

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, 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, SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, 1952

Prospects Never Brighter

Our Provincial and County exhibitions, plowing matches and other outdoor agricultural events are now pretty well over for the year, and new records have been established in many cases, both in attendance and in the competitions. Exceptionally fine weather has been an important factor in these activities, but in addition there is most encouraging evidence of improvement in production and breeding standards all along the line.

Particularly noticeable this year have been the achievements of our younger farmers, indicating the tremendous value of the junior organizations in stimulating interest in farm activities and developing qualities of leadership and initiative which pay big dividends, not only to the individuals and communities concerned, but to the whole Province.

Census figures show that we are now beginning to reverse the population trend in this Province and are retaining more of our younger people at home. The surest way of encouraging this movement is by providing every possible outlet for youthful ambition and enterprise in our basic industries of farming and fishing.

We have been altogether too pessimistic in auditing the debit and credit sides of our ledger in the past. Certainly we should strive to remedy our transportation and other drawbacks, and be on guard at all times against complacency.

In stressing the importance of the potato growers' meeting here on Tuesday night, the Federation of Agriculture expresses the hope that both sides to the controversy—those who favor potato licenses and those who oppose—will be well represented. This is the democratic way of settling the question.

The delegates from three Provinces were speaking for the others as well when they recommended to the Rt. Hon. Mr. Gardiner that greater expenditures must be made on soil conservation and soil fertilization. The three were delegated by the annual conference of agricultural ministers and deputies which met at Charlottetown in August.

Early Co-Operatives

The co-operative movement has taken on such a strong lease of life in recent years that one is apt to forget that long before the extension department of St. Francis Xavier University came into existence the movement had already taken hold on Islanders' imaginations.

Mr. Morrow was one of twenty-two young cheese-makers, chiefly from Ontario, who were brought here in 1894 to work in the then newly-built co-operative cheese factories. The inspiration behind the movement was provided by the famous educationalist, Dr. James W. Robertson, who was familiar with the Scottish co-operative movement which ante-dated the Rochdale pioneers of 1844 by some 45 years.

Like the Scottish societies, however, the Prince Edward Island movement of producers did not flourish until the consumer was taken into the co-operative set-up, which had to wait until the comparatively recent revival.

The original co-operatives started with a wave of enthusiasm but many fell by the wayside, either going out of business or losing their co-operative character. Prob-

ably it was the lack of attention to educating the rising generation in co-operative principles that led to their decline, or possibly the weakness of relatively small enterprises without close links with others of their kind.

In either case the movement is now on a sounder footing. Education is one of the most important activities of the groups and they apply co-operative principles to other groups as they do within their own membership.

Naval Expansion

"The present objective of the expansion programme in the Canadian Navy is a fleet of 100 ships and a personnel of some 21,000." This is the challenging statement of Canada's Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral E. R. Mainguy, O.B.E., C.D.

The Navy is the only one of the three services which does not lack for numbers of recruits but even so the wide range of specialist skills presents a manning problem for even the most popular Service. Some 80,000 men were processed into the wartime Navy but no one would contend that the standard of training, even for the relatively simple weapons and equipment then in use, was all that could be desired.

With every passing month the technical knowledge necessary to operate a modern fighting ship continues to increase. There is an urgent need for recruits with higher educational standards and a will to acquire the specialized skills and knowledge which alone will make it possible for Canada to feel, as Britain could feel at the outbreak of the First World War, that the Navy is ready.

The Royal Canadian Navy has a twofold responsibility. It must provide sea protection for our own coastal waters and at the same time supply ocean going escorts for the protection of convoys in the Atlantic. In both tasks it has the vitally important aid of the Royal Canadian Air Force—a combination which should give a good account of itself and to which the Canadian people should give every support.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow 16th Sunday after Trinity.

Sir Alfred, first Baron Chatfield, English admiral, was born this date 1873. He was with Beatty off Heligoland, in action at Doggar Bank and Jutland. He held key posts between and during two wars and fought against policies which "led the sea-security of the empire to its most dangerous point in 150 years."

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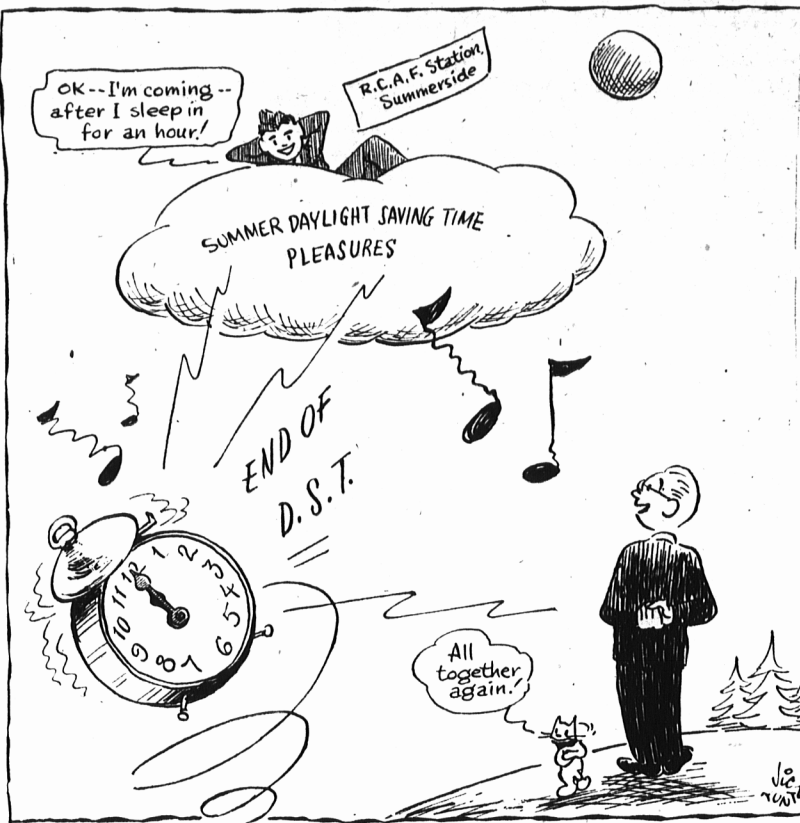
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To capture the Provincial plowing championship at seventeen is indeed an outstanding achievement, on which Mr. Glenn Morrissey, of Cherry Valley, is to be warmly congratulated. And the victor scored his points the hard way, first winning the junior championship and then the 2-sod open tractor contest before taking an all-comers in the final event, in competition with the most experienced plowmen of the Province.

Belfast, Northern Ireland, is happy about Canada's decision to purchase H.M.S. Powerful, a light Fleet carrier, to replace H.M.C.S. Magnificent, now on loan from the Royal Navy. The Powerful was laid down during the war at Belfast but work was suspended for some years. Modifications being made as work goes forward include the strengthening of the flight deck and elevators, improvement in the deck arrester gear, and the fitting of the new steam catapult capable of launching jet and heavy types of aircraft.

Scottish societies overseas have been invited to interest themselves in a scheme to plant flowering shrubs and trees as a permanent memorial of the Queen's coronation. They will be asked to aid in the planting at some appropriate place in Scotland in 1953 of an avenue of trees which would be named to ensure that all were aware of the fact that these trees had been planted by Scots living overseas as a tribute to the Queen and as an additional contribution to the attractions of their native land. The avenue might be named "The Avenue of World Scots" or "Scotland's Overseas Avenue."

Coming Back With Us



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.

POTATO LICENSES

Sir,—The farmers who grow potatoes are now about to be taxed. What for? We have had a Potato Marketing Board for two years, with a very expensive set up. Have they found any new markets for our potatoes? Or is it a set of well paid jobs for a few?

This set of taxes should amount to \$25,000 per year, and why should the farmers provide fine jobs and travelling expenses for a group that have so far produced nothing in a year when prices were poor, and went to sleep when the markets were good?

There was a lot of talk about what a great thing the Potato Board was to be, we were all to get good prices all the time; but in the first year when the potatoes were surplus, we found the Western wheat growers got a \$65,000-000 bonus and the Maritime potato growers next thing to nothing—and that too late to be any good.

I am, Sir, etc., R. VICTOR INMAN North St. Eleanor.

Sir,—A short time ago I read an item in the paper concerning licenses for growing potatoes, so many dollars for growing so many acres, etc., and Mr. MacDonald, one of our well-to-do farmers, is almost at the head of it. It is getting pretty hard when a poor farmer is penalized for growing potatoes on his own land, but I suppose it will make more offices for the Marketing Board. What are they trying to do? I am not a farmer myself but I adore the farmer that I make my living from.

The licenses run from \$2.50 to \$25.00 for a hundred acres of potatoes grown on P.E.I. That means that the farmer growing a small amount has to work, buy fertilizer, look after his potatoes and pay for the privilege of growing them. It will soon be, if the farmers don't look out, that they will have to pay a travelling license to go from the house to the barn.

Licenses do not benefit the farmers. The Marketing Board benefits, but they are not going to stop a man from growing a hundred acres of potatoes, for the more he grows the bigger his license fee will be. What would happen if the farmers got no license and grew no potatoes? I don't think myself that any Government should pass such an Act for any concern, and then come to the country among the farmers and ask them for their votes. I am, Sir, etc., HENRY M. MILLER Johnston's River.

The Age-Old Story

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

MARGARINE VOTE

BRANDON, Man. (CP) — Brandon council will include a referendum on colored margarine in the civic elections Oct. 28. Last year rate-payers voted 8-1 in favor, but the Manitoba Legislature last spring rejected a bill to permit sale of colored margarine.

U.S. Potato Shortage

(Saint John Telegraph-Journal)

According to the New Jersey department of agriculture, a potato shortage is likely to develop in the United States again this winter. A normal nation-wide crop is 350 million bushels. Last year the harvest was down to 226 million bushels and a serious scarcity resulted, driving prices up. This year's harvest looks like 337 million bushels—substantially better than last year, but still not enough to fulfill the demand.

Moreover, the U. S. doesn't expect to be able to import many potatoes from Canada, as this country's crop is below normal, nor from Spain, which has been hit by potato diseases. Buoyant prices in the U. S. will inevitably be reflected on Canadian buying-and-selling quotations. The shortage prospect in our neighbor country almost certainly means that New Brunswick growers can look forward to good prices. So, understandably, farmers who have potatoes to offer are feeling quite buoyant themselves these days.

The fortunate position in which they find themselves is something of a paradox. Usually, a scarcity year (like last year) is followed by a year of high production and a glutted market, with prices consequently slumping. This, in turn, discourages many farmers and they cut down their potato acreage, with the result that the year is one of shortage and soaring prices, which encourages everybody to plant more potatoes for the following year. The saw process goes on interminably. But last spring the cost of seed stock (\$10 to \$12 a barrel) was too steep for numerous New Brunswick farmers of modest means, even if they were anxious to plant heavily. An average farmer seeds ten barrels to an acre, and the acre needs also perhaps \$75 worth of fertilizer, plus the labor and cost of spraying, cultivating, harvesting—a total investment of \$275 to \$300 an acre. This represents a cost of close to \$3 for each barrel of potatoes eventually harvested. On a good-sized farm it would run into a lot of money, and many farmers could not finance it.

For those who had the resources to plant sizable fields, and whose potatoes didn't suffer, too badly from the teeming spring rains and the long mid-summer drought, conditions now look bright. Altogether it is anticipated New Brunswick will harvest about ten per cent more potatoes than last year's short crop (from an acreage expanded by eighteen per cent this year). Word from Ontario is that the harvest there will be large, and the U. S. yield is not large, and the U. S. yield is every indication that the prices paid to New Brunswick farmers—which started at \$8 a barrel about a month ago and are around \$4 now, approximately the same as

The Poet's Corner

TIME IS ON THEIR SIDE

I think the busy little bee Intends out-sitting you and me. I think the bee and snake and fawn

And humming bird and mastodon. Content that we are bankrupt now. Do not intend to make a row; Intend to wait and wait and wait. Like players with an inside straight. Blind Time is in their game; and after

Man and his high hearty laughter Goes into the timeless dust, And all his works are gone to rust I think the Bandarlog will play In Jamshyd's courts on holiday, And deer will take their young with them

To drink along the Thames' calm stream. I think an ancient crocodile Will rule the sleepy River Nile And little mice will overrun The grassy streets of Washington.

—Blanca Bradbury.

Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. I.)

FIRE BUCKETS SCARCE

"On Sunday last at a little after four o'clock, a fire broke out in the house of Mr. David Wilson, merchant of this town, in one of the bedrooms on the second floor. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, with the greater part of the family, were attending public worship at the time. On the alarm being given it was promptly and numerously responded to, and within a short time, with the help of the Town and Barrack engines, the element was got under control and further danger averted. The building was insured at the London Alliance office, and we have been informed that the agent here, the Hon. Charles Young, has, without any delay or demur, come forward and agreed to indemnify the unfortunate occupier.

"One thing that struck us as rather peculiar at this fire, was the very great scarcity of buckets. No people, we think, can turn out more readily or in greater numbers on these occasions than our townspeople, and did so on Sunday, but from some unexplained cause there was not a sufficient supply of buckets, which might, had the fire got ahead, have proved very prejudicial."

—The Palladium, Jan. 18, 1844.

at the corresponding date last year—will be well maintained through the coming winter and spring.

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Notes By The Ways

The suggestion is made that a Canadian stamp be produced with the face of Mr. Douglas Abbott, the finance minister, on it. Well, it would be a way of getting him under the taxpayer's thumb, for a change. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

The National Art Gallery has mastered the art of making attractive copies of master paintings and might interest the government in the work of the Norwegian Ministry of Social Affairs which is supplying all wards in hospitals with at least one work of art. Already 5,000 colored lithographs have been sent to Norway's 400 hospitals. — Ottawa Journal.

An Indiana golfer is in the news for shooting a hole in one on the wrong green! Well, greens look alike, and this kind of shooting was no worse than that other common outdoor error, shooting the farmer's brindle cow in mistake for the deer. — Ottawa Citizen.

A believer in Islam, the religion of one of every seven people in the world, feels puzzled when he is called a Moslem and misunderstood when he's called a Muhammadan. The correct form is Muslim. He similarly feels misunderstood, and is occasionally offended, when his religion is called Mohammedanism rather than Islam, the correct name. — Montreal Gazette.

The Federal Government would be well advised to consider carefully the recommendation made by the Canadian Bar Association. The Liberal party has been in power, with two interruptions, since 1921 and the judges appointed by Liberal governments outnumber those named by the Conservatives. The system of appointment has rarely been abused, but the opportunity for abusing it exists. It should be improved. — Brantford Expositor.

Of one thing we are quite sure: no leader of the opposition will rise to his feet in helping a month or two hence to ask the government how much it spent for travel in connection with this mission to Moscow, and whether the expenditure was really justified. — Journal.

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