

THE GUARDIAN

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A Too-Common Menace

National Health Week is being observed across Canada next week, and in this Province the Provincial Health Department is stressing particularly the ravages caused by the common cold, and the means of treating this highly contagious respiratory disease.

Many people do not realize that a slight cold in one person may mean something much more serious when spread to someone else—such as infection of the ears, or sinusitis, or pneumonia—according to the individual's susceptibility and lack of resistance.

From U. S. Via Holland

Queer things happen sometimes when Governments participate in business. In its current issue, "Canadian Grocer" tells of one of them which has to do with dried fruits produced in California, sold to Holland, and shipped back from there to Canada.

Last fall, the United States Government bought up quantities of California prunes and raisins for shipment to certain European destinations, among them Holland. The merchandise was sold to Holland under a substantial subsidy arrangement.

But Holland, according to the trade paper, did not keep all these prunes and raisins. Apparently to get dollars, she disposed of about 25,000 boxes of prunes and 15,000 of raisins to Canadian buyers at prices nicely below what we in Canada could buy them for direct from California.

"Canadian Grocer" adds that the California Dried Fruit Export Association has been much exercised over the deal, and has taken the matter up with Washington. It was stipulated on the cases that the dried fruits could not come back to the U. S. A., but there was nothing arranged to prevent their being "dumped" into Canada.

Hidden Taxes

Some new light on the proposed provincial sales tax is thrown in an article in the Montreal Star. The article points out that when the Federal-Provincial Conference met last year, the Provinces declared their need for greater revenues. The Dominion was not prepared to admit the Provinces to any bigger share in corporation or inheritance taxes than they now have, and it wants to retain the income tax.

The proposal was for a tax on retail sales, sometimes called a turnover tax. That is, a tax on all retailers on their gross sales, to be collected, not as some provincial taxes are collected now, by an addition to the purchaser's bill, but at the source. The proposed tax would be a hidden tax. The consumer would not know directly that he had paid it, but the amount of the tax—or as much of it as the retailer could pass on—would be added by the retailer to the selling price of the goods.

In view of the fact that some of the Provinces are already collecting a sales tax—we have one in Prince Edward Island in the form of a so-called health tax on liquor and tobacco—it has been asked why the new proposal would involve a constitutional

amendment. The reason is that existing provincial sales taxes have had to be framed in an awkward way because, superficially at least, they are unconstitutional. The only reason why the courts have permitted them is that the Provinces have appointed all retailers as their agents. These agents have then added the tax to their individual bills of sale, thereby creating the tax legally into a direct tax, which Provinces could levy without constitutional amendment.

The proposed tax, which it is believed would collect much more, would be levied not on the individual transactions but on the retailers' total turnover, and would be therefore levied on everything sold at retail.

Few persons are aware today that they are all paying an 8 per cent Federal sales tax. It is imposed at the manufacturers' level, and is passed on through the wholesaler and the retailer to the consumer, concealed in the ultimate selling price. This may be an easy way for the Dominion to get money. But the new proposal is for an additional hidden tax, this time imposed at the retail level and not consciously paid.

Once the Provinces enter the field of indirect taxation, there is reason to fear that they would encroach further and further and thereby undermine the basis of Confederation.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, quinquagesima.

Lent begins next week with Ash Wednesday.

Mr. D. A. MacDonald, chairman of the Potato Marketing Board, advises us that it is not exceptional for an organization to impose an assessment on its members and that it is done by the Dairymen's Association to defray the cost of advertising butter and dairy products.

Although no time will be lost by the Federal Public Works Department in replacing the recently burned down laboratory at the Experimental Farm, it will be months before it will be fit to be occupied by the staff. Meanwhile they will have to get along as best they can with the assistance of Fredericton and other experimental stations.

Organized charities sometimes have their disadvantages. Take for instance the recent Water Street fire and eviction of women and children in their night clothes, an emergency call for aid if ever there was one. Notwithstanding that the Children's Aid Centre have a telephone, 2789-L, the Catholic Social Welfare Bureau, phone 1863, the Charlottetown Free Dispensary, phone 1464-J, it was left to L. P. U. to take the necessary action to rouse the sympathies and support of the charitably minded.

On Thursday reference was made in these columns to a bond issue being launched in connection with the defense programme announced in the Speech from the Throne. The reference was erroneous inasmuch as the issue referred to the United Kingdom and not the Canadian Government. A summarized Canadian Press statement from which the London dateline was detached and figures given in dollars and cents instead of pounds sterling, was misread as having emanated from Ottawa.

Nine years ago, on February 27, 1942, British Commandos raided German installations at Bruneval and an important radio detector station there was destroyed. Six years ago, on February 21, British troops in the First Canadian Army captured Goch, near Cleve, and on February 22, the greatest air assault in history took place. Before dusk had fallen more than 10,000 Allied sorties had been flown. On February 26, Sgt. A. Cosens of Porquus Junction, Ont., won the Victoria Cross for an action which cost his life in the fighting around Mooshof, Holland.

Thomas Woodrow Wilson, American statesman and 28th President of the United States, died this date 1928. He was a distinguished student and university president before entering politics, becoming Governor of New Jersey and afterwards President. He played a crucial part in getting the United States in Great War I, and took an active part in directing the proceedings at the Peace Conference with his famous "Fourteen Points". He gave his approval to the appointment of the League of Nations, but Congress turned it down. In an endeavour to convince the nation of its necessity, he undertook a speech-making campaign, but his health broke down, and he practically remained inactive till the end of his term on March 4, 1921.

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.

INCREDIBLE

Sir,—I don't believe my friend Mr. J. O. C. Campbell is as foolish as Mr. Woodrow Wheatley says he is. I am, Sir, etc. JOSEPH J. P. O'BRIEN, Charlottetown.

SUMMERSIDE WATER SUPPLY

Sir,—In reply to the letter signed by two Water and Sewerage Commissioners which appeared in both The Guardian and The Plover of Feb. 1st, I wish to confirm the facts I stated in my letter in The Guardian of January 30th about the amount of water which can be pumped from the well on Upper Central Street.

My information was supplied by Mr. James Spinney, C. E., who was appointed by the firm of Whitman and Company, consulting engineers, to inspect the well. He informed me that before the well was started he advised that a six inch test hole was bored until the amount of water could be determined but was overruled by Commissioners Dewar and Vaughan, room manager of the Trask Well Company.

Mr. Spinney also advised me that he measured this well to the 505 foot level and when he went back to complete the measurements he was advised by Commissioner Dewar that he, Mr. Dewar, had measured the well and had signed the card certifying the depth so that Mr. Spinney would not be responsible for the measurements below the 505 foot level.

Mr. Spinney also informed me that the amount of water which could be pumped from this well would be 100 imperial gallons per minute and considered this well to be a failure, and he was very much surprised to see a pump house being erected on the site the next time he passed it, as he expected this well would be abandoned.

I would like to know on what authority Mr. Dewar took it upon his own shoulders to go against the advice of the consulting engineer who was hired by the Water and Sewerage Commissioners of the Town of Summerside to inspect this well regarding the size of the bore and the depth.

Commissioners Dewar and Stewart stated in their letter that the well being dug on Harvard Street was a continuation of a contract awarded the Trask Well Company for digging the well on Central Street. I think that the public upon reading a copy of the contract would clearly see that it states one well and definitely not two or three.

They also state that they expect the well on Harvard Street to produce 300 gallons per minute. I would like to know if they expect the 12 inch well on Central Street to produce the same amount.

I have also been informed by a representative of a competent well digging company that 500 gallons per minute can be pumped from an eight inch well without any difficulty. Then why should we dig a 12 inch well when a six inch or an eight inch well would do the required job?

I have also had quotations for digging an eight inch well from a company which has bored wells in many towns and cities in the Maritimes. The quotations were \$7.00 per foot and \$100.00 for testing.

I had a visit from the representative of a well digging company who wished to tender on the well to be drilled on Harvard Street, and I called a meeting of the Commissioners, but at the meeting I was informed by Mr. Dewar that this company could not dig a straight well. Then Mr. Dewar and Mr. Stewart proceeded to overrule me and awarded the contract to the Trask Well Company. I should like to know where Mr. Dewar got his information regarding the capabilities of the firm I referred to.

I am well aware that according to the fire underwriters report the Town is in urgent need of more water, but I am at a loss to understand why so much money must be spent to procure it. For instance why spend \$7,950 to dig a 12-inch well producing 100 gallons per minute when the same result could be obtained from an eight inch well costing \$3,700 for digging and testing which was the estimate supplied by the representative whom I interviewed?

I have been informed by the engineer at the light plant that the water pump there is pumping 190 gals. per minute from a six inch hole, notwithstanding the fact that the pump is over 30 years old and no doubt is considerably worn and not producing its original capacity. I trust these facts and figures will refute the claims made by Mr. Dewar and Mr. Stewart which appeared in their statement to the press.

I am, Sir, etc. CARROL DELANEY, Chairman Water and Sewerage Commissioners, Summerside.

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Know Your Census Taker THIS BEING CENSUS YEAR, LUCIFER W. LOONEY, DISTINGUISHED AMATEUR PSYCHOANALYST AND CIGAR BAND COLLECTOR, CAUTIONS: "DON'T ANSWER ANY OF A FELLOW'S 360 QUESTIONS UNTIL YOU'VE SEEN HIS CREDENTIALS." Tell me, pretty maiden, are there any more at home like you? CAREFUL! HE MAY NOT BE A CENSUS TAKER AFTER ALL...

The Poet's Corner STILL CLOSE He is beyond our sight, beyond our touch, The one we loved—and love—so very much. But may he not be near us, nearer than we think? He was through Life's abbreviated span? May he not feel our sadness and our pain And yearn to whisper: parting is true gain When flesh is laid aside and spirits soar Above all earthly ills for evermore? Indeed, our very residence on earth Is but an interval—from birth to Birth—A time for learning and a time for love, To fit us for that Rendezvous Above.

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We shall not; no, we dare not fall below: The best that we can be, or have him know That we are bowed with grief that blinds us to The tasks that still remain for us to do. We must not check his progress, or our own By looking back—as loneliness is prone— We must go on, look up and try to smile And bridge, with deeds of love, that "little white."

—Laura M. Tennyson (formerly Miss Laura Mitchell, of Charlottetown, now of Alhambra, California.)

Last Words Of A Pilot (London Daily Mail) Records of the conversation between air traffic control officers and the pilot of the Viking airliner which crashed in fog at London Airport on October 31 with the loss of 28 lives will be the most vital "witnesses" when the public inquiry into the disaster opens in London on February 19. Automatic speech recorders have been in use at Heathrow and other British airports for some time, but this is the first time that they will provide important evidence at an inquiry into a major accident. This evidence will include a word - by - word reproduction of the instructions given to the pilot by radio-telephone by the man who was "talking him down" from the GCA van at the side of the runway.

Ground Controlled Approach is the radar system installed at Heathrow and other airports to guide an aircraft down to the runway in bad visibility. Pilots have instructions to "break off" and not continue their landing approach if they cannot see the runway after being "talked down" to within a certain distance of it. The record of the landing approach which preceded the British European Airways crash on October 31 includes the comments made by the Viking pilot, Captain E. D. Clayton, who was killed—in reply to the directions of the talk-down controller.

The Age-Old Story For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. PARIS, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Dr. G. Bromley Oxnam of New York, Methodist bishop, today accused Hollywood of helping Communist propaganda by showing Americans as "gangster-minded, over-sexed and luxury-mad." He said Communists have been "using our own motion pictures to denounce the capitalistic system."

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Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) LOCAL MANUFACTURES

"Messrs Beer and Sons have, for some time, advertised as preparing for the market a lot of Island made reaping and mowing machines. In another column this machine, which is called the Island Champion, is announced as now ready for sale. Yesterday afternoon we visited the establishment of Messrs. White, Morrissy, Butcher and Lowe, where these machines, twenty-two in number, are being manufactured.

"Mr. Archibald White contributes the iron work; Mr. Edward Morrissy the castings; and Mr. Butcher, etc., the carpenter work, and each in his own department has done well. We saw one of the mowers at Messrs Beer and Son's seed store, and we must say that it is as neat and substantially built and finished as those imported from the United States. In some respects it is, in our opinion, an improvement on the American machines.

"An objection often urged against the latter, is that in reaping, the inner wheel runs over the outer grain. In the Island made machine, this is obviated by adding a tooth to the blade or knife, and throwing the flange so much further out. Another improvement claimed for the latter refers to the wheel communicating the motive power to the knife. The cogs on this wheel are very liable to break. In the Island mower, a band runs round the outside rim of the wheel, and being cast solid with it, strengthens the cogs. This is an improvement of Mr. White's suggested by his experience in repairing Manny's mower and reaper.

"Another advantage which the 'Island Champion' machine has over Manny's is that the bar on which the knives is riveted is a good deal stronger.

"Mr. Morrissy's foundry is an establishment highly creditable to the enterprise of its proprietor, and amply repays a visit. The building and the castings, moulds and materials, giving a very fair idea of the amount of business carried on. A ten horse power steam engine is in constant operation, and performs the largest part of the heavy work. But one furnace was used here before; now a second is added to keep pace with the requirements of Mr. Morrissy's customers.

"Generally, the hands do not exceed twelve, but at present, in consequence of heavy orders from ship and house builders, they number fifteen." —The 'Islander', June 19, 1868.

Memoirs Of The Hon. A. E. Arsenault Former Premier and Retired Justice Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island Political History

The years previous to and immediately following Confederation were politically strenuous. The members of the Legislative Assembly, known as the Lower House, had the privilege of attending by standing about the Chamber. When they returned to the House of Assembly, the Speaker would announce his intention of re-reading the Governor's speech because many of the Legislative Assemblymen might not have clearly heard His Honour's reading of the Speech in the Upper Chamber. But now that there no longer is an Upper Chamber so that both Councillors and Assemblymen sit in the Legislative Assembly, all need for a second reading of the Speech from the Throne has become unnecessary and could be construed as a reflection on His Honour's ability to make his speech intelligible to the House.

While on the subject of what should be changed or abandoned, it appears that a few remarks on our present Coat of Arms would be appropriate. Originally, Prince Edward Island's Coat of Arms depicted a large oak overshadowing with its protective branches a smaller oak. Below were the Latin words "Parva sub ingentibus". The small under the great. Two vertical grooves were shown in the small oak in the original Coat of Arms. Those grooves had been intentionally placed there for the purpose of showing that the Province was divided into three Counties—Prince, Queen's, and King's.

Some years ago however, the College of Heralds in London prepared a new Coat of Arms for the Province. Those entrusted with the task apparently decided that the two vertical grooves in the small oak had been placed there for the purpose of showing that the small tree represented three small islands under the protection of a greater. I remember discussing the new Coat of Arms with the late Arthur Newbury, then assistant Provincial Secretary-Treasurer. The late Mr. Newbury had occupied his position for many years and was well acquainted with all the details of his office. He agreed with me that the Seal was wrong and meaningless. He told me that it was the intention to have the matter brought to the attention of the College of Heralds. That was in 1913. But the months went by, war broke out, and the matter of the Coat of Arms was forgotten. (To be continued)

During my years at St. Dunstan's College, I frequently attended the sessions of the House. At that time, the Government members sat on the right of the Speaker, as the right is the place of honour and the side on which all Government parties sit in all Legislatures under the British Flag. Today, however, the Government members in the Prince Edward Island Legislature sit to the left of the Speaker. Behind this unusual position there lies an interesting tale.

During the Premiership of the Hon. Fred Peters, there was an Opposition member named Cyrus Shaw. He was an able and fluent speaker capable at times of rising to heights of eloquence. But his voice, harsh, loud and strident, irritated Peters greatly. Moreover, Shaw was addicted to sarcasm especially when he was directing his remarks to the Premier. It soon became the custom of the Premier, when Shaw rose to speak, to leave his seat and take refuge in the room used by the Clerk of the House. To get to that room which was to the right and at the back of the Legislative Chamber, the Premier was obliged to cross the floor in front of the Speaker to whom, in conformity with Parliamentary procedure, he had to bow. To avoid this inconvenience and to more readily reach the Clerk's room, the Premier changed the seating arrangement of the House so that he and his followers sat to the left of the Speaker. All Island Governments have followed the same practice since. It should, however, be discontinued and the former positions restored.

There is another practice which has no justification for its continuance: the re-reading by the Speaker of the Speech from the Throne. When we had an Upper House, known as the Legislative Council Chamber, it was the custom of the Lieutenant-Governor to

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