

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18, 1950.

Training Penitentiary Officers

On Monday one of a series of six-weeks courses for penitentiary officers commenced at Ottawa. It was opened by Maj.-Gen. R. B. Gibson and those taking the course include three officers from Dorchester, N. B. It is upon these men, who have direct contact with the prisoners that the success of any rehabilitation programme largely depends. In the past they were simply prison guards and as such their duty was confined to keeping their charges securely and maintaining discipline. The natural result was a state of undeclared war between prisoner and guard and, all too often, against society which the guard represented. Today the object of penitentiary officers is to prepare their charges to take a useful place in society, and already the resulting change in attitude has become apparent. It is not uncommon for a discharged prisoner to say that such and such an officer was a good friend to him and that he gave necessary encouragement when it was most needed.

Canadian Coal Second

Canadian coal mines ranked second to producers in the United States in supplying coal to Canadian National Railways in 1949, according to Mr. E. A. Bromley, the railways' vice-president in charge of operations. Figures on the railway's coal consumption will be of interest to the Maritimes because the finding of markets for coal mined in these provinces has long been an important problem.

Mr. Bromley states that last year the railway used 2,250,000 tons of Canadian coal drawn from mines in the Maritime Provinces and western Canada, compared with 3,200,000 tons of United States coal. Stocks purchased from U. S. mines were used to operate trains in Ontario and Quebec.

The coal situation is unique in that the C. N. R. should have to go outside the country to obtain coal for a large part of its operations when there are sufficient stocks still unmined in this country, which would more than meet present and future requirements. Most serious drawback to use of Canadian coal throughout the entire system is the problem of transporting it from the western or eastern mining areas to central provinces. However, a partial solution might be found by the C. N. R. in following the practice of the Canadian Pacific Railway in supplying its needs in the St. Lawrence area of Quebec. The Canadian Pacific transports coal by water from the Maritimes to St. Lawrence ports in the summer and stock piles it at Quebec and Three Rivers for year-round use.

"It is true that our coal is in the wrong places, relatively to the growth of industry and population to date, and that not all of it is suitable for all purposes," says the Moncton Transcript. "But these drawbacks should be a challenge to our ingenuity and initiative, not an excuse for continued dependence on outside sources and continued failure to develop a tremendous national asset. In many fields of research—including the growth of industrial crops, the use of by-products and the making of plastics—Canada has lagged behind other countries. Coal provides a striking example of backwardness in research and marketing facilities."

Facing Extinction

The Manitoba government is seriously concerned about the eventual fate of the barrenland caribou, great herds of which roam the wastes of the Northwest Territories in the Summer and migrate to Northern Saskatchewan and Northern Manitoba for the Winter. It is feared that since the advent of the airplane in the North the kill of these animals has far exceeded the natural increase.

Reliable reports say the herds have been seriously depleted in recent years. Should the killings continue on a greater scale it would spell tragedy, for the animals are an economic necessity in the North. Several large Indian and Eskimo bands are almost altogether dependent on them for a livelihood. They provide not only food but their skins are used for the making of footwear, clothing and tents.

Chiefly because of representations made by Manitoba, the Dominion Government is now conducting a comprehensive survey in order to ascertain the rate of the natural increase of the caribou and the rate at which they are being killed. The results of this survey will not be known until next year. In the meantime the province has declared a completely closed season on these animals.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Scott reached the South Pole this date 1912.

The R. C. A. F. training station at Summerside is again on the map internationally.

"For want of a nail," we are told, "a horse was lost"; for want of a nail a city "stop" sign is likely to follow suit.

The vacancy for vice-principal of West Kent Street School is still unfilled. Is it because of economy or what? asks an ex-pupil, now in one of the professions.

Perhaps the most ambiguous newspaper heading of the week was one in the Ottawa Journal which read, "Says Russia 'Taking' Part of China."

There is at least one good thing about the peculiar weather we have been subjected to. There will be few citizens of Summerside who still think that a rink equipped for artificial ice is unnecessary.

There is no pleasing everybody. It is possible to make snow collect in hollows at some distance from the highway, but land-owners are not in the least anxious to add to the moisture of fields that are already on the wet side.

The satisfactory working potential of many an automobile was extended, and the nervous strain on city motorists was eased considerably by the quick and efficient action of the City Street Department in leveling ruts of ice and snow after last weekend's thaw.

The third annual meeting of the P. E. I. Agricultural Council now in progress is of great interest and importance to our farmers. Out of the discussions by these senior officials of our Federal and Provincial departments come many suggestions for improving production and marketing methods.

A number of leading citizens are taking advantage of the Government's Vocational Training Centre behind Prince of Wales College. In the carpentry classes under the direction of Mr. Charles Hamm, one may observe a physician, an undertaker, and a postal department official emerge from the class in a cloud of sawdust and shavings.

It is not only business men outside the Province who have an eye on conditions in Prince Edward Island, but also our own merchants and financiers. New buildings being constructed, modernization of stores and offices, and the buying and selling of properties in the business sections of Charlottetown is going on apace. At least two big deals are in the process of completion in Charlottetown and several others in the negotiating stages.

While a Guardian representative was interviewing a local business man yesterday, the talk got around to the great activity in our business centres. Our informant's opinion was that word is just getting abroad that the traditional stable economy of the Province, together with the comparatively high per capita income and low local taxes, makes this an ideal spot for long term investments. Farming too, in spite of the temporary drop in the price of eggs and hogs, is certainly going to remain comfortably profitable in the next half century, and by the time Labrador development gets underway their agricultural requirements will put a strain upon our productive capacity.

The Clan MacLean Association and their Chief, Sir Charles Hector Fitzroy MacLean, Bt., of Duart, are considering a proposal that a trip to the historic castle of the clan on Duart Point, Mull, should be arranged for next summer. It is suggested that facilities might be given to clansfolk generally, and especially in Edinburgh, Glasgow and overseas, to take part in the excursion. Oban would be the mustering point, from which the visiting party would cross over to Duart. Legend has it that, in the days of the Flood, the MacLeans "had a boat of their own" and were quite independent of Noah's old Ark, but even if the legendary vessel of the MacLeans still existed it would scarcely hold all the clansfolk who are expected to cross the Linne Lathurnach on this occasion!

Egg prices on January 13 this year and previous years. The prices quoted below are for Grade A Large. At Montreal and Toronto the prices are those at which graded shipments are selling to wholesalers. At other points quotations are prices to shippers for ungraded eggs.

Table with columns for Year (1950, 1949, 1948) and rows for Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Charlottetown.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

THE CITY ELECTION

Sir.—There is not very much that can be said one way or the other about the installation of parking meters. Once the legality of the proposal is established what is the purpose of same? It is presumably for the controlling of traffic, but there are those who are experts in that line and who decisively state that "meters" is no answer to that problem. It is simply to stop a few people on one night of the week—Saturday, from having a little enjoyment in watching the parade of the people as they pass by. Surely no Councillor would give thought to such a jealous reason. That is not a problem at all. Let the crowd continue to come "down town" on Saturday night and let all the Neon lights be burning. That is one of the delights of City life. Let the "status quo" be allowed to continue for a few more years then we can view the situation again.

Whatever can be said in favor of meters there is much less for traffic lights. They would prove to be a menace to pedestrians whereas everything at present is satisfactory and safe. Our ex Chief of Police took special pride in having his men ensure safety and orderliness at busy street crossings and he succeeded in his endeavor. We have a half dozen good traffic men who can continue to give a good account of themselves and they are the best guarantee we can have for safety both for pedestrians and for car drivers. Thank you. I am Sir, etc. CITIZEN

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

BAPTISM AT PORT LA JOIE

On July 14, 1732, the modest little church of St. John the Evangelist at Port la Joie witnessed a baptism of more than usual interest, the record of which still survives. The English translation reads as follows:

"On the 14th day of July was baptized Peter Francis de Paul, born at 3 o'clock yesterday morning, son of Louis Denis de la Ronde, Esquire, Knight of the Military Order of St. Louis, Lieutenant of the King in St. John's Island; and of Madame Louis Chartier de Lotbiniere. The Godfather was M. Robert David Gotteville de Belle-Isle, Knight of St. Louis and Governor of St. John's Island, etc. The Godmother was Lady Louise de Kerwin, Maid of Honour to the Most Excellent Princess Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Orleans, and wife of His Excellency Count St. Pierre, First Knight of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Orleans, Grand Master of her household and proprietor of the said Island of St. John. Witnesses, Louis Denis de la Ronde, the father; M. Albert Lord of Demar, member of the General Council of Quebec, and Director General of the said Island, who hereunto subscribed their names according to the established rule."

The above record containing so many illustrious names would seem to indicate an advanced state of social refinement in St. John's Island. It might lead the casual reader to the opinion, that even in those remote days, the Colony could boast of titled gentry among its inhabitants. But what would such people be doing in this wild rude country? Why should persons of rank and nobility exchange the luxuriant of Parisian society for the wants and privations of colonial life? We venture the opinion that Lady Louise, wife of Count St. Pierre, and perhaps others whose distinguished names grace the records of Port la Joie never saw St. John's Island. Their names may be mere evidence of a custom, by which persons of rank sometimes assisted by proxy at certain religious functions.

Be this as it may, the ceremonies performed in the Church of St. John the Evangelist did not always call together such a galaxy of distinguished persons. A few years later, we find an officer of the garrison and one of the ladies of the Fort, standing sponsors at the Baptism of an Indian child.

From "The Early History of the Catholic Church in Prince Edward Island," by Rev. John C. MacMillan, 1905.



Notes From Another Island

LONDON, England: — It's not only roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, pubs, ancient historic buildings and traffic driving on the left-hand side of the road that make the Old Country the object of a certain amount of curiosity. All sorts of other things crop up from time to time at various seasons of the year and are accepted as part of the scheme of things for their particular lifetime, whether it be long or short, one year or more often. At this period it is that quaint English institution — the Pantomime.

The Poet's Corner

AS I WAS A-WALKING

(A Ballad of Glasgow)
As I was a-walking down Sauchiehall Street,
I saw a Scotch lassie, so trim and so neat,
The devil was dancing in each twinkling eye—
Was that a sly wink as she gaily passed by?

Blow, blow, blow the man down,
I'm sailing tomorrow for Halifax town!

I stopped her and said, "You're a bonnie wee lass,"
She said, "Nay, don't," flatter me.
Sir, let me pass,
Said I, "Would you pass up a laddie like me,
A lone, roving sailor from over the sea?"

"My ship, she's in dock by the old Prince's Gate,
I've shore leave till midnight and mustn't be late;
Tomorrow, Blue Peter will fly high for me,
Then it's Greenock and Gourock and down to the sea!"

She looked at me coyly and smiled as she said:
"May be you're a lassie, may be you are wed?"
But I swore by the wave, and the wind that blows free,
That the sea was the only lass 'holden to me.

She tossed her wee head as she scornfully said:
"The first man to kiss me, that man I would wed!"
So I kissed her whilst standing in Sauchiehall Street—
Oh, my dear, darling lassie, so trim and so neat!

Blow, blow, blow the man down!
I'll never be sailing for Halifax town.

—Richard C. Tiplady in the Toronto Star.

The Age-Old Story

He that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall He guide them.
Spring. Because it is called a Christmas entertainment, presumably it would be too simple for us to have it at Christmas and then to our complications even in entertainment, and nobody can say that pantomime isn't complicated, the way we do it. Maybe it's the very eccentricity of the whole business that appeals to us and makes it so popular year after year.

Even the very fact that we call it "Pantomime" is enough to put everything in its proper light of irregularity for the dictionary defines the word as a "representation in dumb show"; so, to be accurate about it, all the actors and actresses should perform by actions alone, without any of them saying a word. In fact, our pantomime is mostly a succession of songs and comic patter!

The season for these shows usually begins on Boxing Day, or perhaps a day or two earlier. That satisfies everybody's conscience and enables the description of "Christmas entertainment" to be applied without any fear of false pretences, even if it does go on for about three months afterwards, in some of the big towns at any rate.

At least one theatre in most of the towns and cities up and down the country put on a pantomime, and the customary thing is to call the show by some nursery tale title such as "Cinderella", "Babes in the Wood", "Puss in Boots" or even the legend — perhaps the most popular of all — of Dick Whittington and his famous cat, based on the life of a Mayor of London some five centuries ago. So much for the titles, but any resemblance between the original nursery tales and the pantomime shows of the same name must be considered purely coincidental, if not a downright accident!

It is taken for granted, I suppose, that pantomime is something for the children. Certainly they could hardly fail to be amused by the antics of clowns and other slapstick comedians who find their way into the cast, but it would be a brave parent who would try to explain how they come to be taking such an active part in the programme at all. My earliest childhood recollection of pantomime is of being completely baffled by all the characters who kept on appearing on the stage without my

Notes By The Way

It is a well known fact that countless residents of British Columbia have a standing boast that they have never had to buy anything more than a raincoat for Winter wear in that province. Wonder how they are faring this year? Perhaps residents of British Columbia and of Ontario might profitably carry out a general overcoat exchange. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

Believers in the free enterprise system should welcome combined investigations. Capitalism will survive only if monopoly practices are outlawed and the public is assured of all the advantages of free competition. Our free economy will be healthy only if there is full publicity for complaints of monopolistic practices and if companies accused of combinations in restraint of trade are given a chance to justify themselves. — Toronto Globe and Mail.

The constables on the beat never did have too much love for the

being able to place them in my original conception of the nursery tale I had previously known. Perhaps, in those early days, I hadn't quite realized that I had been born into England and must therefore learn to accept these apparently unwarranted interferences with the original story are possibly a result of the attempt to make the show include something for the grownups as well. That would certainly account for the principal characters suddenly bursting forth with renderings of the latest popular song hits. Even that wouldn't be so bad, if the songs were sung by appropriate people. There have been such cases, however, of complete incongruity as the occasion when some Demon King or other, having spent a horrible few minutes plotting the downfall of hero and heroine, came forward to the footlights and warbled "Let me call you Sweetheart".

The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston declares that there is enough wood wasted in New England annually to fill 64,500 freight cars, which would stretch a distance of more than 500 miles. This is an appalling waste, when it is considered that the conservation of the nation's forests has become a serious consideration. The waste consists of slabs, edgings, chips, make a topical gag, so that we might have a Fairy Queen taking pains to off from combating her wicked King to explain that the fact is made more difficult by the fact that all the best quality magic wands have gone for the export drive. It's all very amusing if you don't try to follow the story too closely. It's a family entertainment; there's even something for Father, for the hero (always called the Principal Boy) is always a girl! She always wears tight, and why should Father complain if he never saw such legs in his nursery books...

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