAMPAIGN WORKERS FINAL MEETING Tonight 7 Sharp Whalen Hall

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It's The Fit That Counts Men's Custom Built and Stock Clothing

The Poets Corner Old Charlottetown (And F. E. L.) WEYMOUTH ST. IMPROVED A petition to the Governor-in-Council in 1810 from twenty-seven of the inhabitants shows that Charlottetown during the first forty years of its history had not made very much headway in street improvements. These petitioners humbly requested "to be allowed to have the statute labour for this year applied to the clearing and widening of Weymouth Street from the banks of the Hillsborough River to St. Peter's Road, which will thereby effect a free passage for teams, etc., coming to and going from town."

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