

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, Inn 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, AUG. 31, 1953

Pleasant Visit

Prince Edward Island's rural hostesses have enjoyed having delegates to the convention of Associated Country Women of the World visit with them. All too often international gatherings are set apart. They meet in the cities in surroundings that can be duplicated almost anywhere in the world. The ladies have been wiser and taken the opportunity to get to know their "opposite numbers" by staying in individual homes where the welcome is not only warm but personal.

On the map Canada is a vast land and so it would seem to most sojourners who "touch the high spots" in a quick tour. It is also a land of small communities, friendly neighbours, and happy homes as the visiting countrywomen have made a point of discovering. The visitors, too, bring a personal contact with their homelands, so that many of our people will not again think of their country in terms of cliches but as the home of people whom we know.

Our visitors are probably a little tired of hearing that Women's Institutes originated in this country but the reason was that farm women here wished to have for themselves and their families many of the things already enjoyed in older and more closely settled lands. It is a high tribute to the effectiveness of the movement that those lands too realized that here was a means of improving the quality of rural living.

Today their all too brief visit to this Island Province comes to a close. It is to be hoped that many of the acquaintanceships and friendships founded as a result of the visit will be renewed either by the return of our visitors or the opportunity of their hostesses to repay the visit.

The Wheat Problem

The prospect of a bumper wheat crop this year, on top of the mountainous carry-over from last year, is causing serious concern. According to Mr. J. F. Phelps, president of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, there is no need for panic. The bottleneck in the movement of grain is no longer one of transportation alone but a combination of markets and transportation; he insisted that the problems were not insurmountable.

Mr. Phelps, says the Hamilton Spectator, was speaking of course from the producer's point of view. The viewpoint of the Canadian from outside the grain belt is bound to be different. To him the prospect of a further glut of wheat does not cause panic, but it may cause a sense of guilt, or at least a feeling that there must surely be a way of moving this country's overabundance of food to parts of the earth where there is shortage.

Because bread is the staff of life, a glut of wheat tends to be more dramatic than other surpluses; somehow it over-shadows the \$60,000,000-odd of food which the federal government has had to stow away in warehouses—the 5,000,000 pounds of cheese, the 10,000,000 pounds of dried milk, the 40,000,000 or so pounds of butter, the 58,000,000 pounds of canned pork. In reality, the wheat surplus is more easily explained than the others. Europe no longer suffers from the desperate shortage which existed at the end of the war, and the world wheat picture is returning to normal—so much so that Britain, gambling on plentiful supplies and a falling market, at the beginning of this month refused to continue with the International Wheat Agreement which set maximum and minimum prices and in which she was the principal consuming nation.

Normalcy in the wheat market, however, as in all food markets, has always involved ability to pay as well as need. The countries which have not been able to afford the food-producing nations' prices have not bought the grain or the dairy products or the meat, however desperate their need. For a large part of the world—especially the Asian world—hunger, too, is "normal". In recent days Canadians have had two reminders of the terrible extent to which hunger still exists. At the week-end the American Geographical Society released a study which shows that two-thirds of humanity is starving, in spite of world food production sufficient for every one. A little earlier there had been published a book entitled Food and the Future, written by

Lord Boyd Orr, long the head of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, making the same point.

Lord Boyd Orr suggests an international council, financed by the rich countries (which means principally the United States and Canada) to share out the world's produce among the hungry. It is not a new idea. Since the war sincere efforts have been made through the United Nations, within the Commonwealth in conjunction with the Colombo Plan, and by the United States with its usual generosity, to get food to the hungry. The problem, however, is one of such size—in terms of the need, the cost, even the tonnage of shipping required—that everything done so far has been only a palliative, not a solution.

A Good Investment

The eighth series of Canada Savings Bonds, Ottawa announces, will go on sale to the public October 19. These will mature on November 1, 1965, and will have a full rate of interest of 3 3/4 per cent. Denominations of bonds will be in \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and \$5,000 at a price of 100 per cent. This year, for the first time, the issues in fully-registered form can be purchased, although coupon-registered bonds in an individual's name, whether adult or minor, will again be available. It is "a must" that purchasers register their bonds, and both types will be inter-changeable at any time.

Since the innovation of Canada Savings Bonds, every annual issuance has been marked by an increasing number of investors, and in many cases by purchases of higher denominations too. It is good for the people to have these bonds, and it is good for the entire country to have them spread as widely as possible among those who form the rank and file of citizens. And purchasers, if they are able to retain the bonds, are pleasantly surprised how these annual savings grow into a substantial amount. If however, circumstances should develop to necessitate immediate redemption of these debentures, an investor can realize full face value of 100 per cent, plus earned interest at any bank in the nation.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Fashion writers now say that the flapper fashions are just a pipe dream. That sounds uncomfortably like straight-line silhouette that a great many people feared.

Charlottetown again welcomes Island doctors attending their two-day convention. It must be more than ordinarily difficult to organize such a gathering when speakers and members of their audience alike are apt to be called out at any time.

Once more it is Red Cross Blood Donor time for eight Island communities. Those who have given previous donations need no urging but if the service is to expand, as it must, new volunteers must be found to make their first donation.

The American Army is reported to be considering adopting various sizes of rifle as has long been the practice in the Canadian Army. Canada's are short, medium and long to suit soldiers of varying heights.

The addition of six dinette cars to the C. N. R. rolling stock will be received with mixed feelings by travellers. Many people will regret the change away from traditional service but probably more will be glad of the opportunity to eat relatively inexpensively rather than having to forgo dining-car service altogether.

This Province is a long way behind the other ten in electric power production but, according to a table supplied by the Bank of Montreal, installed generating capacity increased from 11 thousand horsepower in 1939 to 24 thousand in 1952, or 122.4 per cent, a percentage increase exceeded only by Alberta's 181.9.

The new weather map transmitting service inaugurated last week by the R. C. A. F. weather service makes use of the same principle long used by newspaper services to transmit pictures by wire or radio. Placed on a spinning cylinder, the chart or picture to be transmitted is reproduced electronically on similarly spinning receivers.

Harley Granville-Barker, English playwright and actor-manager, died this date 1946. Son of an Italian physician who had settled in London, he not only gave London an opportunity of seeing the plays of Euripides, but succeeded in popularizing those of Shaw and enabled his contemporaries to hear for the first time Shakespearean plays in the original manner. In later life he lectured much on the theatre and made important contributions to theatrical literature.



Rural Electrification Assistance In Alberta

(Alberta Government Publication) A new plan of assistance for farmers who wish to have electricity installed on their farms has been introduced by the Co-operative Activities Branch of the Department of Industries and Labour through the Rural Electrification Revolving Fund Act, passed at the last session of the Legislature. The Act provides for a fund to make loans to rural electrification associations, enabling them to meet capital expenditures involved in the construction of rural electrification transmission lines. Farmers may bring electricity to their homes at an initial cost of \$150 or 15 per cent of the total estimated cost, the balance to be paid over a ten-year period, at an interest rate of 3 1/2 per cent. The revolving fund, which was established with \$3,000,000, will be supplemented annually until it reaches a total of \$10,000,000 at which figure it is expected annual repayments will be sufficient to take care of any new loans required.

A rural electrification association, wishing to finance the construction of lines under the provisions of the Rural Electrification Revolving Fund Act, may borrow up to 85 per cent of the total cost of the project, from the Alberta Government Loans which are made directly to the association. Each association will be responsible for apportioning its indebtedness among its members.

Previously under the Co-operative Marketing Association Guarantee Act, the policy was laid down whereby rural electrification associations were required to raise half the cash necessary to build their lines. The other half, borrowed from a chartered bank or Treasury Branch under the Co-operative Marketing Association's Guarantee Act, was repaid over a period of ten years, at first at an interest rate of four per cent and later, at 3 1/2 per cent per annum.

The first rural electrification association was the Springbank Association, west of Calgary, incorporated April 30, 1947. That year, seven co-operative rural electrification associations were incorporated, and today, the original seven serve approximately 600 farms.

Since the incorporation of the first rural electrification association, over 1,000 farms throughout Alberta have been electrified under this plan. At March 31, 1953, there were 19,600 electrified farms in the Province. There are 277 associations presently active in Alberta. At the year's end, over \$13,000,000 worth of transmission lines had been built and 170 associations had borrowed under the plan. At the present time, there are \$4,000,000 outstanding on these guaranteed loans.

Under the new Revolving Loan Fund, both new associations for rural electrification and extensions to existing electrification areas can be financed through the Provincial Treasury. In forming a new rural electrification association, a group of at least ten farmers, working with the power company serving that particular area, submits to the Alberta Power Commission, a map showing the proposed route of the line and the area to be served by the construction, together with a memorandum outlining the total estimated cost of the project, the number of farmers in the area who will accept the service, and those who are unwilling to accept service.

If the plan is deemed feasible by the Power Commission, the Supervisor of Co-operative Activities then makes application to the Provincial Treasury for the necessary loan, and takes lien notes from the members of the association who desire financing. These lien notes, which are registered in the Titles Office without cost, have the same priority as a mortgage. The agreement,

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) HARDSHIPS AT SEA "In a letter received by Mr. John LeBrocq, of Georgetown, from Capt. Hector Murchison, of the Brig. G. W. Wakeford, dated at Baltimore on the 6th inst., a brief outline is given of a perilous adventure, incident to seafaring life. While his vessel was lying at Morant Keyes, West Indies, the captain and two men started ashore in a small boat, and before reaching the shore they were suddenly caught in a squall, and thick weather, which drove them out to sea a long distance. Unable to get land or the vessel, they were three days and nights in this perilous situation, without food or water, which terribly exhausted all hands. "At length, by cutting up their clothes and making a sail for the boat, they reached Jamaica, where they engaged a schooner to bring them back to the vessel. The captain states that he was badly burnt by the scorching heat of the sun, owing to the want of clothing, and could not stand upon his legs for four days afterwards. His friends will be glad to learn that he is fully restored from the effects of the great hardship he endured on this occasion. The G. W. Wakeford is now loading at Baltimore for Ireland." —King's County Advertiser, Sept. 19, 1879.

The Age Old Story

And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

The Swinging Kilt

(BBC Bulletin.) Kinloch Anderson, a famous kilt-maker, said that between seven and 10 yards of material are needed to make a kilt, for unless the pleats are deep there is none of the proverbial waggle which is one of its big attractions. The kiltmaker lays his length

The Poet's Corner

THE BARN The smell of apples stored in hay And homely cattle-cake is there. Use and disuse have come to terms, The walls are hallowed out by worms. But men's feet keep the mid-floor bare And free from worse decay. All merry noise of hens astray Or sparrows squabbling on the roof Come to the barn's broad open door; You hear upon the stable floor Old hungry Dapple strike his hoof. And the blue fan-tail's whirr. The barn is old, and very old, But not a place of spectral fear. Cobwebs and dust and speckling sun Come to old buildings every one. Long since they made their dwellings here, And here you may behold Nothing but simple wane and change: Your tread will wake no ghost, your voice Will fall on silence undeterred. No phantom walling will be heard. Only the farm's blithe cheerful noise: The barn is old, not strange. —Edmund Blunden.

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CHARLOTTETOWN

Notes By The Way

Down in Australia, the law compels people to cast their votes. And the report is that they accept the law in the same way regulations are accepted here, such as shovelling the snow in winter time off the frontage walk. — St. Catharines Standard.

It has become axiomatic that the shorter the air flight distance between two points the longer it takes to get to one's destination—relatively speaking. For instance, between Montreal and Ottawa the flight time is about 35 minutes; it takes much longer than that, however, to get from the two airports to the business centre, so that considerably more than 50 per cent of the time spent in getting from Montreal to Ottawa by air is spent on the ground. Yet, if city planning were up to snuff, and if the airline companies were really concerned, a modern helicopter service could aid greatly in making air travel not only modern but also efficient, which it definitely is not today in every instance. —Montreal Financial Times.

Sweden partially lifted the secret from its 10-year-old "Operation Granite," designed to shelter 800,000 persons from atomic bombs. The biggest cavern has been blasted in a mountain in the heart of Stockholm, and has three stories underground for 20,000 persons. Most of the nation's jet fighters have bases carved out of granite. Part of the Swedish navy can dock in secret harbours gouged from mountains along the Baltic coast. Other buried installations include aircraft, tank and munition factories, hospitals, power plants, laboratories and fire stations. —New York Herald Tribune.

One of the nicest things about a vacation is returning home. And one of the nicest things about returning home is getting into your own bed. The pillow may be lumpy, and there may be a protruding mattress spring that gouges the back. But the old bed is yours and it's mighty comfortable. It may sag in the middle, or be unyielding as a billiard table, but, once in it, you don't stare wide-eyed at the ceiling. You sleep. There's comfort, too, in the old familiar noises—the bark of the dog down the block, the clank of Johnnies' jolopy as he rattles along the street en route home from a date. The hum of the refrigerator is a lullaby. There's a certain rhapsody even in the drip from the faucet long in need of a new washer. There's no loon screaming across the lake, no chipmunks frolicking outside the cabin door, no porcupines gnawing around to make a mockery of sleep. —Minneapolis Tribune.

Vancouver, in recent years, has not been doing much to live up to its status as Canada's "Gateway to the Orient." Because of World War II, the Korean War, and their attendant difficulties, the eastern gate has been little more than a screaming alarm for the past decade or more. There are encouraging signs, however, that the gate is swinging open. Last week the 11,000-ton motor vessel Hikawa Maru swung through the Lions Gate to inaugurate the first passenger service between Canada and Japan since World War II. A prominent Japanese businessman announced his intention of opening a Vancouver branch office in order to make a drive for Canadian business. The Japanese consulate reopened here this year, has stressed the importance of such an approach to our market. —Vancouver Province.

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