

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, OCT. 26, 1953

Preventable Blindness

According to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, 50 per cent of all blindness is preventable and that organization, many of whose members have themselves been deprived of sight, devotes considerable effort towards the saving of sight. Their efforts may well prevent some of those now being canvassed for aid from joining the ranks of the blind.

The major task of the Institute, of course, is to assist those who have lost their sight in making necessary adjustments to life without that faculty, to convince one another of the fact that their remaining faculties can be developed to compensate or more than compensate for the loss of one. Just as a civilian must be re-educated to the skills of military life or the soldier to those of peace-time living, those deprived of sight must be given the opportunity of learning to live and make a living in darkness.

The various programmes cost money, although little enough compared with military and educational budgets. In this Province the objective is \$7000 to provide the services needed to enable 162 blind people to be self-supporting and give them something like equal opportunities for recreation and self-improvement. If their efforts to prevent blindness saved even one person's sight he or she would consider the whole amount a worth-while investment.

Canada Pays Way

Canada has paid the United States some \$37,000,000 to cover the costs of maintaining Canadian Army units in the United States command in Korea, it is revealed in Ottawa. The payments are up to June of 1953, leaving the relatively short period between then and the armistice to be accounted for.

What the United States did was supply Canadian forces with ammunition, food, gasoline, medical services and various items of equipment. Canada, in turn, agreed to pay a per diem rate per man. This rate was variable, but most recently it has been \$5.28. It would have been an impossible task to make an exact footing for every man of the 14 nations whose force the United States was helping to supply. Thus the average was used.

Canada, Ottawa reports, has been very much satisfied with the arrangement. At times there has been thought that the per diem per man seemed high, but every item received careful scrutiny by the Canadian Department of National Defence. And when a complaint could be justified, it was brought to the U. S. attention and promptly remedied.

Part of the program involved training of Canadian forces at U. S. Army bases. One of these was Fort Lewis, Wash., at the beginning of the war. In the light of the tremendous fighting by Canadians in Korea, this training was successful, to understate the case.

A Shared Inheritance

A bronze plaque was recently unveiled at Edinburgh Castle by Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, Premier of Nova Scotia. It marks the location where long ago King James VI of Scotland empowered certain Scottish baronets to take possession of lands in what was then a new colony and is today the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. The lands were here simply for the taking although they were the native hunting haunts of North American Indians.

Today, notes the Sydney Post-Record, the story of the Nova Scotia barons seems more than anything else like a fragment of parchment from the past, having to do with feudal days and ways no longer figuring in the drama of Nova Scotian life. The lands so royally bestowed by a sovereign upon his loyal liege lords, were long since taken over by the settlers who tilled the soil from which they cut away the forest growth that extended from the summits of the hills to the verge of the sea.

And now a plaque upon an ancient wall commemorates a picturesque episode of history and a story that probably beguiles the 100 and more Scots in Scotland, who today are Nova Scotia baronets by inheritance but without the Nova Scotian lands a monarch granted their forbears.

"The plaque unveiled at Edinburgh Castle is the sign and the token of more than pertains to an event that in itself endures in the perspective of the century."

ies," says the Post-Record. "What matters most are the ties that bind in the living moment and are expressed in the songs and stories shared in common by every day people on both sides of the Atlantic, who share together a Scottish inheritance not of land but of the spirit as well as of race."

Rural Electrification On The Prairies

By the end of 1953, electricity will be in use on approximately 80,000 prairie farms, or something less than one-third of the total. These include approximately 39,000 farms in Manitoba, 18,000 in Saskatchewan, and 23,500 in Alberta. Though slow to begin, progress in all three provinces at the present time is reasonably satisfactory. Saskatchewan was the last to initiate a rural electrification program, but is aiming at approximately 6,500 new farm services per year. Alberta is electrifying farms at the rate of about 5,000 per year, so that in three more years, both provinces will approximate Manitoba's present total.

"Experience with rural electrification has been much the same everywhere," says The Country Guide. "Preliminary estimates of the amount of electricity used are soon out. The tendency is to use about two-thirds of the total kilowatt hours in the home, and the balance for productive farm enterprises. Evidence is accumulating, however, that these proportions might well be reversed in the course of time, especially in areas of diversified agriculture. Electrical energy on Canadian farms is low-cost labor. As such, it is an economical method of reducing the amount of back work in farming, while at the same time adding materially to the comfort and convenience of farm living. For a natural force which not even the physicists seem to fully understand, it possesses one outstanding virtue not always creditable to human beings: it improves on acquaintance, and as its versatility is more fully appreciated."

In Canada since the close of World War II the production of electrical energy, in terms of kilowatt hours, has increased by more than 50 per cent, according to a recent business review by the Bank of Montreal. At the end of 1952 there was developed generating capacity amounting to 15.7 million horsepower, or more than one horsepower for each Canadian. While our gross national production in 1938-39 dollars was increasing from \$9.3 billion in 1945, to \$11.5 billion in 1952, our electrical power production was going up from 40.1 billion kilowatt hours to 61.7 billion kwh.

EDITORIAL NOTES

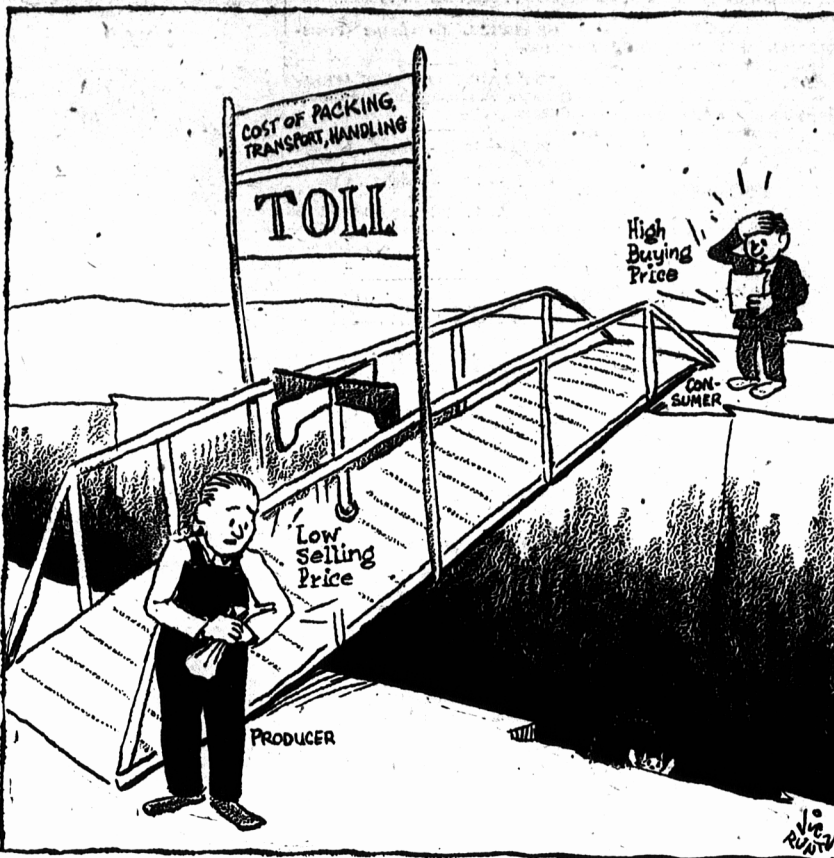
Today the R. C. A. F. Station at Summerside goes operational. No sudden change will be observed because of its altered status but already changes have commenced and will be carried further. The advantages of location and weather which helped Training Command to maintain a very high standard of instruction will continue to benefit training and operational work of Maritime Air Command and the Fleet Air Arm.

Georges Jaques Danton, "the Titan of the French Revolution," was born this date 1759. A prosperous Parisian lawyer, he took little part in the early stages of the Revolution but in 1792 was appointed minister of justice. From then his personality looms large in events. He founded the Cordeliers' Club of extreme radicals, was one of the original members of the Committee of Public Safety and in 1793 created the revolutionary tribunal, a body which a year later ordered his execution.

Rebinding of the Book of Kells, the finest of the Irish illuminated manuscripts which consists of a copy of the Four Gospels written in Latin about the year 800, will probably be completed by the middle of next month, according to an Irish government release. By then the original single volume, comprising 340 leaves, will have become four distinct volumes which will, of course, be kept carefully together as a unit. Each volume will contain one of the four Gospels. The first volume (St. Matthew) will comprise about 128 leaves; St. Mark will have 50; St. Luke about 100; and St. John about 50.

The Speaker of the South African Assembly has given a ruling on the type of discussion on the Courts that could take place in Parliament. He ruled that although the House had to accept the correctness of the decisions of the courts of law, the Government of the day might introduce legislation to vary the consequences of these decisions. When such legislation was before it, Parliament had to take cognisance of the decisions concerned and members could freely discuss their consequences. They could not, however, question the correctness or equity of such decisions. It would seem that the South African Parliament accepts the same principles on this matter as do other members of the Commonwealth and the United States, although hot-headed statements might indicate otherwise.

The Bridge Makes The Difference



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.

ROCKY POINT FERRY

Sir,—Now, at last it has happened! What has been dreaded and feared for some time by the Rocky Point residents is now a grim reality.

When the ferry Fairview went aground on Friday morning last off Paoli's wharf and subsequently developed a serious leak with of course no immediate prospect of a resumption of service, the South Shore and Rocky Point people as well as those in adjacent districts were left completely stranded with no alternative now but to make their way as best they can over a twenty-five mile stretch of road to transact their business in Charlottetown. A portion of this road is now under construction as part of the Trans-Canada Highway and might become almost impassable should heavy and sustained fall rains occur.

Not all are equipped with late model cars or trucks which can be depended on to make this long trip over an indefinite period. Some even have to depend on "old Dobbin" at times, and as one luckless resident of Rocky Point (caught on the Fairview Friday morning with a horse and truck wagon) can testify, the trip around the road is one that neither horse nor driver would care to repeat.

It has been very hard to understand the continued indifference of the present Premier to repeated urgings to have the Trans-Canada Highway come through this section of the country. This is a bridge which would shorten the distance to Charlottetown tremendously, and eventually bring the benefit of a bus service which would especially accommodate those not fortunate enough to own their own means of transportation.

We feel sure that the majority of right-thinking people regard a road through their section as a completely feasible and desirable project. Surely this catastrophe of the Fairview will arouse public opinion to such an extent that the Government can no longer ignore the wishes and just claims of these long-suffering residents of the South Shore.

In the meantime, the "best we can hope for is the doubtful service of a small motor boat on the Rocky Point run, until even that becomes too hazardous as the weather grows colder and ice begins to form on the harbor.

I am, Sir etc. SCRIBE. New Dominion.

The Poet's Corner

AUTUMN CALLING

There is something in the autumn that is native to my blood— Touch of manner, hint of mood; And my heart is like a rhyme With the yellow and the purple and the crimson keeping time.

The screech of the maples can shake me like a cry Of bugles going by; And my lonely spirit thrills To see the frosty asters like smoke upon the hills.

There is something in October sets the gipsy blood astir; We must rise and follow her: When from every hill and flame She calls and calls each vagabond by name.

YOUNG WIDOWS

NEW DELHI, (AP)—Census figures showed Saturday that 133,523 Indian girls between five and 14 are single widows or divorcees.

Odd Operations

By J. P. Jones (The P. L. A. Monthly)

Visitors to the Port of London are usually impressed by the vast scale of the undertaking and often astonished at the complexity of life behind the dock gates; but even those who spend their working lives in dockland may be surprised when confronted by some of the more unusual operations which the specialists carry out. Some of these peculiar rites cloak their real nature under commonplace names while others are labelled with strange technical jargon.

Chaining and chalking, sticking and stabling have no cloak-and-dagger significance, but denote processes carried out on everyday commodities for purely beneficial ends. Such terms as shocking and making overtakers, on the other hand, suggest esoteric mysteries understood only by the initiated. The wine and spirit trade, one of the oldest and most tradition-bound in the Port, is thick with mysteries and technical "cant." When the cooper taps casks to test by ear their full and sound condition, very much as the railway wheel-tapper works, he is "sounding" the cask, leaving the liquor and not the consumer. The operation goes by the technical name of "racking."

"Fining and bagging the lees" might be worth trying on a "quiz" team. Fining is the process of treating wine with a preparation usually based on isinglass which has the effect of precipitating the suspended impurities, leaving the wine fine and bright. "Bagging the lees" simply means putting the precipitated dregs into a cone-shaped bag for the last of the wine to drain out.

The expressions of "fortifying" and "brandyng" may convey to the layman an unduly rose impression of life in the wine vaults. It should be made clear that they refer to operations carried out on the liquor and not the consumer. The Schedule of Rates and Charges makes mention of coloring, sweetening and tasting. These terms mean just what they say, for the wines and spirits are sometimes artificially colored and sweetened on the merchant's instructions, and tasting orders are issued for sampling purposes.

On the other hand, coloring cigars means something quite different. Here there is no question of adding pigment but rather of sorting the cigars to their different shades of color which ranges from claro (light) to colorado (from the Spanish word colored), meaning dark.

The connection between lengths of heavy iron chain and the vintner's "chaining" of casks is often carried out. It consists of cleaning out the inside of the empty casks by rolling them up and down with a chain inside in order to scour the staves and heading. "Shocking" casks is the operation of taking the hoops off, separating the staves and pieces of heading and pecking them all up into a neat bundle. This saves shipping space and is commonly carried out on sherry butts. These are normally shipped full of sherry from Spain and sent back shocked five times before they are considered to have earned honourable retirement to Scotland for use as whisky containers.

One could fill pages with descriptions of all the strange-sounding operations performed on casks by the Authority's experts. Flaggling, tenter-hooking, driving and bunging-up are the everyday activities in the shadowy recesses of the wine vaults. Suffice it is to say that the cooper drives or tightens up the hoops on the punch-logs, octave, pipe or hoghead and then fixes the hoops in position by hammering in tenterhooks which are rather like L-shaped nails. An operation now virtually extinct but once was practised with gusto and secrecy is "greasing." The word is applied to stewing out with hot water the liquor absorbed in the timber of an empty cask. H. M. Customs frown heavily on the practice which has long been classed as illegal. Spirituous liquors, however, do not have a monopoly of interesting operations. Indeed, many commodities, especially fine goods, have their peculiar processes and mysteries. Few outside the ranks of those who handle leaf tobacco know what is meant by making an overtaker. An overtaker is a small subsidiary package made up from part of the parent bale or hoghead. The tobacco packed in the overtaker usually consists of a selection of leaf which is thrown off as being not quite up to the perfect condition of the original. Specialists in all the arts and sciences are often accused of hiding the nature of their activities under a misleading jargon. So, the tobacco man, speaking of garbling, implies just the opposite to the commonplace meaning of the word. Garbling tobacco is not a mixing-up process but the separating of the damaged leaf from the sound. In this use of the word the tobacco man is correct and the man in the street is wrong, for garble is derived from an Arabic word meaning to sift or separate.

When the contents of a chest of tea are turned out for taring (weighing the empty chest) or bulking (mixing the contents of a number of chests to ensure a uniform parcel), some difficulty may be experienced in packing all the tea back into the chest. The tea may then have to be "trodden in" and the surprising spectacle may be witnessed of a gang of men, with their feet covered with cloths, treading down the tea with a rhythmic stamping movement. To lend colour to this strange rite, the men have the picturesque habit of donning funny hats made of tinfoil for the ceremony. As far as is known the attention of the Folk Dance Society has not been drawn to this performance.

Taring or finding the weight of the empty package is, generally speaking, a commonplace operation, but when it is applied to cigars it is carried out usually as a degree of precision not usually associated with a dockworker's work. It may and often does involve the weighing of straw muthpleces and small squares of tissue paper on an apothecary's scale to one thousandth of a pound and the subsequent conversion of the three places of decimals to pounds and ounces. When it is realized that to do this it is first necessary to remove the cigar bands and unwrap the tissue paper and, after the taring, to rewrap the cigar in its tissue foil and carefully slip the band on again, the full delicacy of the process can be appreciated.

Sampling, again, can be a very ordinary affair but there are some unusual refinements in the operation. It reaches the very peak of artistry when high-trade Turkish tobacco leaf samples are taken in precisely echeloned array. Many commodities are sampled with an "iron" of hollow section, but some parcels of raw opium are unique in having samples bored out with a brace and bit. Timber, too, has its odd operations. A merchant may give an order to have his round log "chaired." A piece is then sawn off the end of the log to a depth of about six to twelve inches so as to expose the grain and figure of the wood for better inspection. The niche cut in the end of the log then has a rough resemblance to a chair.

It may seem strange that a merchant should ever want his timber sunk, but there is a laid-down charge for this service. The explanation is that certain timbers, such as pitch pine, keep best in the water and large quantities are stored for long periods in the form of rafts floating in the dock. To overcome the disadvantage of having the underside of the wood wet while the upper side is dry and so liable to develop surface cracks, the owner may consider it worth incurring the expense of having the whole log immersed. In such a case he will give instructions for the log to be sunk by having oth-

Notes By The Way

A committee in the United States lamented that educational TV programs are making little headway. May we suggest that they try presenting an hour of no sound and no picture during which the kids can read a book?—Hamilton Spectator.

Forty years ago it was unusual to see an adult person who had been born in the West. It was a country of people who had come from the East and the South and from overseas to make new homes here. Forty years has made a considerable difference. Western-born people today probably outnumber those who come from other parts and the young settlers of forty years ago are now elderly men and women.—Red Deer Advocate.

People have a universal dislike for snooks, but there is widespread acclaim for the policy at work in Sudbury, Ont., where a group of seventy-five "T-Men" act throughout the city as traffic violation spotters. They are anonymous safety-minded citizens who have volunteered to keep their eyes open for reckless driving. Since the T-Man system was inaugurated, traffic deaths in Sudbury have been cut by eighty-five per cent.—St. John Telegraph Journal.

Dr. Boyd Neel, new dean of Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, has been deploring the lack of theatres in Canada in which full-scale operas could be performed. He observed that Canada is turning out hundreds of fine young artists every year, that audiences are ready and waiting but because of a lack of suitable accommodation for performance the artists take their talents elsewhere. Dr. Neel's observations are familiar to almost every Canadian because major Canadian cities face this problem. It is proof that

er timber placed on top of it. One could go on cataloguing peculiar dock jobs—polishing coffee, rummaging and restowing wasters, cutting and starting grain and so on, but enough for now. For these and many other operations there is always a specialist in the Port of London Authority's staff, whether sorting foreman, cooper, sampler or one of those anything but unskilled dock labourers who can perform the mysteries with skill and despatch

The Age Old Story

As soon as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals, bread, and fish laid thereon, and there.... This is now the third time that Jesus showed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. —The Examiner, Dec. 22, 1874

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

- MacPhee & Trainor, B.A., Q.C. E. SOMERLED TRAINOR, B.A. Barristers, Etc. J. S. Taylor, R.O. OPTOMETRIST Eyes Examined, Glasses Fitted Corner Kent and Queen Sts. Office Phone 9133—House 4756 BREVITY AND CLARITY M. Alban Farmer, Q.C. B.A., LL.B. Barrister and Solicitor Bank of Commerce Building Charlottetown Money to Loan Gordon E. MacMillan, B.A., LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. 154 Prince St. — Charlottetown DIAL 5233 A. Walthen Gaudet, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. Phillips Building 111 Grafton Street Money to Loan Frederic A. Large, Q.C. Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Royal Bank of Canada Building Charlottetown, P. E. I. Loans on City and Farm Properties Matheson, Peake & Nicholson A. W. MATHESON, Q.C. A. H. PEAKE, B.A., LL.B. JOHN P. NICHOLSON, LL.B. Barristers, Etc. Collections — Money to Loan 175 Grafton Street Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. 180 Richmond St. — Charlottetown Phone 590 Dr. K. A. MacEachern DENTIST Dental X-ray Above Charlottetown Clinic 202 Queen St. DIAL 4841 McDONALD, CURRIE & CO. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Saint John, Sherbrooke, Vancouver, Kirkland Lake, Moncton, Hamilton, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Currie Bldg., Charlottetown. H. R. DOANE & COMPANY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS 143 Great George St., Charlottetown P. O. Box 247 ERMA F. MacPHEE, B.A., Q.C. K. E. J. McKENNA, B.A. Other offices: Halifax, Moncton, St. John's, Amherst, Dartmouth, Kentville, Liverpool, New Glasgow, Truro and Cornat Brook.

Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. L.) FIRE FIGHTING UNDER DIFFICULTIES

"On Saturday evening about 7 o'clock the fire bell rang for Ward 1. This was not correct as the fire was in Ward 3—an old, uninhabited tenement on the north side of Hillsborough Street, north of Hillsborough Square, owned by Mr. Paul Paoli. For some time after the alarm was given there were no fire engines on hand. A tank in Mr. Lemuel Phillips' kitchen was resorted to, and buckets, on the old plan, were handed from the tank to the tenement on fire. This helped to subdue the flames. Then came the old Tremont hand engine, which did some work. The Holo steam engine was quartered at Quirk's pump, Prince Street, but could not be got to work for a long time. In fact it had to be repaired at the pump before it could work. The Sibley fire engine was stationed at a new pump on the south west corner of Hillsborough Square. "After a long time the covering was cut at the side of the pump to let the hose down. Having thus succeeded after much hacking with an old axe at the plank, the suction hose were lowered, and with a few strokes of the engine, this pump was sucked dry. Then the Sibley was dispatched to Quirk's pump. By this time the Hook and Ladder Company's hand engine and the buckets fortunately had the fire under control. It was extinguished before 8 o'clock. The house was totally gutted."

—The Examiner, Dec. 22, 1874