

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1948

Mr. Leard's History

Few historical articles have created as much interest as has the series entitled "Bedeque United Church: The History of a Methodist Circuit in Prince Edward Island," the last installment of which appeared in Saturday's Guardian.

We are permitted now to state that the author is Mr. George Leard, of Scurie, a native of the Bedeque district, whose hobby for several years past has been the compilation of historical data on Prince Edward Island, and especially on matters relating to his native community.

Mr. Leard's history will be published in book form this Spring, complete with forty illustrations. It will make a handsome gift to Islanders abroad as well as at home, and in years to come may prove, even from the financial standpoint, a most profitable investment.

Suburban Health Problem

The potential health menace from unsanitary conditions in areas adjoining Charlottetown continues to be a problem. It has been discussed in the press, at service clubs and in the Legislature. Many factors enter into a solution of the problem, and some interesting ones are discussed in the recently tabled report of the Provincial Department of Reconstruction, which incidentally contains a great deal of valuable information.

The main problem, of course, is that of installing sewage and water systems. Up to this time the City corporation has been handicapped by the lack of sufficient water, but it is understood that a new well is being installed on the Union Road which will meet all water requirements.

The Department of Reconstruction reports, however, that in the disposal of surplus war equipment there is available at present a complete sewage disposal plant at Mount Pleasant airport, which originally cost \$37,000 and can be purchased at this time for less than \$3,000.

Also, at the Charlottetown airport there is a well capable of pumping approximately 375,000 gallons of water daily. If a line were run from this pump to the main line on the Brackley Road, the reservoir could be kept filled at all times and assist in the present water shortage.

No time should be lost in inquiring further into the feasibility of this suggestion. The report above quoted states that during the past year work on the survey of the environs of Charlottetown has continued and is about 80 per cent completed. The field work by the engineering staff has been completed and a plan of the area has been drafted.

The Reconstruction Department report also notes that conditions in the village of O'Leary and the town of Kensington are not all they could be, and some thought should be given to health measures in these two localities. A survey would show what is necessary and from data obtained an estimate of cost could be prepared.

A suggestion that the Provincial Government take the lead in calling a meeting of representatives of all parties concerned has been made in the Legislature, and it is one which will likely be endorsed by other members. As the Opposition leader, Dr. MacMillan, said in commenting on the situation, when vital questions of public health are concerned, public health legislation should take precedence over everything.

What Farming Means

Mr. Ralph Wightman is a Dorset farmer whose talks are well-known to listeners over B.C. He said recently: "The land teaches a man that what a man sows that shall he also reap. If you borrow fertility from the soil you must repay. If you waste the richness of the earth you will come to want. If you play through summer you will be hungry in the winter. It is all sensible and sane, and straightforward. The old

parables about human virtues are easy to understand, such as the shepherd seeking for the lost sheep, the tares in the wheat, the seed on stony ground, and the mills of God grinding slow, yet exceeding small." It seems that the cities want to alter all the old fundamental things. They talk of 'rights' and 'equalities' in fundamental things. The farmer growing a crop very seldom gets his 'rights'. Very often he gets much more, which is bad for him, and quite frequently he gets much less. There is no equality in natural things. There is no fairness in a life based on the soil. Equality of sacrifice and fairness of reward are city things. However desirable they may be there is nothing in the world to hint that they are attainable.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. David's Day, Patron Saint of Wales.

Prices are reaching their level, but not all at once.

The blustery month, and the beginning of the Spring thaw.

"All that was left of them," commemorated Paardeberg yesterday.

The Junior Farmers may soon equal the Junior Red Cross in popularity and effectiveness. Organization and enthusiasm are what counts most in such success.

Premier Jones sees little prospect of Federal tax reduction because of the Ottawa government's commitments in social legislation and bounties. A lame excuse for statesmen who boost their own indemnities 50 per cent, tax free.

The collection of taxes by one government to be spent by another is rapidly making thrift an antiquated virtue among governments. The question no longer is, is it necessary to tax the people for this thing, but rather, this looks like something we could get money for.

Ex-servicemen who became familiar with the work of modern Canadian artists through silk-screen prints in the various canteens and messes will soon be seeing them again. The Bank of Montreal has purchased a large quantity, and will soon be displaying them in its branch offices.

The general comment on the proceedings of the Legislature is that, so far, the debate on the Address has been on a high level. The Mover, Second, Leader of the Opposition and the Premier set a good example by their incisiveness and brevity, and those following them are maintaining the standard and pace.

External Affairs Minister St. Laurent was evading the question when he told the Commons that the Geneva Trade Agreement does not itself revoke the ban on margarine. What Parliament wants to know is whether this country has bound itself to revoke that ban.

It is welcome news that many historical documents relating to Prince Edward Island have been transferred to the Dominion Archives from London. It should not be necessary, however, for students to go even as far as Ottawa to study our Island history, and it is most desirable that photostatic copies of all relevant documents be made available here.

The socialization policy of the British Government commenced this date 1946, by the nationalization of the Bank of England, known for generations as "The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street," whose well-stuffed stockings was always available to needy borrowers possessed of the required collateral, or other reputable credit.

Reports that the First Sea Lord Sir John Cunningham has been promoted to the Royal Navy's highest rank, Admiral of the Fleet, are slightly in error. The Navy's highest rank is Lord High Admiral. It is, however, in commission (The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty). The last individual to hold the office was Lord Howard of Effingham.

Many hundreds of people throughout the Province will regret to learn of the death yesterday of Mr. P. J. MacDonald, of the well known grocery firm in Charlottetown, and father of His Worship, Mayor B. Earle MacDonald and four sons, all occupying prominent positions in the city. Mr. MacDonald had partially retired from business for some years, but was almost daily in attendance at his store which enjoyed large patronage from city and country alike. He personally did not take a very active part in public affairs, but while in good health was prominent in church and social work. The sympathy of a very large circle will be extended to the sorrowing family.

Three years ago, on March 1, 1945, two companies of the Essex Scottish Regiment launched the initial attack of what turned out to be one of the bitterest battles of the war. Shortly after eight o'clock that morning, they moved in on German troops strongly entrenched in the Hochwald Forest. The officer who led one company—"C" Company—was Major Frederick A. Tilston, of Toronto. He was the first to reach the enemy position, first to take a prisoner and one of the first to be seriously wounded. In all, he was wounded three times in the attack and lost both his legs as a result of his injuries. For his "calm courage, gallant conduct and total disregard for his own safety" in the highly successful attack, Major Tilston was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Notes By The Way

Science has let down its hair and admitted it can't give goals a personality. The changeover, it seems, is complicated by too many sniffs, ands and butts. — Windsor Star.

A long time ago someone said "things are never so bad that they couldn't get worse." We agree—but we never did like that Pollyanna twaddle that insisted on smiling through a catastrophe that burnt the barn, killed Grandpa and soured all the milk, simply because it didn't stop the bread from rising. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

Once a bathtub was supposed to be a sign of civilization. Now, according to an observant plumber, it is fast vanishing—like the buffalo—and may soon be extinct. Showerbaths are the cause, he says. They are taking over everywhere, and it is just a matter of time when the tub will become a relic. Most of her defects, however, that we have seen the rise and fall of the bathtub all within a lifetime. — Boston Post.

We have often thought that there are too many organizations in Canada, that they hold too many meetings, and that they hear too many speeches. People might be better off if they listened less, and thought more. They might be better off if they studied things for themselves, instead of expecting somebody else to do the studying for them, and condense it into a twenty-minute oration. — Calgary Herald.

The church is human! Yes, but the very men who disclaim most loudly against her defects, take greatest care to plant their homes beneath her shadow. The church is the greatest protector of human life and liberty that the world ever knew. The church is the greatest friend of humanity that exists in the world today; and even her bitterest enemies would probably not remain long in a community in which the church has been banished. Yes, men of today find great enjoyment in telling of the church's faults; and tomorrow in selling their property they will take pains to say that it is near a church. Strange, isn't it strange? Chatham News.

The Women's University Club of Winnipeg has taken steps to present the memory of Rev. Charles William Gordon, better known to many thousands as Ralph Connor. It has purchased the home in Winnipeg where the famed author-clergyman spent many years and did such fine work. A plaque is being erected there by the government. When the people of Winnipeg do this, it seems strange that Glenarry county, immortalized in some of Connor's books, has no memorial of any kind to his memory. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

British educational and scientific experts are wondering what the future of Carol Gallacher, a seven-year-old Glasgow girl will be. Her father is an engineer who has travelled much abroad and has always taken his wife and Carol along with him. At two years Carol startled her mother by singing a verse of "La Marseillaise" in French. At four she was reading "Vanity Fair" and other classic novels. At school she is always first in every subject in a higher grade than she should be at her age. She has read Plato's "Republic", Dante's "Divine Comedy", Dostoevsky's "Origin of Species", More's "Utopia", Marx's "Das Kapital" and Tolstoy's "War and Peace". At present she is reading Shakespeare's works. Out of school she plays with dolls and with her school friends. She goes to sleep in the movies. — St. Thomas Journal.

The red planet Mars — named after the Roman deity who stands as the symbol of war — is now rising to ascendancy in our January sky. Astronomers gazing into the interminable neutrality of the heavens tell us this mysterious planet about which so much has been thought and written, will grow brighter until at last he outshines his two rivals in the night-sky—Saturn and Regulus. With such performers in the sky, star gazers who brave the zero air will be rewarded with a brilliant picture. Saturn glows with a golden radiance; Regulus gleams like a diamond. But it is ruddy-faced Mars which holds place of honor in this sidereal theatre. And Mars is the mythical god of war, and this is a year pregnant with huge uncertainties and unknown events. — London Free Press.

The inconvenience to the housewife whose wash was in the tub or whose iron grew cold under her hand was a minor source of complaint. More exasperating in view of prevailing prices was the plight of the housewife who had a cake in the oven. Really serious was the unheralded interruption of industrial operations involving losses which may reach upon Eyedro in the form of damage suits. Only one instance need be cited of such a case to illustrate the gravity of cutting off power without warning. A rubber company places its loss at \$60,000 when an entire patch of tires, in the oven when the power was shut off, was ruined. In the evening newspapers the cooking rooms were silenced in their busy hours, and the molten metal "froze" in the pots of the typesetting machines. It was from twenty minutes to half an hour after the power came or again before the machines could be put into operation. — Toronto Telegram.

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.

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

Sir, — In your Public Forum of Saturday last appeared a letter signed "Parent" which I, another parent, wish to endorse in every particular. Within the last few months, in the public press and over the radio, the public has been treated to a surfeit of visionary proposals and will-o'-the-wisp plans for what is called "Educational Reform". Many think it is high time that we come down to realities.

This week we are to have the beginning of a series of broadcasts on the subject "Let's Look at Our Schools" by people who are supposed to know what they are talking about. Let us hope these people will securely keep their feet on "terra firma", avoid the usual balmy-hoo, and eschew glittering generalities and innocuous platitudes. There should be no soaring into the clouds, as has too often been the practice of many of our self-appointed "educationalists". No glossing over of the facts with respect to our present school deficiencies should be tolerated; the public needs the plain unvarnished tale; bluster and burying our heads in the sand will be of no avail. Much more than that is required. People will expect concrete suggestions on ways and means of securing and holding competent teachers for our common schools— which is everyone conversant with the situation must know, is the one outstanding problem pressing for solution before anything worth while can be accomplished in any other field.

Our common schools are the schools of the vast majority of our children; if these fail, all is lost. Here's hoping that the speakers will not fail to impress that fact upon the public during the next few weeks.

I am, Sir, etc., ANOTHER PARENT MR. GILLIES REPLIES

Sir, — Press reports of the final meeting of the Provincial Federation of Agriculture held Friday morning last, indicate that the Livestock Marketing Board came under fire and I note that a committee was appointed to look into the business of the Board, said committee to report back to the directors of the Federation.

Well, Sir, they might as well save themselves shoe leather, as the Livestock Marketing Board will not fail to impress that fact upon the public during the next few weeks. I wonder what they think we are? But I'll tell you what we will do: The manager of the Marketing Board will meet the directors of the Federation at any time, in any place, for discussion, providing the Press is allowed to be present and make a full report of proceedings. We think this stipulation only fair, and a counteraction to any possible injury that may have accrued to the Board by having its affairs discussed at a public meeting by biased individuals who, judging from their utterance, did not know what they were talking about, and without giving the Marketing Board manager even the courtesy of an opportunity to be present and defend his organization, if defence was needed.

This is all for today. But now that the Federation of Agriculture has precipitated this discussion I will have more to say, with your kind permission, in a later issue of your valuable paper, which I hope will be both interesting and illuminating.

I am, Sir, etc., J.A. GILLIES Manager Livestock Marketing Board.

ANCIENT DYNASTY

The kings of Egypt have been traced by name back beyond the first dynasty which started about 3,400 B.C.

LONDON — (CP) — Sqn.-Ldr. W.T.S. Williams, D.S.C., who in his capacity as director of film activities for the air ministry during the war produced "Target For Tonight" and "Coastal Command" died following an operation, aged 50. — Island Guardian, Sept. 3, 1937.

For Foot Ailments CONSULT V. J. A. BROWN, D.P. Podiatric Chiropodist 143 Great George Street CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

Lenten Meditations

(From The Times) VALUE OF PRAYER Many ancient Christian prayers, contain some invaluable teaching about prayer. It is a plea for forgiveness based upon the ground of God's mercy, which is not limited in its response by man's deserts, and is ready to answer with a liberality exceeding all hope and expectation.

A conception of the efficacy of prayer, very different from this takes root in the baffled hearts and minds of those who view themselves as the victims of unanswered prayers. These are prone to look upon their seemingly rejected appeals as thwarted attempts to persuade a reluctant God to come to their aid and grant their desires.

Those who feel themselves to be frustrated in prayer will be wise to open their minds afresh to the teaching of our Lord and the Bible as a whole. Another and scarcely less valuable road to recovery of faith is to put themselves in touch with the historic masters of prayer. To say nothing of the wealth of official Christian Prayer-books, there are copious modern collections in which are assembled prayers from all kinds of sources and by authors representing the most varied types of Christian faith and experience.

How has prayer shaped itself in the souls of those whose recorded prayers are thus available for study and examination? When he turns over the pages of one of these collections the reader must soon perceive that petition confined to temporal needs and aims fills a relatively small place in them.

It is, of course, a mistake to depreciate the value of prayer as petition: "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." But the prayer of mature faith and obedience is increasingly self-centred and less and less interested in satisfying personal desires and needs. It becomes, like the Lord's Prayer, more and more occupied with the hallowing of the Name, the coming of the Kingdom, and the doing of the Will of God.

The Poets Corner TO AN OLD ARISTOPHONES Three hundred years ago Those was the scholar thumb That browed your pages so? Athens is never dumb To any laughter-lover Loosing your motled cover. Yet, Aristophanes, For me your voice is mingled With some old scholar's wheeze, While his weak body tingled, With merriment for this book. —G. Rostrever Hamilton.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) NEW ORGAN RECITAL The organ recital, or rather what might be more appropriately designated the introduction of the New Pipe Organ to the lovers of music in our city, came off on Monday evening last, in the Methodist Brick Church. The full organ, the builder of the instrument, who is an excellent performer, was going to play, assisted by some of our best local talent, coupled with the chaste design and musical qualities of the instrument, were the means of drawing together a very large and attentive audience.

Frederic A. Large K.C. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY Royal Bank of Canada Chambers Charlottetown, P.E.I. Successor to George J. Tweedy, K.C.

Neil W. Higgins Chartered Accountant Currie Building Charlottetown Tel. 1636 P.O. Box 452

H. R. Doane & Co. Chartered Accountants 53 Grafton Street Charlottetown Phone 2089 Box 347 Randolph W. Manning, C.A.

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Neil W. Higgins Chartered Accountant Currie Building Charlottetown Tel. 1636 P.O. Box 452

H. R. Doane & Co. Chartered Accountants 53 Grafton Street Charlottetown Phone 2089 Box 347 Randolph W. Manning, C.A.

Dr. W. R. Carson Chiropractor Palmer Graduate Charlottetown 201 Prince St. Phone 1970 H. F. McPhee, B.A., K.C. NOTARY, Etc. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR Riley Building Charlottetown M. Alban Farmer B.A., LL.B. MONEY TO LOAN BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. J. A. McGulgan NOTARY, ETC. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR CURRIE BUILDING A. Waltham Gaudet, LL.B. Barrister, Solicitor, Etc. Phillips Building 1111 Grafton St. Money to Loan Collections Matheson and Peake A. W. MATHESON, K.C. A. H. PEAKE, B.A., LL.B. Barristers, etc. Collections - Money to Loan 90 Great George Street Charlottetown Joseph R. MacMillan, LL.B. Barrister, Solicitor, Etc. 75 Queen Street PHONE 776 Money to Loan Collections Charles R. McQuaid B.A. Barrister, Solicitor, Notary, Etc. Eastern Trust Building Charlottetown Phone 1711 Dr. W. T. Hooper Physician & Surgeon HARBOUR BUILDING 123 Easton St. Office Hours:—2-4 P.M. 6-8 P.M. Phone:—Office: 1717 Home: 1288 J. E. BURNETT, LL. B. Barrister, Solicitor, &c. ODDFELLOWS BUILDING 134 Richmond Street Charlottetown, P.E.I. Telephone 2380 Dr. J. C. Gallant B.Sc. DENTIST Pickard Building 151 Great George St. Office Hours: 9:30-12:00 2:00-5:00 PHONE 2697 Public Stenographer