

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1946

Our Soil Resources

The agricultural soil resources of Canada are subject of an informative leading article in the current issue of the *Agricultural Institute Review* by Mr. A. Leahy, soil specialist, Experimental Farm Service, Ottawa. The writer warns that any statement of Canada's arable soil resources cannot be more than an approximation until soil surveys have been made of all areas that have agricultural possibilities. However, soil surveys have been made of a large percentage of our present agricultural areas and the data given by these surveys together with that obtained from other sources makes it possible to give an approximation that may have a reasonable degree of reliability.

Several important physical features limit the possible extent of our arable soils. A large portion of Canada is covered with bare rock and rough land. The Precambrian Shield alone occupies nearly 50 per cent of the total area of the Dominion, the Cordillera occupies about 14 per cent while other rough lands would bring the total area of such lands to 70 or 75 per cent. It is true that important bodies of agricultural land lie within the Precambrian Shield and the Cordillera, but the great proportion of land there is unfit for farming purposes. Then there are definitely climatic barriers to our more northerly regions and in the drier parts of the open prairies. Lastly the great prevalence of swamps and muskies in much of our forested lands definitely cuts down the possible amount of agricultural land.

The present size of our agricultural plant is shown by the 1941 census of Canada. According to this census the area of occupied farm land was 175 million acres, of which 51 per cent or 89 million acres was being cultivated. Another 30 per cent of 53 million acres was in prairie or natural pasture. While no data was given it would seem that several million acres of uncultivated land were also being used for pasture purposes.

While all the land being cultivated in Canada at the present time is not first class land, there is no doubt that it does include the cream of our farm lands in Canada. Probably at least 5 per cent of our present cultivated lands could be retired permanently to grass or woodland, but the remainder can be considered as arable land if properly managed.

A reasonably liberal estimate of reserves of arable soil resources, Mr. Leahy says, would be about 45 million acres. This together with the present cultivated acreage of arable soils would place the total arable soil resources of Canada at about 130 million acres. This estimated figure is one of considerable magnitude even though it is only about 5 1/2 per cent of the total area of the country, or about 10 per cent of the total land area of the nine provinces. The extent of our arable soils is considerably less than those of the United States, where the total arable lands are estimated at 447 million acres or 23.5 per cent of the total area of the country.

The writer discusses the distribution of agricultural soils in relation to the major zones. His reference to this section of Canada is confined to one paragraph dealing with the Eastern Podsol soil zone, which covers the three Maritime Provinces and a portion of eastern Quebec and has an extent of some fifty million acres. He expresses the belief that under good management practices probably about nine or ten million acres could be classified as arable land in this area. This is about twice as much land as is under cultivation today.

Still Too High

The extraordinary size of the Federal Government payroll is shown in figures just issued at Ottawa. The Government, in March last, was directly employing 147,073 persons in addition to 105,000 employees in the Canadian National Railways; more than 1,000 in the Trans-Canada Airways; about 1,000 in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; and 1,200 in the Bank of Canada, a grand total of about 255,273.

In other words, about one in fifty persons in our entire population, including children, is now in the employ of the central government. Add to these the employees of provincial and municipal governments and it is evident that a surprisingly high fraction of the Canadian people now work for and are supported by the state.

The Federal Government's direct payroll has dropped by 11 per cent from its wartime peak of 165,000, as of January, 1945. But its present size is still enormous and very costly. In March, when the last figures were issued, civil service salaries were costing the taxpayers \$24,000,000 a year, just about half the amount of our total pre-war budget.

With the liquidation of various war agencies it has been possible to reduce the staff of some departments but, in others, staff is being expanded to administer new services. This is unsatisfactory, and public opinion is fairly expressed by a staunch Liberal paper, the *Winnipeg Free Press*, when it says on this point: "The taxpayers of Canada will not be satis-

fied until the total cost of the civil service is greatly reduced from its size during the crisis of the war. That peak cannot be accepted as any just measurement of our needs in peacetime. Much of the money paid to able civil servants of Ottawa undoubtedly is well spent and well earned, but every dollar of it is a dollar less that the public at large can spend for its own direct needs."

EDITORIAL NOTES

So many people fly hither and thither now days it is hard to keep track of them.

Printing free publicity, or even cheap publicity, alas, does not pay the printer's wage bill.

Bridge repairs at Hillsboro crossing seem to call for a speed-up, judging by recent disclosures.

Notwithstanding all the advances made in scientific weather prediction, wind still bloweth where it listeth, and unexpected gales and tornadoes are experienced. Ontario and British Columbia are cases in point in our Dominion.

The discovery of the wreck of the long-lost Liberator in the interior of Quebec ends the tension of the relatives, including the Jenkins of Millview, of the two dozen R. C. A. F. personnel who left Newfoundland for Canada way back in October 1943. The anxiety and grief of relatives at the uncertainty of the fate of their loved ones is ended, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that the remains may now receive a Christian burial in their native land.

Know your neighbour before asking a favour. A Quebec summer visitor, invited on her first fishing trip, didn't want to buy a licence so she called on a neighbor to see if she could borrow one. "I hardly believe it would be proper for you to use my wife's licence," the neighbor explained. "Oh, the silly old game warden won't be around," she countered. The neighbor then introduced himself as George Harris, the game warden.

Australia has agreed to ship 30,000,000 dozen eggs and 10,000 tons of egg pulp to Britain this year—an all-time record, it was announced recently. This new contract more than doubles the average pre-war shipments of 12,000,000 dozen per year. Five hundred tons of dried apples as well also will be sent to Britain and refrigeration tonnage for 1,000,000 cases of fresh apples has been supplied by Britain.

The world food shortage will continue critical at least until crops are harvested in 1947—assuming that weather is average or better—and perhaps four or five years longer. Sir John Boyd Orr, director general of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, says. Sir John claims that when the supply of cereals is adequate, a shortage of animal products will still prevent attainment of a world food supply sufficient to meet "unsatisfactory" pre-war levels. He warns against an accumulation of unmarketable surplus when world food production has been fully restored.

His Majesty the King, during his stay in Edinburgh, will, on June 29, lay a memorial stone at the site at Muirhouse where 20 cottages are to be built for disabled ex-servicemen. Lord Rosebery reports that Scotland has already subscribed enough money to enable the Scottish Veterans Garden City Association to build 314 cottages. The Earl of Haddington says the present aim of the Association is to build 500 homes for disabled men of the Second World War. In connection with the semi-jubilee of the British Legion (Scotland), the King will be presented with a skean dhu, designed by Mr. Pilkington Jackson, the Edinburgh sculptor, for the Legion. On one side of the silver blade the Royal Cypher and Thistle are engraved, and on the other Celtic motifs from the Stone near Glamis. A skean dhu will also be presented to the Earl of Airlie, K. T. G. C. V. O., M.C., chairman of the British Legion in Scotland. To General Sir Ian Hamilton, G. C. B., K. C. M. G., D. S. O., president, a silver box mounted on horn will be presented.

The United Nations Charter signed this date 1945; the foundations of the Charter were laid at the conference of Foreign Secretaries at Moscow in 1943, and upon those foundations a structure was built at the meetings at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington in 1944. The preamble runs as follows: "We, the people of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small; and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained; and to promote social progress and better standards of life in large freedom; and for these ends to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors; and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security; and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest; and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples:

"Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims:

"Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations."

Notes By The Way

Canadians are a funny people observes R. M. Harrison in *The Windsor Star*. They have to run out of somebody else's cow before they even investigate about digging their own. —St. Catharines Standard.

A popular novelist says he began writing fiction to help make his income tax. But his *Toronto "Saturday Night"* comments it is doubtful if tax authorities are inclined to favor this method of making out returns. —Standard Beacon-Herald.

The effect of the black market on human character is perhaps its most insidious feature. Usually honest and thoughtful people become drawn into a complicated net of dishonest, greedy and corrupting practices in Europe this reached such proportions that France, which does not impose capital punishment for murder, may make black market operations a capital offence. The distinction between a black marketer and a common thief is that the latter has killed one person whereas the black marketer may be responsible for the death of many people throughout the nation. —Toronto Star.

Why Field Marshal Montgomery should be talking about "the evening of my life" and looking around for some faithful servant to fill the void is a mystery. Some are that way though. Some have retired, or intend to retire, at 65, just at their prime. L. H. R. in *New York Times*.

Britain's birth-rate is still going up and up maintaining the trend towards an increased population. Figures show that 8,976 children were born during the week ending June 16, 1946. The total for that year to 1946 is over 20,000 more than for the corresponding period a year ago. But the new young Britons joyfully welcomed by the nation, are bringing with them increased anxiety for health authorities, because maternity homes are full to capacity and booked up for months ahead, and these for home nursing. —London Daily Mail.

A new instrument for improving the range of human vision in fog has been invented by an English scientist. The instrument, which is already in production, is called the "respiroscope". It is the outcome of considerable research work begun before the war by the inventor. The model in his laboratory is a great success and is as easy to handle as a pair of binoculars. It was found to be highly effective in clearing up the air in front of the eyes. It is a shortcoming which has now been overcome. —U.K. Information Office.

The horse once was relied on for farm work and hauling. In important respects he has been superseded by the motor vehicle. The horse still has a place of his own, thinks The Fort William Times-Journal. The horse is a living machine and can be adapted to uses and pleasures which are not within the scope of motors and gears and gears. The horse knows his own mind and he knows his own strength. He is a creature of spirit and his mind cannot be put to rest.

Three Boston doctors in the current issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, take their brother physicians to task for failing to diagnose gout early enough. Though the disease was correctly described and diagnosed three centuries ago, it still has a way to go. The Bostonians advise "the 78 percent of all cases diagnosed by an English doctor in 1876 were joint. Over a period of years 97 percent of all gout sufferers caught it in the big toe. In 1946, however, the patient often feels in excellent health. A report from ancient times tells of a soldier who won a medal in the Olympic games in a lull between bouts of gout. As for the pain, which any doctor who has treated it knows, it is no disease. It is a drug for the relief of pain so effective as colchicum is gout.

The only grain in fair supply this year is oats and oats are an excellent food for poultry and make for sturdy growth in young stock. The Journal of the American Medical Association long has been considered an admirable feed for laying hens, and according to the same source, "oats are a most valuable stimulant for all other grains. Freshly harvested and not thoroughly dry oats are considerably less for health and less nutritious than thoroughly dried grain. In Ireland, for fattening purposes, cooked potatoes are added to the ration for poultry."

The Poet's Corner

LITTLE TOWNS

Little towns are lovely places,
Cool wide streets and friendly faces.
Neighbors running in and out,
Women mid-aged and stout,
Grandmas with old silver hair,
Like a halo shining there.

In a little town there seems
Time for happiness and dreams,
Time to visit folks—to grow
Inte ways that people know
All bound with tender strands
Woven by their friendly hands.

I like little towns, for here
People grow so close and dear,
Funerals, weddings, death and birth,
All the good and bad of earth,
Cloudy skies and days that shine
Shared like sacramental wine.

—Edna Jacques in "Beside Still Waters."

DODDS KIDNEY PILLS

THE ONLY THE ONLY

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Sir,—As one interested in the Public Forum of your paper and who does not agree with some of the writers on Daylight Saving Time, etc., I wish to pen a few thoughts that came to me. I am now some years along on Borrowed Time, having spent the most of my time on a farm, seen some of the rough side of life, and worked some years in war industry. Whether on the farm or elsewhere, I firmly believe that D.S.T. was and is a good thing.

The farmer as a rule works by the sun, and knows that an early start is great help with the day's work. For him there is no eight hour day; fifteen is much easier to it, or to his work. His work is his boss, and should be unable or neglect to attend to work when it requires it, he stands to lose. When horses were used to haul the machinery, work in the field stopped about sundown. With the tractor to replace the oxen, the work continued for hours after sundown. If it had not been for that there would have been fields with no crop in the country find anybody from the country find fault with a city or town for adopting D.S.T. They should know what is best for their business.

I am, Sir, etc.
W. J. SEAMAN
Springfield, Lot 67.

"WHAT OF THE NIGHT?"

Sir,—Those who have allowed themselves to be deceived by the oft-repeated fallacy that legislation prohibiting the sale of alcoholic liquor is ineffective to prevent the evils which result from its use, should consider the following facts.

In 1914, during the Great War, the Germans were approaching Paris. It was recalled that in 1870, when the Germans besieged Paris, nearly all the infants born died. The French authorities determined that such appalling mortality among infants should not occur again. It was therefore decreed by law that no spirit whatever should be sold to soldiers, women or children, the three most important elements of the community. It was further decreed that the mothers and the babies should have milk. The result? The infantile death rate fell, and the number of still-births fell to the lowest on record.

to the ground oats in the proportion of about one-third and fed as wet mash. In Sussex county, England, where poultry raising is an important industry, oats have always constituted an important part of the ration for poultry not only for fattening but also for growing stock and adult birds. Poultry are fastidious feeders and the best of all grains, and so in buying supplies, The Egg and Poultry Market Report points out, it is well to remember that there are both light and heavy oats. —From Government Bulletin

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cord. More—the average weight of the infants at birth was the highest on record. The German invasion of France, which was the cause of the prohibitive legislation, thus had an effect upon motherhood and infancy in Paris which was the best on record.

"Take the contrary case of the children in Edinburgh in 1915. In that year, prosperity was extreme and unprecedented, both in Edinburgh and in the rest of Scotland. There was no poverty. Money flowed like water. There never had been so much money available for motherhood. There was the maternity allowance, separation allowance, and philanthropy. Under these conditions the position of infancy should have been of the best."

On the contrary, however, in 1915 infant mortality in Scotland rose abruptly to 126.5 per thousand. This was higher than in 1914, the first year of which there is any record, and the highest since 1901. Some cause must be found for that rise when there should have been a marked fall. Was money which was meant to save the future really being spent in killing the future? The State maternity allowance was for saving the future, and the separation allowance was clearly an allowance for the future race—that is, to save the baby in Scotland for the far-away soldier.

"What caused the deaths? The Medical Officer of Health for Scotland has stated that the infants who did not so well when born, that they were smaller than usual, and weak. There was much infantile debility and malnutrition. In 1915, maternal spirit-drinking was the cause of Scotland. It was maternal alcoholism in the form of spirit-drinking, giving a high concentration of alcohol in the blood of the unborn child, as we know by chemical examination, and injuring in many ways the chances of survival after birth, that in a large degree, killed the future of Scotland in 1915. Venereal diseases, of course, did their share, with alcohol as their surreptitious ally."

The foregoing extracts are taken, almost verbatim, from a chapter on "Racial Poisons—Including Alcoholism" written in collaboration with Dr. C. W. Saleeby, and published in the book, "Alcohol and The Human Body" already referred to. (Extracts are given with the kind permission of the publishers.)

In a book, "An Outline of the Practice of Preventive Medicine"

published under the instructions of the Ministry of Health in Great Britain in 1919, the statement is made:—"Children on a moderate computation not less than a million children of school age (not in school attendance) are so physically or mentally defective or diseased as to be unable to derive reasonable benefit from the ordinary form of education which the State provides."

Dr. Ballantyne is quoted as stating: "Alcohol is a menace to child life at all stages of its existence, through either or both parents."

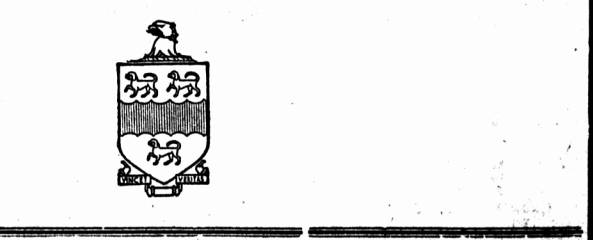
Dr. C. C. Weeks states (see "Alcohol and Human Life," page 110):—"In considering the effect of alcohol upon the child and as a racial poison, remember there are three stages in a child's existence: The Germinal Stage, the Fetal and the Post Natal." Dr. Weeks finds:—"Alcohol is a menace at all stages. Taking life as a whole, the prevailing extent of alcoholic indulgence is always a menace; even moderate drinking for the expectant mother must be specially dangerous for the child."

"Alcohol is a menace to child life in the germinal period." "Alcohol is a menace to child life in the fetal period. As to the Post Natal stage, the period after the child's birth, everything that impinges upon or affects the life and environment of the child may be, and repeatedly is, adversely influenced by alcohol in all degrees of its indulgence by parents. There is a steadily increasing realization in all parts of the world that alcohol is bad for young life."

I am, Sir, etc.
W. E. BENTLEY.

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