

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1954

Farmers' Week

With the meeting of the Central Farmers' Institute at the Charlottetown Legion Hall today Farmers' Week is officially opened.

Undoubtedly the review of agricultural conditions made by Mr. Walter R. Shaw will provide considerable grounds for discussion, although it must be admitted that there is rarely any scarcity of important topics at farmers' meetings.

One of the things which may account for the contradiction in the disappearance of marginal farming. In past generations practically no land was left uncultivated and it contributed to the statistical total of production whether the farmer made more than the barest living or could afford to live in comfort.

It may be regretted that the farmer can no longer hope to be self sufficient but the plain fact is that what is looked back upon as fine independence amounted to living in rural slums.

Be that as it may, the various meetings being held during the next few days are the opportunity of individual members to have their say and to require an accounting on the part of the various executives.

Red Cross Campaign

The Red Cross is an international organization but it is also very definitely a local organization in every school district in the Province.

In every community those who feel the obligation to serve their fellows are given the opportunity and training through the Red Cross. If such services had to be paid for the total would run into astronomical figures.

Although money is such a small part of cost of carrying on Red Cross work, it is highly essential. The voluntary workers would not be able to prepare themselves for community and national service without the superb organization which the Red Cross created.

Gateway To India

The Khyber Pass, historic invasion route to India, again has become a crossroads of world events. For centuries migrating tribesmen and marching or mounted troops have threaded the narrow defile.

According to a National Geographic Society bulletin, the 30-mile gorge, still is a vital link in the trade of southern Asia.

pass in Pakistan. Between sheer cliffs double-humped Bactrian camels still crest the pass, 3,733 feet above sea level, with bulky burdens. Vehicles use one road, pack-animals another.

Although Alexander led the main body of his Greek forces into India farther to the north along the Kabul River, he probably sent a division through the Khyber.

The cropland, waterless Khyber still has its warlike tribesmen, but since World War II they have mainly feuded among themselves, leaving the Khyber open as a door of commerce between nations.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There is one respect in which United States and Canada seem to be moving in opposite directions. While Canadian elections become more and more sedate those of the United States increasingly resemble a three-ring circus.

Prime Minister St. Laurent's views on the desirability of recognizing Communist China are essentially those of a lawyer.

"Slum" is an unpleasant word which denotes an unpleasant situation. Parliament is concerned these days with eliminating slum conditions but at least one member is equally intent on doing away with the word itself.

A new machine for cleaning and grading carriage moss—the Irish moss of this Province—was recently demonstrated at the Institute of Industrial Research and Standards, Dublin.

The deal by which the P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board receives a substantial freight rate concession in exchange for an undertaking to ship all potatoes to the Central Provinces by rail strengthens the hand of the Board as well as benefiting the industry.

Mr. Neil Shaw has retired after 40 years as secretary of Scotland's Gaelic League—An Comann Gaidhealach—which exists to keep alive the Celtic heritage.

REMINISCENCES OF P.W.C.

Sir—Many interesting reminiscences of P.W.C. by former students have been appearing in this column of late. One of your recent correspondents in referring to Dr. Robertson most fittingly remarked: "A better teacher I never knew."

The United States President's treaty-making power was recently sustained in Congress by the margin of a single vote. It is not generally realized that the Canadian Government's power to make treaties has for some time been restricted by a Privy Council ruling.

Hitting The Road



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.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Sir,—In the Speech from the Throne it is said that the "sinking funds are kept at a high and satisfactory level."

What are some of the assets that go to make up this sinking fund? P. E. I. bonds. At issue they are put on record in the government ledger as bonds payable, liabilities and the bonds themselves are put into the sinking fund.

What sense is there in this? Isn't it something to fool the voter? In the Speech from the Throne the sinking funds (assets) are intended to apply to and lessen the debt, but they do not. The debt is not being lessened, therefore there is no sinking fund acting on it.

EDUCATIONAL TRENDS

Sir,—If it is not putting Mr. "Small d", to too much trouble, I would ask him to return the unabridged dictionary I threw at him the other day.

ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNTANT. Sir,—I agree with a great deal of what "Small d" says re development of self-control, the use of text books, etc., etc.

INCOME ASSURED

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE IS INCOME. Insurance provides a means by which income snatched away by accident, sickness or death may be replaced to an extent which will permit the family or the individual to maintain a measure of financial security.

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The Poet's Corner

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD I'm a puir man, I grant, But I am weel neiboured; And nae shall me daunt, Though a puir man, I grant; For I shall not want— The Lord is my Shepherd! I'm a puir man I grant, But I am weel neiboured!

—George Macdonald (1824-1905)

along the academic highway. His certainly was a life of service and devotion to duty.

Whether in the classroom or in the corridors, Dr. Robertson was held in great awe and in deep respect. He did not occupy the proverbial "Ivory Tower" nor did he believe in "window dressing" or "hauteur" of any kind.

Those persons who may be desirous of obtaining passage for themselves or friends from England and Scotland to P. E. Island, are respectfully informed by W. Douse, Land Agency Officer, Charlottetown, that two superior vessels, fitted up for the accommodation of passengers, are expected to sail from Yarmouth, England, and Dumfries, Scotland, early in the ensuing spring.

OLD CHARLOTTETOWN

From the Royal Gazette, Jan. 3, 1877: The barque Lord Selkirk, from Three Rivers, arrived at Liverpool on the 2nd November, after a passage of 24 days.

OLD TIMER

William Toole, Lock and Gun Smith, late from Dublin, would feel grateful for public patronage in the above line, and pledge himself to execute all orders with neatness and dispatch.

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Old Charlottetown

From the Royal Gazette, Jan. 3, 1877: The barque Lord Selkirk, from Three Rivers, arrived at Liverpool on the 2nd November, after a passage of 24 days.

St. Peter's Island, beautifully situated on the Bay of Hillsborough, near the entrance of Charlottetown Harbour, is offered for sale, in lots to suit intending purchasers.

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Mrs. McCormack and Miss Farrell beg to announce that the Seminary for the general education of young Ladies will be opened at the residence of Mr. McCormack, in Charlottetown, on Monday the 16th of January.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer AN ELECTION? Election rumours are hardly ever worth repeating, which is probably why they are almost always in circulation. Hardly a month passes but somebody whispers to his neighbour, "I hear there's going to be an election."

Somewhere between is the right and normal attitude which perhaps is why elections, usually, are called once every four years. (Or is it five? For the life of me I can't say offhand and at the moment I haven't the mind to look it up; it doesn't matter much anyway.)

The rumour that is flying around at the present time is a little different from the general run in that it appears to have semi-official authority. It seems that, in a brief and trivial exchange with the Leader of the Opposition, the Premier intimated that an election might be called before Mr. Bell wanted it; at least that was the gist of his impromptu statement as reported by the press.

Another view is that Mr. Matheson was so happy over his elevation that he could not resist the chance to have a little fun on opening day; a sort of practical joke, that is to say, at Mr. Bell's expense. The trouble with this is that the Premier is, ordinarily, a serious minded man; at least he appears to be. Certainly there is nothing to suggest that he regards the "depths and shoals of honour" with consummate or even inordinate levity.

A still further possibility is that the Premier spoke in haste, like the Esquimaux. He had not given a thought to an election this year until his friend Mr. Bell put it in his mind. Personally, I would say that this is the least likely of all the possibilities; most impetuosity would be such unbecoming in a government leader, and there is some evidence that Mr. Matheson, whatever his shortcomings, is anxious to uphold the dignity of his office.

Nobody (except, of course, the Premier himself and a few of his political confidants) knows at the moment whether or no a provincial election is imminent. If the Premier has decided on such a course, doubtless he has what he considers good and sufficient reasons; moreover, he is within his rights.

There are plenty of political scientists who take the view that the American practice, by which governments and legislatures are elected for specific periods of time, is much better than ours, inasmuch as it assures, theoretically at any rate, political stability, a way which our own system does not. Whatever the theoretical or

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The Age Old Story

For we walk by faith, not by sight; we are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.