

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, OCT. 19, 1951

A Tale of Three Cities

In Buenos Aires not long ago there was an abortive revolution. Whether it was a genuine revolt, or one staged by Peron to consolidate his hold on the government remains obscure.

In London the United Kingdom government also detects signs of unrest and discontent. More mature and democratic than Argentina, the country's political leaders have decided to ask the people whether they want a "revolution".

In Ottawa as Parliament meets, there is renewed evidence of unrest and discontent in Canada. The unrest springs from the high cost of living. People still remember that before fiscal and monetary planning became part of the fabric of government,

Unrest in Canada, of course, differs greatly in the manner in which it manifests itself, from unrest in the United Kingdom. Both differ even more sharply from the explosive qualities inherent in unrest in Argentina.

Railway Earnings

Despite all the weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth before the country and the Board of Railway Commissioners, notes the Winnipeg Free Press, it would appear from the latest figures on railway earnings that the C.P.R. and C.N.R. are still enjoying a reasonable share of prosperity.

It will be recalled that 1950 was the year of the railway strike which might have been expected to disrupt operations rather badly. Nevertheless revenue freight tonnage increased from 142,719,431 to 144,218,319 tons.

Much of last year's lament for the future of the railways turned on the prospect of a 40-hour week, which unquestionably meant heavier expenses for the two roads. But the sun has continued to shine for the railways since they were granted an additional 12 per cent horizontal increase in rates last July, this despite the finding of the Turgeon Commission on Transportation against horizontal increases.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Credit Unions have celebrated their past and present and now go back to the task of building for the future.

Nothing like an all out sale to bring the crowds to the business section, as witnessed yesterday.

It certainly was not long before "expert" descriptions of the superiority of Red jet fighters were proved baseless, by trial of battle.

People who have money to put aside for savings are buying Government bonds, a gilt-edged investment for all and any purpose.

The grain harvest being all safely garnered, potato growers have been fortunate in getting a spell of good weather to devote to potato lifting.

The search for the American strato-freighter off Sable Island is a reminder of how valuable it would be if aircraft carried automatic transmitters which would broadcast the position in case of trouble.

The last impression Their Royal Highnesses will get of Canada will be that of the three Maritime island capitals, Charlottetown, Sydney and St. John's. Let us make it outstandingly favourable.

Most of our visitors, apart from hunters, have gone home with pleased memories of their stay. Had Labour Day been fixed for the third Monday of October many of them might still have been with us to share in our magnificent Fall weather.

The excellent communication between this Province and Quebec's Magdalen Islands is useful to both groups of Islanders and also serves the very good purpose of bringing here such visitors as the Hon. Mr. Talbot, on their way to and from the Magdalens.

It is pretty hard on residents who endeavour to add to the beauty of the city by surrounding their lawns by light fences to have them broken down overnight by prowlers, or otherwise evil disposed night revellers.

Emphasis is being placed, as it should be, by our Royal Visitors' Committee on the place of war veterans and children in the forthcoming celebration. They are the two sections of the population who deserve place and honour in honouring our future sovereigns.

Sir Thomas Browne, English author and physician, was born this date 1605. After prolonged travel abroad, he settled in practice at Norwich. "Hydriotaphia, or Urne Buriall" probably best displays his peculiar genius but his claim for renown rests on his "Religio Medici" although it was not designed for publication.

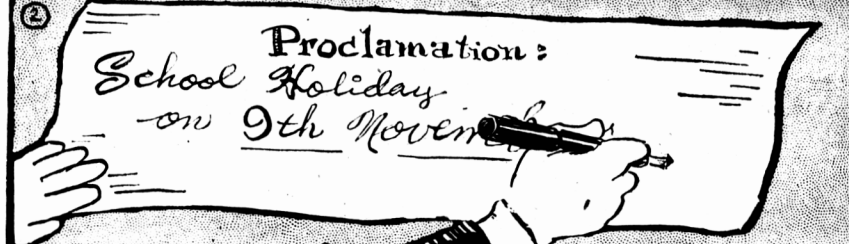
Some members at Ottawa are getting hot under the collar because the Government appears indifferent regarding the high cost of living. The fact is the powers-that-be are reluctant to put on controls which would react on farmers and other food producers, leaving other men-of-business to recoup themselves by increased consumer prices.

Tomorrow is Boy Scout Apple Day in the City. It is of historic interest to note that Apple Day originated in Prince Edward Island, and subsequently was adopted by the Scout Movement all over Canada. At the time Mr. R. C. Parent was secretary of the local Scouts, and he conceived the idea of combining the apple industry with Scouting by having the boys sell only P. E. I. apples. At that time there were but two commercial orchards here.

Mr. Kickham, M. P., is the friend of mail couriers these days in an endeavour to get them a special bonus in recognition of services well and truly rendered on behalf of our rural population. Similarly, Mr. McLure, M. P., has been honoured by Hon. Mr. Fournier, Minister of Public Works, as senior member for Queen's, by being invited into conference with him in respect to the proposed new Federal Building in Charlottetown.

An appeal is being made to citizens in both town and surrounding country to get ready in good time with their decoration plans for the Royal celebrations. Business people and householders should make sure in good time they have the necessary flags and bunting on hand; while school trustees and teachers should make sure there is a Union Jack or Canadian flag for every child taking part in the proceedings.

Doubly Joyous



The Poet's Corner

THE ROSE OF THE WORLD

Who dreamed that beauty passes like a dream? For these red lips, with all their mournful pride, Mournful that no new wonder may betide. Troy passed away in one high funeral gleam, And Uzza's children died.

The Age-Old Story

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame?

Canada Loses Face

When Parliament debated the strange spectacle of Ming Sung ships with Chinese crews and wearing the Canadian flag carrying cargoes to and from Communist China, a point was made by the Government that no one had proved they helped the Communist war effort in Korea by carrying strategic materials.

Notes By The Way

At its first annual meeting in Toronto, the Central Canada Broadcasters Association decided to seek permission to broadcast liquor and beer advertisements in Ontario. Such a move lacks public support, and the request should be rejected.

Notes By The Way

John Gordon, 23-year-old Toronto truck driver, coming suddenly upon a group of children playing on the highway near Milton swerved his vehicle out of their way. It turned over. He was pinned beneath the rear wheels and killed.

It is at times like these that the mystique of kingship which few foreigners can understand and which often perplexes Englishmen themselves, is at its strongest. There is a certain divinity doth hedge a king, but it does not mean, for the great part of the nation, any acceptance of the divine right of kings; a sovereign who betrayed the high traditions of his high office might end sovereignty in this country.

Old Charlottetown

"Messrs. Forrest & Co., the enterprising proprietors of the lobster factory at Saint Andrew's Point, have just terminated a remarkably successful enterprise for this season. On Saturday they decided to shut down until next spring. It is their intention to far more extensive scale at that time, and in view of this have leased the fishing stand formerly owned by Mr. I. C. Hall, at Saint Andrew's Point, and will recommence with largely increased facilities, as well as affording remunerative employment to a larger number of men and women. Since they commenced operations last spring they have preserved and shipped 197,000 cases of lobsters, and considering the fact that so large a quantity has been taken at the commencement, we look forward to a great increase in the future."

Original Mermaid

The Duzong or sea-cow of the eastern ocean, something like a whale, is said to have inspired the idea of mermaids.

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part One (continued) (All Rights Reserved)

THE ZUIDER ZEE

We boarded the bus, and started north again along the coast to see the eighth wonder of the world, the enclosed Zuider Zee of the Wieringermeer. After centuries of planning, experimenting and struggling, the huge dyke enclosing the Zuider Zee which juts into the country between the north of Holland and Friesland, was enclosed by making a dam across the outer opening near the North Sea, a distance of about twenty miles. Since 1500, people have been draining lakes and building dykes to protect themselves from the sea and to maintain for themselves enough land to make an honest living from the soil.

Not until after the first Great War in 1919 were the initial steps taken for the construction of the enclosing dam between the coast of Northern Holland and the island of Wieringen. This met with success and was the first concrete step. One for another half mile of dam were completed. With this experience and armed with more scientific knowledge and larger machinery, they set to work and on May 28, 1932, the other twenty miles over to Friesland were completed and the Zuider Zee was enclosed. Thirteen years of planning, work, and struggle were over, and what an accomplishment!

Here were five hundred and fifty thousand acres of available farm land as soon as the water could be drained out and made suitable for cultivation. But they could not go at it all at once; it had to be divided up in polders or areas, and one at a time, those dyked and drained. The first and smallest of those to be drained was the north west polder of the Wieringermeer, consisting of fifty thousand acres.

After the dams were built around this area, it took two huge pumping stations eight months to drain the water from it, pumping at the rate of one hundred and twenty thousand gallons per minute. Then it was dry in December. The water was so soft mass of muck and soft mud that a human being, not to mention heavy machinery, motor cars or other vehicles.

The first job was to build roads and then to dig twenty-five thousand miles of ditches. When they built roads they put in a pumping station and bridges. Many of them had to be draw-bridges. New farms had to be mapped out and built. The first polder was ready for settlers late in 1930. They told us some weird stories about growing the first crop. Then the salt disappeared and the soil became fertile, and a rich new country was developing. Farm layout was carefully planned. It was divided into small farms of about thirty acres and from the thousands of people who wanted to settle there, the residents had to be hand-picked. Then trees and shrubs were planted; churches were built; modern roads were constructed.

Most of the people, especially from the rural areas, wear wooden shoes. These are not awkward; they are light, comfortable and inexpensive, and they wear well. They also keep the feet dry in those low and swampy lands; soled shoes would not last any time. These are home made and are a protection for the feet in a second way. Brick layers, masons and many other tradesmen wear them in Germany, Belgium and Denmark to prevent their toes from falling articles.

Then the war broke out in 1940 and until 1945, the Wieringermeer did not suffer any damage. It was producing food and crops, badly needed by the Germans, but was an ideal refuge for many young Dutch people who had to hide for military reasons. Hundreds of those people were taken in hospitably by the residents and hidden from the Nazis.

The Germans knew this, but the people remained unfindable, and in April, 1945, seventeen days before the end of the war, the Nazi leaders could hold out no longer. They were jealous of this ideal land that had been reclaimed in such a peaceful manner, and they were angry because they could not find their prisoners, the people who had escaped. They did not want more food, and knew they could not get anything more from the land, so they destroyed the polder by dynamiting the dyke in two places.

The population had to leave at a moment's notice. Many of the young people who had been in hiding were arrested and a number of them shot. The polder itself was completely inundated and most of the buildings were destroyed by water. The two breaks soon widened and it soon looked like the big sea except for the telegraph poles sticking through, and the rubble and buildings floating around.

The War was over now. They went right to work. The new dyke had to be built around the old one, and by August, the breaks were closed. By Christmas of that same year, it was dry land again, and although the soil had been soiled and salted, the sand had been washed in and the buildings and roads completely destroyed, the people came back, the towns and villages were rebuilt. As we drove through it we could still see some of the flood damage, but it is one of the most beautiful and most progressive stretches of farming country that one could wish to look across.

Since 1939, work has been going on in the north east polder, which covers an area of about a hundred and eighty thousand acres, more than twice as large as the first one. During the war much of the work here was kept going. More extensive planning was done,