

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, DEC. 31, 1953

A Momentous Year

The year 1953 will be remembered as witnessing a cease-fire in Korea instead of the outbreak of a war of global proportions. It will also be remembered by many as the Coronation Year of our gracious Queen. These were the highlights of the year and they will epitomize the year as a whole.

There has been a feeling in the Commonwealth, although not confined to the Commonwealth, that a new Elizabethan age is dawning; that the spirit of man will triumph over doubt and uncertainty; that future ages will look back on this twentieth century and think that then it was good to be alive.

It may not altogether fit the facts but history appears to be made up of periods of flux and periods of stability. At the end of the nineteenth century men groaned that there were no more worlds to conquer, no more chance of altering destiny than that offered by careful plodding and correcting a detail here and a detail there.

Instead of such expectations there have been world-shaking events. No dream is too extravagant to be capable of fulfillment. Life may be uncertain but it certainly is neither dull nor lacking in opportunity.

The whole world is the melting pot today, as the Mediterranean was thousands of years ago but our own little part of it holds even greater promise than most. We are not unused to associating with other peoples in political relationships and may be thankful to possess remarkable natural resources which the world will need in increasing measure. In the world of the future we clearly have the ability and must accept the duty of pulling our weight.

Indeed, so far as Canada is concerned, we have every reason to look forward with confidence and optimism. We have freedom of worship and ordered government, with an abundance of the luxuries as well as of the necessities of life, and with tremendous possibilities of expansion industrially and otherwise. In this Province, while our farmers have been affected adversely by the drop in potato prices, there have been many compensating advantages. With substantial projects in prospect for employment in our urban areas, with further attention to processing our abundant farm and fishery resources, developing our tourist attractions and improving transportation facilities, the outlook may be said to be brighter than at any period in our history.

On this note of optimism and high hopes, we wish one and all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The Livestock Outlook

As in the United States, cattle numbers have been building up in Canada since 1948. By June 1, 1954 the total cattle population (beef and dairy) may reach 10 million head, reports the Industrial Development Council of Canadian Meat Packers. Except for 1944-45, this would be the highest point in cattle numbers since 1920. Cattle marketings in the 12 months ending September 30, 1954 may exceed the previous year by between 250,000 and 300,000 head. However, with beef consumption expected to run as high as 14 per cent above 1952-53, cattle markets are expected to maintain a reasonable degree of stability. Thus cattle feeders who have plenty of feed on hand and did not pay too fancy a price for feeder stock this fall should not be in trouble.

Hog producers, who have enjoyed exceptionally good returns in 1953, especially from May forward, can expect some downward adjustment in markets next year when part of the present large feed surplus begins to arrive on markets in the form of pork. It seems unlikely, however, that any sizeable pork surplus will develop before the final quarter in 1954. For the first half of 1954 marketings may not show a very great change from the same period in 1953. In the third quarter marketings will probably exceed the relatively light summer marketings this year, but a fairly firm trend of pork prices, with the usual seasonal variations, may prevail. If pork supplies continue rather light and prices high in relation to beef, domestic pork consumption in 1953-54 seems likely to fall by around 13 per cent from the record disappearance of 1952-53. Exports of pork to the United States

in the first nine months of 1953 reached a record 53.5 million pounds and with hog production in the two countries currently pursuing similar trends, it seems likely that the continuance of strong hog prices south of the line will lend additional support to our own domestic market in the next few months.

Sheep and lamb marketings in 1953-54 may again show an increase for the second year in succession. As in the case of beef, the lower trend of prices has encouraged domestic consumption and exerted a stabilizing influence on price.

The Game's The Thing

A Canadian sports columnist, writing in an English periodical, is worried about the calibre of Canada's entry in the world hockey championship games to be played in Oslo in February. He doesn't think that our entering team has the necessary know-how "to fly our flag on the continent". In manifest expectation of defeat he asks: "Wouldn't it be a sad blow to Canada if Russia in her first appearance in world championship competition should beat us?"

While we sympathize with the columnist's anxiety to have Canada well and strongly represented at Oslo, and admire his patriotism, we cannot share his feeling that defeat of our team, even at the hands of Russian skaters, would be a serious disaster. One of the important things—perhaps the most important one—which the Russians need to learn in their dealings with other nations is the value of team work. They need to learn also that the game itself, not victory, is the thing that really counts to a true sportsman. The fact that after so many years of cold aloofness they have consented to take part in any kind of sports championship games is, in itself, an encouraging sign of the times. There is not much likelihood of their beating all comers at Oslo, but it would be a pity if word should reach them beforehand that some Western teams were already bemoaning the possibility of a Russian victory. To them that would be a clear confirmation of a long-felt suspicion that everybody west of their iron curtain is vowing their destruction, and is not this the very thing that the democratic powers are trying to break down?

It would be well for the Russian players to realize that Canada's chief purpose in sending a hockey team to Oslo is not to beat them or any other participating team, but to display before all the world a cheerful and democratic brand of sportsmanship.

EDITORIAL NOTES

New Year's Eve.

An esteemed subscriber has furnished us with an excellent highway safety motto for the New Year. Here it is: "Drivers are safer when the roads are dry, but the roads are much safer when the driver is dry."

The Canadian construction industry has had a record year and looks forward to another at least as favorable. From all appearances it may be judged that this Province will have a fair share of the expected building activity.

The annual harness horse-racing review by Lieut. Colonel MacKinnon, which is looked forward to with great interest not only by our horsemen but by harness racing fans throughout the Maritimes, will appear in our Saturday's issue.

Both imports and exports continue higher according to the D.B.S. but imports have increased to a greater degree. It would seem that Canadians have a good deal of money to spend but might well put more effort into selling abroad.

"Stop-loss" measures such as the potato pool support price are very different from the subsidies which call for increased duty under the American tariff. That protection is intended to prevent an artificial lowering of the normal cost of production rather than measures to keep the farmer going in the face of disaster.

It is the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade that has taken the initiative in placing the proposal for an Atlantic Provinces Economic Council before the various governments, starting with that of Prince Edward Island. Everyone in these Provinces, however, has an interest in the success of the proposals.

Henry Matisse, French painter, was born this date 1869. He left Amiens to study law in Paris but soon gave up the idea to study under Gustave Moreau at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. At first attracted to the Impressionist school, he later turned to Gauguin as an inspiration and soon became one of the leaders of the Fauvistes. He shows a mastery of the summary expression of form and rhythm, with an astonishing economy of means.

One Can Dream, Can't One?

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GULF The People's Paper Read by Everybody. HAPPY NEW YEAR! 1954. Farm Market Picture Bright. Incomes Up, Taxes Down. New Trend Reporters. Send Missionaries, Russia Urges West. Research On X-Bomb Ends; H-Bomb Will Do, Is Decision.

The Poet's Corner

FROM GOETHE

The Future hides in it Gladness and sorrow; We press still thorough, Naught that abides in it Daunting us—aboard!

And solemn before us, Velled, the dark portal, Goal of all mortal:— Stars silent rest o'er us, Graves under us silent.

While earnest thou gazest Comes boding of terror, Comes phantasm and error, Perplexing the bravest, With doubt and misgiving.

But heard are the voices, Heard are the Sages, The World's and the Age's: "Choose well; your choice is brief and yet endless."

Here eyes do regard you In Eternity's stillness: Here is all fulness; Ye brave, to reward you; Work, and despair not."

—Thomas Carlyle.

A Carol Reports

(Ottawa Journal) One of our friends met a tired Christmas Carol which said it had been a little easier this year. The radio stations had waited longer to call out the carols and it was astonishing how many carols which had been hidden away by the Puritans centuries ago were being dressed up and were taking their places in ranks acceptably.

Our friends were interested in the tolerant attitude of the carol. It had been pushed about rather roughly at community sing-songs for which it did not consider itself suited unless the children did all the singing; it observed that carols had an objection to being bellowed. The methods of employment were growing each year. It had found it wearing to be in attendance while long-play records circled in a million homes and also find time for the radio and television studios. The carol still considered its most important engagements those in schools, in churches, in hospitals and around the family piano when it felt it was lifted as the offering of these to whom Christmas had a deep spiritual significance.

But the carol said it was not looking for sympathy. It was afraid that too many people might come to the conclusion that carols were being worked to death. The carol observed that some songs were worked hard throughout the year, mentioning "Green-cloves" for an example, while the carols usually could rest for 11 months.

The carol said that for itself it would prefer to sound more like a jolly than a battle hymn (its name was "Silent Night") but it felt that it had a duty to serve all, being available to the massed choirs as well as to the child singing to its doll and waiting for Christmas. The carol hoped our friends would sing as merrily and thoughtfully as he could during his holiday and assured him it would be with him whenever the spirit of Christmas in his heart desired expression.

"It is better that a judge should lean on the side of compassion than severity," wrote Cervantes. So leaned Judge Van Rodep, of the Delaware County Orphans Court, when he modified the will of a decedent to spare the life of Susie, a Scotty, who was doomed to share the death of her mistress. Susie had committed no crime and had won the love of her living custodian. The judge wisely decided that Susie's owner, in directing her execution, had written that part of her will upon the supposition that the dog would be old and feeble when extinguished as an act of mercy. Susie will live and make people happy, thanks to a reasonable and compassionate judge.

The Age Old Story

Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. . . . Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that times, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

Notes By The Way

A road sign on the west highway at the edge of town reads: Clear Lake 43 miles. But after the motorist has passed through town and out the south highway towards Clear Lake, he sees another sign, a rather puzzling one: Clear Lake, 44 miles. —Dauphin, Man., Herald

Britain's largest turkey, a 40-pounder, has been presented to Sir Winston Churchill for Christmas. It may be tough but that won't get it anywhere. "Winnie" has proved he's a pretty tough old bird himself. —Windsor Daily Star

Alberta has topped the million mark in population, following fairly closely after British Columbia into that charmed circle. Thus Alberta becomes the fourth Province of Canada in the seven figure mark. Ontario leads with 4,500,000 plus, and should soon be the first to top five million. Quebec is also over 4,000,000 probably closer to 4,500,000. British Columbia climbed to 1,165,000 in the 1951 census. —From Lethbridge Herald

On occasion individuals have acted hastily in importing animals and birds—hence many of the regulations which are now in force—and have created difficulties beyond their widest expectations. It is because of this lack of vision that starlings are the nuisance they now are on this continent that skunks harass the poultrymen of Prince Edward Island, that grey squirrels are such a pest in the Old Country. Similar lack of vision caused the Australian continent to be over-run with rabbits which it didn't want, and now has taken from France the rabbits which the country's economy needs. —Halifax Chronicle-Herald

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The following announcement, issued April 1, 1953, by J. Lawson, secretary, appears to have been the first public advertisement respecting the Charlottetown Central Academy, now Prince of Wales College: "A commodious building having been erected in an eligible and airy part of the Town (the capital of the Island), the Trustees give notice that two Masters will be required for this Institution. "The Branches of Education to be taught in the Academy are defined by law, viz.—The Greek and Latin Classics, Belles Lettres, the French Language, Geography connected with Astronomy and Natural History, English Reading, Grammar and Elocution, Elementary and Practical Mathematics, and Theoretical and Practical Arithmetic. By the same law, a salary of \$150 currency is secured to be paid to each of the Masters, and the tuition money equally divided between them. "The Institution is under the superintendence of nine Trustees. Persons who can produce testimonials of good moral character and qualified to teach the branches of Education above enumerated, will be pleased to apply by letter (post paid) to the Hon. E. J. Jarvis, Chief Justice, President of the Academy, on or before the 1st day of July next."

1954 GREETINGS TO YOU! We extend to our many customers and friends our best wishes for all good things and happiness in '54! HAMBLY & INNIS MEN'S WEAR 166 Great George St. Dial 6811

The Passing Scene By Observer THE OLD YEAR. In the fundamental things one year is the same as another. Men have the same hopes and fears; they see the same visions and dream the same dreams. A thousand years ago and more men were appraising their accomplishments and viewing their prospects with mingled faith and scepticism, just as they are now. In another sense no two years are alike. There is something in each which leaves a distinctive mark on the tablets of history; it cannot be duplicated. What will the historians of the future—say in the year 2000—say about 1953? Well, I don't suppose that anybody knows the answer to this question, for in the interim many evaluating details will appear which now are not visible. It seems likely, however, that they will say, for one thing, that the year was one of indecisiveness in the matters which were troubling and challenging the minds and spirits of men. I have before me a newspaper report of a speech delivered by a keen student of international affairs late in 1952. It shows that the speaker was of the opinion that 1953 would see either a great improvement or a serious deterioration in international relationships. As it turned out, he was wrong. There has been no great improvement; on the other hand the situation is certainly no worse. On the surface, at any rate, whatever the undercurrent may be like, the year ends very much as it started. The tensions, differences, and agitations among the nations are still there, although there does seem to be a feeling of cautious optimism which was not present a year ago. While the grim threat of atomic warfare still hangs over our heads, there are signs here and there that its pressure is not quite as heavy as it has been. The fact that no nation has condemned officially the new move to create a world pool of atomic materials gives some cause for hope. It may, of course, come to nothing and, so far as 1953 is concerned, it is no more than the playing of a sunbeam on the cypress tree. Just the same it helps in the creation of healthier thought and that is not to be ridiculed. For what it is worth the Korean Armistice is a 1953 product. Here again indecisiveness comes into the picture and darkens it. It is better than continued fighting, and that is about the best that anyone says about it. That unhappy country is just as divided as it was a year ago and the root causes which turned it into a battleground are just as lively. There is, however, one thing about it which future historians will find interesting and perhaps helpful. That is that for the first time in the history of war both sides to the dispute laid down their arms before either had been goaded to it by the prospect of imminent defeat. This must be of some significance, but just what it does signify nobody seems to know. It may be at least partly responsible for the vexing delay in the arranging of a peace conference which was to have been completed long ago. Perhaps the most important development in 1953 through this too has a slightly indecisive touch about it, is seen in the increasing measure of concern which the more abundant peoples of the earth are showing for the less prosperous ones. While of course the implementing plans—Points 4 program, Colombo Plan, etc.—are not of 1953 origin, there seems to have been this year a more general awareness of their usefulness. The obvious weakness is that some nations are not doing their proportionate share. Every now and then somebody who is not satisfied with anything less than perfection takes the floor to point out that all these "plans are political expedients without any moral basis. That is probably true. They may never have come into existence at all but for the threat of war and nationalistic uprisings. Nevertheless they represent a real forward movement and there may be more intimate connection between what is practicable and what is moral than we are sometimes inclined to recognize. Anyway it is better to do good under pressure than not to do it at all. I suppose the event of the most domestic importance in this country was the general election in August. Its results are still being evaluated and probably won't be ready for the catalogues for some time to come. It seems clear that so much has been done to our political stability which undoubtedly is an asset. At the same time some sincere and competent observers—including quite a few Liberal ones—are wondering if we are on the way to eventual one-party government, which would be anything but an asset. Time will tell the story; we must hope that it will be a good one. There is a general feeling that Canada, during 1953, assumed added prestige and influence in world councils. Whether or not that will be a good thing for us and for the world depends, of course, on how wisely we outgrow our national adolescence. Progress towards national maturity requires a good many things besides a strong currency and stable government, especially if, as some believe, the latter has in it the seeds of political complacency.

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