

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1953

W. I.

Whether school children need more milk or the school needs redecoration, the Women's Institute is apt to be the body that will not only notice the need but do something about it.

Charlottetown welcomes the Prince Edward Island Women's Institutes meeting for their 40th anniversary. The Women's Institutes are a power in the land because they recognize and act upon the principle that service is what counts.

The 320 institute branches in the Province are, in fact, Island womanhood, organized to provide a better life for their family and community, to widen their own contacts and interests and generally to leave their Province a better place for living than they found it.

Of organizations to help farmers and others make a living there are many and they do a good job in finding markets, improving agricultural practice and financing, but the Women's Institutes exist to improve rural life and without them even the most prosperous farming community would be poor indeed.

The Budworm Battle

This year's "Operation Budworm" in New Brunswick has been successfully completed. It was carried out on a major scale by a fleet of no fewer than 77 special DDT-spraying planes on the pest-infested softwood areas of Restigouche, Madawaska, Gloucester, Victoria and Northumberland Counties.

The spruce budworm has been a periodic invader of softwood stands over a long span of time, making its appearance every 20 to 25 years and in heavy concentration. Last year was the first time aerial spraying with a specially compounded DDT position was resorted to.

The spruce budworm is a very small though, strangely, mighty forest despoiler. Just how tiny this insect is can be gleaned from the fact that 250 of them can be hatched on the underside of a single pine needle.

Aerial spraying is among the foremost of inventive processes ever devised to achieve greater protection and conservation of forests in North America.

Famine In China

Behind the Iron Curtain in Communist China famine is causing a serious population shift. Commenting on the situation in a report in the London Observer, O. M. Green states that "even on the basis of the Communists' figures, which are almost certainly an under-statement, peasants who have abandoned their bits of land and wandered blindly to the cities must number some hundreds of thousands."

west, claimed last month to have "persuaded" 12,800 peasants to go home. Some thousands of these had come from the coastal provinces of Shantung and Kiangsu, hundreds of miles away.

These are samples of the normal vicissitudes of rural life in China where four-fifths of the population look to the land for a living. It is clear that the Communists' attempt to solve the problem by distributing the landlords' estates among the peasants has not succeeded.

Even in the management of that allocation, the Communist regime has created for the peasant all sorts of new perplexing problems, as brought out in an official survey in the great southern province of Kwangtung.

The survey emphasizes that the peasants, particularly those of the so-called "middle class", are perpetually afraid of being elevated to the landlord class. They hesitate to hire needed labor or to lend money to poorer peasants for fear of being accused of exploiting them.

Another grievance is the system of taxation. The peasants say that the officials set them a certain arbitrary standard of production and base the taxes on that regardless of whether it can be reached or not.

The Peking "People's Daily" sharply attacks the official agricultural organizations (of which there are 180,000 spread over China) for precipitating the flight to the towns. They are charged with "commandism" (unwarrantable use of force), seizure of land and tools, and forcing farmers into agricultural co-operative groups as a step towards the collectivization of the land.

The basic fact is that there is not enough land in China for the hundreds of millions of her population.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Wood Islands opens the boat racing season today and other regattas are soon to follow.

At long last the British Columbia vote has been officially counted or almost counted and the victory of Premier W. A. C. Bennett's Social Credit Party confirmed.

Commodore Matthew C. Perry entered Tokyo Bay to open Japan to Western trade this date 1853 after 250 years of isolation. His career in the United States Navy included commanding the "Fulton", the earliest steam warship, putting down the West African slave trade, and the Mexican war.

With the United States considering unloading surplus foodstuffs to relieve war in various parts of the world and Communists in Eastern Europe doing likewise to ease tension, international politics takes on the appearance of rival "give-away" programmes.

The \$40 a month pensions payable to every Canadian over 70 were, as Parliament planned, to be self-supporting from a 2 per cent federal tax, 2 per cent corporation tax and 2 per cent personal income tax.

Nature has some curious aspects which science has not yet explained. The geographic distribution of blue flowers, for instance, is commented upon by Unesco Features thus: It is a fact that there are very few blue flowers in tropical regions.

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Celebrating Forty Happy Years Together



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.

ELECTIONS

Sir.—Elections, particularly general elections, are not of frequent occurrence and nowadays are dull and drab events. Time was when election contests were exciting and sometimes entertaining but not now.

Kilt and Trews

Senior officers in the Canadian Army should not wear the kilt. Nor should they appear in tartan trews. These inimitable adornments for the well-built, neat-looking soldier are reserved for regimental officers.

Old Charlottetown

"About 6 o'clock this morning, the Boat Charles, Hubbard, Master, arrived from Pictou (whether she was despatched on Wednesday last for the express purpose) with the first August mail from England. Our latest dates are to the 4th instant. . . . It will hardly be credited, that the "Hibernia", on her last trip, ran the distance from Halifax to Liverpool in an hour less than nine days!

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Ocean Yachts Race Three Times In '53

Ocean racing sailormen, as dedicated a group of sportsmen as mountain climbers, put to sea this summer in three major bluewater classics — the jaunt down the Atlantic coast from Newport to Annapolis, the cold and windy Fastnet off England, and the long trade-wind reach out to Honolulu from California's sunny shore.

Transoceanic races are not regularly scheduled, but there have been a number of them. Among the more famous since 1905 have been the longest ever held, the four-yacht contest from San Francisco to Tahiti; the 1928 thrash to Santander, Spain, from Gravesend Bay; the 1931 Newport to Plymouth, England; and the Newport to Bergen, Norway, in 1935.

Since the early days of ocean racing, the trend has been toward smaller ships, which if properly designed, can be as safe as the biggest. Top limit for the Bermuda, for example, is just over 70 feet on deck. Yachts under 40 feet can race in this carefully supervised event.

EXTRAORDINARY PASSAGE

"The first truly long-distance yacht race took place in 1866 when the big American schooner Vesta, Henrietta and Fleetwing crossed the Atlantic from Sandy Hook to Cowes, English yachting center. James Gordon Bennett's Henrietta won.

In 1870, the English schooner Cambria beat an American counterpart, Dauntless, from Ireland to Sandy Hook. There was another two-boat race, America to Ireland, in 1887. But in 1905 came what still ranks as the greatest bluewater race. Eleven sail yachts set out with a cup donated by the German Kaiser. The schooner Atlantic won and set a record never since equalled by a sailing yacht — 3,014 miles in 12 days, 4 hours, 1 minute, 19 seconds.

The American ocean classics — the Bermuda and the Honolulu — are the oldest of all regularly scheduled deepwater competitions. Instituted in 1906, they have been continued, with lapses, ever since.

Sailed annually at first, they are now biennials. In the odd years between Bermudas, which start off Newport, R. I., the East Coast fleet has been sailing down from Newport to the Chesapeake Capes, then up the Chesapeake Bay to Annapolis. Some yachtsmen consider this a coastal rather than an ocean race.

A few have the same opinion of the more highly regarded Fastnet, which is a round trip from England's Channel Coast past Land's

Notes By The Way

Two ladies who ran a fine restaurant in an upstate resort closed it last season and are not reopening it this year. "Summer visitors have changed," one lady said. "They haven't time to eat in a nice restaurant and wait until a decent meal is ready. All they want is a hamburger and they tell you: 'We are in a hurry—we still have 250 miles to drive before night.' Today most of the vacationists on the highways are just hamburger tourists. They won't stop anywhere for more than a half hour." — W. C. White, N.Y. Herald Tribune.

Birds seem to be dumb dodos. A while back there was a tale going the rounds about a flock of gulls near one of the Florida ports. For many years this flock of gulls fed on the leavings from the fishing boats. After a while fish became scarce in those particular waters and the fishing fleet moved away. As a result many of the birds starved to death — the gulls had forgotten how to fish for themselves. So went the story. Now there is a new bird story. This one involves a blackbird and a nine-year-old school girl in California. A baby blackbird fell from its nest. The little girl took it home and cared for it. The birdlet thrived as a result of good care. In time it became a full fledged bird and full-fledged member of the family as well. The story goes on to say that the blackbird has adjusted itself to family life and all is going well — except for one thing. The little benefactress has to cut up its worms on a plate, otherwise the poor bird would starve." — So ends the story. If birds forget that easily from one generation to the next, small wonder dodos, passenger pigeons, trumpeter swans have wandered off and got lost. — Winnipeg Tribune.

The Poet's Corner

STRANGE CALL The hen is hiding her eggs away. Brown, warm one by precious one. Away from tame straw, away from the house. Under wild boughs, under the sun She slips like a shadow through the grass. She goes like a partridge light of foot. Her eyes are drops of the sun, her slim Body is like an adder's flow.

Considerable fuel will be added to the ancient controversy over whether art imitates life or vice versa by the news that Canada is building a genuine flying saucer. It was high time that somebody was building a flying saucer, people have been seeing them for so long that it has become necessary to invent them. Canada's flying saucer, of course, is a seriously intended device; it is a jet plane embodying new principles in revolutionizing established air concepts. The immediate reaction of the common man, however, is

The Age Old Story

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. — Robert F. Tristram Coffin in the New York Times.

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