

The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Best
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

MONDAY, DEC. 12, 1955

Safety Schools

A current fashion in the United States is the highway traffic school. Several of the larger colleges and universities have put the subject in their list of required or optional studies. A typical school is that now under way at Michigan State University, having been authorized by the last session of the State Legislature. This is by no means a small and inconsequential affair. It has a staff of 38 full time instructors and is described by university officials as "the broadest in scope ever attempted." Following are some of the courses: workshops for police, judges, safety directors, engineers, teachers, and other categories especially interested in safety work; training young people for full time jobs as driver-education instructors and traffic engineers; information in audio-visual aids; library training; and scientific counselling in administration of traffic laws.

The money for all this is being provided by the Legislature, about \$200,000 for the first six months. After that, presumably, everything will depend on the school's progress and apparent usefulness. In addition, good contributions are expected from major automobile manufacturers, who have expressed keen interest in the project. It is an ambitious undertaking, certainly. Whether it will reduce traffic accidents remains to be seen; but if it does nothing more than dramatize the need for extraordinary measures to cope with a situation that appears to be getting worse all the time, it will have served a useful purpose.

South Viet Nam Today

The world's youngest republic—South Viet Nam, born in October, 1955—starts life against a background of war and confusion, but with a solid asset in fertile and productive land. A little larger than New England, it represents only a fragment of France's five-state Indochina colony that existed before World War II.

On the new republic's northern border lies Communist North Viet Nam, set up beyond the 17th parallel by the 1954 Geneva cease-fire agreement that ended the long struggle between French and Viet Minh forces. West of the two rival Viet Nams stretches the rest of what was French Indochina—Cambodia and Laos. Once French protectorates but now independent, both remain kingdoms. South Viet Nam, by voting overwhelmingly for its pro-democratic president, Ngo Dinh Diem, has rejected its former emperor, Bao Dai.

More than 11,000,000 people, culturally and racially linked to the Chinese, live in South Viet Nam. Of these, an avalanche of some 700,000 poured in from the Communist north after the Geneva pact permitted civilian and military transfer across the demarcation line. Whole villages of North Viet Nam were abandoned as men, women and children packed their few belongings and moved south. The United States, France and South Viet Nam, plus private relief agencies, co-operated in the exodus, one of the modern epics of mass migration.

Today, according to the National Geographic Society, problems and hardships of resettlement in strange and undeveloped country still plague the migrants; but the bleak tent towns where the refugees first huddled near Saigon are giving way to busy, sturdy villages. Vegetable gardens have been planted, chickens and pigs introduced, and along the coast new fishing colonies have been started. But the young republic is handicapped by large areas of swamps, jungle, and rugged mountains that defy cultivation. Mineral and other natural resources have hardly been tapped. Few

South Viet Namsese are trained for anything but farming.

On the other hand, the narrow but lush coastal plains and the broad and fertile delta lands of the Mekong River yield luxuriant rice crops for both home needs and cash export. Rubber, too, grows well in the south where French capital once hopefully established modern plantations. A land-reform law recently passed requires that all the big rubber, rice and other estates uncultivated by absentee owners shall be brought into production, either by refugee labor or by rental to working farmers.

Industrial planners find some coal already mined in the northeast. Gold, zinc and phosphate deposits are known in the uplands. Vast lands of timber and other forest products await exploitation. Even the mountains, although useless for farming and formidable barriers against much-needed transport, are potentially valuable for rushing streams that may some day create cheap electric power to serve industrial demand.

School For Prospectors

A dispatch from Toronto conveys the information that the Ontario Government is sponsoring a school for mining prospectors. To insure a good attendance and to make sure that no one is kept out by lack of funds, the courses are free. Dr. W. G. Harding of the Provincial Department of Mining is in charge, and the teaching will be concentrated chiefly on the various identifying marks of minerals and the techniques of handling a Geiger counter efficiently. The emphasis, of course, is on uranium, the mineral that seems to be related one way or another to almost everything that happens in the technological field these days—yes, and in a sense in the political field, too.

Dr. Harding, the report says, has only one formula for success in prospecting: curiosity, close observation, and steady, hard work. Well, that is a pretty good formula for success in any field, although many people who adhere to it strictly do not discover uranium, or even a pot of gold, which these days is much less valuable. No doubt, the school will fill a real need; it must be wonderful for a freshman prospector to learn "all about it" in a week's schooling. There will, however, be some disappointment over the absence of a "where to find it" subject on the curriculum. But, of course, if Dr. Harding were an authority in that department he would not be teaching at all. He would be right out in the field, gathering in uranium by the ton.

EDITORIAL NOTES

One commodity that is permitted to enter the United States without much opposition from industry is beer. This is because it usually costs a good deal more than the home manufactured product and is, therefore, not highly competitive. It comes in a sizable volume, nevertheless—about 5 million gallons so far this year. Canada is the leading exporter, with West Germany in second place and the Netherlands in third.

According to a recent report, only two governments in the world have actually repudiated past debts. These are the Soviet Union, which ignored all debts assumed by the Czarist governments, and the State of Mississippi. 13 other governments, however, are listed as making no serious effort to honour old obligations; 9 of these are in the Communist bloc. Dollar-wise, the Communist bloc defaults amount to about 1 1/2 billion; those of the non-Communist governments amount to about half a billion.

Sociologists seem to be spending much of their time these days in trying to make elderly people happier than they can manage to be if left alone. A report from a symposium in Geriatric Medicine refers to efforts now under way to assist old people "to add more years to their life and more life to their years". It is all very wonderful, no doubt; but one wonders how in the world our grandfathers and grandmothers managed to get along at all, let alone get any real enjoyment of life, with no busy geriatricians (or is it 'geriatrists'?) to guide them?



WE'LL HANG UP A STOCKING

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the views of correspondents.

POTATO MOVEMENT

Sir,—In our report of potato movement in Saturday's Guardian a table of comparisons was shown which may have been somewhat misleading.

The total crop estimate is of "field run" potatoes and in order to give a figure of total potatoes to be shipped, would need to be reduced by the amount of culls, as well as the amount consumed locally and that retained for planting. The purpose of this table was merely to show a comparison of the movement in each of the four crop years, and in this respect it probably served its purpose.

I am, Sir, etc.,
E. W. CAMPBELL
Manager P.E.I. Potato Marketing Board.

SNOWPLOW NEEDED

Sir,—The question "Where is the snow plow?" once again comes to our minds. It is supposed to be a plow in operation in this section of West Prince, and as yet, three days after the drift, the main highway between Elmsdale and Tignish via the Western Road remains unopened.

How long would it take to open this road? There are two men in a plow and surely an hour would make the road at least passable.

Are we, the car owners on this section of the road, not entitled to run our cars as well as on other roads?

I understand that a good many of the secondary roads are opened. They certainly want our licence fees when the time comes. Why not, then, a little service.

I am, Sir, etc.
CITIZEN
Elmsdale, P.E.I.

Canada's 4-H Clubs

(Ottawa Citizen)
Canada's 4-H clubs—the junior farmers of the country—have just reached their quarter-century mark and it was a happy coincidence that one member from Ontario should help to celebrate the occasion by winning the North American wheat championship at the big Chicago international show. At 12 Jerry Leiske of Beisker is the youngest ever to hold this crown.

A wheat championship no longer carries quite the luster it once did, for in general it has become more a tribute to infinite patience in selecting individual kernels than to agronomic skill, but just the same this is quite a feat for a 12-year-old boy.

The 4-H clubs, to which Jerry belongs, have doubled their membership in the last decade and now have 73,000 members. The four-leaf clover emblem, with the letter "H" standing in turn for head, heart, hands and health, is becoming increasingly familiar across Canada. Ottawa knows it well, of course, for the 4-H clubs are especially prominent each year at the Ottawa Winter Fair, as they are at other agricultural shows both large and small.

Boys and girls alike learn invaluable lessons in the raising and judging of livestock and poultry, in growing grain and vegetables and in other aspects of scientific farming. Their training goes beyond that. Club work helps develop better citizens and homemakers, whether the youngsters stay on the farm or not. This is undoubtedly one of the most successful movements yet devised among young Canadians, and its adult leaders can justly take pride in what is being accomplished.

GREET NORSE ENVOY
MONTREAL (CP)—Arne Gunnar, Norway's new ambassador to Canada, arrived from Ottawa Friday for his first visit to Montreal and was received by Mayor Jean Drapeau at city hall.

Prehistoric Craters

By John F. Bird
Canadian Press, Ottawa

Two huge craters believed caused by meteors plunging to earth 500,000 years ago have been discovered within 100 miles of Canada's capital by the Dominion Observatory.

The prehistoric pockmarks, now filled with rock and earth, are near Franktown, about 30 miles southwest of Ottawa, and Hollefort, approximately 20 miles northwest of Kingston, Ont. They were spotted by the observatory during examination of aerial photographs of Canada taken from RCAF planes at a height of 10,000 feet.

The discoveries bring to five the known number of craters in Canada of meteoric origin.

BEST-KNOWN CRATER

The most famous is the Chubb crater, now known as the new Quebec crater, in northern Quebec about 130 miles south of Hudson Strait. Others were found 40 miles west of the northern Labrador village of Hebron and in Algonquin national park east of Brent, Ont., 50 miles east of North Bay. The Hollefort crater is about 1 1/4 miles in diameter and has a depth of some 100 feet—big enough to swallow up the entire downtown area of a medium-sized city of a couple of hundred thousand population. It is covered with paleozoic sediments, estimated to be at least 500,000 years old, which have concealed most of its original shape.

Apart from its circular shape, the only other definite evidence that the crater is of meteoric origin is that the inner slopes are steeper than the outer and no volcanic activity has been found in this section of Canada.

"It appears that there is a definite possibility that this may be an ancient meteoric cavity nearly filled with sediments," Dr. C. S. Beals, Dominion astronomer, said in an interview. "Gravity observations tend to support the view that it is a depression of considerable depth filled in and covered with sediments."

VAGUE DEPRESSION

The Franktown crater is a vague, shallow depression with little topographical relief. However, it is circular, with a diameter of three-quarters of a mile.

The Age Old Story

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

FIND BLAST VICTIM

FRANKFURT, Germany (CP)—The body of a 27th victim was dug Friday from the wreckage of a five-storey house in the centre of Frankfurt, blown up Wednesday by a mysterious explosion. Hospital authorities said the seven injured brought out of the debris were out of danger. Police said they believe cooking gas caused the blast.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

MONDAYS OFTEN PROVE HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH
Blue Monday is also cold Monday. For years now, we've had plenty of reasons to dislike this day of the week.

For one thing, it means back to work after a week-end of fun and relaxation. Also, it is traditionally the day for doing the family wash. Insurance statisticians have given us another reason for forming a Monday-Haters' club. After a careful check of records and reports, they discovered that you are most apt to catch a cold on Monday.

Just why this is so, hasn't been determined although they suspect it may be because you are more likely to become exposed to someone with a cold during week-end visiting.

Another possibility is that you become tired and run-down more readily on week-end holidays and consequently are more vulnerable to the cold viruses on Monday.

RETURN TO WORK

Again, the theory is advanced that a subconscious reluctance to return to work may have something to do with it. You undoubtedly had summer colds, the real season for this annoying disease did not get under way until Thanksgiving.

It's not much use trying vaccines or various remedies described as cold preventatives. We have no known effective measures for preventing the common cold. However, there are several simple precautions you can and should take to protect others from catching it. A cold is very contagious during the first 24 hours. So, if you feel ill and have a slight fever, keep away from your family and friends as much as possible.

Wash your drinking glass thoroughly after using it, or put it someplace where other members of the family will not readily find it.

Cover your mouth and nose with a handkerchief when you cough or sneeze. Remember to hold the handkerchief loosely and be careful not to compress your nostrils.

Closing off the nostrils when sneezing may force the infection back into your nasal passages.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. P. L. G.: What are the and how is it treated?
Answer: Symptoms of multiple sclerosis vary, depending upon the parts of the nervous system attacked.

It may cause various forms of paralysis, disturbances of vision, speech and gait. Special drugs are used in treating this condition under the direction of the physician. Vitamin preparations have also been employed.

Dr. Beals said the Franktown cavity also is covered with sediments which are at least 500,000 years old. However, the evidence of meteoric origin is not as strong as at Hollefort.

The observatory's search for meteor craters represents an extension of its research efforts. Some 200,000 aerial photographs of parts of Ontario and Quebec now have been studied and the observatory plans to examine photographs covering all sections of the country.

Dr. Beals said the object of the study is to determine whether the earth at one time was bombarded by meteors. The information would assist astronomers in their studies of the universe.

"It is a well-known fact that the moon's surface is pitted with thousands of craters," he said. "While several theories have been put forward to account for their origin, the hypothesis which now is most generally favored is that they were caused by meteoric bombardment thousands of years ago."

EARTH BOMBARDMENT?

"It is because of the similarity of these lunar craters to ones on earth that astronomers are turning attention to the possibility that at one time the earth may have been subjected to similar bombardment. The earth's atmosphere would introduce conditions causing earthly craters to be much more obliterated than their counterparts on the moon, and hence they have eluded detection."

The Chubb crater, discovered in 1951, is two miles in diameter and is believed to have been caused by a meteor which crashed to earth as recently as 50,000 years ago. Very little is known about the crater near Hebron which was discovered in 1954. It is 175 yards in diameter and believed of meteoric origin.

The crater near Brent is two miles in diameter and was discovered in 1952. It is believed to have been caused by a meteor some 400,000 years ago.

The Brent, Franktown and Hollefort craters are filled with sediment. The Chubb crater and the small one near Hebron are not.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Eliminating those guests who stand for fifteen minutes saying good-bye with the front door wide open will cut your fuel bills five percent more than storm windows would.—Calgary Herald.

Fluoridation will benefit only children, and not help adults? All children grow into adults eventually, and will have more and better teeth if they drink fluoridated water during childhood. One survey shows 60 percent. Less tooth decay amongst adults raised in a community with fluoride in the water. The adults of the community with no fluoride had also lost three to four times as many teeth.—North Bay Nugget.

Granted that during the next few years there will be considerable demand for more spacious homes, some builders may strive to meet it and thus take advantage of the marketing possibilities. The vital question probably will be whether or not they can find ways and means of providing large homes at prices the potential customers will pay and on terms they can handle. That, of course, has long been the vital question for a great many construction outfits, and would-be home owners.—Edmonton Journal.

A city hall report that every one of 184 rooming houses in the Sherbourne - Jarvis - Dundas - Queen Streets area violates the building-by-law by permitting fire hazards, strengthens the case for licensing these houses. The report itself recommends they be licensed. Existing regulations strengthened by amendments, are adequate. But they are difficult to police because of a shortage of inspectors. The main violation of which the rooming houses were guilty was a failure to provide two exits from each floor of the house, as required by the building-by-law. The second exit would be an outside covered stairway running from the upper floors to the grounds. In nearly every serious fire in a rooming house someone is trapped because the main stairway becomes engulfed in flames and smoke. Such stairwells act as chimneys.—Toronto Star.

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In the long run, though not immediately, it is to the advantage of the West that its leaders should have to appear to a world opinion that can neither mould, nor coerce, nor control. But this will be true only if the West recognizes the proportions of the new Soviet threat and makes adequate use of the resources available to meet it.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Every now and again Canadians are apt to forget this cardinal fact, and they get restless and peevish about one or other of the special arrangements devised to solve our national problems. When they get into this mood, they complain about their cost, which is usually the most obvious thing about them. It would be wise, however, to remember Mr. Howe's good phrase "There is a price upon Canadian nationhood." It is, to be sure, a price which cannot always be paid in full because we simply have not got the money to pay it. But the price remains, and to the extent of our national ability we go on paying it in order to preserve, politically, socially and economically, the essentials of our nationhood.—Montreal Star.

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