

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 18, 1953

Transportation Report

In view of the objections taken by counsel of the Canadian National Railway to the official transcript of the evidence given before the special Legislative Committee on the railway bus franchise application, it was perhaps inevitable that the proceedings should have led nowhere. The attitude of the committee, however, would appear to have made this result pretty certain from the start. The Railway objection to the transcribed evidence was that it was "inaccurate and in some cases misleading", and could not be accepted as a true record of what was said at the proceedings. The committee not only ignored this complaint in drawing arguments from the evidence to substantiate its adverse report, but used it as an additional reason for turning the petition down on the ground that, "in essence," the complaint amounted to "repudiating the statements and assurances given by the Railway officials at the hearing." Apparently the Legislature concurs in this view, though it would be difficult to find substantiation for it in the letter itself. Judging from yesterday's discussion in the House there is little doubt as to how the issue will be decided. There appears to be general concurrence in the committee report, which is based solely on negative arguments and on the assumption that, in any event, "improved rail facilities and services to the travelling public should be provided."

Unfortunately we know to our cost that what we think "should be" very rarely happens when cases go before the Board of Transport Commissioners, and that already our rail services have been curtailed by Board rulings on the ground of uneconomic operation. How long will it be before further applications for curtailment will be made, based on the same evidence given at the bus franchise hearings, of increasing rail passenger costs and constantly diminishing returns? It is unlikely that the Board will pass over this issue as indifferently as our legislators are doing, or that we shall get much sympathy from Ottawa if we complain of the result. That is the most serious aspect of the situation and our members are assuming a grave responsibility in failing to take it into account.

Favourable Price Changes

Canada has fared well in the ups and downs of the commodity markets since the outbreak of the Korean war. From that time until late in 1952, as pointed out in the current Bank of Nova Scotia newsletter, the average prices of all Canadian exports showed a net increase of 12 per cent. Over the same period there was no net change in the prices of Canadian imports. This means that it now takes a smaller amount of exports than it did two and a half years ago to buy the same amount of imports, or that the same amount of exports will buy significantly more imports. Thus the terms of trade have swung in Canada's favour and, indeed, are more favourable than at any time in the last twenty-five years with the single exception of 1945. In contrast, the terms of trade for both Britain and the United States are slightly worse today than before Korea and much worse than before the Second World War.

This improvement in the relationship between the prices of exports and the prices of imports has had the doubly desirable effect of promoting Canadian prosperity and at the same time of discouraging inflation. With the big crops and high exchange rate, it goes far to explain the peculiarly favourable conjuncture of affairs which led to an increase in the real earnings of wage and salary workers in 1952 larger than during all the rest of the postwar period.

This rise in money earnings was until 1952 always accompanied by higher living costs with the result that the increase in real earnings—in the purchasing power of earnings—was comparatively small from 1946 to 1951. In 1952, however, the cost of living turned downward and money earnings continued to rise, though less rapidly than in 1951. The consequence was an upturn in real earnings in manufacturing of more than 10 per cent in one year and the first easing in the pressure on pensioners and other recipients of fixed or near-fixed incomes during the entire postwar period.

iod. This situation the Bank authorities regard as quite phenomenal.

It is possible crops may be considerably less favourable in 1953 than in 1952; the poor condition of the U. S. winter wheat crop already provides some evidence of this contingency. It is also possible that a heightening of international tension may seriously alter the present balance of economic forces. There are clearly many unanswered questions in the price outlook. On balance, however, there is a good deal to suggest a continuance of recent tendencies.

Fines Or Imprisonment

Among the changes advocated in the Criminal Code by the Canadian Council of Welfare is one having to do with jail sentences as alternatives to the payment of fines. The Council suggests that provision be made for paying fines by installment. Britain, it is stated, has found this arrangement very satisfactory.

In the five years before 1913, about 83,000 persons were jailed annually in England and Wales for default in payment of fines. The Criminal Justice Administration Act of 1914 obliged the courts to give time for payment and for investigation of ability to pay. In the five years ending in 1930, the average number of these defaulters jailed was only about 12,500. It reached 16,500 in 1935, during the depression, but fell to 11,600 in 1936, when the Money Payments Act provided that no one could be imprisoned for non-payment of a fine unless ability to pay could be shown.

In Canada, statistics for 1936 record that 9,593 persons were sentenced to jail with the option of a fine; the number was 18,787 in 1946 and 12,600 in 1948. How many actually served sentences is not shown. But the public cost and social damage of this penalty must be great. Before the war, the Archambault Commission recommended against "imprisonment for poverty" and advocated the English policy. It said that "many recidivist criminals often receive their first education in crime upon being committed to prison for non-payment of fines." The time for reform in this matter seems to have arrived.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Grass fires and rotten ice are two dangers of early spring which need cause no grief unless people take chances.

The question of ownership of Victoria Park is not likely to become a hotly contested issue. Although the matter came up in connection with revenue from sports attendance, park accounts are more usually the expenditure kind.

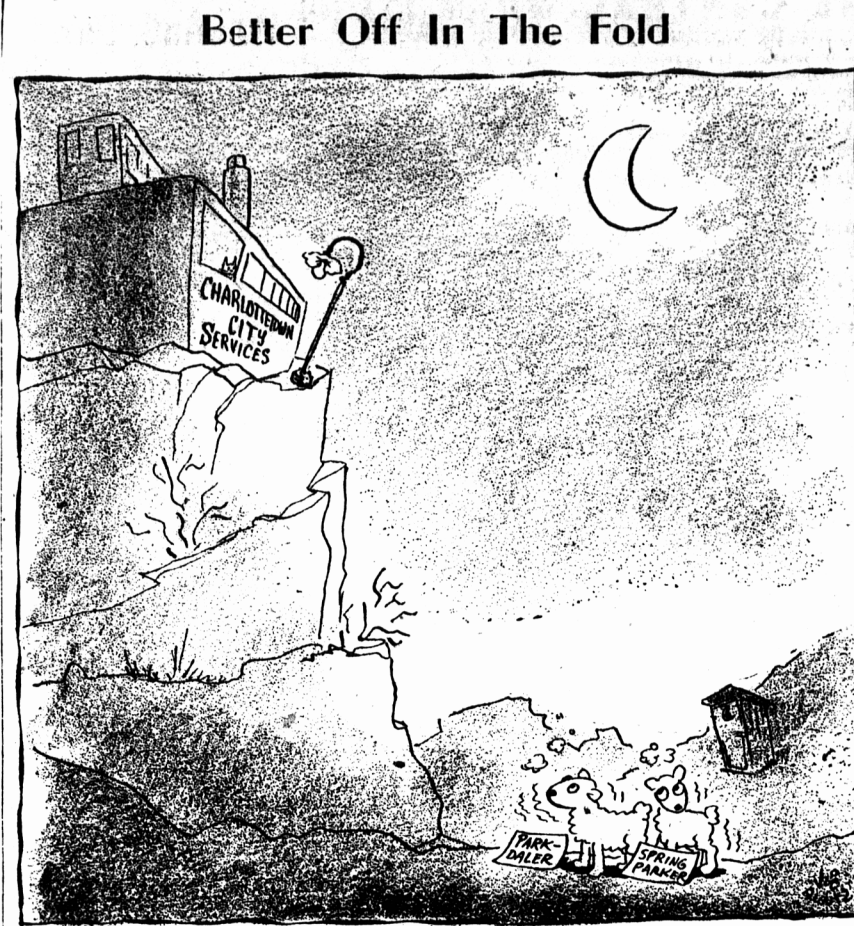
Britain's action in stopping the shipment of strategic goods to China in British ships is a very real self-denying ordinance. Her shipping business is already in a weakened position. Unless the United States makes effective a blockade of the China coast, the very important trade with China will pass into other hands, or rather bottoms.

The amendment to the Power Commission Act will undoubtedly make many people aware for the first time that this Province has had provision for such a corporation since 1945. Wide powers are available to any commission appointed under the Act. Apparently all that it may not do is expropriate a municipal electric plant situated within the municipality.

Nicholas Rimsky-Korsakov, Russian composer, was born this date 1844. His first symphony in 1865 was a landmark in the history of Russian music. Retiring from the navy he taught in St. Petersburg and conducted symphonies. He wrote operas filled with racy music, colour and imagination. He also wrote an autobiography and manuals of music.

The Netherlands Tourist Office while telling of the delights of a visit to that country goes on to mention that the popular "Dutch treat" is not a Dutch custom. It is curious to note, we are informed, that the same procedure in Holland is often called "American treat." It is quite obvious that no one is going to admit being responsible for the idea.

It has frequently been remarked how individuals seem to lose their good manners when they get behind the wheel of a car. Particularly deplorable is that while pedestrians stop and remove their hats when a funeral procession passes, some drivers speed past. Those who lack a feeling of respect may do well to remember that the law requires them to stop vehicle and motor when meeting a funeral procession and in no case to attempt to pass through such a procession.



The Poet's Corner

OLD BLUE BOWL Pale winter sunlight streaks across the snow. Then lightly glides an old pine table where The color of an ocean seems to glow Upon red apples and a tawny pear Rounded together in a bowl of glass. In it the azure of a summer sky, Undimmed, unfolding through the seasons pass. Gleams as brightly as when it pleased the eye Of him who captures sea and heaven's hue. Impressed upon the glass, an open rose Entwines its leaves about the gleaming blue. It brings the summer very near to those Who on a flowerless frost-imprisoned day Find sapphire roses somehow very gay. —Claire K. Mowbray

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

PROMOTING AGRICULTURE From the executive committee's report submitted at the annual general meeting of the Central Agricultural Society, Jan. 5, 1942: "Your committee beg to direct the attention of the Society to the spirited conduct of W. W. Irving, Esq., of Bonshaw, who has introduced a number of skillful mechanics from Scotland, the past season, for the purpose of making the modern agricultural implements so necessary to the enterprising cultivator of the soil. "Your committee consider it very remarkable that although there are two large brewing establishments in Charlottetown, no extensive hoppers are to be found in the Colony, although it is manifest that that profitable plant thrives here most luxuriantly with only ordinary culture, and with the same attention that is bestowed upon the culture of the potato, would ensure a much more valuable crop to the grower. "Your committee regret to observe how small a degree of public interest the Grain Show, the Cattle Show, and the Fair, appeared generally, to excite. It has been remarked that farmers bring their worst stock to the fairs. This may be due to the fact that the fairs are to be, what they were intended, markets for the disposal of our surplus stock to strangers from the other Provinces, the end and object cannot be answered by exhibiting the refuse of our cattle, which must give the transient observer a very inadequate and erroneous conception of the average quality of our live stock, but, although fairs at present are used to display horse jockeying in a large latitude, chiefly in the exchange of animals, by which both parties are taken in, the time cannot be distant when public exhibitions of various rural productions and stock must exercise their intended beneficial influence in promoting general advancement of the great object of our attention. "Your committee would here remark, that of the Ayrshire cattle fully justify the expectations that were formed of them, on their arrival in the Colony nearly three years ago; and they are of opinion, that are of that description of cattle which are most suitable to this climate, as they appear to thrive remarkably well."

On any given day of the year United Nations technicians are likely to be teaching Indian farmers how to grow better crops, helping ensure schooling for Arab children, fighting tropical diseases in Africa, seeking to improve international statistics, as well as performing myriads of other similar tasks. In countries throughout the world such agencies as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, UNESCO, and others have already pushed the clock forward so that thousands are now living who would have perished from disease or hunger without their work, while still other thousands are living happier lives. —New York Times

Those who complain we have lost the art of conversation are sadly mistaken if they think people can not talk intelligently. The trouble is that there are no listeners now as there were in the old days. It is the art of listening that we have lost and it is undoubtedly because of the fact that in this day everybody takes newspapers and magazines, and each citizen is so well informed that he wishes to do a great deal of talking. Even when others in the company have the floor he is not listening, but is turning over in his mind the things he will say when his turn to talk. Good listeners are so rare today that when you meet one and notice that he is paying strict attention, you are embarrassed. The novelty of being listened to causes you to wonder whether you are saying anything worth while. —Galt Reporter

LONDON. (CP)—The big scoreboards at Lord's cricket ground have been modernized to show spectators who catches or fields the ball. A light shines over a number corresponding to the player's score-sheet number.

Better Off In The Fold



Notes By The Way

Premier Mossadegh of Iran was chased from his home attire only in his pyjamas. He will now probably complain that British oil interests took his bathrobe.—Hamilton Spectator. Manitoba enjoys the safety benefits of consistently going after the minority of bad drivers who cause nearly all accidents, with an eye to reforming them early rather than waiting until they condemn themselves after destructive careers costly to all motorists.—Vancouver Sun.

The more we think of it, the more we like the sound of the name—Queen Elizabeth Boulevard. It might make a little extra effort in the writing of addresses, but it has a more pleasing sound than the usual plain "Queen Street." A subdivision could produce a whole new set of "royal family" names for its streets—such as "The Duke of Edinburgh Drive," "Prince Charles Terrace," "Princess Anne Avenue," or "Prince Philip Place," for just a starter. —Brookville Recorder-Times. We have just been looking at some pictures of a new "hair-in-motion" style which is being offered as a successor to the poodle cut and we find ourselves irresistibly reminded of that noble (but regrettably scruffy looking) beast, the musk-ox. Musk-oxen are all right in their place, which is north of Latitude 70, indeed, against the empty background of the Arctic they do have the considerable attraction of representing life and movement in an otherwise motionless landscape. But we're not sure that we want to share our home with a creature whose hair falls lankly in the eyes and dangles at the sides like the fringe of a worn-out afghan.—Hamilton Spectator.

Books Received

NATURAL BAIT WATER FISHING BAITS by Vlad Evanoft, in Canada, the Copp Clark Co., Ltd., 96 pp., \$2.25. Salt water sports fishing is gaining in popularity and the author of this little book, illustrated by himself, has collected a wealth of information about bait that may be used to best advantage. In the process he has provided a readable account of the numerous sea worms, clams, mussels, snails, whelks, scud, octopus, crabs, shrimp, eels and other creatures which abound along the Atlantic coast. It is a book which would add greatly to the enjoyment of any visit to the seashore as well as providing information on the use of bait. I AND MY TRUE LOVE by Helen MacInnis (in Canada, MacLeod, \$4.37pp.). The men and women, soldiers and civilians, diplomats and agents who people post-war Washington are brought to life in this novel of the residential rather than official life of the city. The author has a record of seven books dealing with the adventures of the free spirit confronted with tyranny. Here she brings us a struggle very much to the American home front. THE SIGN OF JONAS by Thomas Merton (in Canada, MacLeod, \$4.50, 362 pp.). This is a journal of the experiences of the author of "The Seven Storey Mountain" recording his five years in the Trappist monastery of Gethsemane in Kentucky. Although he professes not to attempt to record the life of the Trappists but only his own feelings and experiences, he does, in fact, give a very vivid picture of that life. It is well for the reader that the author's desire for solitude and contemplation was diverted by his superior to literary activity.

PRINCE OF PLAYERS—EDWIN BOOTH by Eleanor Ruggles (in Canada, MacLeod, \$5.40pp.). This is more than a biography of a great actor. It is the story of a dynasty. A brilliant intimate story of Junius Brutus Booth who left behind his triumphs on the English stage to bring colour and drama to a new land, it brings to life the theatre of another day and portrays the great actors of the time. First among them was Booth's youngest son, Edwin, acclaimed as the greatest genius the American stage has ever known. Brought to life also is his brother, John Wilkes Booth, who from being a Confederate spy, plotter and contraband runner, finally became the assassin of Lincoln. Miss Ruggles acknowledges a long series of sources and obviously did a great deal of research for this volume but to the reader she seems to be telling at first hand of the fantastic story of a remarkable family.

For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many), but to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him.

Public Forum

A NOTEWORTHY ISLANDER Sir.—The Guardian of Sept. 20, 1962, in that most interesting column, "Old Charlottetown," referred to the late James H. Fletcher. Mention of the name revived memories of over sixty years ago when the family name was on the lips of everyone in Uigg and Orwell, where even today it is perpetuated in Fletcher's Road, as old timers call the highway from Uigg railway station to Orwell Cross-roads. The Fetters, with their neighbors and relatives, the Lanes, also the Pleadwells, were natives of Mount Mellick, in Queens County, Ireland, near Dublin, one of the most fertile areas in the charming Emerald Isle. Although in comfortable circumstances, William Fletcher, his wife, Jane Lane and children; John Lane and wife, Joyce Lester, daughter of William Lester, and children, and the Pleadwell family decided to emigrate to P. E. Island. On arrival, they chose Pownal, one of the loveliest districts on the island for their home. Here in 1819 a couple of miles east of the village they established themselves on the crest of the ridge known ever since as Lane's Hill. From this vantage point the prospect spread before them was a delight to the eye. Beyond the forest which there covered the country stretched Pownal and Hillsborough Bays, then seeming as fish and green and small. Far away in the dim distance could be seen the dark hills of Nova Scotia. With nostalgic love of their former home they named their new abode Mount Mellick. These families had artistic tastes and soon hedges and beds of flowers surrounded their dwellings. These homesteads became beautiful spots in the wilderness. Descendants of the Lanes still live in the home built by the Fletcher family, none of the name remain in the district. Among the few who remember the history of the family is an old neighbor, Miss Elizabeth McRae, formerly of Water-side, Pownal, but now of School Street, Charlottetown. William Fletcher and his wife Jane Lane, had among other children a son John, who married Caroline Hayden, of the well known merchant, milling and shipbuilding Haydens of Pownal and Vernon River, and from Miss McRae is descended. About 1840 or 1845 John Fletcher bought a farm on Orwell River from John Gay, which his father, George Gay, had acquired prior to 1820 and on which he operated a saw mill. Fletcher built a grist and carding mill farther up the stream and across the railway station erected a nine room dwelling. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that after the Fetters left the district the mill and the dwelling were bought by the late John F. McLeod, of Strathalbyn, brother of the late Dr. D. J. McLeod, who at the end of last century was Superintendent of Education for Prince Edward Island. After Mr. McLeod's death the saw mill was operated for a few years by a neighbor, John S. Martin, later Speaker of the local Legislature. The balance of the farm was bought about 1868 by the late William Macphail, who for several years was bursar of Falconwood Hospital. His son, John Andrew, later Sir Andrew, grew up on this farm. Uigg was settled in 1829 by as fine a group of men and women as ever migrated to P. E. I.—the McDonalds, McLeods, McKinnons, Gordons and others. Stimulated by the ambition and high social standards of these pioneers, the district became a fruitful nursery of talented men. Their descendants became leaders in business, church and state in Charlottetown and elsewhere. In this intellectual atmosphere John Fletcher reared his family. He himself was a versatile man. In addition to his business interests, he was an active church work-

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