

THE GUARDIAN

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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, MAR. 31, 1952

Too Important For Haste

In view of the desirability of getting the Legislative session over before Easter, it is unlikely that the special committee to be appointed to consider the Railway bus proposals would be able to complete its hearings and report to the House in time to have the subject properly debated at the present session.

Involving as it does the whole question of improved transport facilities in this Province, the issue is one which should not be dealt with too hastily. The committee might well, indeed, carry on its sittings after prorogation and present its report at the next session, or if necessary at a special session, thus giving ample time for consideration and discussion.

It is generally conceded that our existing train service is inadequate to present day requirements, and will become more so as time goes on. This fact is all-important in considering the proposals which the Railway has laid before the Government.

To Bolster Egg Prices

Next month, reports the Financial Post, four of Canada's surplus-producing egg provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario) will be voting on a unique scheme. A central marketing board which would fix egg prices and set mark-ups for the different trade levels.

It is proposed to withhold 1c a doz. to set up a fund (\$3-\$5 million) to control the market, including maintenance of inventories. Distribution will continue to be through existing wholesalers but the Marketing Board would set the wholesaler's mark-up.

Long Overdue

In the comprehensive brief prepared by the Provincial Government for submission to the Federal-Provincial conference of December, 1950, preceding the new tax agreement with Ottawa, the claims of Prince Edward Island for special consideration were duly emphasized.

"Because of our lack of public lands and consequent loss of revenue from that source the Federal Government at Confederation agreed to pay to the Province an annual sum of \$45,000 for the construction and maintenance of local works.

"That was the year in which other landless Provinces had transferred to them by the Dominion Government the public lands earlier withheld, and received as well the annual grants which had previously been paid to them as compensation for their

lack of such 'public lands as a source of revenue.' This would mean that we are justly entitled to receive an outright payment of \$39,120.10 for twenty years or a total of \$782,402.00."

With Federal surpluses at an all-time high level, this would seem to be an opportune time for pressing this long-overdue claim—through the courts if necessary. There is no question about its validity, and no question but that the Province badly needs the money.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Budget to be brought down at the Legislature.

A smaller planting of spuds in U. S. A. may be followed by a similar reduction here, which means both more money and less labour for the farmers.

Western farmers want the criminal law amended to enable them to strike without the risk of prosecution, and Justice Minister Garson tells them "it is O.K. with me."

The Premier seems to have thoroughly enjoyed his visit to Ottawa, and the contacts he made there, including that with Mr. A. B. Mosher, the head of the Railwaymen's Union.

Our boys serving in Korea are sure to appreciate the gift boxes which the ladies of the Legion Auxiliary have decided to send them. Nothing nicer at the front than a letter from home, especially if accompanied by a gift.

Bringing down the budget may not be a full dress occasion today but the importance of decisions taken at present tax rates makes old time budgeting seem like child's play.

The sea surrounding this Province gives us relief from excessive heat in summer and cold in winter but at this time of year its frozen surface merely delays the arrival of spring by about a fortnight.

The beef prices at the livestock show were satisfactory, being an average of practically 30c per lb. live weight, and about 2c higher than the floor price asked in Parliament.

A hint to legislators. Members of the Pakistan Legislature were told they may be doze in the House but must not snore. Speaker Ebrahim Khan had his attention called to a member snoring and was asked if it was allowed. He ruled: "I think dozing may be allowed—but not snoring."

There certainly never was a conflict in which this nation was more unified than in the present effort to stamp out aggression. It would be a pity to have the arguments over the best allocation of our resources be taken for disagreement over fundamental policy.

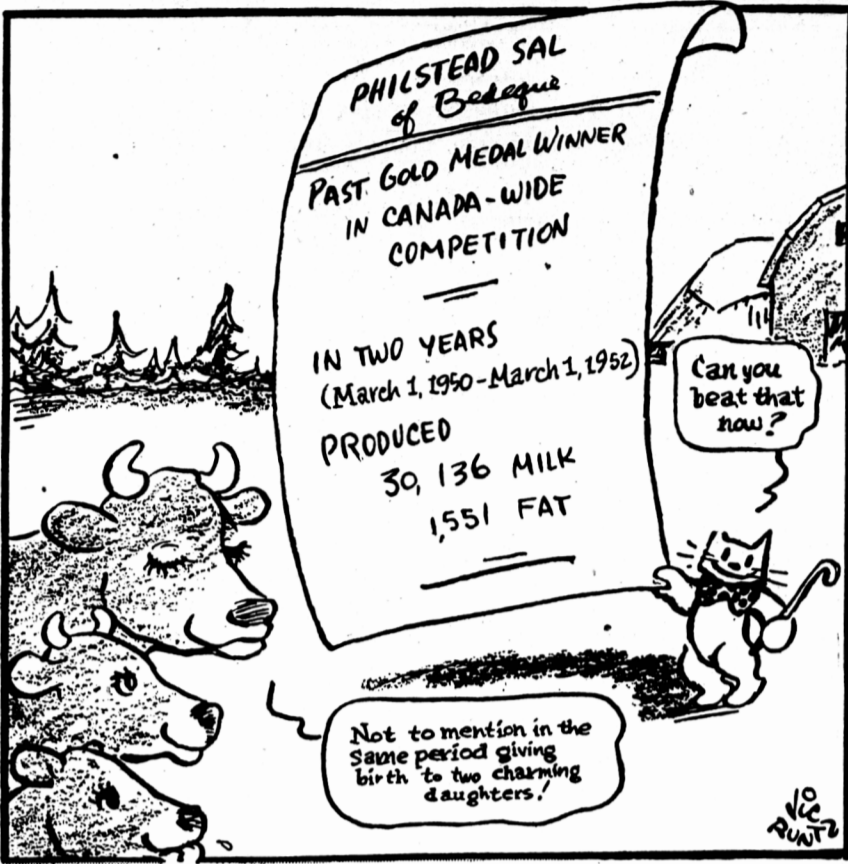
Retired pensioners of the Prince Edward Island Railway worked longer hours and as faithfully as any of their successors. It seems anything but fair that their efforts should be rewarded by pensions of \$25 a month which bear little relation to the value of their past services.

As a province we are perhaps the most "property" populated in the Dominion, for we are mostly farmers owning our own lands. It is natural, therefore, that property owners should have their interests represented directly in the Legislature, and Mr. Robert L. Cotton has submitted a plan in his letter in Saturday's issue worthy of earnest consideration in any scheme to revise the representation in the Legislature.

Henry William Frederick, third son of George V, was born this date 1900. Known at first as Prince Henry, he was created Duke of Gloucester in 1928. He entered the King's Royal Rifle Corps but later joined the cavalry. He married Lady Alice Scott, daughter of the seventh Duke of Buccleuch. He was Governor-General of Australia from 1945-57 and is master of the Corporation of Trinity House.

Narrow gauge railway equipment gave place to standard gauge when the car ferry linked the Island system with those of the mainland. The C. N. R. is now anxious to bring its services in line with modern needs by providing the latest in highway equipment. The proposal should not simply be accepted, it should be given every possible encouragement.

Another Candidate for PEI's Bovine Hall of Fame



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.

WASTAGE IN FERTILIZING

Sir,—Now that Spring is about to dawn upon us in all its glory and with its opportunities and responsibilities and subsequent profitable results from ventures engaged in, or reverses, or near calamities that may befall, it is our duty to look ahead, not drive too fast, steer clear of the ruts, bumps and upheavals that possibly lie ahead in our pathway; and to no one does this bit of admonition apply with greater accuracy than to the farmer, now unloosed from the shackles of a rather uncommon winter and striking out in a renewal of that perennial seasonal optimistic spirit that has characterized his every gyration down through the years.

One of the greatest burdens the farmer has to carry is and contend with, is the eternally soaring cost of chemical fertilizers. There is no intention of placing the responsibility for this at the local level but rather it can be attributed to a combination of two simple facts: A world shortage of chemical nutrients and complete control of a rather unscrupulous corporation, who do not hesitate to take advantage of such opportunities. The situation this season is so bad in this respect that a farmer who invests in fertilizers at present cost, is staking his continued existence on the farm on the price he will obtain for his products six or eight months hence.

The outstanding cause of present world shortage of chemical ingredients used in the manufacture of chemical fertilizers, is that of increasing world consumption and extreme wastage in mode of usage and method of application to plant growth. The farmer cannot be curtailed, but rather a more extended demand may be expected to develop, but the latter cause, of which practically every user is an offender whether he knows it or not, can be eliminated almost in its entirety. Hereafter, chemical fertilizers have been applied in their raw state, by way of surface broadcasting over dry ground or drilled into dry soil there to await precipitation of sufficient moisture from the air to convert into liquid solution, the only form in which chemicals can be absorbed by growing plants.

Unfortunately, at times, weeks or longer may pass without any progress in this positively essential processing and in the meantime plants are starving for the lack of nourishment and in addition the original chemical potential is leaching and evaporating away—a positive loss to the grower. Sometimes, under somewhat more favourable conditions, partial dissolving may take place and the new growth struggling for an existence may obtain a rationed portion of food and display a somewhat improved appearance.

The farmer gives credit for this slight stimulus to the fertilizing, but concludes he did not supply a sufficient quantity. The following year, not being familiar with the analysis of his soil, he may double the quantity and get still better results, but of course his cost per acre for chemicals, has increased correspondingly and his wastage through leaching and evaporation, for an equal extent. It should be obvious then how this duplication of an enterprise actually required, under an erroneous mode of application and multiplied by the world acreage treated, cannot but culminate in an amassed demand that exceeds possible supply, and creates a situation favourable for an upward trend in prices.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MR. POPE'S LANGUAGE

From The Islander, Sept. 11, 1943:

"We are informed that His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Huntley received a despatch by mail from the new Colonial Secretary, Earl Grey, directing him to reinstate the Hon. Joseph Pope in his seat in the Executive Council. It will be recalled that Mr. Pope was suspended from his seat in the Council in April last, by Sir H. V. Huntley, for using language in debate on the floor of the House—which His Excellency considered insulting to him as administrator of the Government of this Island. The whole of the facts connected with this affair have been duly laid before the Home Government, and the result has been as above stated.

The reasons assigned by Earl Grey for his determination concerning Mr. Pope's suspension, it is stated, are, in the first place, that for any observations, in whatever language expressed, and whomsoever they might affect, made by a member of the House of Assembly, in his place in the House, such member could be amenable to no authority but that of the House; the privilege of members of Colonial Parliaments, with respect to liberty of speech, being precisely the same as that of members of the Imperial Parliament; and that therefore the ground originally assumed by His Excellency, and on which he had determined to suspend Mr. Pope, was untenable;—and, in the second place, that it would have been unjust to have left the question to be pronounced upon by the Executive Council, as it had been determined to do, denying to Mr. Pope the liberty to make his defence 'viva voce' at the Board, face to face with his accuser, and confining him to the sending in of a written reply to the charges preferred against him by His Excellency."

The wasteage in the use of raw chemical fertilizers is terrific as exposed by authoritative experiment. Professor Alex Laurie of Ohio State University, is credited with issuing the following finding. He says: "Of the 4% nitrogen in a well known 4-12-4 dry formula, most of it is leached out before the plant can get it. Of the 12% phosphorous, if the plant gets 1% it is doing well. Very little potash is dry fertilizer is soluble as that used in 'liquid' so that, if very little of the nitrogen in a 4-12-4 formula ever reaches the plant, and only 1% or less of the 12% phosphorous ever becomes available and that the potash is equally elusive, is it any wonder farmers have to use vastly beyond the quantities necessary under a proper adjusted system of fertilizer application, tremendous cost, before receiving any benefit at all. If what has been written is correct, and there is no apparent reason to doubt its accuracy, the amount of money lost by Prince Edward Island farmers, down through the past third of a century or more, is beyond calculation, and there were none to advise differently. In the meantime, world renowned chemical experts and research workers have not been idle, nor has experimentation been at a standstill. Discoveries have been made, confirmed and recorded and are available to those interested enough to reach out to enquire. In my next letter I will endeavor to deal with a number of these issues.

I am, Sir, etc.

J. A. GILLIES.

The Poet's Corner

QUIETUDE

I have desired to go Where springs not fail, To fields where flies no sharp sided hail, And a few lilies blow.

And I have asked to be Where no storms come, Where the green swell is in the haven dumb, And out of the swing of the sea.

—Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Fruit Of Their Labours Is More Taxes

(The Chronicle, Montreal) Apropos of the pattern shown in recent corporation reports of decreased earnings brought about by or coincident with increased taxes, we have seen recently a file on this subject covering material from both Canada and the United States, from which the following is extracted:

A Canadian textile company's net profits decreased by approximately \$1,500,000 or by 27 per cent in 1951 compared with 1950. In face of this, taxes, federal, provincial and municipal, increased \$250,000 or by 5 per cent. A Canadian corporation doing business in both Canada and the United States in 1951 provided 69 per cent of its operating profit for federal taxes, compared with 52.4 per cent in 1950. In other words, it operated for eight months of its fiscal year purely to pay its taxes, which were five times the amount dividends paid. The company's comment on this—"When it is realized that such dividends are again subject to stiff graduated taxes in the hands of individuals, it would seem that the corporate profit dollar has been singled out for severe present conditions to be one more example of understatement."

One of the largest, leading and best known of the New York banks, earned \$8.36 a share before taxes, reduced to \$3.45 by Federal and State taxes and paid \$1.80 in dividends. This bank's stock is currently selling some \$9.00 below its book value as represented by capital surplus and undivided profits. These examples are admittedly hand-picked, but they are not untypical, and considering the names of the companies and the bank involved, they are impressive as indicating the extent to which the strenuous efforts of business lead only severe present conditions to the payment of more taxes, whether in Canada or the United States. These taxes are being paid, as our politicians in Canada are fond of telling us, in a period of unexampled prosperity. What would happen, if business is faced with a period of real adversity, or what would be done in such circumstances, is not very clear. But it seems to be worth thinking about.

The Age-Old Story

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. . . . And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

I am, Sir, etc.

J. A. GILLIES.

Notes By The Way

Mr. Diefenbaker, speaking in Montreal (at the Salvation Army Citadel) appealed for a renascence of religion, a national revival of spiritual things. It is good to find a public man deeply concerned with spiritual values, and ready to discuss them publicly.—Ottawa Journal.

We could do with a few more Irishmen in Northwestern Ontario. More population is needed in the area and by-and-large the Irishman makes a fine citizen. It can truly be said that Northwestern Ontario is only second to Ireland as a snakeless country.—Fort William Times-Journal.

At least one Ottawa newspaper has gone over its periodicals and pocket books, and has returned to the distributors of such matter works which might be classed as indecent. This sort of voluntary censorship if adopted generally would clean up the "dirty book" situation in short order.—Ottawa Journal.

We agree with the Toronto columnist who has stated "let us hear no more about such punks as Boyd, Jackson and Suchan until they are brought to trial." Such exaggerated accounts of their being "perfect husbands" former athletes, nice, quiet fellows" tend only to make them appear as heroes in the eyes of immature, would-be tough teenagers!—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Somebody described as "a Toronto oil tycoon" has been telling the Miami Herald about Canada's "comparative freedom from taxes." "Personal income taxes do not exist," he is quoted as saying, "nor are corporation taxes high." That tycoon has just been out too long in the sun. And any American who moves to the Dominion on the strength of so alluring a story is due for a shock.—Ottawa Journal.

As for first cousins and the monetary value of the normal relationships between them, our feeling is that the amount involved isn't even parking meter money. In our modern civilization blood ties get pretty weak as soon as they get into the cousin category. The average man or woman is much more likely to have closer ties to his lodge brothers, sewing circle companions, back-fence confidants or poker session opponents than he or she has with cousins first, second, third, fourth or any other variety.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

A man who has driven a car twenty-two years without an accident said the other day that "when a driver kills a child he (the driver) is 100 per cent to blame." When asked, "What if a child runs out from behind a car?" he replied: "There is always a child going to run from behind a car I am passing unless I can see under the car that there is no child there. Twice in one day I have stopped my car within two feet of a child that jumped onto the road in front of me." This is the position that every car or truck driver should take.—Strathroy Ase-Dispatch.

The Federal Communications Commission is expected before long to end its freeze on new television stations—and to be swamped immediately thereafter with applications for frequencies. Some of them will come from school systems and colleges. And within limits, the FCC will be receptive to them; it seems committed to setting aside, at least for the time being, about 10 per cent of the available frequencies for educational broadcasters. A year ago when it issued tentative geographical allocations for 1900 new TV stations about 200 were reserved for educational television—if the educators should claim them and show an ability to use them in the public interest.—Washington Post.

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