

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, 1947

Christmas 1947

In the words of an old hymn, "If Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born, yet till He's born in me my soul is all forlorn."

"There is no expeditious road To pack and label men for God, And save them by the barrel-load."

Happily Christmas Day leads us to the central fact of faith in terms of life, and men, in response to it, declare that they found in Him whose birth they commemorate a revelation of God.

The timeless story of Christmas is not merely beautiful poetry. It is that, and it is the loveliest tale that ever man has told given in words whose simplicity is more eloquent than anything spoken or written by the wisest of men.

For if such holy song Inwrap our fancy long, Time will run back, and fetch the age of gold; And speckled Vanity Will sicken soon and die.

Yes, Truth and Justice then Will down return to men, Orbed in a rainbow; and, like glories wearing, Mercy will sit between.

It remains only to wish all our readers, young and old, at home and abroad, a very Merry Christmas.

Livestock And Feed Grain

The third estimate of 1947 crops, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on November 15th, indicates that this year's crop is less than that of 1946 by the following amounts, by bushels: Wheat, 70,000,000; oats, 88,500,000; barley, 7,500,000; mixed grain, 17,331,000; corn, 4,000,000.

Western Canada's harvest was disappointing and important areas of Ontario and Quebec harvested poor crops on a materially reduced acreage.

The Bureau's estimate of livestock and poultry on farms, June 1, 1947 shows increases in cattle, hogs and poultry and decreased numbers of horses and sheep.

From a statistical comparison, it would seem that grain for livestock feeding this year may be about 14 per cent less than last year in relation to livestock on farms, but will be about equal to supplies for the 1935-39 period.

The price relationship between livestock and feeds has an important bearing on the amount of grain which will be used for feed. On October 22, 1947, price controls on oats and barley were removed and at the same time the Government subsidies paid on these grains when used as feed, were discontinued.

On the basis of feed consuming units represented, the increase in poultry numbers in the last few years is an important factor in the competition for available feed grains. Compared to the five year average horses, cattle other than milk-cows, and sheep all show decreased numbers on June 1, 1947.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the Day of Days, may we be in the spirit of Christmas.

The abolition of the excess profits tax at the end of this year, will be the first step towards restoring business to normalcy.

It may be said that the Stark airplane practically brought a child to widowed Mrs. (Canon) Turner on her return to England by air from the Arctic.

Families in chimneyless homes on this Christmas Eve had better make alternative arrangements for the entry of St. Nick.

There has been little sign of "austerity" this Christmas except, perhaps, in the condition of father's pocket-book.

There is a tendency to regard the Marshall plan as a sort of Christmas present. It is not that but an aid to self-help. To take advantage of it European countries must put their shoulder to the wheel and get back into production.

Epitaphs in many states and provinces are paying fancy prices for island delicacies. We have at hand in our local products the furnishings of banquets fit for kings.

One minor industry has been rather depressed this year. The small fry who count on earning pocket money by shovelling sidewalks have spent a good deal of time unemployed.

A prayer kneeling on entering a place of worship: "Endue us with Thy Holy Spirit, O Lord, that this service may be profitable unto us, and to Thy honour and glory. For Christ's sake, Amen."

The many hundreds of parcels sent through charitable agencies by steamer to hunger-stricken Europe relieved considerably the work of the Post Office, though the traffic there has been immense.

The King's message will be broadcast tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 12 noon—an awkward hour for those attending forenoon church services here, though it suits Montrealers and others West.

The various newspapers pay their list boys for delivery, but at this season the boys are not averse to receiving a gratuity from those having the means and inclination to express their gratitude in kind.

The finding of a Nova Scotian court in Captain Angus Walters' libel case seems to be that it is actionable to say of a sea captain that he blasphemed and was living ashore delivering milk. Reports do not indicate which of the allegations was considered most damaging to the doughty captain's reputation.

The Christmas shopping rush continued to gain momentum during the week, as last minute shoppers strove eagerly to obtain merchandise suitable for gift purposes or for personal needs.

William Makepeace Thackeray, British novelist and humorist, died this date 1863; abandoned law for journalism, studied painting in Paris, and was an all-round success in these latter professions, going on later to novel writing, his outstanding work being Vanity Fair, though he has a long list of other successes.

No wonder Prohibitionists are discouraged though perhaps not dismayed. That long list of cold, black figures tabulated in the House of Commons says Canadian Press—totaling \$370,945,005—is another way of saying Canada had a pretty expensive alcoholic thirst in the fiscal year ended in 1946.

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Notes By The Way

The other day we noticed an advertisement offering an opportunity to a woman to play second fiddle in an orchestra. Our experience may be limited, but we find the idea of a woman actually applying to play second fiddle rather fanciful.

The advantages of some parts of the austerity program, in stimulating our economy, seem to be increasingly doubtful. But if the program is going to have the direct result of reducing the flow of U. S. tourists to Canada in 1948 it will be a blow to the very "Jol-lar-savings" it was designed, by the Ottawa experts, to promote.

Feminine reactions to political rumor are sometimes a little startling. "Is it true that Cripps is going to take over from Attlee?" I was asked by a fair friend. I told her I had no corroboration but that there had been some talk of that effect. "It gave me such a shock when I heard the report."

Loss of an amethyst, beryl and chrysolite necklace was reported recently by a Hollywood screen actress. The ally girl should know she would never make the headlines by losing a bauble like that. It takes at least a rope of diamonds to get into the big type.

Because he walked into a restaurant, and ordered a steak, with the form of transportation which has been sent to six days in jail by a Windsor magistrate. Well if the man suspected he was to be jailed for getting a free meal under false pretences, can he be blamed much for having a good one?—Windsor Star.

Farm life has its drawbacks and also its compensations. Not the least of the latter is the fine spirit of friendship that is so apparent in most rural communities where there is interest in the welfare of each and every household, and where sympathy goes far beyond mere lip-service. It might not be a bad idea if urban residents could capture some of the neighbourhood spirit that is so frequently displayed along the concession lines, making farm life much more pleasant and much more agreeable than sometimes pictured.—Guelph Mercury.

Racialism has no part in a nation whose soldiers came from every race and from every continent. Barriers of class and creed in tolerable anywhere, are doubly so in Canada where every class and creed made its contribution to the building of a high standard of living. We have in this Province a small army of Railway officials—one of the finest in the whole C.N.R. system—and they deserve our high appreciation.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Requirements of the Social Register published in the Times seem to be rather flexible. The name of one woman is dropped from the list of the elite because she carried a gun, while another has her name continued in spite of having run down the streets in brasserie and brasserie. It is a debatable issue which of the two females is the more dangerous. What we would like to read is a volume containing the names of those who dropped from the Register, and why. That would be much more interesting than the Register itself.—Windsor Star.

The publicity given to the centenary of the hymn "Abide With Me" is so unusual an event in the history of hymnology that it suggests the question whether popular hymns owe their popularity generally to their words or to the familiar tunes. In some cases special associations may creep in, as with the case of that hymn which contains a couplet: "When comes the promised time, when war shall be no more?" reputed to have been a great favorite with Blom boys during the headmastership of Dr. Warre. It would be difficult probably to find out in how many households the popularity of "Rock of Ages" rose in happy days from the reputed usefulness of that hymn in the kitchen which made a bishop, coming down to breakfast at a local parsonage, remark how pleasant it was to hear the strains of that beautiful hymn rising from the lower regions. The awful child of the family produced the information that the cook always "uses the hymn to boil the eggs, three verses for soft boiled, five for hard." It was in a London parsonage that another cook, asked to choose a hymn for morning prayers, obliged at once. "What a nice hymn you chose," said the vicar's wife, and was a little staggered by the reply: "Yes Mm, isn't it? It's the number of my policeman."—From Manchester Guardian.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS. THE GREAT KIDNEY PILLS. DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS.

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 MAIL COURIERS

Sir,—It is fine to publish how much mail goes through the Post Office, but does any person think of our mail men at this time of year, especially our rural mail couriers? They have to contend with bad roads, and with worn out cars or sleigh or wagon. They work 300 days of the year, and are half pay. No big social stuff for them, but if they do not appear on the job every day the whole community misses them. These are the men who deserve especially to be remembered at this Christmas season.

I am, Sir, etc., ONLOOKER

OLD FRIEND DEFENDED

Sir,—In your issue of December 18 an old friend of mine was severely criticized by two different letter writers in your columns. To my way of thinking the letters lost their value by going too far. I have criticized this old friend at times but always found I had to go back to ask further favors—I refer to the Railway.

Now we all must admit that the surest way of getting anywhere is by railway—in fact the only sure way of getting to the mainland is by C.N.R. train and Car Ferry. It would be almost unprecedented if someone phoned us, after we had made reservations, to say: "The trains will not move today." Yet such a message is not unusual with the forms of transportation which compete with the railway.

I have travelled much by air and bus but the most tragic thing I could think of would be for the railway to hand over their responsibilities to the Air Lines and Bus companies by ceasing to operate.

Proof that the Railway is the most popular way of transporting freight is evidenced by the cry that goes up if there happens to be a shortage of freight cars when the demand exceeds the normal.

For many years the Railway has been a high standard of living. I have in this Province a small army of Railway officials—one of the finest in the whole C.N.R. system—and they deserve our high appreciation.—Winnipeg Free Press.

CHRISTMAS EVE

"It is night," said the Voice, "Thick darkness covers the Earth. Yet kings shall come to the brightness of this rising. Lift your eyes!" it said. "I say this thing shall be: Where the stars are white, and where the star of the North-east Moans like your desolate sea. Let your heart enlarge, and fear not for this birth, Nor find this hour surprising!"

Old Charlottetown

(And P. K. I.)

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT

At 10 a. m. last Tuesday a terrible accident occurred at the store of Messrs. Wright and McNutt, corner of Prince and Kent Streets, which resulted in the death of Mr. Patrick Trainor, a well-to-do farmer, of Johnston's River, and the injury of Messrs. Patrick Trainor (nephew of the deceased), also of Johnston's River, and Francis McNutt and James Gillan, of this city. The men named were all in the store when they heard a loud noise above their heads. They rushed to the door, but were overtaken by falling timber and brick which inflicted fatal and serious injuries. The inquest into the death of Mr. Trainor was conducted by Coroner Frank D. Beer, M. D., and the following jurors: Alexander MacKinnon, foreman, Lemuel Phillips, Egan, James McLeod and Capt. Powter. Their verdict was to the effect that "the building was a small one a great nation, on this night. The Lord will hasten it in his time."

The Privilege of serving you has been a pleasure. May your Christmas be bright and the New Year one of prosperity. Henderson & Cudmore. Illustration of a man in a hat.

able commodity, and hours were of no account. When one considers that for five years the democracies of the world were engaged in a struggle for survival which was never known before; that wages had reached an all-time high and that hours were adjusted to fairly meet the demands for work and the necessity for rest and recreation it would not have been unreasonable to assume and expect a scaling down of wages and an increase in the number of working hours a week after the victory was won and the survival of democracy assured.

When we remember that there are two world wars to be paid for and another to be prepared for, and that all the nations, large and small, if they had to face their creditors are bankrupt, the clamoring for a dollar an hour pay and a six-hour day seems to be about as far as it is humanly possible to go in our endeavor to escape from reality.

If governments at the end of the war, instead of playing party politics, had faced the issue and dealt firmly and sympathetically with both labor and capital, how different the situation might have been. The government that cannot or will not regulate wages has no right to meddle with prices. In a well-balanced economy wages and prices rise and fall together. To hold the one in check and let the other run wild is economic suicide, although it may be for the moment good party politics.

The capitalist through the impact of an exorbitant taxation system on the one hand and unreasonable demands of labor on the other, is slowly but surely being eliminated from the scene. Labor, conscious of its numerical and ever-increasing strength, and intoxicated by past successes, threatens to uproot and destroy our democratic and capitalist social order and to put in its place a dictatorship of the working masses.

The general strike is nothing but the bell. It is undemocratic, unpatriotic and indefensible. It is the dog in the manger attitude endeavoring to function in a world of unlimited resources. "I will not work myself and I will not let anyone else work", To say

that the strike accomplishes nothing is nonsense. To the little coterie of promoters at the helm it accomplishes a great deal. It provides them with ample spending money, considerable notoriety, and the hope of some day becoming President or Prime Minister. For all its faults the labor union under competent leadership still has useful things to perform. All incompetent leaders should be quarantined.

Picketing is another maladjustment on the body politic that needs to be lopped off. It is such an unreasonable and such an objectionable deformity that only a social order suffering from deepening sickness would tolerate it. The one thing that stands out clearly in this clash of interests is that the labor union has become too strong numerically, too important politically and too zealous in a monetary sense. To conserve its legitimate functions it must be reduced to manageable proportions. The Canadian Congress of Labor is about the largest and most important of these national Government can do nothing to do successfully. The union must be enclosed within national boundaries. Reinforcements from without only confuse the issue and make satisfactory adjustments doubly difficult. In a world based on or founded on a system of national and independent states, the international union is a disturbing element. Until nations in their domestic relations free themselves from foreign interference there can be no social security, no freedom from fear, no even-handed justice in the social order.

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

STARTED BY AMERICAN. George Francis Train, American group of workers that induced trolleys into England, Switzerland and Denmark.

THE ALBERT MEDAL. The Albert Medal, instituted by Queen Victoria in 1866 in commemoration of her late consort, is given for gallantry in saving life.

For Foot Ailments CONSULT H. J. A. BROWN, D.P. Orthopedic Chiropodist 163 Great George Street CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE W. K. Rogers Agencies LIMITED Queen Street Charlottetown