

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, MONDAY, FEB. 9, 1953

Unwise Economy

Noting the reference in these columns to the lack of new candidates in recent municipal elections in Prince Edward Island, the Moncton Transcript calls attention to a similar situation in New Brunswick, and terms it "a dangerous trend." On nomination day in Sackville there were no candidates for the mayoralty or three aldermanic seats. In other wards where there were vacancies on the board, the candidates were elected by acclamation. In other towns the mayors and entire councils were elected by acclamation. Several others have had discouraging experiences in attempts to form new councils for the year. "Acclamations may be an economical method of electing local governments," concludes our Moncton contemporary, "but it is not always the best way. Unless the people show a deep and active interest in their own affairs, it is extremely unlikely that their representatives will take the kind of interest the community needs. Democratic government is the best system of government that man has yet devised, but its strength lies in the people. Their apathy can destroy it more effectively than the guns of an aggressor."

Dual Purpose Breeds

Much attention has been given in Ontario recently to the development of dual-purpose breeds. These, notes the Montreal Star, are cattle that don't give quite as much milk as the dairy breeds, or put on quite as much weight as the beef breeds, but because they combine some of the qualities of both may be more profitable than either to the farmers in some areas. The most popular of these is the dual-purpose Shorthorn, but recently a hitherto neglected dual-purpose breed has been claiming attention. It is the Red Poll, which its admirers call "the answer to a 50-year-old dream of a cow that can be milked and a steer that can be beefed." However, many eastern dairy farmers who are not interested in building up the size of their herd of milkers prefer to cross their dairy cows with beef breeds. The resulting half-caste calves are not as beefy as their fathers, but are nevertheless worth feeding to maturity. "It is the large number of such 'grades' or 'scrubs' on Ontario farms," remarks the Star, "that pulls the Ontario average value below that of Alberta and Saskatchewan, though most of the really high-priced cattle are in Ontario. It also accounts for the fact that you don't get as tender steaks in Toronto as in Winnipeg or Calgary. In this country the beef Shorthorn and the Hereford are still racing neck and neck for first place among breeders, with the Shorthorn leading in the east and the white-faced Hereford well nigh supreme in the west, as it is in the U. S. The West is more interested in developing a hardy range steer than dual-purpose types, and much of their experimenting has been in cross-breeding domestic cattle with buffalo and yaks. If a satisfactory cross can be developed, ranching may be extended hundreds of miles farther north."

The Parliamentary Library

The Montreal Gazette calls attention to an unexpected threat that has suddenly arisen to the Parliamentary Library in Ottawa. It had been the almost universal understanding, after the fire last summer, that the wooden panelling would be preserved when the library was renovated. Now there are reports that this famous panelling will be removed. There is no reason why the woodwork cannot be preserved; it never has been a fire hazard. As the Gazette has said:

"Perhaps there is some danger that the plans being made to reconstruct the Library of Parliament at Ottawa may transform that fine old structure out of the very character that made it outstanding. It is easy to understand that those in charge of such plans are anxious to make the Library as fireproof as possible, in order to reduce the possibility of its total destruction. But, at the same time, it ought not to be forgotten that the whole purpose of trying to preserve the structure is to prevent its distinctive charm from being lost. It would be rather ironic if this old-fashioned charm is to be destroyed as part of the process of preservation. "To step into the old Parliamentary

Library was to step into another world. Anyone who watched the successive groups of visitors being brought into the library by the House of Commons guides heard the hushed exclamations of wonder and admiration, as the visitors stood and raised their eyes to the far roof and looked about at the circular galleries of many-colored volumes, or examined the marvellously inlaid floor. "Undoubtedly the chief feature of the Library has been the beauty of its woodwork. The inlay of the floor and the carved panelling of the galleries were the product of a superb craftsmanship which is now gone. And there was something about the very coloring of the old wood, mellowed by almost 90 years, that gave the whole vast room its rich glow. "Apparently the new plans would conceal the floor beneath a fireproof or fire-resistant covering. And rumor has it that something rather drastic may be done to the lovely panelling. "Nobody appreciates the charm of the old Library more than Mr. F. A. Hardy, the Parliamentary Librarian. His life is spent in its mellow atmosphere and with great pride he has pointed out its charms. Mr. Hardy says that he will resist to the end any attempt to tear out the old panelling. He points out that the wood panelling in other parts of the House of Parliament buildings has been treated to resist fire. Why not the panelling in the Library? "Certainly the old Library is a national shrine—a bit of the hallowed past. It is very true that all due precautions should be taken to protect it against loss. But let it be earnestly hoped that no excess of technical zeal may leave that most attractive structure a safe but ruined shadow of its former stately self."

Norway Takes Initiative

The signing of a preliminary agreement with India recently has opened the way for launching a Norwegian "Colombo Plan". In a region to be selected, Norway will cooperate with the Delhi government in raising the standard of Indian life. The program, notes an exchange, is necessarily limited in size, since Norway is a small country that has had to recover from the effects of war, but its effectiveness will be heightened by concentration. It is characterized by some remarkable features that could be instructive to Canadians. Last May a group of parliamentarians suggested that Norway should undertake a program of technical and economic assistance to under-developed areas. The idea brought a quick and favorable response from the press and the government, and funds were voted in June. Information on the project was made available to the schools and the public. A nation-wide subscription campaign was organized to supplement the government's contribution and provide a total of \$3,000,000 in the first year. The program is being managed not by a government office but by a committee representative of the public. Particular phases of it will be made the responsibilities of teachers, students, farmers, trade union members, and other organized groups. Such opportunities to take part in the work help to account for the keen interest of Norwegians in this cause.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This is white cane week. Citizens with the blessing of sight should never fail throughout the year to share their eyes for a few moments when opportunity offers.

The open roads are a wonderful asset in enabling people to continue their business and pleasure but they also take their toll in accidents. Careful driving is important at any time but in winter conditions the slightest inattention can be fatal.

Edward Henry Carson, Baron of Duncairn, county Antrim, Irish statesman, was born this date 1854. A Conservative M.P., he was at different times solicitor-general for Ireland and the United Kingdom. He led the Unionist campaign against the Parliament Act and persuaded thousands to refuse to recognize any Home Rule Parliament. After the First World War he agreed to dividing Northeast Ireland from the rest of the country.

Canada's Minister of External Affairs, Hon. Lester B. Pearson, has "put the finger" on Communist and fellow travellers in Canada, stating that the "slavish and unwavering" devotion of the "so-called Canadian Peace Congress" had been proven to him. Mr. Pearson said when Canada supported an Indian proposal for an armistice arrangement in Korea, the head of the "so-called Canadian Peace Congress" had wired him lauding Canada's stand. But Russia's Vishinsky blasted the Indian proposal and the "so-called Canadian Peace Congress" wrote to Mr. Pearson in support of the Russian stand.

Hoping There'll Be Something Nice



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.

PROUD OF CITY COUNCIL

Sir—I have just noted our Mayor's appeal to our citizens to show more interest in civic affairs.

As a citizen who often proffers advice to individual Councillors and who appreciates their responsibilities and problems my conscience keeps me uneasy until I write this letter.

As a Charlottetown citizen I am proud of the work of our City Council. Their report shows the results of hard work, but more important still their plans for the future show vision. It is the report of men who have something higher in mind than the results of the next election.

I am, Sir, etc. INTERESTED CITIZEN Charlottetown.

THE CALENDAR

Sir—I read with interest the reason "Observer" gives for February having two days less than the other months. But our calendar has other weaknesses, such as the length of the month having no relation to the seven-day week. If we had courage enough we would cut down all the months to 28 days each. To do this another month would be required. The 24-hour day and the seven-day week are Divine institutions and should not be changed. But I learn that the Hebrews made their month the same length as a "moon". But as there are more than 12 moons in a year, they lengthened every third year to 13 moons or months.

We could well ignore the moon in our calculations and divide our sun year, (which has 365 one-quarter days) into 52 weeks with each month having just four weeks and each month having Sunday for the first day.

But I hear some one say—"My birthday is on the 29th or 30th of some month and you are doing away with it." We'll admit that there would be some petty annoyances such as this, or the date for a contract to expire. But all these difficulties would be adjusted, before final adoption. No finite man can build up a calendar without leap years. But with our new one there is a leap year nine times in 50 years, or one in every five years, except the last. This leap year would consist of one of the 13 months having five

The Poet's Corner

THE AFTERTONE

The harpist spreads her hands along the strings Caressing them to silence, and so mutes The music that she wove. The oboe sings Among the ferny violins; the flutes With throbbing sweetness flee the threat of drums Up the harmonic slenth, and then fall To be extinguished as the trumpet comes. Out of the forest sounding a final call. All but the harp as through a single throat Climb to a chord and cease, but I can hear Between the hands of silence, one faint note That still eluded them, pulsating clear As in the dark a jewel may enshrine One ray of light we did not know was there.

—Robert Hillier

The Age-Old Story

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

weeks or 35 days instead of 28 days. Where to put this 13th month? Let us wedge it in between June and July, give it a dignified name and I would place on it the responsibility of expanding itself to contain five weeks every fifth year.

I have noticed time and again proposals for reforming our calendar. But they all had a serious fault in that the "Creation Sabbath", every seventh day was set at naught by having an eight-day week at the end of each year. In the same way, the "Lord's Day" or Sunday, which commemorates Christ's Resurrection, would lose its continuity.

The calendar we are using was compiled by Pope Gregory the XIII in 1582. Previous to this and up to 1752 a less accurate one was used in England, but on this date England adopted the Gregorian one. As we saw in our English History books, an adjustment of eleven days had to be made by having September second followed by Sept. 14th. These adjustments may help and arouse some one else of a mathematical mind to follow on, not allowing what we now have and called "good, to be the enemy of the best."

I am, Sir, etc. ARCH MACKENZIE Kensington.

MICE AND WOMEN

Sir—I had a woman friend who chided me into the woods near home, took a lamb from him and nursed it back to health; and yet if a mouse ran across her kitchen floor she would jump upon a chair and scream. Isn't it funny that a woman should face a bear but run from a mouse? There are illustrations of this in daily life. Here is a healthy, strong woman who can do a day's work that would stagger a man, and yet she won't stay alone at night. What is she afraid of? She doesn't know. A vague fear of something. The least muffled or scratching sound will keep her awake, and there she huddles up in bed and shivers.

I am not belittling or scorning the courage of woman. Her ability to patiently keep on at her job, often with neither thanks nor encouragement is a tribute to her courage. Let me tell you a story which illustrates a courage which is not uncommon in womankind. Her name is Catherine Woolworth. Their ship, loaded with coal, sank in a blinding snowstorm, one hundred miles off the Virginia coast. Three men and two women found themselves adrift in an open boat in bitter December cold. Two days later they were rescued. They testify that it was the courage of Catherine Woolworth that saved them. All through the days and nights she sang and kept up their spirits.

During the London blitz women came into their own. In all weather and conditions they drove trucks and cars and buses. Some times they had lights, usually they had no lights, but just crept through the darkness. Their courage impressed itself upon the city. A new trust was placed in women and many new doors were opened to their service.

The courage of the pioneer women of P. E. Island is worthy of all praise. That was the day when there were no roads and neighbours were miles away, the day when the women helped to hoe in potatoes among the stumps and rather grain after the cradle. They lived in a rough log house. They raised a family and kept smiling. That strong-handed, stout-hearted mother made a home for her man and her children. The courage of those women must never be forgotten. For love they faced the wilderness—the women of the Island. For home they gave their uttermost—the women of the Island. I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MARKET HOUSE SITE

Interesting in connection with the proposal to transform the Market Building into a centre for community activities and find other accommodation for those requiring public market facilities, is the following memorial which was filed in the Legislative Council on April 9, 1860, by the Hon. Edward Palmer, in dissent to the passing of a bill authorizing the City of Charlottetown to appropriate land on Queen Square as a site for a public Market House.

"First.—Because the piece of ground proposed by this bill to be appropriated to the site of a Market House has never been enclosed since this Island became a British Colony, and for the last eighty years has been freely enjoyed by the public, without any impediment, as an open street or thoroughfare, and more commonly used as such than any of the streets of Charlottetown.

"Secondly.—Because the said piece of ground has long since, in fact, become a part of Queen Square, and, if obstructed by a Market House for the purposes intended, will greatly prejudice the public in the enjoyment of the said Square; the more particularly as a large portion of the central part of the said Square was most judiciously appropriated for, and is now occupied by, the present Colonial Building.

"Thirdly.—Because the said Bill authorizes the continuance of the use of Queen Square for such Market purposes as it is at present occupied for, namely, as a market for horses, cows, sheep, hogs and live cattle of all kinds; hay, straw, threshed and unthreshed grain, fresh and salted meat, fresh and salted fish, shellfish, deals, boards, and various descriptions of timber, by which means the whole western half of the Square is so obstructed on Market-days that access to the Colonial Building is greatly impeded, and the amount of filth and putrid matter accumulated thereon creates a filthy soil and pestilential atmosphere in what was intended for the cleanest, healthiest and most ornamental part of the Town.

"Fourthly.—Because the Squares of large Towns, especially those in central positions, are highly important for ornamental plantations, healthy promenades, commemorative statues, military parade, and other congenial purposes.

"Fifthly.—Because extensive areas in large towns (especially where such towns are principally built of wood) are specially useful in staying the destructive progress of fires.

"Sixthly.—Because there are several sites adapted to the purpose, with sufficient space for all the purposes of a Market-house and Market-place, to be procured at a reasonable cost.

"Seventhly.—Because it is unjust that the City of Charlottetown should be deprived of nearly the half of one of its most valuable public Squares, for the purposes of a public Market, and also be severely taxed for the whole cost of the buildings, while the advantages thereof are intended for the inhabitants of Queen's County especially, and generally for others from all parts of the Colony.

"Eighthly.—Because, in passing this Bill, regard is had too much for the owners of private property, and too little for the public at large.

"Ninthly.—Because the said Bill is greatly in derogation of public rights long and freely enjoyed, and contains no suspensory clause agreeably to Her Majesty's Royal instructions."

Notes By The Way

Only Ireland, surely, could have thought up the notion of charging extra for not teaching a subject (writes an Englishman who lives there). I learned of it from a Belfast man whose son is a pupil at a well-known Church of Ireland school near Dublin. He mentioned that the fees were somewhat below those of equivalent English schools, but added: "Of course, I do not have to pay a penny more than do, so that he won't have to waste his time learning Gaelic." The explanation of the paradox is that in the Republic schools receive a government grant for each pupil

learning Irish. At this particular school the language is not compulsory but parents who do not want their children to learn it must pay the equivalent of the grant in the fee. —Manchester Guardian.

Mr. Gridasov's Cow

(Exchange)

The case of Mr. Yefin Gridasov and his cow is fodder for some political rumination. New York Times. Mr. Gridasov is in bad trouble with Moscow because when the Food Procurement Ministry transferred him 3,000 miles from Barnaul to Saratov he insisted on taking Elsa, the cow, along with him—and in order to get Elsa a private car on the railway, he entered her on the official documents as his sister. This set the Russian Government back 25,000 rubles. Not having an Abbotline surplus to dispose of, the government is not happy.

It is just possible that Mr. Gridasov can find some politically satisfactory explanation—as for instance, that Elsa is a stakhanovite cow, has exceeded her production norm by 87.3 per cent, produces milk of a higher butterfat content than any aggressive pluto-capitalist cow, and as a hero of the Soviet Union, is entitled to first class transportation which will serve as a shining example to the other cows of the rewards an enlightened government gives its workers. But somehow we doubt it. We suspect that Mr. Gridasov will not remain with the Food Procurement Ministry much longer. We suspect that if he is lucky he will spend his declining years in productive labour in a Siberian salt mine; if he is less lucky he will spend them in a Czech uranium mine; if he is unlucky he will not spend them at all.

Inevitably, the case of Mr. Gridasov reminds one of the two recent Canadian political affairs involving the late domestic animal—the foot-and-mouth outbreak of a year ago, and the Currie Report of this winter—and it is interesting to speculate on their outcomes if they had occurred in the Workers' Paradise. In the foot-and-mouth affair, we rather imagine the repercussions would not have been confined to questions in the House and some rather peevish cross-examination in a parliamentary committee. There would probably have been a widespread urge of the unenlightened and unco-operative peasantry of the People's Republic of South Saskatchewan. This would have been followed by the transfer of the entire staff of the Animal Health Branch of the Commissariat of Agriculture to the

The World Almanac for 1953, published by the New York World-Telegram, is a paper-bound book of 806 pages in small type, and an fact that has eluded its vigilant editors must be a small fact indeed. Anybody who wants to know can find there, for example, who was postmaster-general of the United States in 1802, that the town of Pottawatomie in Iowa has 89,682 residents, that Ruth Drape was born in 1884—and so on and on endlessly. There's nothing quite like the World Almanac. —Ottawa Journal.

Reports indicate there is an abundance of apples in the storages throughout the district. There are also definite indications that most of this fruit will have to be sold in Ontario, much of it right in our own district. Apples are one of the tastiest, easiest to handle and most healthful of fruits. But it can not be said that they are among the most popular in this area where so many are produced. Perhaps it is a case of familiarity breeding contempt, but quite frequently the beautiful, rosy, delicious apple is sidetracked for an imported fruit, which, quite often, is not as tasty, and certainly is not as easy to handle in the eating. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

—And then there was the little boy who "got away with murder" last week. Telling the story, the lady said: "You never saw such a mess as when I walked in on him in the kitchen. He had the mixing bowl out, and he had put everything into it that he could lay his hands on. That included flour, sugar, instant coffee, powdered chocolate, water, baking powder. He had even broken an egg and added it to the mixture, which he was stirring laboriously when I entered. Then just when I had caught my breath and was looking up a real temper, he turned to me with a smile and said proudly, 'I'm making a birthday cake for Grampa.'" —Port William Times-Journal.

people's farm co-operative Glorious Red Raspberry, where it could expand its size with a few years' intensive work on 12-hour shifts in the fields, and by the arrest of Commissar Gardiner as a deviationist who, in the pay of the Anglo-Americans, had plotted the overthrow of the state by introducing virus-carrying insects into the Regina area. What's more Jimmy, several pounds lighter and looking rather wild-eyed, would have appeared in court a few months later to admit all this and to implicate the Commissars of National Resources and of Defence Production in the plot. In the case of the Currie Report, we hate to think what the N.K.V.D. would have done if sweat information out of those

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