

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1945

Thanksgiving

We knew something of harvest festivals long before the New England institution of Thanksgiving day. "All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin." Those harvest festivals of the old land were mostly Sunday services. The New England observance upon which our season is modelled was on the last Thursday of November, in the year 1621. It was in 1620 the Mayflower had landed the Pilgrim Fathers to found the Plymouth colony, named in honor of the last British port touched in their sailing from the old homeland. The winter that followed their landing at Plymouth Rock had been so filled with hardship, privation and peril they often despaired of survival. They had been saved from starvation, more than once, through the kindness of friendly natives, and at best they had short commons and an uneasy life. Yet, and notwithstanding, they held that religious service of thanksgiving in their log church, and then went home to make a feast of what could be scraped together from scanty stores.

It has always been that way, as could be shown by many examples from the lives of our own Island pioneer settlers. "Out of the suffering comes the serious mind; out of the salvation, the grateful heart; out of the endurance, the fortitude; out of the deliverance, the faith."

Our Canadian Thanksgiving Day, which falls on Monday, October 8, is a national holiday intended, as of old, to be a public celebration of divine goodness. This year the day is fraught with a double significance; it not only marks the end of the harvest season as the crowning fullness of the year, but also the end of six years of warfare and the beginning—let us hope—of a new era of peace and progress for mankind.

As yet there is little evidence of the new era in war-ravaged lands. Hunger and want face many millions of people as these lines are being written; the coming winter, so far as hardships are concerned, will be among the bitterest in human memory. We in this favored land can only imagine such conditions; but it behooves us to forget them.

For us, once again, the earth has yielded up its stores of food, and the husbandman has garnered the fruits of his labour. Here is matter for profound thanksgiving, and for humility as well.

Herrick's quaint verses express the same thought in today's Poet's Corner. Written three hundred years ago, they seem as fresh as ever; well worth reading and pondering at this particular season.

The First Punjab Priest

The following excerpt is taken from a letter by Sister M. Alma Julia, pharmacist at Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi, India, describing the ordination of the first native priest in the Punjab. "Last Sunday (April 15, 1945) we had an ordination here in Rawalpindi. For the first time in the history of the world a boy from this part was ordained a Roman Catholic priest. He is the first native priest from this Prefecture of Kafirstan and Kashmir which consists of about 50 million people, mostly Moslems. This is the sort of territory where you cannot expect to see much progress for the first hundred years—but after that . . . There are only a few thousand Christians in this whole Prefecture, with perhaps a dozen priests scattered here and there. The Bishop from Lahore (the nearest Diocese) came to perform the ceremony. The candidate had made his studies in the Papal Seminary of Kancy Ceylan. Most of the priests of the vicinity, almost all English and Dutch missionaries of the Mill Hill Society, London, attended. The church was crowded with a mixed congregation of English, Indians, Burmese and Chinese. The following day we attended the first Mass celebrated by the newly ordained priest. I kept thinking during the Holy Sacrifice: 'This is one of our own boys, one of these Indian boys, who probably minded his father's goats in the hills. And now he is a Priest!'"

Fire Prevention Week

For the first time in six long years, Fire Prevention Week will be observed Oct. 7-13, under peace-time instead of war-time conditions. During that period, the world has seen the use of fire as a major weapon of war. It was the endeavour of both sides to reduce the other side's ability to wage war by the destruction by fire of his war plants and at the same time every effort was made in the homeland to prevent such destruction. In the end, the Allies by reason of vastly superior war materials, won out.

But have we won the fight against the fire demon here at home? Recent holocausts have indicated that we have not. The destruction by fire of one of the Great Lakes passenger boats, the burning of a famous Muskoka summer resort, and the near annihilation of that great Eastern Canadian port of Halifax show us very forcibly that as a nation we have not yet learned to be careful with fire. The fact that there was so small a loss of life in these conflagra-

tions—one fatality in the Halifax explosions—was indeed providential. There could quite easily have been many more.

In spite of the efforts of fire prevention and fire protection officials throughout Canada, fire losses jumped from slightly more than 24 1-2 million dollars in 1939 to over 40 million dollars in 1944. It is quite true that the values at risk in the latter year were far in excess of those in 1939 but it is also a fact that every effort was being put forth to conserve our resources for the war. In spite of those efforts, this country saw a mounting fire loss year after year. Now that hostilities have ended, let us hope that there will not be a repetition of events following the last Great War when between 1919 and 1922 fire losses jumped from 25 millions to 54 millions in property damage alone.

Fire Prevention Week this year offers an excellent opportunity to intensify our efforts in the prevention of fire in our homes, schools, places of business and factories. It only remains for us to keep in mind that we are going to be careful of fire from now on, remembering that fully 80 per cent of our fires are due to carelessness and remembering also that it is our patriotic duty to prevent fires.

City Hospital Bazaar

Reference is made elsewhere in today's issue to the opening Monday evening of the eleventh annual bazaar in aid of the Charlottetown Hospital. This feature is becoming more and more popular with the years, and now that the war is over this year's attendance should eclipse all previous records. It is scarcely necessary to add that the cause is a most worthy one, and deserves the support of all classes of our citizens.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow Harvest Thanksgiving, Monday Thanksgiving Holiday.

There are about 1,050 Federal Civil servants in the Province, almost one to every family, and now they are to be compelled to work six-and-a-half hours per day, six days per week. No wonder the other members of the families grumble.

In Saint John and New Brunswick generally Thanksgiving is to commence at 1 P. M. today when all plants, industries, offices and stores close till Tuesday. To make up for this the stores remained open till 10 P. M. last night.

Some good Samaritans in Britain, who prefer to remain nameless, have decided to present the C. P. R. with a new Empress of Britain to replace the one lost in the war. To him that hath shall be given.

A movement is afoot to mark all Canadian bacon "made in Canada", to offset the bad effect of the inferior American product which has been pouring into Britain during the war, and which has tended to make consumers ask for Danish bacon instead.

Attention is called to the encouraging review of Island farm activities in today's issue by Mr. W. R. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Shaw knows his subject thoroughly, and his comments as well as his facts and figures are of value and interest.

The Blaquiere Septuor, famous Canadian singers who have been giving concerts in the Maritimes owe their origin to this Province. The father of Mr. Blaquiere was born in Rustico, and he later moved to the United States where his son, Arthur, was born. At an early age Arthur went to Montreal where he developed his musical talent. All the members of the family were musical and began their studies early in life. They have been giving public concerts for the last 12 years.

Sir Isaac Brock "hero of Upper Canada", born this date 1769; Lieut.-Governor in 1803; put down a formidable uprising of rebellious troops and conducted the campaign against the United States; received the surrender of Hull's army on Aug. 10, 1812; was killed while leading his men at the battle of Queenstown, a monument to his memory being erected in St. Paul's, London.

L'Evenement-Journal, Quebec, has evidently been examining the reports of farm production in Canada and is very pleased to find that the harvest, despite a wet spring in certain parts of the country, is not at all bad. Its editorial this week is almost a song of praise: "Latest estimates bring to 325 million bushels the country's wheat harvest; crops in the three Western Provinces have decreased by a third on what they were last season, and cannot be compared with the three great harvests of wartime. Just the same, the wheat produced passes enormously the needs of the domestic consumer, to such an extent that millions of bushels can be sent each month to the less privileged countries ravaged by war. Canada is continuing her foodstuffs and provisions to the populations who are haunted by the spectre of famine. Cereals have grown in abundance; barley, rye and oats have been but mildly affected by the summer drought and the wet spring. Crops per acre have been sensibly increased, which amply compensates for the reduction of areas to be seeded. Harvest work is proceeding in an ideal temperature in all producing districts and the crops are being housed in the best conditions; the big grain elevators are being rapidly filled with precious reserves for the winter months. In our Province, vegetables and fruits are coming on to local markets in full abundance, for gardens and orchards have yielded well despite delays caused by spring rains. Let us thank Providence for giving us wholesome foods which contribute to the vigorous health of our people."

Notes By The Way

Of course, many people always thought that Marie Corelli who wrote "The Mighty Atom" in 1896, was about 50 years before her time.—The Christian Science Monitor.

Saw a woman with a red veil over her face; reminded me of that red gauze over baskets of peaches. But whereas the tree-grown peaches are so often green, this "peach" it was voted when the red veil was lifted, was in full bloom.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Madam Tussaud's London wax-works, now adding President Truman to its gallery of the famous and infamous, last week sent out through the press a notice because clothing is British, still strictly, and it hopes Mr. Truman will send an old suit for his image to the "Newweek" Magazine, New York.

A London report says Britain will scrap her big battleships "as the result of the atom bomb." The report would appear premature, it is too soon to state that Britain has outlived their usefulness, and Britain would not take such a decision alone.—Ottawa Journal.

Courtesy is never outmoded, and always common sense. The man or woman who does not know how to show everyday politeness toward his fellows works under a severe handicap. He never rises to any position in which he has to boss people, or meet them, because he does not know how to do either without giving offense. No polite and formal behavior is just as useful now as it ever was, and in a world which is full of illusion of becoming smaller we may find that courtesy, and such things as knowing when to say "How do you do?" have taken on new importance.—Peterborough Examiner.

On August 23, 1944, 28 children were killed when a United States Liberator crashed on the village school, Freckleton, Lancashire. Just three days short of the first anniversary of the tragedy a garden playground has been dedicated to the memory of the young victims and to the future happiness of generations to come. It is a gift from the officers and men of the American air station nearby, built by them and paid for by subscriptions amounting to \$10,400. Mothers of the dead children took part in the simple but moving ceremony of dedication, while former schoolmates played in the background on swings, slides, and roundabouts. A granite stone, covered with a white silk parachute and a Union Jack was unveiled.—London Daily Mail.

The greatest problem of the apple grower—amateur and professional alike—is finding sufficient time to give the trees the necessary number of spraying applications they must have during the year to insure a beautiful and sound crop. No less than five sprays are necessary for the best results, the first of these starting even before the growing season when the trees are dormant. But researchers have now developed a spray which may greatly simplify the problem. It experiments now being conducted prove successful then it may be possible to have a good apple crop with only one spray a year. This would encourage more home growing of apples and would have a far-reaching effect on the commercial market.—Boston Post.

Recently this newspaper suggested that a constructive move towards Canadian unity would result from the encouragement of travel in the Dominion. To this end, it was further suggested that ways and means might be formulated by the clubs and other organizations for the awarding of travel scholarships. As it is, Canada is divided into five parts, the Maritimes, Ontario, the Prairies and British Columbia. Lack of visitings among the five parts fosters disunity as much as a racial minority.—Woodstock Sentinel Review.

Stern police action should be taken to eliminate the practice of youthful cyclists riding two or three abreast on city streets and highways. This is most dangerous and could result in a fatal accident for which any motorist involuntarily would be to blame. Youngsters riding abreast on bicycles frequently disregard cars and trucks while they chat in a mated fashion as they ride. They often weave back and forth across the road, and seem to be oblivious to vehicles. Police officers should arrest youngsters found riding two or three abreast on city streets. The practice should be made an example in court, the practice soon would cease.—Niagara Falls Review.

The Germans instituted fifty new medals and five new distinctive badges for service during this war. We were more modest. Our decorations will therefore be more valued. Our list has now been almost completed by the addition of the Medal for Service in the Cause of Freedom. They are intended for Allied soldiers who have served the Allied cause. The medals will go mainly to civilians, and the first award of the Medal for Service to Mr. Winthrop Aldrich broadly indicates one type of qualification for the award. Mr. Aldrich fought the British cause in the United States before Pearl Harbor, at a time when his countrymen had by no means emerged from the fog of neutrality. Awards of the Medal for Courage, when they are made, give us another opportunity to understand the debt owed by citizens of occupied countries who helped our soldiers and airmen to escape from German hands.—Manchester Guardian.

We had all but forgotten that "let's-go-pieces-and-go-things" feeling that comes from stepping on the accelerator and having the engine respond with never a "may" in its horsepower. The Australian Science Monitor exults. In fact, we had almost come to call it "miles per hour" during these war years. "Stubborn" we said, "just because it can't have all the gasolene it wants." But it appears the poor thing was undernourished all the while. Now that it is getting back on its feet, it responds eagerly to the touch of a toe. For the present, judging from the average amount of our gasolene buggies, it had better be a timid toe, or the worn shoes won't be able to take

The Poet's Corner

A THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR HIS HOUSE

Lord, Thou has given me a cell wherein to dwell, A little house, whose humble roof is weather-proof; Under the spars of which I lie, Both soft and dry; Where thou my chamber set to ward.

Make me a fire, Close by whose living coals I sit, And glow like it, when I dine. Lord, I confess too, when I dine, The Pulse is Thine. And all those other bits that see Three pluck by mine: The Words, the Pulpit and the Mess.

Of what-cress, Which of Thy kindness Thou hast sent; And my content Makes those, and my beloved Deet. To be more sweet. 'Tis Thou that crown'st my glittering hair; With guileless mirth; And giv'st me Wassale Bowles to drink.

Spic'd to the brim, Lord, 'tis thy plenty-dropping hand, That solides my land; And giv'st me, for my Bushell sown, Twice ten for one; Thou make'st my teaching Hen to lay.

Her egg each day; Besides my healthfull Ewe to me twine each year; The while the concul's of my Kine Run streams, for Wine; All these, and better Thou dost send.

Me, in this end, That I should render, for my part, A thankful heart; Which, Lord, with inessence, I resigne. As wholly Thine; But the acceptance, that must be, My Christ.

—Robert Herrick From "His Holy Numbers": 1647.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the presentation of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not accept the responsibility of the opinion of correspondents.

"GO EASY, BOYS!"

Sir,—Reading an account of a new track on the outskirts of Charlottetown, we wonder if we should think back to other days when we had too many race tracks.

We will start from the east end of the Island, Georgetown (closed); Souris (closed); St. Peter's (closed); Maria (closed); Cyston River (closed); Riverside (closed); reopened last year.

Then we come to Charlottetown and the Jinks track, which is practically closed since the Provincial Exhibition track opened 50 odd years ago; Cymra at Cyston; Bed Bridge; the Rustico track; the Hope River track, then on to Kenilston and New Annan tracks, the beautiful track of Miss Jansen's at Northam and the track at Alberton, practically closed but used extensively for training purposes. There may still be others that I have omitted.

We must remember that where they have night racing in the U. S. A. they have hundreds of thousands who choose from where here we only have a few thousand on the whole Island to work on. For comparison—a show put on at our theatre last night drew 1,500 to York City it lasted over five years.

I suppose you will call me a pessimist or wet blanket but as the night racing on P. E. I. is only an experiment and the expense great, "keep within your means, boys."

I am, Sir, etc., RACE FAN.

Canada and Immigrants

(Hamilton Spectator)

The Australian Government is making an aggressive bid for British immigrants, which leads the Fort Erie Letter-Review to remark: "Australia and the United Kingdom, both under Socialist Governments, are tremendously worried about labour shortage, while the supposedly free enterprise Governments of Canada and the United States are apparently quite untroubled about a labour surplus." It is, perhaps, not so much the Government, as labour itself, which is doing the worrying, and needlessly so, as many think. The Government as the Letter-Review observes, has, through the Minister of Reconstruction, impressed upon the Canadian public that there are ample opportunities for employment, and that if seekers for jobs were not so choosy in emigrating, the problem would be automatically solved. If this attitude is maintained, then the alternative of encouraging working men of other countries, who are not only willing but anxious to do what is required, is an obvious solution. But when new tires and new gasolene team up, watch our post-war dust!



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utilion of the difficulty, Canada is much too large a country to be ignored by the overcrowded areas of Europe. It will not be easy to fill the empty spaces with immigrants from the Motherland, in view of the gigantic task of reconstruction which we are other dominions of the Empire making a bid for them. There are other people who would, no doubt, be glad of the opportunity of migrating from their war-torn surroundings to Canada at this time. The Canadian and Overseas Mail examines the situation, in the light of existing conditions, and comes to the conclusion that, once reconstruction problems are solved, "Canadians must turn their energies to filling this country's greatest lack." The lack being population. It is pointed out that there are only 331 persons to the square mile in this Dominion, as against 600 in Holland. "Think of it," says the Mail, "3,000,000 square miles of country, most of it capable of dazzling production—against 600 in Holland. 'Think of it!'" It is certainly something to think about—and not merely think about but to do something about. Our service men and women have seen for themselves what things are like in the overcrowded countries of Europe and instinctively compare conditions with those in their Canadian homeland. They realize the anomaly of the situation, and will undoubtedly be a factor in fighting it. The important thing, in these discussions on immigration policies is to put the stress on quality rather than quantity. Canada needs a bigger population; as to that there must be general agreement. Those invited and accepted, however, should be of the right type. On that point there can be no possible room for disagreement either, among unprejudiced, sensible people. Just how to secure them is another question, which deserves the most earnest cogitation of our statesmen, character and assimilability being the all-important considerations. BECOLS, SUFFOLK, England.—(CP)—Sir Edward Duckworth, 79, former Judge of the High Court in Rangoon, has died. DONCASTER, England.—(CP)—A lorry loaded with 4700 (4150) worth of gin was stolen from a car parked here and found intact a few hours later at Stamford nearly 100 miles away.

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