

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JAN. 19, 1950

Farm Counselors in Conference

For the third successive year, senior officials of the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture are now in conference at the Experimental Farm discussing mutual problems and incidentally contributing in a very important manner to the development of our farming industry.

The word "charting" was used advisedly. It is no part of the duty of our farm officials to dictate government policies, nor do they seek to do so.

This fine spirit of co-operation is responsible for much of the progress made in recent years, particularly in improving quality production and in grappling with marketing problems.

The New Form Of Bribery

The economy of the nation is replacing the old "pork barrel" as a source of political bribery. Now-a-days the smart politician scorns in most cases such trivial vote getters as the awarding of contracts to deserving supporters, and even takes credit for the impartial awarding of these former plums.

Changing Times

Three decades ago, when farm revolt against the "big interests" was sweeping the Prairie West, one of the movement's prime targets of attack was the Canadian banking system.

The Winnipeg Free Press recalls that as the key men in the system, bank directors came in for the main share of denunciation. A mild idea of the popular farm feeling at the time is contained in these quotations from a speech made before the Commons banking committee during the 1923 session.

"We are now in the hands of a banking octopus."

"These directors not only control our universities but also our industries and indeed it might also be said that they control our Government."

The same charges were made, with considerably greater vehemence almost every time a few Western farmers got together to talk over affairs. The banking system was monopolistic, reactionary and cruel.

It stifled progress and if it served any part of the country it was the industrial East not the agricultural West. It was the enemy of the farmer.

"What brings these accusations back to mind," adds the Free Press, "is an announcement made recently by Mr. B. C. Gardner, President of the Bank of Montreal. It was to the effect that Mr. Rush D. Purdy, Manager of the Alberta Wheat Pool, had been appointed a director of the bank."

EDITORIAL NOTES

"The year that's awa" proved a record all round in prosperity for the Province. May the current year be no less a record breaker.

The Federal Government has given members and senators a fortnight's longer vacation than expected. Parliament will not be called till February 16th instead of the 2nd as was generally anticipated.

The value of Georgetown as a winter port is again emphasized by the sailing on Tuesday of a potato boat for the Southern States. Pity it that this magnificent port cannot be more widely used at this season.

Restoration of our Cabinet representation at Ottawa may be close at hand, notwithstanding the fact that the announcement last evening by the Prime Minister does not indicate the promotion of Mr. MacNaught to a vacant portfolio.

Unthinkable! Orange (N.S.W.) Country Women's Association decided to object to the ages of women being published. "Almost as bad as publishing a woman's bank balance," said one member.

Terms of the new Anglo-Canadian cheese contract are expected to be announced within the next few days and likely will provide for sale of about 80,000,000 pounds of cheese at 26 cents a pound—a drop of four cents from last year's price. Last year's contract covered only 50,000,000 pounds.

A Montreal psychologist and semanticist divides the human race into those with B-personality, who have never got beyond the more primitive stages of using their brain, and those with C-personality, who use their higher thought processes.

The Maritimes have lost their pitprop market in the Old Country and an attempt by Newfoundland to negotiate a barter deal in this commodity has fallen through. Our Island farmers have always been doubtful as to the value of this export so far as this Province is concerned.

Rt. Hon. Augustine Birrell, English barrister, essayist and politician, born this date 1850. Entered parliament in 1889, and appointed President of the Board of Education in 1905; Secretary for Ireland 1907-16. Under his regime the Irish University Act, Irish Land Act, and Home Rule were carried. He resigned on the outbreak of Dublin (Easter) rebellion in 1916. Elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University in 1911. A witty speaker, notable for "birrellisms", an essayist of delightful style, author of "Obiter Dicta" (1st and 2nd series). He died in 1933: "A politician who screams is never likely to occupy a commanding place in the House of Commons."

Interest is increasing in the forthcoming civic election. At least two organizations, the Charlottetown Board of Trade and the Charlottetown Branch of the Canadian Legion will actively campaign for the largest possible turn-out of voters on election day. Major T. E. MacNutt at Rotary on Monday said that "the indifference of the electorate was a temptation to some politicians to buy the relatively small deciding vote."

Our fishermen are at their slack period having temporarily swallowed the anchor. From now until May they must behave more or less like landlubbers except for the time they must spend upon repairing their gear and recalling tales of the sea. The enforcement officers this year have ensured that the fishermen will have a little less time on their hands than in former years owing to the 6,000 traps that they seized and destroyed. These must be replaced by the owners at an estimated expense of \$3.00 per trap. Too bad there is not some way to confiscate rather than destroy the erring fisherman's gear.

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.

SIDE POST OFFICE SITE

Sir.—The matter of the site chosen for the erection of the new Post Office Building in Summerside is receiving a lot of discussion here.

The proposed site, the Allen property at the corner of Summer and Church Sts., is adjacent to the Memorial Square.

It is the opinion of many citizens that our Memorial Square is "hemmed in" enough already. What, then, would be the description of our Memorial Square, if the new Post Office were to be erected on the proposed site?

The new building would contain the offices of the R.C.M.P., Post Office, Customs, Unemployment Insurance Commission, Fisheries, etc. Undoubtedly, this would become a very busy corner, what with hundreds of people visiting the above mentioned offices daily, and the heavy traffic.

The next move would be the erection of a store, restaurant or theatre in this vicinity. And why not? It would be a very busy section of town.

The Memorial Square has always been, and should continue to be, in a comparatively quiet section of town. During the summer months, it is invaded by a large number of citizens who enjoy the quiet peaceful beauty it offers. That is what a public park is for.

The above pleasure would no longer be available if the new building was erected on the proposed site.

What, then is the alternative? We are all aware that a new Post Office and Government Building is needed in Summerside. But is it necessary to sacrifice the serenity of Memorial Square to have it?

The Saunders' property, on Central Street, which is owned by the Town, has been suggested for the site of the new building. It is larger than the Allen property. It would be the ideal site. An exchange of these properties would result in mutual satisfaction.

In the case of the Government, they would be getting a much larger property, which would, I am sure, be more suited to their needs.

On the other hand, the Town would get a much needed addition for the Memorial Square.

It is to be hoped that a suitable agreement regarding the exchange of properties may be reached.

I am, Sir, etc. "JOHN WILLIAM" Summerside, January 17.

NORTH RIVER BRIDGE

Sir.—Now that it appears possible the Trans-Canada Highway may be started while the Jones' Government is the administration here, I wish to make some observations about the present attitude of this Government, and Premier Jones in particular, concerning part of proposed route and the location of this bridge across the North River.

Since this project has been advertised, the Premier's assertions that I have read cause me to be convinced that he is definitely opposed to building the new bridge in the vicinity of the Brighton area, a location which would enable the highway route to go direct from Cornwall Village by the Ferry Road to Charlottetown.

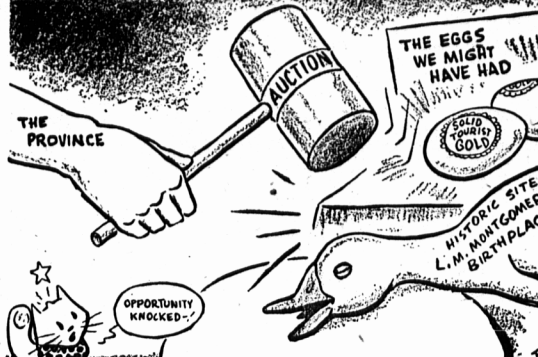
Instead, it appears the Premier would cause the bridge to be built in the vicinity of the Beach Grove property, thus causing the route to be indirect from Cornwall to Charlottetown and increasing the distance some miles, and for doing so, he gives these time-worn excuses:—Engineering difficulties and that the saving in distance would not warrant the increased expenditure.

If the latter excuse is logical, then it would also be logical to remove the present antiquated North River bridge and not replace it with another anywhere on the river. Instead, build the highway around the head of the river by way of Milton, which would only increase the distance a few more miles.

These excuses vividly recall to me accounts I have heard many times from a former generation of residents south of the Hillsborough River about the controversy re. the location of the Hillsborough Bridge before it was constructed. Those who advocated it be placed further up the river used the same excuses as the Premier is now using about the Brighton location. But a few men of vision and courage insisted upon the present location and finally accomplished their objective.

Now, Sir, in the hope of causing the Premier to give further consideration to the location of the

Under The Hammer



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) BATTLE WITH A BEAR

"On Saturday night, the 3rd inst., Mr. Roderick McDonald, of Norrie's Pond, was severely injured by a bear. Having information that he was in pursuit of some sheep, McDonald went out accompanied by a person of the name of McAlloy, with his gun loaded with shot; when within a few paces of the prowler, he fired and lodged the contents of his musket in the bear's body, from the effects of which he fell. McDonald thinking he should now have no trouble to dispatch him, ran up and struck him with an axe, but before he gave a second blow, the bear wrestled his weapon from his hand and threw it some distance. He was now in the power of bruin single handed, who made several attempts to seize him by the throat, and it was only by getting hold of his ears, that he extricated himself from his desperate embrace.

"The bear now endeavored to make off, but McDonald getting hold of a log from the fence renewed the fight; he struck him two or three times, the longer breaking at each blow; having a small piece only left in his hand, he endeavored to thrust it down the bear's throat, but missing his aim he again fell into the brute's clutches, who made every effort to seize upon him in the vital parts, and it was only by putting his hand in his mouth which was bitten desperately, that this strategy was prevented. After struggling for some time with his savage antagonist, McDonald succeeded in again getting hold of his ears, by which means he was relieved from hisfangs.

"After his rescue he was covered with blood from the top of his head to his feet, which proceeded from his wounds and those of the bear. It seems unaccountable how McAlloy could have remained quiet during this frightful contest and not rendered assistance. McDonald called to him several times but he gave him no aid; it being dark, he was as likely to see McDonald as the bear.

"Although McDonald was dreadfully mangled we are happy to say he is in a fair way of recovery. A pursuit was made after the bear by a number of neighbours, but it raining during the night they lost all traces of his path."

—Royal Gazette, Aug. 13, 1833.

I am, Sir, etc. WEST RIVER.

For Foot Ailment Consult H. J. A. BROWN, D. P. Orthopedic Chiropodist 143 Great George Street CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

Notes By The Way

Suggestions made with regard to the electric power possibilities of the French river recall the fantastic Georgian Bay canal scheme which men talked and dreamed about in North Bay as far back as 1909. Forty-one years have passed without a move being made to carve the canal which would link Lake Nipissing with Georgian Bay and the Great Lakes—virtually making this city an inland port. Forty-one more years may go by without anything being done, but the Georgian Bay canal is a topic which affords immense scope for speculation. —North Bay Nugget.

It used to be said of Londoners — most likely still is — that they enjoyed the annual Christmas Pantomime because they could be sure they would hear the same old jokes that they had laughed at since childhood. The same, to our jaundiced eye, is true of television. It's amazing how long the old vaudeville gags and skits remain laughable—and how often they are used. Which is a long way of getting around to the fact that the detective-story mixture for 1949 was there much as before. Rarely has there been a more static 12-month in whodunit history. There were a few promising newcomers, writers "to be heard from", but no bright new stars. The oldtimers were in there pitching with the same control and change of pace that distinguished their performances in earlier years. But none of them did anything especially distinguished. It looks at the moment as if the total number of detective stories published during 1949 would be in the vicinity of 170. Almost all of these were full-length novels. There were about half a dozen volumes of factual stuff — of which this writer recalls most favorably "Crimes That Shook the World," by Richard Hirsch (Duell, Sloan and Pearce, \$2.75). Six volumes of short stories also appear in the total. About those newcomers in the most promising of the lot seems to be Dorothy Salisbury, whose "The Judas Cat" (Scribner's, \$2.50) was above average. And there is one story coming up in early 1950 that should be a knockout if it's half as good as its title. It's called "And When She Was Bad She Was Murdered." —Saturday Review of Literature.

The Age-Old Story

To deliver thee from the way of evil man, from the man that speaketh forward things, to deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger that flattereth thee with her words.

HELPFUL DOG

BRISBANE, Australia — (CP) — Smudge, a herd dog, pulls a boat for his owner, L. G. Savill. Mr. Savill, who anchors the boat 200 yards from shore, swims with Smudge out to the 12-foot long row boat. Smudge then takes the boat's rope and swims to shore. His master helps with the oars.

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