THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887).
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.
President, Ian A. Burnett; Vice-President, Wm A Burnett; Secy.-Treas., G. M. Burnett; Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett; Associate Editor Frank Walker.

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, JAN. 17, 1948

The Farm's Worst Menace

One of the most vital problems facing our farmers at the present time, as intimated by Deputy Minister Shaw in opening the conference this week of Dominion and Provincial agricultural officials, is that of soil erosion. In the report of Experimental Farms services, it was stated that about 7.7 per cent of the total land area of this Province has been classed as susceptible to severe erosion, by water action. The greater proportion of this area, 78 per cent, could, no doubt, be maintained in agricultural use with special practices—contour working, strip cropping and eliminating intertilled crops. Much of it, however, says the report, would be better in grass and preferably forest. The remaining 22 per cent can only be classed as non-agricultural land. Much of our arable land is also subject to erosion activities if proper cultural practices are not followed.

Similar emphasis was placed in the 1946 report of the P. E. I. Advisory Reconstruction Committee, which noted that many of the abandoned farms in the Province were, within a period of 100 years, cleared, cultivated without thought of conservation, and, finally abandoned, having been deprived of their fertility largely through sheet erosion, aggravated by faulty farming practices. The chief remedial measure recommended was the planting of trees and shrubs to prevent further denudation.

That this problem is by no means confined to Prince Edward Island was indicated this week by Mr. W. B. Oliver, State conservationist for Maine, in addressing the annual meeting of the Farmers' Association of New Brunswick. Mr. Oliver estimated that more than 100,000,000 acres of land had been lost in the United States by soil erosion during the last two centuries. He urged the need of campaigning for a nation-wide policy of conservation and replacement.

At Ottawa, too, they have been worried about this problem, where a seven-year test has been made by the Central Experimental Farm to determine the progressive effects of erosion on crop production. The test was made with barley, on five different soil types, both with and without fertilizer.

Over the seven-year period, the average yield from a test plot of normal undisturbed soil, without any fertilizer, was 33.2 bushels to the acre. With three inches of soil added to the surface soil on another plot, the yield was virtually unaffected, being 33.3 bushels, but there was a difference of over a bushel when fertilizer was used—45.6 bushels on normal soil and 46.8 when three inches were added.

The reverse operation, that is, removing some of the surface soil, led to these results in barley production: On the plot with three inches of soil taken off, the average yield (no fertilizer) dropped sharply to 26.6 bushels. Where all but one inch of the surface soil was gone, it became 14.8 bushels. With all the surface soil removed, the yield was down to an even 4 bushels.

Use of fertilizer helped to offset the decline in yield at these various stages, but was by no means sufficient to make up for the progressive wastage of surface soil. At the lowest point, fertilized plots produced no better than an average of 11.7 bushels to the acre of barley.

On the deepest soils of the prairies, erosion conceivably might go on for a long time without very marked effect. On others, the results of a similar test would probably not be unlike those obtained at the Central Experimental Farm. These cold statistics should serve as an additional warning of what to expect if the nation plays fast and loose with its most precious asset.

Industrial Development

Among the reports submitted at the recent annual meeting of the Charlottetown Board of Trade was an exceptionally interesting one by Mr. F. W. Hyndman, chairman of the Board's industrial development committee. It was pointed out that while Prince Edward Island cannot expect to develop heavy industries, we should be looking forward to establishing more light industries, such as those connected with processing of our farm and sea products. Freight rates, Mr. Hyndman showed, are now actually in our favor with regard to exporting products to Upper Canada. We also have the benefit of water transportation and excellent facilities for air freight and express. Even power for light and medium industries may now be obtained at rates comparable to those enjoyed in our sister Maritime Provinces. The chief remaining difficulty is that of financing new local industries, there being no established market here for "risk capital," and few people who have any sizeable funds to invest.

Mr. Hyndman suggests, as an alternative, the formation of a "pool" by a number of our citizens prepared to risk comparatively small amounts in recommended ventures. A considerable sum could doubtless be raised locally by this means. It might prove the key to the problem of developing new Island industries.

Butter Production

Despite the present high price for butter Canadians continue to use more of it than they did during wartime. Figures of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that during December 26,165,000 pounds of creamery butter went into consumption, compared with 23,041,000 in December of 1946 when rationing was still in force. Yet the wholesale price last month was 66 1-8 cents as compared to 40 cents a year ago, a clear indication that high prices have not retarded consumption.

Butter make last year was only seven per cent greater than in 1946, up less than 21 million pounds. That is barely enough to take care of the increased consumption, leaving practically nothing over to take the place of the critical shortages which caused so much trouble last Spring and which resulted in the importation of New Zealand butter. Furthermore the distribution machinery which existed last Spring has been disbanded. Unless butter is secured somewhere there are bound to be shortages and a very awkward situation within a few months. Pleas for voluntary rationing have apparently gone unheeded, there is no distribution machinery now, compulsory rationing is impossible on such short notice, so that even the trade will be powerless to stop a wild scramble for the very short supply of butter which now appears certain for March and April.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Tomorrow, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany.

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The agricultural officials have been busy making hay in anticipation of the sun shining.

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It is not too early to make preparations for the forthcoming tourist season. Railway travel agents predict larger numbers than last year.

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Our Federal members will be leaving in a week's time to resume their Parliamentary duties at Ottawa.

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The trouble with weather forecasts is that they do not always materialize. That is why in England most people carry an umbrella or parasol irrespective of predictions.

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Sale of the Australian wool clip is expected to create an all-time record. The previous best in 1946-47 realized $294,400,000, but this year the clip will be nearly $448,000,000.

* * * *

A lawyer who makes his own will usually provides lawsuits for his heirs, but a Scottish veterinary surgeon who operated upon himself successfully for appendicitis has been awarded the Military Cross and Bar.

* * * *

The civic election pot is beginning to boil, and soon there will be the usual announcements that worthy citizens have been induced to allow themselves to become candidates. A card in time saves lots of misunderstanding.

* * * *

The voice is the voice of Finance Minister Abbott but the words are the words of Prime Minister Mackenzie King. Who but Mr. King would have satisfied the unhappy buyers by reinstituting price control and satisfied sellers by setting that control at the market price?

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To enable the Government of India to set up their own naval training establishment, officers and ratings from the Royal Indian Navy are to be trained in Britain. Negotiations are also in progress for the purchase by the Government of India of three British destroyers.

* * * *

As of January 1st suits against the Crown in the right of the United Kingdom became matters of right rather than concession by the Government. It is no longer necessary for the Englishman to obtain the fiat of the Attorney-General before commencing proceedings against the Crown. The immunity of the Crown for the acts of its servants has been drastically curtailed.

* * *

All is not sweetness and light among the Canadian provinces. Manitoba is up in arms about Alberta's action in banning the export of natural gas from the province. This is claimed to be unconstitutional as an interference with trade and commerce, and economically unsound because Alberta does not make use of all the gas produced.

* * * *

World output of cocoa for 1947-48 is estimated at about 645,000 long tons which is rather less than the estimated demand. West African production is down by one-quarter and Brazil is the only country whose production has not declined, so that it would seem that there is no immediate prospect of the return of the five cent chocolate bar.

* * * *

The Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association has announced that it is offering a series of twenty prizes of $100 each to Canadian students who achieve the best standing in 1948 on the early actuarial examinations of the Actuarial Society of America and the American Institute of Actuaries. These awards are designed to encourage students at Canadian universities or high schools to enter upon an actuarial career, and persons engaged in full-time employment when they enrol for the examinations are not therefore eligible.

* * * *

Dr. Benjamin Franklin, American statesman, diplomatist, and author, born this date 1706; he inaugurated the University of Pennsylvania, and shared in other projects for the advancement of well-being and prosperity. He did much for the establishment of American independence, both as agent for the colonies in London, and by the negotiation of commercial treaties with European countries. His last public act was to address a petition to Congress for the abolition of slavery. "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of. . . . Plough deep while others sleep."

* * * *

In New Zealand teachers are in revolt against the "new education" now in vogue. Miss A. L. Loudon, for many years headmistress of the Epsom Girl's Grammar School, one of that Dominion's largest girls' schools, before her retirement declares too much "play-way" method, too little attention to fundamentals, and a continued neglect of important mental processes were all too evident in children entering the higher grade schools from elementary schools.

-Notes By The Way-

The position of the British in Palestine is most unenviable. The, are trying to keep the peace between two groups of extremists who have nothing in common except a considerable aptitude for murder. —Ottawa Journal.

Canada has a chance to develop and build up her trade next year if we can find a fair price-wage level which will enable consumers to buy our production. But if we force price above the public's ability to pay we will lose all the momentum we have gained. —Lethbridge Herald.

Signs are appearing that show that the ranks of the free spenders are thinning noticeably and consumers are confining themselves more and more to purchasing bare essentials. Prices can only go so high and then the people buy only those things they feel they must have. When demand lessens the supply of goods increases, and the increasing stocks have a tendency to pull prices down. — Kitchener Record.

One measure which should not prove controversial in Parliament is one calling for consolidation of all the defence statutes, to take the place of the many now in effect, separately for the army, navy, air force, militia, with many different codes of discipline for members of each. It seems sensible to consolidate all defence statutes into one clear act. — Niagara Falls Review.

The fact that Scotsmen have a marked preference for marrying women younger than themselves is borne out by an analysis of marriage age groups made by the Registrar General for Scotland, Mr. J. G. Kyd. In his report for 1945, it is stated that the average man in Scotland marries a woman three years younger than himself. The analysis shows that the difference of three years between the average ages of bride and bridegroom is remarkably constant throughout Scotland. —Edinburgh Scotsman.

It was the morning after the riotous New Year's party. Maggie, who was always a judicious celebrator, managed to rise from her bed in a fairly good condition; but Jerry, her husband, was in an awful state. He sat holding his head and groaning. "Jerry," his cautious mate admonished, "I warned you last night. If you hadn't drunk so much, you wouldn't feel so horrible this morning." "Drink had nothing to do with it," the afflicted man moaned. "I went to bed feeling wonderful and wake up feeling awful—it was the sleep that did it." —Wall Street Journal.

Up in Thedford there is a planing mill. Through its roof stands a huge maple tree. How did it get there and why? Well, when the owner decided to enlarge his mill, he found that the big tree was smack in the middle of the land required for the expansion. Now, the tree had been a favorite of his father, who once sat in its shade. So Mr. Eric Coultis just built the mill around it. Too often, in their desire for efficiency, industries demolish everything that stands in the way of progress. Beautiful trees, historic buildings or other relics disappear, to be replaced by a none too beautiful factory. — Windsor Star.

It is a thousand pities that Mr. Churchill's desire that the great assault against Germany should be in the Balkans was not carried out. Had it been, Russia would not be in the favorable position that she is in today. Austria and the Balkans would today be under the control of England and our own country. Mr. Churchill was as far-sighted as our own President was nearsighted; Mr. Churchill was as magnanimous as Mr. Roosevelt was mean. Nor would Mr. Churchill have been willing to appease Russia as Mr. Roosevelt quite evidently was. He had to yield to Mr. Roosevelt, a man whose knowledge of war and statesmanship was much less than his. — San Francisco Argonaut.

Two and a half days a year, two and a half days of production, are lost by the average worker on this continent because of the common cold. This is a minimum and direct figure. There is no estimate of the loss due to decreased efficiency in the earlier stages of the cold; in the loss through serious complications later. The Western Pennsylvania Safety Council estimates that fourteen per cent of all employes are absent with a cold during November and December, sixteen per cent in January and eighteen per cent in February. In Canada, we like to think that our climate is healthier than elsewhere but it is doubtful whether we could turn in a much better record. Unfortunately medical science so far has devised no quick and easy way for ridding the world of this costly and dangerous scourge. It is one of the penalties we pay for deserting the primitive and isolated life of our ancestors. But the goal is so big that research will not rest until it has been won. In the meantime the rest of us can heed our doctor's warning and be on guard. —Financial Post.

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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.

APPRECIATION

Sir,—At a meeting of the Executive of the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation on January 10th, 1948, a resolution of thanks to The Guardian Publishing Company was adopted as follows:

Resolved that the Executive of the Board of Governors of the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation here assembled extend to The Guardian Publishing Company their sincerest thanks for and appreciation of the generous and public-spirited attitude as shown in their free publication of the Educational Horizon, and in their excellent services rendered the Federation at various other times.

Dated at Charlottetown this tenth day of January, 1948.

I am, Sir, etc.,
MILDRED AULD
Secretary-Treasurer,
P. E. I. Teachers' Federation

MAIL BOXES DAMAGED

Sir,—Part III of the Regulations for Rural Mail Delivery states: "Obtain box from Post Office and erect it directly on the Route so that the courier can service it without leaving his vehicle and so as not to be an impediment either to pedestrian or vehicular traffic." Sec. 92 says: "Failure to keep boxes and posts in repair may result in suspension of service until the necessary repairs have been effected. The post supporting the box must be kept upright otherwise the box will not remain in proper signalling position, resulting in possible delay to the contents." And Sec. 91 provides: "Malicious damage to rural mail boxes should be promptly reported to the nearest police officer and to the Postmaster who will relay any such information to the District Inspector."

Now we like to have the winter road opened and know our Government did not put men on those ploughs to destroy the mail boxes. There is some excuse when the box is covered, but for the boxes that are in view there is none. Have those employees no respect for the people's property? It seems not, as it is plain to be seen they are destroying the mail boxes that are in view along with the ones that are covered. What we would like to know is, Who is going to replace these posts and boxes? Will it be the Government, or those drivers.

I am, Sir, etc.,
OWNER OF DAMAGED BOX

P.O. APPRECIATION

Sir,—Reports which I have received from Postmasters in all parts of the country show that co-operation by the public in mailing early at Christmas was more marked than ever this year and I would like, on behalf of the Canadian Postal Service, to express to you and the public generally our very warm appreciation of the assistance so generously accorded to us.

Once again the volume of Christmas mail, parcels and letters, reached new high levels in most offices. Because the great majority of patrons, however, cooperated with the Post Office in mailing before or on 19th December, which had been publicized as the closing date, peak dates in most post offices occurred on 18th, 19th and 20th December. This enabled our greatly augmented staffs to come to grips with the tremendous volume of Christmas mail in ample time to assure delivery before Christmas Day. In fact, all our reports indicate that on the day before Christmas all deliveries were back to almost normal.

I want particularly at this time to make grateful acknowledgment of the assistance extended to us by the newspapers in attaining this very gratifying result. In all parts of the country, the newspapers gave very generous display to our announcements and to special articles on various phases of Post Office work, and I am sure that this publicity played no small part in making the public conscious of the need to mail early.

Please accept my warmest thanks for the help given to us and to the public in assuring expeditious handling of the Christmas mails.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. J. TURNBULL,
Deputy Postmaster General

WHAT FOLKS ARE SAYING

Sir,—It is interesting to note the contrast in the sentiment of the letter which appeared in The Guardian on January 13th signed by "Snowed In" and the enclosed comment by Paul Gallico in the New York Journal American on January 5th.

"Snowed in" criticized the Minister of Public Works for being absent from the Province during the Yuletide storms, and commended the Mayor of New York for flying from California to be present with the city in the crisis, while Gallico says: "The Mayor he flew home all the way from California to be with us during the calamity so nobody could say when he came to run for office again that he didn't have the calamity too, and they put his picture in the papers getting out of an airplane, and I'd like to know what good that did because the next morning there was just as much snow cluttering up our streets only it was a little dirtier and he might just as well have stayed in California and kept on sunning hisself."

One is reminded of the old poem: "People Will Talk."

You may get through the world,
But 'twill be very slow
If you listen to all
That is said as you go.

As for the fuss made over the New York snowstorm, Gallico says: "Gracious sakes alike! We only had a twenty-five inch fall which was supposed to be some sort of record, bigger than the blizzard of '88 that my pappy used to tell me about, which is just an inch over two feet, which don't come more than a little bit above my knee, and if you call that a lot of snow to get excited about, why then I'd like to know. Why, up in Minneapolis and St. Paul, and Quebec, and Montreal, and Duluth, and other places like that, it sometimes falls four feet deep and they don't let on and holler and like to have themselves a nervous breakdown."

I am, Sir, etc.,
JANUS

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

QUEEN STREET SIGNS

The signs put forth by the mercantile men of Queen Street, and its surroundings, swing out in bold relief from the walls of their shops, attract the eye and invite the attention of customers. Our business men have adopted the idea first started by our erratic townsman, Mr. Theophilus L. Chappelle, on Queen Square, who was the first to hang out his banner on the outward wall (which we duly chronicled at the time); and ever since, in various ways, either by swinging or otherwise, the signs of the times have been improving, and the cry is "still they come."

It is not our intention to give a description of all the signs in the City, but to notice the most prominent, and in doing so we will commence with emblems of the jolly god, Bacchus, gilded grapes, surmounted by kegs, hung out from the saloon of John Murphy, Lower Queen Street. They present a very neat appearance and are inviting to those who admire the ardent. Further up, and across the street, hung up conspicuous to view, is a large Bass Viol, over the music store of C. P. Fletcher, no doubt indicating that music hath charms. Still further up, on the opposite side, we observe a Lion recumbent over the store of W. A. Weeks and Co., dry goods merchants. We doubt not that they get the lion's share of the trade.

We pass on to notice the signs of J. B. MacDonald, S. W. Mc Murray and George E. Full, all swinging gaily to the breeze, and pause a moment to admire the attractive sign of Bruce & McKenzie, merchant tailors, who, according to the design of their sign, can measure the capacity of any man externally if not internally. We next glance across at the mammoth Boot over the shop of J. Dorsey, suggestive of the thought that there were giants in the days when boots of that size were worn; and then at the neat and unpretentious sign of P. G. Fraser, druggist, and rounding the corner take a view to the west at the Excelsior sign of Tremain & Metcalf, whose trade mark, if we may judge from their sign, is "upward and onward." We finish our observations with the latest development over the new grocery store of Robertson and Cameron, which we suppose is intended to Crown all the rest.

—Weekly Examiner, July 4, 1850.

The Poet's Corner

JANUARY MORNING

White stillness lies around:
On every branch, on limb and twig
The snowy whiteness rests.
There is no sound.
No winter bird flies from its woodland bed;
No noise of horn or hound.
The stillness seems to breathe.
Even the wind has fled
As if it never would return.
So calm, so quiet is the morning air,
No thought of any evil thing this day
Should make the world less fair.
Nor any cares oppress the mind.—
White stillness lies around.

—Rustic.

Rice Point, P. E. I.

LONDON — (CP) — Bombed Alexandra Hotel, overlooking Hyde Park, is being converted into 50 flats at a cost of £400,000 ($1,600,000).

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