

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. Sir Charles Dalton, President. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1922

VACANT FARMS

There are many vacant farms in this province, by far too many for the good of the province. Driving along the road through Kings County particularly one sees quite a number of large and beautiful fields on which young spruce trees are growing wild.

A farmer, immigrant or native, in search of a farm would naturally hesitate before investing his money in a farm of this kind. He would estimate, and quite logically, that the cost of restoring the fertility of land so neglected would be excessive and a losing speculation for years.

Next year he applied a light coating of commercial fertilizer and sowed the field to wheat. Sowing it down to clover, the wheat crop was excellent and the clover crop equally good the next year. The fertility of the soil was completely restored and thereafter needed only the usual treatment of top-dressing, pasturage and the regular rotation.

These vacant farms, now absolutely useless and waste should be bought at a very low figure, a figure which should allow for an extra expenditure of \$25 an acre so that would be a fair estimate of the cost of making it reasonably productive.

We have talked freely, in public and private, of our need of immigrants. We need them; we need them to make up the depopulation of the past twenty years; we need them to maintain our schools, our churches, our industries, our commerce.

How are we going to get them? What are we going to do with them when we get them? What are we going to do for them, which is as fair a question to ask as it is to ask what they are going to do for us.

The addition of a few hundred farmers to our population would be a great boon to the province, a help to every interest in the province, so great a boon and so great a help that it would pay us as a province to make the necessary expenditure for procuring it.

DEHORN YOUR CATTLE. The Live Stock Branch of the Federal Department of Agriculture is conducting an advisory campaign for the dehorning of commercial cattle.

Recently, at one of the most representative live stock conferences ever held in Western Canada, and at which such vital matters as breed improvement, winter feeding, organization for marketing and development of markets, etc., were under the serious consideration of Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, agricultural colleges, representatives of live stock associations, packers, railway companies and the Canadian Council of Agriculture, the question of dehorning received significant attention.

These experiments show that dehorned cattle thrive better, are more easily loaded on cars, ride more contentedly and are more valuable at the end of the journey than horned animals.

No one doubts or disputes the value of good roads. And few will doubt or dispute that the sections of road selected for treatment have been considerably bettered, especially for motor traffic and for the use of horse vehicles in the summer and fall seasons.

These are admitted facts, but there are other facts that must also be taken into account. Motor traffic may be said to begin with June and end with October, a period of five months. The late fall, with its rains, the winter with its snow, its winds and drifts and the spring, which leaves the snow roads bare in spots long before wheeled vehicles can be used.

On the improved roads as compared with what they were before we have deep ditches, high rounded embankments and deeply sunk cuttings in the hillsides. Will not these deep cuttings fill with snow and become impassable for teams after heavy drifting snow storms?

Again, in March and April when the snow is melting, how quickly will the thin coating of snow on the embankments disappear while the cuttings are still filled deep with snow, making any considerable stretch of road alike impracticable for sleighs or wheeled vehicles? It has been complained that no provision has yet been made for the repair and up-keep of the improved roads.

Canada's record year in wheat growing was 1915 when the yield was 393 million bushels and a revision of the earlier estimate, leads to the hope that this will be exceeded this year.

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Notes By The Way

The work of road improvement that has been carried on for some time past and is still in progress can now be considered more intelligently in the light of actual trial and experience than was possible when the project was first undertaken.

We may leave for the moment out of account the basic and all-important questions whether our little province could afford so large an outlay for road improvement at the present time, whether we are getting value for the money to be borrowed and paid out, whether 400 miles of improved roads is not quite out of proportion to the 1,800 miles undertaken by Ontario with thirty four times as great a population as ours.

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The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by its correspondents.

P. W. C. Question

Sir,—“Educationalist” has at last revealed to us the corner-stone of his proposed educational system. He has at least answered two questions which have been perplexing your readers for some time; namely, where our teachers are to get their secondary school education if not at P.W.C., and how he expects to provide improved normal training without increasing the length of the college course.

Let us examine his solution of the puzzle. He proposes that “all they have to do at Prince of Wales College is to give the pupils a normal training.” For “do not the pupils before they enter Prince of Wales College at all, have a full high school course?” Why not say they have a full “University” course? It would sound much better, and, after all, what difference do names make? Then the student could go to P.W.C. for a “post-graduate” course in normal training.

But, of course, “Educationalist” intends that “the work now done in the First Year of the Prince of Wales College should be done at the high schools AS THEY NOW EXIST.” (The capitals are mine.) But the difficulty is that our “high schools” and “primary schools,” with few exceptions, are already expected to do more and to give more advanced courses than they are capable of doing.

“Educationalist” has complained that P.W.C. graduates are granted only provisional licenses in other provinces because they have had no normal training. Does “Educationalist” maintain that teachers produced under his proposed system would receive even provisional licenses?

“One Interested” has very soundly proposed that second class teachers should spend three years, in college. Will “Educationalist” tell us why he thinks that the “cost would be entirely too much” in view of the fact that all other professions demand so much longer and more expensive a training? Does he consider teaching intrinsically so much less important a profession than medicine, dentistry, or law?

The P. W. C. Question

Sir,—Concerning “Educationalist’s” discussion of my former letter, I would just like to say a few words. First, he says I did not defend the per cent, pass nor the “crude system of allocating values to the different subjects.” No, I did not defend these, as they do not need to be defended.

“Educationalist” must know that no rational person would suggest such an idea. The general meaning of high-school is a school from which students get their university matriculation. As you say, “the course was university matriculation.”

“Educationalist” realizes that to give the teachers more normal training the time required to secure a teacher’s license must be increased. He proposes to have the academic subjects of the first year at P.W.C. taught in the primary schools. As far as I can make out this means that wherever there are students who wish to take the first year at P.W.C. the teacher of that school will impart this required knowledge to the students.

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ACCIDENT ON THE C.P.R.



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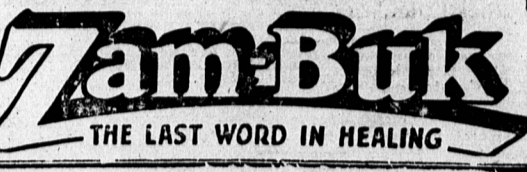
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“WHEN the water gauge of my locomotive burst, the left of my face was scalded terribly. Fortunately I make a practice of always carrying a box of Zam-Buk in my pocket, and when I had got over the first shock of the accident I had the balm freely applied to the injuries.

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(Signed) GEO. H. DUFFUS, (Fireman C.P.R.)

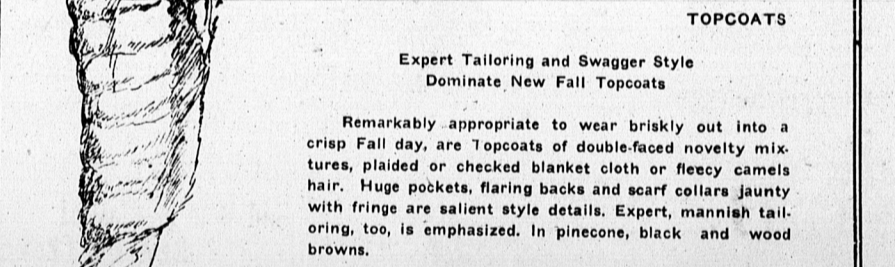


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Daily Selections for Guardian Readers From the W. S. Louson collection

DAILY STRENGTH God broke our years to days and hours, that Hour by hour, And day by day, Just going on a little way, We might be able all along To keep quite strong.

YESTERDAYS The happy yesterdays! Ere yet the time per marked you for his own— Ah me! ‘Tis hard to walk the world alone.