

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1946

Our Seed Potato Industry

A five and one-half million bushel harvest of prime seed potatoes in Prince Edward Island this year tells its own story. It is a story of which we should all be proud, for it is an achievement highly creditable to Canada's smallest and—

from the transportation standpoint—most handicapped Province. Other Provinces now engaged in the seed potato industry are mere imitators. They cannot equal our quality product, for less surplus it.

Much water has passed under the Hillsboro Bridge since the seed potato industry was first established in this Province. The father of the industry was the late Dr. Paul A. Murphy, who established the first plant laboratory at the Dominion Experimental Station and carried on experiments in various diseases in plants, especially in potatoes. He was here from July, 1915, until February, 1920, and initiated among other things the spraying of potatoes in this Province.

Dr. Murphy saw the suitability of our Island soil for the growth of fine, flowery white potatoes instead of the blue and pink varieties then being produced. In order to interest the farmers, he wrote a series of articles in The Guardian which resulted in Mr. M. J. McIvor of Kentora starting the first white potato farm in the Province under guarantee by Dr. Murphy that he would find a profitable market for the spuds. This he did.

Then the late Mr. John B. McFadyen, progressive farmer of Augustine Cove, seeing the success of the experiment at Kentora, followed suit and was equally successful. Appreciating the benefits to follow the development of this industry, he got in contact with Mr. John O. Hyndman, who was instrumental in arranging a farmers' dinner at the Charlottetown Rotary Club in order that Mr. McFadyen might lay the project of a potato organization before both farmers and citizens. The outcome of this dinner was the institution of the Prince Edward Island Potato Growers Association.

The industry has come a long way since Mr. McFadyen paid over to Mr. J. W. Boulter, secretary of the Association, who was also Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the first membership fee of one dollar in the spring of 1919. The first step taken was in co-operation with the then potato dealers of the Province who offered cash prizes in each County for the best yield per acre of white potatoes. To be eligible for the competition it was necessary to join the Association. A large number joined. This was followed by the sale of a carload or more of certified seed to a buyer in Long Island at a very high price per bushel. This high price set the heather afire, and the development of the certified seed industry was under way. In 1921 the Association became incorporated, and with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture introduced Island potatoes to new and profitable markets. Its rapid growth was made possible through the Division of Botany, Ottawa, which was responsible for seed certification. Every year the industry has worked closely with Mr. S. G. Peppin, chief representative in this Province for seed potato certification. In the formative years hundreds of meetings were held throughout the Province for purposes of instructing the growers both in potato diseases and in marketing organization. Hundreds of samples of seed were furnished by the Association for demonstration purposes to almost every potato producing State in the Union. Potato tours were organized, resulting in great numbers of buyers visiting the Island and finding here ideal conditions for growing their seed.

Reviewing the history of the industry at the Association's silver jubilee last year, Mr. Boulter remarked: "A careful compilation of our seed shows this Province has marketed at least twenty-five million bushels. It is more difficult to arrive at the average price but we are perfectly safe in saying 80 cents per bushel which gives us a total of twenty million dollars. If we add the value of our tablestock shipped during this period it would show without question that potatoes are the most suitable and remunerative cash crop this Island can produce, and the reputation of Prince Edward Island seed potatoes has put P. E. I. on the map in scores of places. All of this has been accomplished through any individual grower or group of growers overdoing the production but by the average grower planting five acres or less of potatoes per farm per year. During the same period the volume of dairy products manufactured, the number of hogs, poultry and eggs marketed have increased tremendously. Therefore the potato crop supplies ready cash which is supplementary to the income derived from all other branches."

There is no doubt that the industry will survive as one of the mainstays of our Island farm economy. With five and a half million bushels of seed to market this year, the problem has become largely one of transportation,—for which unfortunately we have to depend, not on ourselves, but on the Dominion Government.

They Are Working

Despite the optimistic picture given by Transport Minister Chevrier here in his address before the Rotary Club, it is reported that when the steel men go back to work there will still be 27,000 workers on strike in Canada, many in most important industries related to Canada. Are we better off, comparatively, than other nations in this respect? Other nations apparently are starting to work in earnest, as can be gathered from these notes in the Daily Express, Lon-

don: "If you want to know the time ask the Swiss. They are to supply £2,000,000 worth of watches and alarm clocks for the British market. If you want houses built more quickly go to the Belgians. They are baking up 110,000,000 bricks. Italian ironfounders are coming here to make drain pipes and stoves. Poles in Poland have got a big order to make utility furniture. Germans, over 160,000 of them are cultivating our farms. And for the next two years the Argentinos have fixed a fat contract to grow us meat."

Houses, stoves, drain pipes and watches could be multiplied many times over in goods needed in Britain, many items of which this country could supply, outside of food entirely. In the war-torn countries, no strikes are reported. They are all concerned with getting back on their feet. In Canada on the contrary there is no use in trying to disguise the fact that there has been a tendency to throw away the opportunity, and sabotage of recovery has been most marked in recent months.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A consumer survey conducted recently revealed that 65 per cent of the women and 51 per cent of the men buy products from newspaper advertising.

The 14th should be a real heartfelt Harvest Thanksgiving in the Dominion for from all over come reports of the crops being the finest in years. And this applies to livestock, from cattle to chickens as well.

Evidently the Liberal "machine" and the Jones Government are still at loggerheads—a sequel to the break in the party when Mr. Jones was chosen Premier over the machine's nominee, and subsequently emphasized by the differences between the Premier and the Federal Minister of Reconstruction.

Residents of the Fourth District of Queen's are called together at Belfast tomorrow evening, when consideration will be given to a number of questions of public interest, not the least being a proposal of incorporation. There should be a large attendance, for the Fourth is a wealthy and progressive community.

There must be a plentiful supply of ready money across the border, when Reconversion Director John R. Steelman reports officially that business profits and individual incomes are at an all-time high, with spending for consumer goods and services 50 per cent higher than the war-time peak, and 60 per cent higher than pre-war levels.

Steps are being taken by the Admiralty to make life in the Royal Navy more attractive. A summary of these measures has been issued by the Admiralty. One of the most important new decisions is that officers and men appointed to stations abroad shall be entitled to free passage and removal expenses to bring their families out to join them. The new scheme is, for the time being, limited by the shortage of accommodation on most foreign stations. The Government has also decided to provide, as soon as labour and materials are available, married quarters for naval men serving in shore establishments.

Recent amendments to the qualifications for the award of the various campaign Stars and Clasps indicate that Canadians who served at Hong Kong against the Japs are entitled to the Pacific Star. Very few Canadian soldiers have, until now, been eligible for this coveted award. The medal will go to all soldiers, or the next-of-kin of all soldiers, who entered the Pacific Theatre on the strength of a unit. The Canadian Force in the Pacific was comprised of the Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers and auxiliary troops.

"Markdowns should be very high in the next six to eighteen months, not only because they will be a reflection of a thorough cleaning-as-you-go policy but competition between available and new items will make it imperative to take action quickly and drastically," said Mr. Albert Coons, vice-president of the Allied Stores Corporation, at a meeting of the National Retail Dry Goods Association last month. "Whereas pre-war standards called for a normal four to five turns per year, it would seem obvious that turnover must be stepped up to six to seven times if you wish to minimize losses and be realistic about present-day hazards."

Father Theobald Mathew, Irish apostle of Temperance, born this date in Thomastown, Tipperary. While priest in Cork, he became president of a newly formed temperance society, and threw himself so successfully into the movement that he obtained 150,000 converts. A distillery in the south of Ireland belonging to his family, and from which he himself derived a large income, was shut up in consequence of the disuse of whisky occasioned by his preaching. His services to the cause of religion and morality were recognized by the British Government, and a pension of \$1,500 a year was granted him from Her Majesty's Civil List.

"For Henry and for thousands of other householders (says The Printed Word), the age of speed has become the age of frustration. He buys labor-saving devices and finds that any time they save in doing their work is dissipated by the dilatoriness of service men who have to repair them. He sends letters by airmail and finds they arrive later than when sent by ordinary post. He pays taxes for improved roads and they become so jammed with traffic that ten minutes is added to his time in driving from home to office. From time to time Henry contemplates buying a farm. He thinks that workmen who have been educated by cows and pigs to do their chores on time might be more satisfactory to live with than those who merely cater to the needs of human beings."

Notes By The Way

Never count your chickens until they are hatched and even after that you should keep a padlock on the henhouse and the rooster beside the bed.—London Free Press.

A Hollywood make-up man comes into the news with the statement that the "Cupid's bow" type of mouth, carefully cultivated by female film stars, is on the way out, and that the smash of the future is to be the "melon" or wide style.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The inhabitants of Siam are reported to be torn between the back-slapping foreign traders of America and the old school tie stiffness of the British. It looks like a good place for Canadians who ought to be able to strike a balance between the two.—Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

The world's in pest mouse farm is the Tuck Mousery in Rayleigh, England, which raises mice for medical tests and research, and which now has a stock of more than 500,000 rodents, says Collier's. The importance of its work is shown by the fact that since 1944 the Government has allowed the farm additional food rations and that the Nazis took special pains to bomb it, killing 22,000 mice in a single raid.

A financial report for the City of Brantford shows that municipal treasury shows that municipal treasury, which last year completed a five-year plan under a pay-as-you-go system, to be in a strong financial position. During the five years, debenture debt was reduced \$2,119,048, no new debt was created, the tax rate was reduced 5.2 mills and a post-war reserve fund of \$251,969 was established.—The Municipal World.

The heather hills of Scotland may yet yield a profitable crop, says The Family Herald and Weekly Star. Experiments have been successfully carried out by the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society in the fabrication of a synthetic timber known as heatherwood. Masses of heather plants are pressed into hard flat blocks with synthetic resin as a binder, making a board which looks like lumber and has all its natural properties.

This newspaper repeats a suggestion it has offered before, namely that all youngsters should be tagged or labeled solely by number until they attain the age of choice and consent. Then each should be allowed to select a name he likes and considers appropriate. It would save the parents a lot of needless worry and postnatal thought (involving consideration of favorite or wealthy uncles and aunts) and it would save the program, in many cases, the expense of identification, if not mortification.—Brantford Expositor.

Hollywood has sent us three new films all musical—collections, that is, of songs and dances and band numbers strung together on a thin thread of story. Am I alone in feeling irritated? Evidently not. Judging by the letters I get, there are still many people who like adult entertainment, but who are tired of incessant glorification of band leaders, crooners and composers from Tin Pan Alley. The public I have in mind means all things, but they find their sentiment mush, their manners rish, their charms lush, and their music (mostly) slush.—London Daily Telegraph.

As for teacher shortages and nursing shortages, supposed to be largely produced by the lure of higher wages and shorter hours in other professions, which a person finds himself wondering why there are so many strikes for higher wages and shorter hours in occupations that have lured away the teachers and nurses? It cannot be the railroad industry or the shipping industry or the trucking industry or the coal miners or the bus drivers or the telegraph operators. The intolerable conditions resulting from the strike are compelling to go out on strike certainly cannot be luring teachers and nurses away from their own vocations.—New York Times.

The British people are so deeply involved in their own tasks of reconstruction that it is hard to divert their attention to the problems of other peoples and other nations. But the challenge cannot be skirted. The war was fought in the name of democracy. Which of the occupations that have lured away the teachers and nurses? It cannot be the railroad industry or the shipping industry or the trucking industry or the coal miners or the bus drivers or the telegraph operators. The intolerable conditions resulting from the strike are compelling to go out on strike certainly cannot be luring teachers and nurses away from their own vocations.—New York Times.

The thirsty earth drinks in the still-warm rain of early autumn. The dried, powdery dust of summer seems to swell, achieves cohesion and once again assumes the texture of soil. The new-fallen leaves, still crisp from hotter days, sound a gentle tattoo in the light downpour. And Nature, says The Victoria Times, begins to work the subtle change which transforms the discarded foliage of the passing seasons into the humus which will feed plant and tree as the cycle of growth is renewed. The faintly whispered sibilance of rain on the lake prods the spirit long lethargic from sunny indolence. In it is a message saying the time has come to clean up the summer camp. There are leaves to be raked, locket to be burned, soil and brush that has encroached too far, to be cut and piled. Soon fire will cease to be the evil genius that threatened the woods. Soon the element of water will restrain it, holding it within safe bounds and rendering it a creature for man's use, not his master. Within the confines of bonfire it will play out its consuming drama, rendering unusable slightly sticky and emulsified and leaving the earth in cleansing bath as it releases for the winter's sleep.

The Poet's Corner

WESTMINSTER ABBEY (Written as the yearly contributing poem for the British Author's Association.)

These silent tombs of solemn majesty, Made sacred by the dust of whom they keep, Loom through the dusk and dim tranquility Where noble sires and sons of England sleep. Whose names are grown immortal. Here the while Sage, prince and poet mutely lie The Royal soul of this Imperial Isle Journeys among these monuments of stone.

Here England breathes, the holy core of her: Here with this vault remains, her glorious brave Who bared their swords to conquer, and to save Their blood for realm. Here crown and commoner, Remembered by their names, share quietly Their solitude and immortality.

—William D. De Coste, (member British Author's Assoc.) formerly of Charlottetown.

Alaska Highway

(Canadian Press Staff Writer, Ottawa)

A thin ribbon through the northern wilds, flanked by unknown riches, the Alaska highway beckons today to the drowsing pioneer spirit of young Canada and officials report that reactions are starting to manifest themselves. Officially named over to Canada by the United States in April, the 1,600-mile gravel highway between Dawson Creek, B. C., and Fairbanks, Alaska, looms as a great potential artery of tourist traffic and possibly as the wedge that will open up a vast new area of development in minerals, forests, agriculture and wild game. But the military requirements that saw United States engineering skill build in 7-12 war-time months of 1942 are still such that its peacetime commercial pursuits must remain in the realm of future possibilities. The most immediate prospects for the pioneering youth are overnight cabins, garages, stores, and other facilities to accommodate the tourists who may start flooding up and down its \$115,000,000 lanky extent next summer. The other developments will come later.

Wing Cmdr. L. H. Phinney, special commissioner for defence projects in Northwest Canada, said that plans for opening the highway to tourists were making "very satisfactory progress" such projects in fact are still hoped that a percentage of the applicants — almost exclusively Americans so far — would be allowed through next summer. "Just what percentage would depend to a large extent on the number of persons who show an interest in opening up facilities to keep them supplied with gas, food, and other essentials of prolonged travel. The government will maintain the route but has no intention of going into the catering business. That field would be left open to the initiative of private business. There has been no restriction on opening of private businesses have been lifted in the Yukon by federal authorities and it has been proposed that they be removed in the British Columbia section.

As for potential tourists, Wing Cmdr. Phinney, now a civilian, admitted that he was a trifle puzzled at the "remarkably few inquiries from Canadian sources" in comparison with the number from the United States. Persons who have recently been on the highway report that there are 19 places where meals are served and 14 where travellers may sleep. But there are still 200 and 300 mile stretches with no facilities whatever, and 400 miles are badly in need of further gravelling.

Atomic Space-Ship

By Chapman Pincher in the London Express Details of the space-ship planned by French engineers to land on the moon are extremely small. They are given by Dr. Alexander Ananoff, chief rocket designer of the group. Known as the Astronef, the ship will be a central cabin propelled by two high-power rockets. The Astronef will be provided with auxiliary rockets with nozzles pointing forward. As the moon's surface is approached the rockets will be turned on to slow down the missile. It will not be possible to do this throughout the journey and throughout the stay on the moon's surface. Air, food and water for the three weeks' trip will take a large part of the cabin space. The Astronef will be provided with auxiliary rockets with nozzles pointing forward. As the moon's surface is approached the rockets will be turned on to slow down the missile. It will not be possible to do this throughout the journey and throughout the stay on the moon's surface. Air, food and water for the three weeks' trip will take a large part of the cabin space.

When You Feel Dull-Headed and Down-hearted

—when your head feels heavy and you haven't the heart for work or play—your kidneys may be out of order. An upset kidney condition may result in back-ache, headache, dizziness, etc. or in other ailments that can be cured by taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. When kidney action improves—your system is cleared of poisons and excess acids. You'll feel better—and work better. Get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills today. 546

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