

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1912.

CARE OF THE HOME PRODUCT.

In this country of ours where prosperity is the rule and where farming is done on a large scale, the little things appear too little to be bothered with. As a result, there is not only a great waste of good material but a loss to the province in reputation as well as in actual wealth.

Take the one item of apples alone. Prince Edward Island can grow as good apples as any other country in the world, including our neighbor, the Annapolis Valley. This is no theory, it is a proved fact. Both in quantity and quality Prince Edward Island apples compare more than favorably with any that are imported. Yet in our fruit and provision stores the apples most commonly sold and most commonly asked for are the imported ones.

And why? Simply because the home grown apples, as a rule, are brought in such a condition that they are practically worthless. Roughly handled, bruised, beaten and unsightly few will take the risk of having them as they will decay in a day or two and few of them are really fit for present use. The customer is compelled to buy, at a larger price, an inferior imported apple. And this, while hundreds of good apples are rotting on the ground within a few miles or are being fed to hogs. This is an injustice not only to the growers of these apples but to the province at large. While we should have a reputation as an apple growing country we are known abroad as a people who cannot grow apples and are made a dumping ground for those grown elsewhere.

The cause of this is either carelessness or ignorance. The apple is a particularly tender, delicate fruit. The slightest bruise will cause decay to begin immediately and when they have lain in the stores for a few days they are unfit for use. This of course is not true of all Prince Edward Island apples. Many of them are brought in as carefully packed as the imported ones but there are always enough of the inferior kind to injure the reputation of the whole.

We ship apples abroad and they have invariably turned out satisfactorily, bringing the average high price and never discounted because of inferiority in quality or fruit in packing. These apples are packed by men who understand the business. The bagged, boxed, shovelled and thrown-about kind are usually brought in by those who either do not know the tenderness of the apple or think that anything is good enough to sell so long as some one will buy it.

The amount of money lost to the province, in this way is incalculable. There are enough orchards in the province to easily supply the home demand and leave a surplus for shipping, and yet we import yearly hundreds of barrels the money for which goes to the neighboring provinces instead of being distributed among our own people.

The responsibility for this rests upon our apple growers. There is only one remedy for it, namely for merchants to refuse to buy apples that are not properly packed and properly handled before packing. There is a place in the market for windfalls and inferior grades but they should be sold as such. The best grades, instead of being brought to market in bags and packing boxes should be brought in carefully put up in properly sized boxes, clean and attractive looking. There is a large home market for such, and the money for them should be kept at home instead of being sent elsewhere. It is the distribution of wealth in small quantities among the many that constitutes the wealth of a country and this is one way in which much can be added to the wealth of Prince Edward Island.

A WORD OF WARNING.

There is something appalling as well as saddening in the number of deaths among the Prince Edward Islanders who, this year, went to the Canadian West. Scarcely a week has passed that did not witness a funeral procession from the railway station following the remains of a son or father who only a few weeks before had gone away in the best of health. In one week there were four such processions and in others more than one. And, in at least one case, the sadness of death was accentuated by brutal extortion on the part of an undertaker and a charge that appears to have been unreasonable on the part of the railway. We refer to the case of William Morrison of Lot Forty, whose remains arrived last Saturday. It is said that the undertaker who took charge of the remains at Ottawa, where the death occurred, charged \$272 for supplying a casket which anywhere in Prince Edward Island could have been bought for forty dollars. The express charges from Ottawa to Charlottetown were \$48, making a total cost for the return of the body of \$320 in addition to medical expenses. If this is true, and we have no reason as yet to doubt it, at least the name of the Ottawa undertaker should be made public if for no other reason than to relieve the other undertakers there and in fact the whole city of the disgrace of being in anyway associated with

or responsible for such an act of fiendish ghoulishness. The express charges also, although perhaps regular and legitimate, are sufficiently high, if as stated, to make express rates generally a subject of government enquiry.

But ghoulishness and extortion are not the main consideration. The thing to be noted is the death rate among provincials in the west. Typhoid is the cause of death in the majority of cases, and typhoid usually originates in water or food. It is a quite legitimate inference then that the change from the healthful conditions in Prince Edward Island with its ocean washed air, its pure water and wholesome food, to the land-locked, dust-laden air of the prairie, its alkali-laden water, its unsanitary shack farm dwellings and the general discomforts in its rural life was, either directly or indirectly, the cause of the unprecedented mortality among our people in the west.

We shall be told that people sicken and die in Prince Edward Island. This is true, but the death rate among the young, strong healthy, men in the prime of life who, during the past year, went to the West is out of all proportion to that among men of their class who remained at home. This is not anti-western prejudice or an attempt to raise a bogey to frighten Prince Edward Islanders into staying at home. Our people will continue to migrate until they learn that they are leaving conditions which they underestimate for conditions which are greatly over rated, for conditions for which comparatively few of them are suited, and the death rate among those who have gone is simply mentioned in order that others about to go shall take warning. The change from pure water to alkali water alone is a danger that few can adapt themselves to without serious risk while the abandonment of the comparative comforts here to the discomforts of "roughing it," as is done in the newly settled portions of the west, is a bigger price than is generally figured on to pay for the apparent advantages.

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NOTES

On account of the continued wet weather during the summer the civic watering cart has evidently lost the "habit," which is regrettable, at least during the present dry and windy season. The dust has for some days been very persistent, to put it mildly, and there is a general opinion among our most conservative citizens that a more liberal use of the watering cart would be in the general interest. This is not a complaint at all, but merely a reminder that the wet weather is not to be depended upon as a sedative.

The summerlike weather of the past few days has had its effect on the late harvest fields many of which had retained their greenness longer than their owners had considered conducive to good crops. The late grain has ripened nicely and we understand the crop, on the whole, will be a large average one notwithstanding the lateness of the season.

HOW FISH ARE PROCURED.

(From Yesterday's Evening Guardian) For the following extremely interesting description of the manner in which fish are handled for the market in the United States, the Guardian is indebted to D. P. Leonard, of Islet, Long Island, and formerly of New York. Mr. Leonard is a large fish dealer and well known in this province where he has for years bought large quantities of smelts and eels. My business has been very prosperous here this season, the two "pound nets" at Fire Island Beach having caught upwards of 6000 barrels of choice fish the past summer. In fact most of the catch is made in June, when the fish are running northward, in great ocean pounds set in 50 feet of water and the fish after being caught in those pounds are brought into Fire Island Inlet by means of live cars, that hold 500 barrels. The live cars are taken out to sea by a steam tug, built for the purpose, and anchored at the out-shore end of the pound or trap. An opening is made in the car or the fish run out into the openings in both the pound and car are closed and the tug hooks on and tows the car and its burden of live fish to the inlet where the fish are run into stationary steel pens to await a suitable time when the market affords good prices. The fish are towed alive in this manner, some five miles and very few are drowned. The fish after being placed in captivity refuse to eat and will suffer hunger until they get very poor. Usually, however, after the space of six weeks they will begin to take food and each day their appetites will improve until they begin to take on flesh and grow fat and fine. The fish are fed on ground or mush meal, meal, allcock and all worthless fish which are put in separate enclosures as fast as caught until the good fish will take food. Then the trash or refuse fish, such as menhaden, allecove, sates, dogfish, sharks, etc., are taken from the pens as needed and put through a huge grinder run by a gasoline engine and ground fine. Then this mass is scattered over the water of the pens where the fish are kept. It is surely a sight to behold! At once the water takes on the appearance of a seething mass of foam and the thousands of finny creatures all jump up for a mouthful. After the fish begin to eat they are fed three times a week before sunrise in the morning and the sight of this operation brings people from miles away to see "the feeding of the fishes."

The fish consist mostly of grey sea trout, commonly known on the New Jersey coast as weak fish, having acquired the name from the tenderness of the mouth, which makes them a difficult fish to land as the hook so readily pulls through the gill, it being so weak or tender—hence the name—weakfish. On the Virginia and North Carolina coast these fish are called sea

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