

Murray River Fire

There is no more constantly-threatening disaster in this Province than that of fire. Most of the natural perils are things for Prince Edward Islanders to read about rather than experience but fire literally strikes home. There will be widely felt sympathy for those who lost homes or property in the Murray River conflagration yesterday, the keener for the knowledge that a similar fate can strike almost anywhere without warning.

Credit is due to the local volunteer fire-fighters and those who rushed to their assistance from Montague and Charlottetown, but the inadequacy of equipment near at hand obviously contributed to the extent of damage, no less than nine buildings being razed, commercial and residential.

The whole question of protection against fire requires to be studied. It is not good enough to leave it up to incorporated municipalities to make whatever provision seems appropriate for their own foreseeable requirements. Local ratepayers should not be called upon to provide equipment which may be miles away when needed unless there is provision for similar assistance to be returned in case of need. In the case of fires outside of municipalities there is now no question of the aid being reciprocated.

All fire-fighting equipment in a Province of this size should be available wherever needed but only the Provincial Government can make that possible without unfairness to the towns and villages. It can be done by grants to municipalities on the understanding that they will make their equipment available outside their boundaries and thus enable small but strategically placed communities to maintain effective fire-fighting equipment. With an overall plan it is not impossible that Federal aid could be obtained. A Federal cabinet minister, at any rate, recently admitted that Ottawa as the largest property owner has a responsibility in the matter of fire-fighting.

A Promising Method

The month old sub-committee of the United Nations Disarmament Commission has until July 15 to complete its work, giving the Commission from then to Sept. 1 to study the proposals and report to the Assembly and Security Council. The sub-committee meets privately in the countries "most concerned" with the problem and attempts to reach an acceptable solution to the various problems connected with disarmament.

The idea of an "acceptable solution" has been taken to be a solution acceptable to all members of the sub-committee and has led to an interesting procedural development. Instead of having formal votes with countries lined up on opposite sides on question after question, the business of voting has been done away with altogether, except on purely procedural matters.

The first question to be determined by this method was that of membership. Lebanon had proposed a country by country vote on proposed members but did not press the point. The consequence was that although that one question occupied considerable time it was finally decided to the reasonable satisfaction of all. That is to say no country was represented to whose presence any of the original members seriously objected.

The seriousness of the world situation has undoubtedly contributed to the effectiveness of the Commission and its sub-committee. As Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., the United States member pointed out: "We may assume that on both sides of the line which now divides the world there is a recognition of mortal danger. We, on our side, hope that this increasing awareness on the Communist side will be accompanied by a determination matching our own to circumvent the danger and to unlock for mankind the incalculable good in atomic energy."

Native Education In South Africa

In their efforts to widen the breach already in effect between the white and Negro populations Government officials of the Union of South Africa are now taking control of all Negro schools which up to the present have been largely under the direction of the Churches. The purpose of the newly enacted legislation, according to the Department of Native Affairs, is to give Negro children "a different type of education from that given to whites." This means that the Negroes from their earliest

years will be taught that they must remain in a condition of servitude.

Quite understandably the Church officials concerned are taking a dim view of the situation that has arisen. The Anglican bishop of Johannesburg has summed it up in these words: "Through the generosity of church people here and overseas and the self-sacrifice of missionaries something had been built up in the mission schools which, given goodwill and co-operation from the Government, could have been shaped into a worthy instrument for native education. Instead, it is now being destroyed to satisfy a particular racial ideology in the name of educational efficiency." Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church have expressed their intention to negotiate with the Government, with a view to finding a satisfactory solution, but they have little hope that any such solution can be found. The Methodist Board of African Education is taking similar steps, but with no more hope of success.

The Government's ostensible view is that the new arrangement will give Negroes a better education than they have received hitherto; this view, however, will hardly be accepted by anyone who has followed Dr. Malan's systematic process of keeping the millions of Negroes in the Union in a state of economic, social, and political bondage. If one may judge from the Government's record in this respect, the actual result of the legislation will be that from now on Negro children will not receive any education worth the name, but only systematic instruction in how to conduct themselves as members of an inferior and persecuted race. It would be hard to imagine any more glaring instance of callous disregard of fundamental human rights. Its effect on native discontent, which already has reached alarming proportions, cannot be anything but bad. No one denies that there is a serious racial problem in South Africa, but inflicting one injury after another on the native population is surely a stupid way of trying to find a solution for it. It is too much like trying to extinguish a fire by pouring gasoline on it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Clean-up Week

The R. C. A. F. has followed the other armed services in providing training in aeronautical trades for youths between 16 and 21. High school students will be given summer trades training during a one-year enlistment period.

Praise from the commander of the "Desert Rats" is praise indeed. Maj.-Gen. K. C. Cooper, commander of the British 7th Armoured Division in the North African campaign calls the Canadian brigade in Europe "quite first class. Its men are tough and have tremendous spirit, enthusiasm and keenness."

The Netherlands have followed a policy of keeping corporate profits taxes remarkably low in an effort to attract American branch factories. According to the Netherlands Information Service the policy has paid off handsomely and plants bearing famous American names are producing for export all over the world.

Mass-production, with resulting low unit costs in the poultry industry is worrying the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. It seems possible, at least, that the barnyard enterprise will vanish as have handicraft industries in the face of similar competition from large-scale manufacturers.

A Canadian doctor will preside at the opening day's symposium on gynecology at the three-day sessions of the British College of Physicians and Surgeons which opens in London today. Dr. G. Gavia Miller, President Emeritus of the Department of Surgery at McGill, is the physician, through whom the profession in this country is so honoured.

The potato must surely be one of the largest plants on earth. Even the comparatively youthful Sebago, of which there was only 15 pounds on the Island in 1945 has grown to the point where it occupied 20,000 acres in this Province in 1953 and produced many millions of bushels during the intervening period. Farmers do not need to be reminded that every Sebago grown is part of a single plant.

Field Marshal William Riddell Birdwood, first Baron Birdwood, English soldier, died this date 1951. Educated at Clifton and Sandhurst, he joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1883. He took part in the Hazara expedition, 1891, the Isazai expedition, 1892, and the Tirah expedition, 1897-98, the South African War, 1899-1902, and the Mohammed expedition, 1908. In the First World War he commanded the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and the Gallipoli forces during their evacuation. He gained a high reputation commanding the Anzacs in France.



Another Island Name In The Big Book

The Poet's Corner

"ON OUR SOVEREIGN LADY'S RETURN TO THESE ISLANDS"

(Written by Poet Laureate John Macfie upon Her Majesty's return)

Once, when the sign of England was the rose, She bore immortal roses, white and red. What is she bearing now for Man's delight? What rose, red or white? Alas, what flowers blossom under snows For barking foxes in a winter night? We have a radiant rose, our royal head, Now coming from the summers of our kin After such welcome few have ever seen. She is our rose, our Queen. O soul of England, waken from the dead, Let a land worthier of her reign begin. A land at one, for harvests springing green, In all wise ways a garden for the rose.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

COLONEL ROBERT GRAY

A forgotten worthy in early Colonial days in this Province was Colonel Robert Gray, a member of the Fanning Government, who died early in February, 1828 and whose career is thus briefly sketched in the P. E. I. Register of that period:

"Colonel Gray was a native of Scotland, born a few miles from the city of Glasgow. In the early part of his life, his pursuits were of a mercantile nature. In the year 1771 he went to Virginia, where he carried on business for some time on a respectable scale. At the commencement of the American Revolution, when everything was in a state of turmoil and confusion, he prudently retired from trade, and a sort of military devotion having pervaded every rank of society, he entered into a regiment of volunteers, commanded by Lord Dunmore.

"In this corps he saw a great deal of service, and was twice dangerously wounded in engagements with the enemy. He afterwards obtained a company in the King's American Regiment, commanded by General Fanning, and in this early career he distinguished himself in the most gallant manner, particularly at the siege of Rhode Island, where he had the command of the fort on Goat Island. He was afterwards entrusted with the charge of the important fortress at Georgetown, in South Carolina, and remained in command of it until it was evacuated in 1783.

"At the close of this year, remarkable as the epoch of American independence, his regiment was reduced, and Capt. Gray consequently placed on the half-pay of the British establishment. A few months after, he arrived in Nova Scotia, and was immediately sent to Shelburne, in that Province, under a special commission to superintend the settlement of the Loyalists and receive a pressing invitation from General Fanning, his former Colonel, then in the administration of the government of Prince Edward Island, he arrived in this country, and the same year was appointed a member of His Majesty's Council, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, and Provincial Treasurer, which important offices, together with the command of a Militia Battalion and various other minor appointments, he continued to hold to the period of his death."

MORE PATIENTS VICTORIA: (CP)—British Columbia mental hospitals care for 6,303 patients and there is an annual increase of about 300, the provincial secretary's department reported. About 2,500 enter hospitals each year, and about 2,200 are discharged.

Funeral Knell For Merchant Fleet

(Vancouver Province)

All the bells of Port of Vancouver should be tolling a funeral knell for Canada's almost dead merchant marine. The efficient fleet in 1948 numbered 110 vessels of 10,000 tons, 46 of them operating out of Vancouver. Today Lake Minnewanaka of this port is on her last passage before being transferred to British registry.

That will be the end of the Pacific coast fleet of Canada's merchant navy. By the end of June it is reported only three 10,000-ton merchantmen will remain in the east coast fleet. Canada will be an island at the mercy of foreign shipowners. Our ships which made profits, provided employment to skilled seamen and preserved those skills, and gave up prestige and national independence have been sold abroad or transferred to foreign registry.

This transfer allows them to be operated more cheaply, and in some instances with lower standards of safety and comfort for foreign crews signed on in their new countries of registry. Vancouver M.P. Howard Green is staging a last-ditch fight at Ottawa to save the remnants of Canada's fleet. We join him in condemning the government for failure to assist these badly-needed vessels. "The hundred thousand dollars a year subsidy it would take to keep each of these ships under the Canadian flag is a mere nothing," he said. He is correct, especially when comparing the sum with \$7,000,000 a year to the railways to cover their expenses operating across Northern Ontario and "millions paid to Trans-Canada Air Lines," as he pointed out. We toss in millions paid

Parliamentary Summer (Ottawa Journal)

Only the optimists among the members of Parliament—and they are not very many—now speak of being finished with their sessional work by the middle of June. They came to the first post-election session on November 12 and with Summer heat approaching the familiar urge to be away to their homes is upon them.

But this year we do not have much sympathy for them. Anyone who watches Parliament in action does Ottawa to cover their expenses operating across Northern Ontario and "millions paid to Trans-Canada Air Lines," as he pointed out. We toss in millions paid

The Age Old Story

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

SINGER FOUND DEAD

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—Roy Cropper, 58, well-known tenor whose career was chiefly in the operetta field in New York, Boston and Chicago, was found dead in his apartment here Friday. He apparently died in his sleep of a heart attack. He came to Miami from New York eight years ago when he retired from music.

KIDNEY ACIDS Rob your Rest..

Many people never seem to get a good night's rest. They turn and toss—blame it on "nerves"—when it may be their kidneys. Healthy kidneys filter poisons and excess acids from the blood. If they fail and impurities stay in the system—disturbed rest often follows. If you don't rest well get use DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS. DODD'S helps the kidneys so that you can rest better—and feel better.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The report from Timagami that a visiting American fisherman has seen a four-winged bird opens up more than one field for the kind of speculation that is ideally engaged in while sitting on a porch swayed of a spring evening. — Hamilton Spectator.

The old lamp is still standard lighting equipment in many cottages and on many farms. They can be a dangerous fire hazard unless care is taken to prevent accidents. Don't place the wall or hanging type where it can burn wall or ceiling. Don't keep a lighted lamp on a table where there is danger of it being knocked or pulled over. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Bad luck often strikes the same person two or three times in a row. Take the Montreal man who went to the hospital Friday to have a cast removed from a broken leg. After it was removed, the table on which he was sitting toppled. He landed on his hands, breaking a wrist. Doctors presented him with a new cast. You might say let it be a lesson to him not to sit on tables, but casts also have been known to break under those seated in them. — Sunday Post-Record.

Gambling, graft and corruption are inseparable and are signs of a sick society. The signs of the illness are quite evident in Canada today. What we need is a refurbished, constructive sense of values. The sponger of the "easy-money boys" is not for us. The idea of attaining a life of ease, or even a less ambitious goal through some fortuitous circumstance should not become our basic creed. It is well to remember that the criminal element fattens on the gullibility of the "suckers," and the odds are heavily weighted against the easy-money seeker. — Owen Sound Times.

In Cairo, Egypt, a New York art dealer bought an egg for \$18,500. It was an East Egg which Carl Nicholas II gave to Empress Alexandra Feodorovna in 1906. The mauve enamel shell is decorated with strips of diamonds. Inside is a large aquamarine, representing a lake, with gold water lilies and a gold swan. Someone smuggled the egg out of Russia at the time of the Bolshevik revolution. In recent years it has been in the collection of the deposed King Farouk of Egypt. His confiscated riches were sold by auction. — New York Herald Tribune.

That delightful song, "The Happy Wanderer," seems to have burst upon American radio audiences at the wrong time. That is, background is concerned. That is, unless it is designed to suggest a backdrop of the Tyrolean Alps rather than the rustic byways of Merrie England. For, according to Ernie Hanson, a bearded wayfarer to whom 30 years of tramping the roads of Britain represents "a way of life," the welfare state has played hob with the life of a hobo. "We have been registered, checked, urged into new-fangled reception stations, persuaded to take regular jobs, bathed, questioned, and generally treated as prehistoric freaks," he says. — From the Christian Science Monitor.

We in Saskatchewan have learned enough of the oil business during the last three or four years to temper our optimism when a new "find" is reported. But it is hard not to be enthusiastic about the strike at Frobiisher, near Estevan. For one thing the reported quality of the oil—53 degrees gravity—makes it by extremely long odds the best yet to be found in the province. The location of the well in the Williston basin, is almost as noteworthy, for despite its geological promise, this area has hitherto been overshadowed by the success of exploration activity in the south-western portion of the province. Just as the spectacular development in the Smiley area last year firmly established the oil industry in Saskatchewan, so the Frobiisher find may mark its expansion into a new stage of growth. — Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

BAKERY STRIKE ENDS

NEW YORK (AP)—A contract agreement ending a two-week strike against five major New York City bakeries was ratified Friday by some 1,500 members of the AFL bakery workers. At Rochester, N.Y., about 200 union workers also agreed to return to their jobs, and about 750 bakery workers in Buffalo were to vote today on whether to accept the settlement.

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