

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. 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"

Fire Prevention Week

Stoves and furnaces are coming into use again, leaves are being burnt, and all the accumulated combustible trash of summer lies on every hand. Fire Prevention Week, starting Monday, was well chosen. If the attention of citizens, young and old, is directed to the many potential fire hazards about them at home and at work they will have the opportunity of preventing loss of property and danger of life.

Officials do their best to reduce the risk of fire but inevitably their success depends upon the co-operation of the public. If everyone kept eyes open for possible sources of danger and took steps to correct the situation a great part of the annual fire loss would be avoided.

Probably the most effective single step would be the education of young people in fire prevention and in the action to be taken in case it should break out. This is being done to a certain extent in the schools but in matters of this sort home training is of outstanding importance.

At this time we might also give some thought to the volunteer fire fighters who throughout the year give up sleep, leisure and their working time to protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens. They deserve the best of equipment and the wholehearted co-operation of the public in carrying out their duties.

Joseph Stalin Says . . .

Enigmatic and mysterious, it is seldom that Joseph Stalin, Dictator of Russia, accords even the inner circle of the Kremlin the opportunity of quoting his views on international affairs. The statement issued from Moscow yesterday, following upon the interview granted not long ago by Stalin to Italian fellow-traveller Pietro Nenni, and reported in the British left-wing publication New Statesman and Nation, therefore can be regarded as significant. Significant that is, in that it establishes the line which Stalinists throughout the world may be expected to follow in the immediate future.

Of the Korean situation, Stalin is quoted as observing that it is perfectly satisfactory to Moscow. In view of the indecisiveness of the military campaign, the fact that scores of thousands of UN troops are already committed to an indeterminate sojourn in Korea, and the utter futility of the true talks, there seems little reason to disagree with Stalin's diagnosis.

Concerning the arms drive of the western powers, Stalin's comment is, "laughable". While admitting that the western powers are capable of bombing Moscow, the Soviet dictator points out that Russia is equally capable of subjecting New York to air attack.

A re-armed Germany Stalin dismisses as too remote to be a matter of concern. Provocative action likely to provoke a third World War Stalin will avoid, mainly because he believes that a 'cold war' prolonged for ten or fifteen years will so weaken the economies of the western powers that at the end of that period they will no longer be a menace to Soviet imperialistic ambitions. Indeed, he predicts that they will be fighting among themselves.

How much truth is there in what Stalin says? Except insofar as his remarks relate to the indefinite prolongation of the 'cold war', probably very little. For whatever else we may know about the Soviet Union, one thing is sure and that is that the men in the Kremlin are realists and unlikely to be indifferent to the growing strength of the western democracies. Beyond that, the purpose of the statements would appear to be an attempt to condition the thinking of fellow-travellers to a period of comparative inaction and to preserve the waning morale of Muscovite agents abroad.

Tax Reduction Rumors

Finance Minister Abbott will probably not enlighten us on the matter when he comes here on Tuesday, but rumors are that lower Federal taxes are on the way. The Minister is on record as stating recently in Montreal that the present level of taxation in Canada is too high. Some earlier remarks of the Prime Minister could be interpreted as forecasting a reduction, but there was no direct reference to the Government having such action in contemplation. However, there are other reassuring signs. Defence Minister Howe has just

disclosed that the defense production department effort has reached its zenith, and is scaling down its activities. Three divisions of the department ceased to exist this week, their directors returning to civilian posts.

Another factor that could be taken as an indicator of possible lowering of taxes, notes an exchange, is the declining trend of defence spending, now running at the rate between \$200 and \$300 millions behind the expenditures at this time a year ago. This, with what has taken place in the department of defence production, plus the very significant fact that a Dominion general election is a practical certainty sometime between the early summer and late fall of next year, a reduction in income taxes and more than likely in some other imposts, too, would appear to be a virtual sure provision in Mr. Abbott's next budget. Of course a worsening of the international situation could nullify any such projected development.

Protestant Orphanage Appeal

Annually at this season the financial appeal on behalf of the Protestant Orphanage is made, and the response has invariably been prompt and generous.

Apart from the Christian duty involved in maintaining our orphanages, there is the highly practical consideration that money thus invested yields golden returns to the community, the Province and the nation.

The upkeep of such institutions has increased with the rising costs of living, but the need continues, greater than before, and it is only by the most careful planning and management that the financing has been maintained on such a satisfactory basis. It is to be hoped that this fact will be kept fully in mind by contributors to Monday's vital campaign.

EDITORIAL NOTES

National Newsboys' Day.

Tomorrow, 17th Sunday after Trinity.

Today is The World Day for Animals. It can probably best be celebrated by teaching a child some form of practical kindness to a dumb friend.

Tomorrow, for the first time in 12 years, tea "comes off the ration" in Britain. Although meat, butter, eggs, cooking fat, bacon, cheese, sugar and candy are still rationed, in tea-drinking Great Britain it is a major advance to have unrationed tea.

If the Toronto Star is correct in reporting that Canadian and British scientists have produced a light weight substitute for lead as an atomic screen it means a whole new world of possibilities for the use of atomic energy. The most exciting, of course, is that of aircraft with unlimited range.

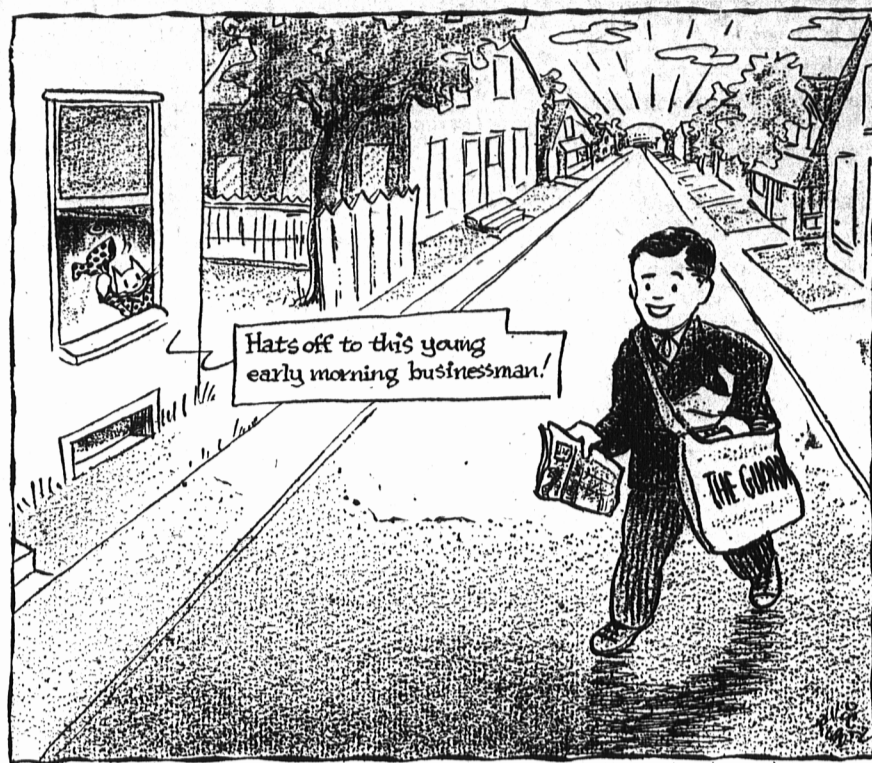
Dry wheat has been found to germinate more rapidly than damp because the process of absorbing moisture generates a certain amount of heat. That certainly runs counter to most opinion which holds that being moist gives the seed that much of a head start.

There may be a number of men without a country if the proposal of United States Attorney General James McGranery is carried out. He wishes to revoke the citizenship of "close to 100 figures in the underworld and organized crime" and deport them to their native lands. The question will be, however, whether their native lands will restore their original citizenship.

Francois Guizot, French historian and statesman, was born this date 1787. Most of his historical work was produced while he was out of political office and for a time even forbidden to lecture. It includes his "History of the English Revolution", "History of Civilization in Europe" and "History of Civilization in France". He also wrote a remarkable biography of Washington. He is regarded as the founder of historical science as contrasted with mere chronicles.

The Canadian National Exhibition authorities are taken to task by the Toronto Board of Education for the almost complete exclusion of educational matters at the big fair. Years ago, it claims, the schools were generously treated, but the present management has so overemphasized commercialism that education has been crowded out. This year the Board wrote twice about space for an educational exhibit, and the letters were not even answered. Editorially, the Globe and Mail adds its criticism of the "overbalanced emphasis" the Exhibition has been throwing on the amusement and carnival aspects of its function, and calls attention particularly to the "serious lowering of standards in the midway."

He Helps You Start The Day Right



Hats off to this young early morning businessman!

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.

ALBERTON LIBERAL MEETING

Sir,—A notice appeared in the press that a Liberal nomination meeting was to be held in Alberton, Sept. 30, for the purpose of selecting a candidate to contest the First District of Prince in the next Provincial election, signed by Percy Adams. On Sept. 29, besides the above named notice, was one stating that this meeting had been postponed until a later date. Would Mr. Adams be so kind as to give us an explanation of this postponement? The electors had attended the poll meetings, the delegates were appointed and the proposed candidates had gone to a lot of trouble in the work with the people of the various polls.

The nomination meeting should have been held on schedule. Now that it hasn't, at least it should be held right away without inconveniencing the candidates and the electors any further. The members of the executive, namely, Messrs. John Nelligan, Walter Bernard, Harry McWilliams, Allison MacIntosh, and Mr. W. Allison MacIntosh, and Mr. W. McKendrick, a past president of the Liberal Association for years, all feel that it is expedient to have our candidates in the field early and practically all the electors feel the same way. In spite of this, Mr. Adams from the Second District has called off the meeting without giving a reason or setting a future date. I am, Sir, etc.

A LIBERAL DELEGATE. St. Louis R.R.

WE CAN READ

Sir,—I have before me three books by different authors. The purpose of each, is to show us how to hinder the onward march of Communism. Rev. James Keller, New York, according to his book "You Can Save the World" has America on his heart. To save America he fights, through his "Christopher" movement, in America. Paul G. Hoffman who has served in Europe under the Harry Truman Government, believes that the most serious of the military, economic, political and informational condition of Europe. But F. C. Laubach gives his attention to the very ignorant, filthy and dangerous, the criminals and descendants of cannibals. For if we do not lift them up, they will soon be made use of in the war against us.

Laubach finds that the world, three quarters of which can not read or write, has gone education mad. So he is asking the multi-millionaires of America to give their money towards raising an army of teachers—100,000. Part of these would be specially taught by the missionaries how to remove the blindness of illiteracy, and teach reading which takes less than a month. The system used was created by a Chinese man, James Yen, during the First World War. He was a Y.M.C. chaplain for the Chinese coolies digging ditches in France. His hand was sore with writing letters for them to their wives at home. So he began a shorthand system by which they might write their own. The balance of the 100,000 army would teach the "know-how" of farming and other industries.

Dr. Laubach says that to teach successfully a teacher needs the gentleness of Christ, being patient and giving encouragement. In this way he finds that it is as easy for them to become Christians as it is to become readers. Paul G. Hoffman in his book, "Peace Can Be Won", outlines the task in a "Good Samaritan" policy which is more secular than religious. But Dr. Laubach, knowing that the basic cause of our predicament, is simply race prejudice, has shown us in his 37 years of service the way to reach the mind, heart and soul of the under-privileged. "Our battle front is in the rice fields of Asia". A fraction of what we are spending for killing would in seven years lift the needy from disease, dirt, darkness and hunger. If we hesitate long, Stalin will do the job, but in his own way.

I see on the outside cover of the book, right hand, in fiery red, a bomb exploding over a city; center the cross of Christ in white; left a farm or pastoral scene in green, a rich valley, tractor at work, a horse drawn harvester, stooks of rice and wheat, trees, mountains in the distance, school and church with adjacent streets. This happy state is quite attainable. Wonders have happened in the past hundred years with respect to slavery, prison reform, child labor, large ships sailing in the heavens, speech across the Atlantic, anesthetics and disinfectants in medical science. Be it set of mind, body or soul, is each a cause of war. Remove it. "Lift the world or lose it." I am, Sir, etc.

A.R.H. MACKENZIE Kensington, P.E.I.

Notes By The Ways

The Historical Society of Switzerland claims to have proved there was no such person as William Tell. We wish the historians would keep their hands off some of our best yarns.—Ottawa Journal.

The "self-made" man usually gets by until he marries—after which she straightens out his thinking, revamps his habits and plans numerous improvements designed to correct the glaring mistakes in what was no more than a jerry-built job in the first place.—Ottawa Citizen.

When six-foot waves upset a row boat on Lake Blanche, in Quebec, sixteen-year-old David Perlmans of Montreal used his knife to cut the anchor rope and swam to shore towing the upturned boat and three companions. One David was a Boy Scout and the knife was a Scout knife.—Chatham News.

After being shown houses where Queen Elizabeth slept or Abe Lincoln lit the fire we reach the ultimate with the glad news from Hartford that the city council has saved from destruction a barn where George Washington's horse slept one night in 1781.—Ottawa Journal.

The sight of a parent indulging in a shockingly dangerous bit of jaywalking, dodging through a "broken field" of swiftly moving vehicles—dragging willy-nilly along a young child—is all too common. What lesson in safety has that child been taught—probably?—Hamilton Spectator.

A number of Brockville taxpayers have complained recently to this newspaper that some of the town's workers employes, noticed on street jobs, do not seem to be doing an hour's work for an hour's pay. Perhaps a little more supervision is called for here.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

The Poet's Corner

FROM ODE TO AUTUMN

The squirrel gloats on his accomplished hoard. The Ants have brimmed their garner with ripe grain. And honey bees have stored the sweets of summer in their succulent cells. The swallows all have winged across the plain; But here the autumn melancholy dwells. And sighs her tearful spells Amongst the endless shadows of the plain. Alone, alone, Upon a mossy stone, She sits and reckons up the dead and gone, With the last leaves for a love rosary. Whilst all the withered world looks drearily. Like a dim picture of the drowned past In the hushed mind's mysterious far away, Doubtful what ghostly thing will steal the last Into that distance, gray upon gray. —Thomas Hood

Let the cross of Christ in white; Let a farm or pastoral scene in green, a rich valley, tractor at work, a horse drawn harvester, stooks of rice and wheat, trees, mountains in the distance, school and church with adjacent streets. This happy state is quite attainable. Wonders have happened in the past hundred years with respect to slavery, prison reform, child labor, large ships sailing in the heavens, speech across the Atlantic, anesthetics and disinfectants in medical science. Be it set of mind, body or soul, is each a cause of war. Remove it. "Lift the world or lose it." I am, Sir, etc.

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The city of Helsinki will in the future use English in its statistical publications. French was used formerly. The change is the result of a decision reached at a statistical congress held in Copenhagen.—Finlandia Pictorial.

"With the lead in an ordinary pencil," an artist tells us, "it is possible to draw a line 40 miles long." And then what? Well, for one thing, unless you get cute and draw the line in a circle, you will have to walk back the 40 miles to where you started from. And don't count on thumbing a ride; the wise motorist doesn't pick up hikers.—Ottawa Citizen.

Something akin to consternation has been created at Atikokan by the departure, on a visit to England, of the one man in the town who had authority to issue marriage licences. In a progressive and growing community like Atikokan this is serious and an urgent appeal is going to provincial authorities to remedy a situation which makes it necessary for intending couples to go either to Fort Frances or the Lakehead.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

A St. Catharines resident recently drove to Dallas, Texas, to visit relatives. While there he was drafted to do some minor repairs which called for the use of nails. The next door neighbor had a basket of rusty old nails in his shed, and this was investigated. The local man, rummaging through the nails, was surprised to find a grimy old coin, which, when cleaned and polished, turned out to be a penny issued by the Bank of Upper Canada in 1857. We know that Canadian money is highly regarded south of the border, but that seems to be going to extremes.—St. Catharines Standard.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

RAILWAY RATES

Railway rates appear to have been a cause of grievance in this Province from the very start. The following excerpts from the subject are from a letter by Mr. Henry Coombs, Charlottetown, appearing in The Examiner of March 5, 1931. "The P. E. I. Railway during the past season or two carried mackerel at rates varying from 79 to 83 cents per barrel from all points on the railway to Boston. A friend of mine paid 54 cents per barrel for freight on mackerel from Tignish to Charlottetown. Now, nearly everywhere else the rate for wayside traffic bears some proportion to the through rates. Our Railway seems to be the exception. As a result the bulk of our catch of mackerel goes to market by another and cheaper route. The Island ships large quantities of cod and other fish, a comparatively small portion of which is shipped over the Government Railway, for the reason that the tariff is too high. We have paid as much as 9 cents per box on smoked herring from St. John to Charlottetown, and I have had them carried as low as 3 cents. There is something wrong in tariff that allows so much of a difference. A sound policy would dictate that every facility should be afforded shippers both in rates and despatch; instead of which the most that can be enforced is collected, and although trains can be hired for excursion parties nothing like that you know, for the unfortunate shipper, but he must wait and take his chance of weather and be supremely thankful if he can get three or four cars a day forwarded. "In the winter of 1880, the Grand Trunk and Intercolonial offered to carry sugar from either St. John or Portland to Montreal for 15 or 16 cents per 100 lbs. The distance is, I think, about 600 miles. The P. E. I. Railway charges 15 cents per 100 lbs. to carry 15 tons in bulk from Charlottetown to Souris, say 55 miles."

The Public Forum

THE RELIGIOUS POETRY OF EWEN LAMONT

Sir,—In your issue of the 13th of last November, there appeared in the Forum a letter written by W. D. Lamont of Glasgow, Scotland, pointing out to members of the Lamont family living on Prince Edward Island that they could claim on her maternal side a blood relationship to Princess Elizabeth whose recent visit to us still lingers as a happy memory for us all. It is for me, however, a sad comment in connection with this letter to have to say that one branch of this family, like branches of other noted families, has almost completely vanished from our Island. I refer here to the Lamonts of Orwell.

Older residents of our Island, like myself, who know something of the record of the Lamonts at home and abroad will, I judge, feel that their relationship to our present Queen is a credit to our people concerned. For example of this record, we have only to recall that a few years ago it was announced in The Guardian that a son of Murdoch Lamont of Glasgow, formerly of Prince Edward Island, was appointed as British attaché to the Legation of Ottawa. Lamont was mentioned as a brilliant Oxford student and winner of an Oxford scholarship; and it was also stated that his father before his son's college days had been a brilliant and outstanding student in arts and theology at Edinburgh University winning a prize and was open to students from every approved college in the British Empire. The Rev. Murdoch Lamont too, was mentioned as a brother of the late Rev. Donald Lamont, one-time minister in the Central Parish of the Prince Edward Island Church of Scotland, now a parish in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He was the author of two books on religious topics, viz: Seven Great Questions, and Where Are Our Dead?

Both of these ministers were sons of the late Ewen Lamont of Orwell, one of the more distinguished persons mentioned by the Scottish pioneer minister and evangelist, Rev. Donald MacDonald, and wrote a brief sketch of his minister's life which was published and widely read, among the descendants of the minister's first followers, about sixty years ago, that is to say, thirty years after the minister's death. As is well known among the older residents of our Island, Rev. Donald MacDonald in co-operation with several of his elders composed all the hymns that were sung by the minister's immediate followers, and included several of the descendants of these immediate followers. Among the elders who composed hymns, Ewen Lamont stood pre-eminent, and he composed both in English and Gaelic. Although these hymns are both ministers and elders are practically outmoded to the present generation, they were nevertheless admirably adapted to serve the two generations to whom the minister preached, and one or more generations of the descendants of immediate followers. Those composed by MacDonald himself generally consisted of two or more opening verses that may be considered comparatively good poetry, and these were followed by twenty or more prosaic verses that taken together with the first ones really constituted a sermon. It is quite true that here and there among the prosaic verses of each hymn one or more verses might be found that might be termed real gems of poetry, but the main purpose of the long hymns was nevertheless that they might serve as constant theological sermons.

It must be remembered by way of explanation of the hymn-sermons that Mr. MacDonald preached all the way from Point Prim to Cape Traverse, in perhaps over a dozen places, and consequently could hardly preach in any one place more than once a month. Nevertheless, his followers and their immediate descendants became noted for their splendid knowledge of Christian theology, especially that relating to the doctrine of the fall of man, and the great plan of redemption provided for him, and for this knowledge on their part no small credit is due to Mr. MacDonald. One of these, entitled "East In Eden's Lovely Wood", might indeed be entitled Paradise Lost And Regained, after the manner of Milton's two great epics on this theme. Naturally enough, the great evangelist's treatment of the theme is most strictly scriptural and that of the great poet, but nevertheless, judging from my own experience, it was a very natural and easy transition for youths who like myself were nurtured in MacDonald's hymns, to enter upon an appreciative study of Milton's Paradise Lost, and Paradise Regained; and to this day I marvel when I recall how readily at twelve or thirteen years of age I found myself enraptured on hearing an elder brother recite at some length the opening lines of Paradise Lost, this greatest of all epics.

Following the example of his minister, Ewen Lamont also composed a long hymn on the theme of man's fall and redemption. This hymn was composed in Gaelic and afterwards translated by himself into English, the opening lines, as follows: Oh! how deep the transgression that has left us despoiled, Fallen abject and restless, by the serpent beguiled. Mr. Lamont also composed another long epic-like hymn on the subject of his millennium. But most of his hymns were more or less brief throughout, and dealt mainly with his own religious experience, which of course, he considered typical of all truly Christian people. His opening lines, however, are of personal sin, striving for grace, and in this respect his hymn, "The Pilgrim's Lay", may very well be compared to the classic Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan, as the following opening lines suggest: Oh, Alas! for my faring, In this desert despairing, Under chastisement wearing, On the way as I go.

I am well aware that the air to which this hymn was sung, had much to do with the profound effect produced on its hearers. "This indeed was, I believe, true of most all of the airs which Mr. MacDonald and his elders chose for their hymns. They could judge with unerring accuracy the old Celtic strains that would touch the deep fountain of feeling in the hearts of their people. They were well aware too, that tender and sacred memories, combined with strong filial piety, play a large part in the estimation that the descendants of Rev. Donald MacDonald's immediate followers place on the long hymns composed by himself and his elders. Nevertheless, outstanding scholars, and even high literary critics have been (and still are, I believe) among these descendants. One of these, the late Sir Andrew MacPhail, has paid a glowing tribute to the long hymn in his book entitled "The Master's Wife", which by the way was his own mother, wife of the late William MacPhail of Orwell. I have in my possession, or rather in my memory, a somewhat lengthy poem composed about sixty years ago by Ewen Lamont on the prospect of his own death and the retrospect of his life. The whole poem is, I judge, too long for inclusion with this article in your columns; but I am submitting an abridged version of it which you may if you wish publish in your issue of the 11th. The poem was set to one of those beautifully plaintive airs to which I have already referred, and is in its abridged form as follows: My time draws near to bid goodbye to this poor vale of tears, Wherein a sojourner I've been for almost eighty years; The evening comes with quickening haste, its shadows stretch and veer, Foretelling of my final rest from all my labours here. My wrestlings here will soon be o'er, my race is almost run, And then farewell forever more to all beneath the sun. I've learned that men will search in vain for bliss in things below, This world's a wilderness of pain, a gloomy vale of woe. When retrospectively I glance at what I witnessed here, Remembered scenes my mind entrance—they seem to reappear; I've seen dominions great and small appear and pass away, Estates and empires rise and fall as creatures of a day. I've seen extensive forest lands where bears and foxes ranged, By men of strong and skillful hands to thriving hamlets changed; And some I've known now aged and young, young infants on the knees, As tender saplings I have known, you tall and stately trees. Since man's expulsion from his place on Eden's hallowed ground, No man of Adam's fallen race thereto an entrance found. Then why should I reflect on that which I may see no more? Should I not rather think of what the future has in store? Ye comrades of my early days, I faint would interview: In crowded marts, or lonely ways, I vainly look for you. Is yours a brighter sphere than this? A more congenial clime? Do you enjoy the promised bliss beyond the verge of time? I faint would leave this mortal stage my voice with yours to chime. But please patiently await the Lord's appointed time. Then let me look with mind intent on things not seen yet true, Until I quit this tenement, and bid the world adieu. I am, Sir, etc. M. MCKENZIE, Canoe Cove, P. E. I.

The Age-Old Story

And Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven; and he said, Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepeth covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee: who intend dwell on the heaven, and hold the heaven and earth; how much less should that I have builded? Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servants prayeth towards thee: for thou art in heaven, and we are on earth; if these be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy beset them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be: What prayer and supplication soever that is made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward heaven; then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his way: for thou alone knowest the hearts of thine children of men.