

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

The Soil Erosion Problem

It is to be hoped that as a result of the report on soil conservation by the Prince Edward Island branch of the Agricultural Institute, excerpts from which are being published serially in The Guardian, thorough surveys will be undertaken and long-range plans developed with a view to solving this serious problem before it is too late. It is not too much to say that the whole future of our agricultural economy depends upon the attention we give to this subject within the next few years. History affords striking evidence of the devastation wrought by soil erosion, but it is going on every day and the warning signals are all about us.

The New York Times carries an arresting article on this subject, in connection with the dust storms which are blowing again in the Wheat Belt. The newspaper's correspondent describes a typical scene in southeast Colorado in these terms: "For miles after mile the flour-like topsoil has been piled against fences like drifting snow, tearing down the wires and snapping the poles." The accompanying pictures bear him out, and recall memories of similar dust storms twenty years ago. A large part of the wheat crop in the affected area has been destroyed, and even worse disaster threatens unless wind and moisture conditions suddenly improve.

"Why this repetition of the disasters of the Nineteen Thirties?" asks The Times. "Were not the American people sufficiently warned by the dust storms and droughts then to take preventive measures? The answer would seem to be clearly that the soil conservation work of the past has been inadequate, although presumably our present situation would be worse if the shelter belt and related conservation activity had not been begun after the soil calamities two decades ago."

The area presently worst hit suffered comparatively little then, for it was mainly grazing country with relatively few cattle pastured on the range. But subsequently the food needs of the war and post-war periods have caused prices to rise far above the level of the Nineteen Thirties. Under such conditions many absentee landlords have been encouraged to gamble for enormous profits by plowing up marginal land for wheat planting, 1,200 acres at a time, and by increasing greatly the number of cattle pastured on reduced land. The dust storms today are Nature's reply to such irresponsible gambling and land abuse.

The Agricultural Institute report brings the problem nearer home, in terms of Prince Edward Island farm economy. The devastation is going on on a smaller scale, but the long-term effects might be equally disastrous. Field observations have shown that the thickness of our surface soil, in the virgin state, is around eight inches. On much of our cultivated land, however, the average thickness is around five inches, and very often four inches. Other obvious evidences of the erosion that has occurred in the past, and is still taking place, was provided by the denuded and impoverished hillsides, and the severe gullying in some localities. The most serious damage has been caused by the slow cumulative action of sheet erosion, which is usually not noticeable until an advanced stage has been reached and crop production has decreased materially. Facts such as these have a direct bearing on our farm productivity. If we could concentrate on this problem as we have done in the case of bovine tuberculosis we might yet set an example to all Canada in progressive land rehabilitation. We have the experts who can conduct the intensive detailed surveys required, and it is for our farm organizations and farmers generally to get behind the movement and support it in every way.

Canada's Hansard

It is interesting to note, from an article in a mainland exchange, that the Canadian Parliament was twenty years ahead of its British counterpart in putting out an official Hansard published and paid for under public auspices. From 1867 to 1875 Canada had no Hansard, not because the House didn't want one, but because the members and the Government couldn't make up their minds how to go about getting a good one. For a few years the reports of the Ottawa Times were bound into books as a semi-official production, and these were widely used.

Private contractors put out a Hansard for us from 1875 until 1887, commonly including the press gallery of some of its

ablest members for the purpose. Since a contractor naturally tried to maximize his own profits, the Hansard suffered a good deal from economies, and its very life was annually in danger. Since each contract was an annual one, and had to be decided on by Parliament, the first few days of every session normally began without a Hansard. Private contractors used to cover the first few days on speculation, just in case the House decided to publish Hansard for another year.

In 1887 our Hansard was taken over by a Government printing office and since that time its existence has been assured. From the beginning, members of Parliament, especially the opposition, seem to have been remarkably slow to grasp the potentialities of the record as a sounding board, or as a device for forcing the Government into an admission of something. Nobody questions its value now, but for years after Confederation leading M. P.'s voiced scepticism about the Hansard.

Livestock And The Map

The westward shift of population both in this country and the United States is changing the livestock marketing picture in a very marked way. The Industrial and Development Council of Canadian Meat Packers in the second number of their letter make an interesting study of how marketing is affected.

A few years ago practically the whole of any surplus livestock production in the West had to move eastward, either for export or for domestic consumption. At first it was live animals that were shipped but later the shipment of dressed meats increased and the movement of slaughter stock fell off. In Canada a substantial proportion of the movement was for shipment overseas.

To supply the requirements of the rapidly increasing population in the western half of the continent, particularly on the Pacific Coast, western packers had to reach farther and farther inland for supplies and at the same time the population east of the Rockies increased, requiring more livestock for local consumption. Thus the "Great Divide" or line of east-west movement has moved steadily eastward and the price differential has practically disappeared.

All this means that western livestock will become less and less of a factor in eastern markets and each section of the country will have a full time job producing all the livestock products which can be consumed within a relatively short haul.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, Good Friday.

The season opens today on trout, that is speckled or brook trout, and the more enthusiastic anglers will be wetting a line at practically every accessible stream and lake.

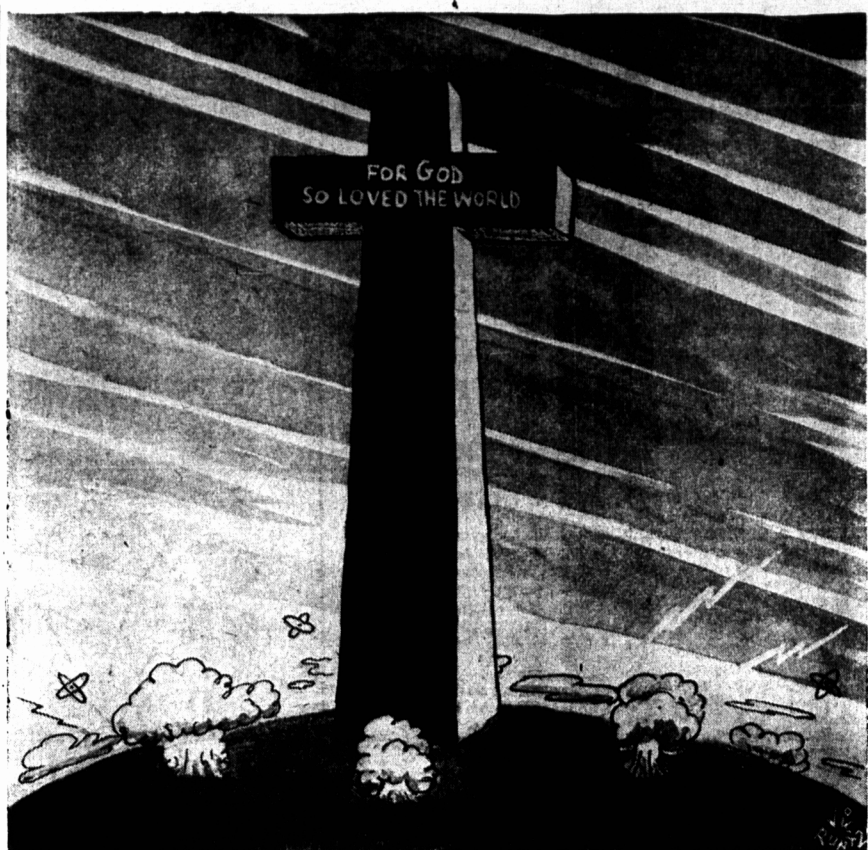
In Paris, 15 NATO nations are working towards freeing some of the prohibited exports to Communist countries. The list, a long one, is a fairly good barometer of the international weather.

The widened spread between A and B-1 hogs, from 40 cents to one dollar per hundredweight in Regina, has been long demanded by those interested in the improvement of breeding stock. It also represents a more realistic relationship to the final market value of the product.

It is well known that Montreallers do not think highly of Toronto but the outside limit seems to be a petition by a Montreal resident held in Albany, N. Y. for illegal entry. He is reported to have made an affidavit that he was threatened that he "would not live 24 hours if he is in the custody of the Toronto police." Apparently he has no such fear of any police in Quebec.

The "Titanic" sank this date 1912. Striking an iceberg a glancing blow shortly before midnight on the third day of her maiden voyage to New York, she stripped off her bilge practically from stem to stern and sank in less than three hours. Nearly 1500 persons were drowned. Out of 2201 passengers only 711 were saved. As a result of her loss improvements were introduced in life-saving equipment and boat-drill for passengers became a necessary routine.

A demand for federal aid to education by increased payments to municipalities has been made in the Upper Chamber by Senator John T. Haig. His proposal, says the Ottawa Citizen, helps to emphasize the desperate need for devoting more money to education, especially to the salaries of teachers. For the teacher shortage continues throughout the country, and the prospect is that it will become greater as school population rises. Among various expedients, resort is being had to immigration. Ontario has just announced a plan to recruit perhaps 500 teachers in Britain, and the project is already under way.



The Greater Power

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.

CRETE

Sir.—Your editorial of April 12 entitled "Laundry Lists Before Homer" should interest us. If our school children learned certain facts in their geography and history lessons I think it would give them a greater interest in and wider vision of our historical heritage.

For instance, the area of P.E.I. is 2184 square miles; length 110 miles; width 5 to 35 miles. That of Crete is, area 3235 square miles; length 160 miles; width 5 to 35 miles. We have more land fit for agriculture, yet Crete supports a population of 438,239, while the census of 1941 gave our population as 95,047. Why such a difference?

Crete was the centre of the Minoan Empire supposed to have been founded by King Minos about 3000 B.C. Its period of great power and prosperity was between 2200-1425 B.C. Crete, the sea base of a strong thalassocracy, was situated in the centre roadways of world traffic at the time and had the first known naval power. When the Minoans took possession of the Greek peninsula there were in the hinterland a people who retained their independence. These people, identified with the Minoan, learned the latter's arts, as hired hands manned the Cretan ships, and as the historian Arnold J. Toynbee points out they did for the Minoans what the marauders Hengist and Horsa did for Vertigern: they became so strong that they themselves took command of the sea. These people are known in early history as the Achaean barbarians. They are the early fathers of the Hellenic or Greek Civilization.

The Minoan power declined rapidly between 1425-1125. The first Communist Government recorded in history was set up in Crete about 1300 B.C. This fatal political experiment together with that of Sparta some centuries later is said to have influenced Plato in his "Republic." In the eyes of the enlightened Greeks the Cretans became despised mercenaries, their character a byword for all evil and wickedness. Even in Christian Apostolic time the unsavoury reputation clung to them; hence a saying attributed to Epimenides is quoted by St. Paul in his Epistle to Titus: "One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, 'The Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.'"

I am, Sir, etc.,
MINOR SAXON

SNOWFLOW COMPLAINT

Sir.—This is a plain unvarnished tale about the snowplough's operation. I live on that part of Gray's Road which is about the same width as it was when it was first opened, which is to say, that it is very narrow. Well my gateway has been completely blocked all winter from the time when the Government snowplough first went through the road and it is still blocked up to the present day, that is April 12. This morning I measured the depth of the snow and found it to be 15 inches so that no vehicles can pass through the gateway to the road and right now the snow is of a less depth than at any time since the snowplough made its first trip. After every trip of that plough I was obliged to shovel out a path from my gateway to the narrow strip of road made by the plough, then turn around and clear away the snow from around and below the mailbox. The snow bank extended four to five feet beyond the mailbox and every time the mail came the mailman had to get off his vehicle to reach the box, and he still is forced to do so.

I wrote to the Minister of Highways on April 2 stating the above facts and asked him to send down the plough to clear a passage through my gateway. He never replied by word or deed. I therefore infer that he is the man re-

The Poet's Corner

THE DONKEY

When fishes flew and forests walk'd
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born;

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The latter'd outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Pools! For I also had my hour;
One far fiercer hour and sweet;
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

—G. K. Chesterton.

Old Charlottetown

"A Marble Tablet to the memory of the late Lieutenant Governor Young was erected in St. Paul's Church, Charlottetown, in the course of last week, and forms one of its principal ornaments. This monument of departed worth was executed by Sir Francis Chantley, and is certainly a beautiful piece of sculpture. The device is a likeness of the deceased, his crest, and a sheathed sword thrust through a wreath. The following is the inscription:

"Sacred to the memory of Lt. Colonel Sir Aretas William Young, Knt. He served in Ireland as a Captain in the 13th Regt. of Infantry during the Rebellion of 1789. In Egypt he fought in the ever memorable Actions of the 8th, 13th, and 21, March 1801; He afterwards served in the Mediterranean, Spain, Portugal, and the West Indies, and was engaged in the Battles of Vimeira, the Douro, Talavera, Busaco, Sobral, and Redinha, and was present at the siege of Badajoz, the taking of Olivenza, and the capture of Gaudaloupe. After a long and painful illness, which he bore with Christian fortitude and resignation, he closed his earthly career as Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island on the 1st of December, 1835, aged 58 years. His gallant conduct as a Soldier, his fearless integrity as a Civil Ruler, and his mild and amiable character as a husband, a

I am, Sir, etc.,
C. S. MacDONALD
Wood Islands.

The Age Old Story

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Old Charlottetown

MEMORIAL TABLET
"A Marble Tablet to the memory of the late Lieutenant Governor Young was erected in St. Paul's Church, Charlottetown, in the course of last week, and forms one of its principal ornaments. This monument of departed worth was executed by Sir Francis Chantley, and is certainly a beautiful piece of sculpture. The device is a likeness of the deceased, his crest, and a sheathed sword thrust through a wreath. The following is the inscription:

"Sacred to the memory of Lt. Colonel Sir Aretas William Young, Knt. He served in Ireland as a Captain in the 13th Regt. of Infantry during the Rebellion of 1789. In Egypt he fought in the ever memorable Actions of the 8th, 13th, and 21, March 1801; He afterwards served in the Mediterranean, Spain, Portugal, and the West Indies, and was engaged in the Battles of Vimeira, the Douro, Talavera, Busaco, Sobral, and Redinha, and was present at the siege of Badajoz, the taking of Olivenza, and the capture of Gaudaloupe. After a long and painful illness, which he bore with Christian fortitude and resignation, he closed his earthly career as Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island on the 1st of December, 1835, aged 58 years. His gallant conduct as a Soldier, his fearless integrity as a Civil Ruler, and his mild and amiable character as a husband, a

Refrigeration

SALES & SERVICE
Repairs To All Makes

MOTORS

Rewinding and Repairs
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
Repairs

Palmer Electric
Phones 8548-8544

MEN'S HATS

Spruce up for Easter in a snappy new

MALLORY HAT

at 8.50

or the latest

BROCK

at 5.95



All the new Spring Styles and Shades

JACK CAMERON

"The Store For Men"

The Passing Scene
By Observer
PRE-OPENING DAY THOUGHTS

The first three days of this week have been difficult ones for me; they always are. Sometime before these observations appear I have to decide where to go on the morning of the 15th and the decision will be governed almost entirely by road conditions; these, in turn, are controlled by weather conditions and the Honourable Dougald McKinnon. Ordinarily I have nothing whatever against our Minister of Highways, but in April my thoughts concerning him are dark and gloowering. For two years or more I have been trying to get him to devote more money to the roads leading to the good fishing spots, even if it means neglecting the main highways; but, alas, he hasn't paid the slightest attention to my representations. To make matters worse, he laughs every time I mention the subject. It is a well known fact that the best fishing places are always a long way from the main roads; but perhaps that is what makes them that way. At the moment my chief interest is in getting to a certain place on Opening Day and it bothers me to realize that Mr. McKinnon doesn't care one bit whether I get there or not. Well, I can tell him right now that he need not expect a vote from me in the next election.

But why talk about such commonplace things as votes at a time like this? What I was going to say when another thought came along and diverted me was that by 5 o'clock Thursday morning, Dgo volente, regardless of the weather or road conditions, I shall be at some place with rod and line in hand. Just where I don't know at the moment. Every year the places available are getting fewer and fewer. Some thoughtful people say it will be only a matter of time, probably two or three years, when all the better dams and streams will be under lease; the only free ones will be those that are choked and rendered useless by pollution. Incidentally, this matter of pollution does not appear to be getting the attention it deserves from Provincial authorities. Almost everybody is talking about it but I haven't heard of anyone doing much to correct it.

I have said it before and I now say it again—I know of no way to coax a trout to rise to a fly on the 15th of April, especially, as seems likely this year, when one has to break ice to make contact with water. The meticulous purist, who regards bait fishing at any time and under any conditions

as one of the unpardonable sins, tell me that this attitude of mine is merely a psychological cloak to cover my plebeian fishing habits. This used to cause me a great deal of humiliation; more than once it has made me resort to surreptitious techniques. Instead of putting the worm on a bare hook, I would attach it to a fly; then, if any of the scorners happened along, it would be a simple thing to shake the worm off and make believe I was angling in the best traditions of orthodoxy. This year things are going to be different; no more shame, no more humiliation, no more apology. Why? Well, because during the winter a friend sent me a copy of an address delivered before a meeting of a Fish and Game Society in a mid-West American city. The speaker was a noted ichthyologist and a sportsman who, as he said, "would rather fish than eat." (This latter will be recognized as a rhetorical phrase often used but which ought not to be taken too literally; I have said the same thing many times but I know it isn't true.)

One paragraph of this address dealt with the fly-bait controversy which is general wherever rods and reels and hooks and lines are in use. Following are a few quotations from it: (1) There is no special virtue in catching a trout or a bass or any other fish by means of a fly or other artificial lure. (2) There are times when bait casting requires more dexterity than does fly-casting. (3) To a fish a fly is a plaything while a worm—the smaller the better—is an article of food. (4) The fish that gets away from a fly has nothing to show for his adventure but a sore mouth; the one that gets away from a bait hook at least has something palatable in his stomach. (This would seem to infer that from a purely humanitarian point of view bait fishing is the more sportsmanlike practice.) (5) Purism in the matter of angling can be and often is overdone. Sometimes, if you scratch a very belligerent purist you will find a man who would dearly love to fish with bait but who is afraid of incurring the wrath of the conformists.

"My own practice," concluded this iconoclastic sportsman, "is to use flies whenever and wherever there are obvious signs that the fish are bent on play, and bait whenever and wherever they show unmistakable signs of being in a more serious mood." All of which has encouraged me to take along a few good worms on Thursday, just in case the trout don't feel like running after every pretty feather they see, which seems more than likely in this kind of weather. Anyway, however it comes about, it's going to be good to feel that little tug at the end of a line after seven months of looking forward to it.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK SHIPPERS AND PRODUCERS

Our Plant will be closed all day GOOD FRIDAY, April 16th. We will be receiving Hogs and other Livestock until 5 p.m. Thursday and again on Saturday morning until 10 a.m.

CANADA PACKERS LIMITED
Charlottetown Prince Edward Island

THE ISLAND BOOK ROOM

WILL BE OPEN WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON and THURSDAY EVENING APRIL 14th and 15th

C.I.L. PAINTS It Costs No More THEN Buy The Best!



YOUR C.I.L. PAINT HEADQUARTERS
Bryenton & MacKay Co.
167 GREAT GEORGE ST.