

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, JULY 14, 1953

Transportation Sitting

A comprehensive brief was presented at Halifax to the Board of Transport Commissioners on behalf of the Maritime Transportation Commission. The brief, a two-volume affair, went into some detail of the Atlantic Provinces' stand on the question of freight rate equalization and although the Board is willing to hear any further representations at the meeting in Charlottetown today it is expected that proceedings will concern only the matter of grade crossings.

Although the safety of grade crossings is literally a vital matter to those involved in accidents it is not so important to the community at large as freight rates. Individuals die in many ways but the community goes on. If for any reason, however, the economy of the community is impaired the result is felt in every home, either by a lower standard of living or the necessity of removing elsewhere.

It would be difficult to point to any one factor which has a greater effect on the economy than has the level of freight rates. The primary producer and manufacturer are both dependent upon economic freight rates to market their products in competition with those from other sources. The consumer requires moderate freight charges to keep the family cost-of-living within reasonable bounds. If a community suffers from high freight rates it needs must possess other advantages in very large measure indeed in order to prosper.

Airport Charges

The report that charges for the use of airport facilities will be substantially increased, anywhere from 50 to 100 per cent, by the Department of Transport is a serious matter for the air lines and other users of the airfields, hangars and other facilities. The decision to increase the charges is in line with the general effort to make Government transportation services pay their way, although railways and shipping have long been dependent on aid from the taxpayer. The Post Office is a notable exception, almost invariably producing a substantial surplus over operational costs.

Those operators who are unable to absorb the increased costs and cannot pass them on in the form of increased charges for their own services will have to curtail the scope of their activities. It is a necessary consequence that those engaged chiefly in government work should be reimbursed for their increased operating costs.

The policy of charging enough for the use of airfields to cover costs will at least give a realistic picture of airline, air freight and civilian air school costs but it is to be hoped that it does not result in curtailing any of these services.

Conservation Lesson

Canadians can find a conservation lesson in the purchases of land by the British government to preserve various species of wildlife, both plant and animal, as well as geological resources. The latest purchase is that of 76 acres of woodland. The purpose—to protect and preserve the brown and white Heath Frillary butterfly, which is rarely found outside of this little section of country near Canterbury.

The United Kingdom government now controls 11 nature reserves, comprising 22,500 acres, with the biggest area being 10,450 acres of deer country in Rosshire, Scotland. In addition to deer, the pine forest contains golden eagle, marten, wild cat and other animals.

One of Britain's most famous songsters is the nightingale, and the government bought 200 acres of ash and yew woods to preserve one of their best breeding grounds. Another 130 acres was acquired because it was the nesting place of the rare stone curlew.

"We hope," comments the Sudbury Star, "that Canada never reaches the point of depleted wildlife resources where it becomes necessary for the government to buy tracts of land to preserve the remnants. But there is a word of praise for a government that is not too busy or preoccupied with world and domestic affairs to forget about such things as a Heath Frillary butterfly."

"Operation Vote"

With the launching of "Operation Vote" in 1949 the Canadian Legion provided its members across Canada with an opportunity to see what they could do in a new field of public service on a large scale. The campaign against apathy and indifference was undoubtedly helpful in bringing a larger number of the electorate to the polls. But, as pointed out in the current issue of The Legionary, the 1949 result still fell considerably short of the objective. In that election, 75 per cent of Canada's eligible voters turned to the polls. The following year, in the little country of Belgium, 90 per cent of those eligible voted. In Italy, in 1948, 89 per cent, and in England, 1951, 83 per cent of the people entitled to determine how they wished to be governed cast their ballots.

"These are examples every Canadian adult should look up to," says The Legionary. "For democracy is every bit as important to us in Canada as it is in those countries where people clamour to preserve it, not only in times of war, but on election days as well."

"This year the challenge to be better citizens is again upon us. Let us in the Canadian Legion meet it with all the enthusiasm we can muster. No group of Canadians is in a finer position to spearhead a project such as "Operation Vote" than the men and women of the Legion. If the freedom for which 100,000 of our comrades laid down their lives is to be preserved we must, as Canadian citizens, fulfil our obligations as free people. Let us do our best to encourage a lot more than 75 per cent of eligible Canadian voters to cast their ballots on 'V-Day', August 10."

Save The Forests

The timber consumed in forest fires each year would make a stack of four-foot logs, four feet high, stretching from Halifax to Victoria, R. M. Fowler, president of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association said in a public message.

"There is a growing world need for wood and wood products, a need that, despite temporary fluctuations in demand, should permit a steady growth on the part of Canada's forest industries," Mr. Fowler said. "In view of the greater benefits and larger employment which the forests could provide in future, it is apparent that Canada can no longer afford the wastage of forest fires which now break out at the rate of 4,000 a year. Because the future of the forests will largely determine the future of the country, day by day, forest burning becomes more and more costly to the nation and every individual in it."

"Pulp and paper mills have spent tens of millions in improving and conserving their woodlands. Over their forests as a whole, more wood grows than is consumed. In more ways than one it is a growing industry. But like the other forest industries, its future depends on the desire and ability of Canadians to reduce the ravages by fire of Canada's most valuable single resource: her ever-growing forests."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Fete Nationale, France, Bastille Day, 1789.

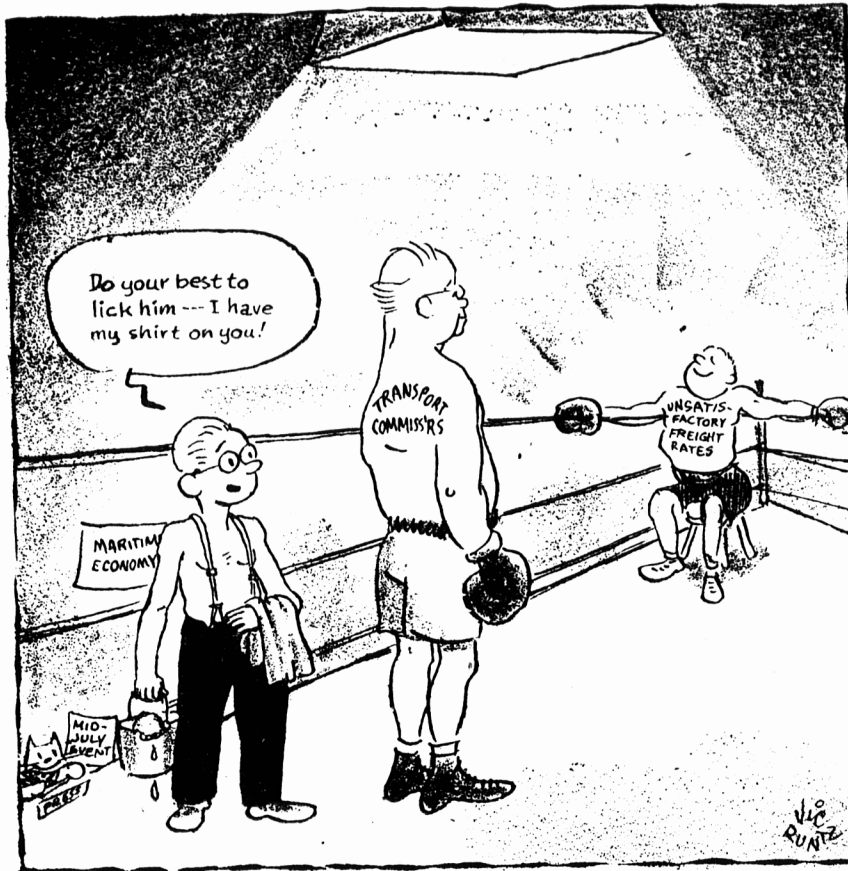
Because of the acclamation of Mr. James MacDougall last week, Summerside citizens have no civic by-election today to distract attention from Federal campaigning.

Twenty years ago today Germany's new Chancellor, Adolf Hitler, decreed that the Nazis were the only legal party in Germany, although it was only by the support of other parties that they had a majority in the Reichstag and in the previous election they had dropped a million votes. The following year the party itself was "purged" and all power concentrated in the hands of the Fuehrer.

Medical men constantly warn laymen against the danger of breeding drug resistant bacteria by indiscriminate use of modern "miracle drugs". It is, therefore, astonishing to learn of researchers who not only breed a strain of brucellosis germs that are resistant to streptomycin but which cannot live without it. It would seem to be a serious danger that some would survive and retain their immunity.

British experts are convinced, on the basis of American experience, that fluoridating the water supply is a beneficial measure for the reduction of tooth decay amongst children. Five chemists who visited the United States last year have recommended that water should be impregnated to the extent of one part in a million and at the cost of about three cents per head per annum.

Championship Bout



The Poet's Corner

OUT OF SEASON

Wild oats lie brown across the curving land. Though summer's fruit hangs green upon the bough, And soil that lifted bean rows takes the plow Before the August corn's pale-tasseled strand Turns crisp and curled. The harvest fields are spanned By gentians, blue in the wheat that waits the mow. And winter's drifts, when streams run deep, allow A budding sweep of spring where willows stand. So does the year's exactness keep some token Of season's past and seasons yet to come. As people do — with youth and age both broken By the child's proud dreams and the old man's thoughtful sum Of tasks not yet accomplished, words not spoken: The act and the plan in equilibrium. —Francis Hall in the New York Times.

Gold Coast Moves Towards Statehood

'National Geographic News' The birth of a nation is impending on the west coast of Africa. The Gold Coast may soon become the first British African colony to attain full independence. Africans already exercise virtual self-rule in this tropic, fertile land. The prime minister and three-quarters of the cabinet are Africans, as are nearly all of the elected legislative assembly, says the National Geographic Society.

A four-year harbor improvement program recently was completed at Takoradi. Establishment of a major aluminum industry is under way. A flourishing trade in cocoa and timber is being expanded, and mining operations for gold and diamonds have been largely mechanized. The Takoradi port project cost more than \$9,000,000. With the addition of three new berthing spaces, Takoradi can now handle three million tons annually. Until 1928, every pound of export was carried from Takoradi's beaches in surf boats to ships anchored two miles offshore. There are no natural deep-water harbors on the entire 330-mile Gold Coast. Work has begun on a \$30,000,000 port at Tema, 20 miles east of Accra, capital of the 92,000-square-mile colony. Tema will play a major part in the proposed aluminum venture, a \$400,000,000 scheme that will require 20 years for completion. The Gold Coast has one of the world's richest deposits of bauxite, an estimated 225,000,000 tons. Engineers say it will produce 210,000 tons of aluminum annually, given sufficient electric power to convert the ore. The plan is to dam the muddy Volta River near Ajena, 60 miles northeast of Accra, and to erect a huge hydroelectric station there. A smelting plant will be built 12 miles south of the dam, at Kpong, and a railroad from there to Tema, 50 miles south. One of the world's richest and most fertile areas, the Gold Coast was exploited by European adventurers between the 15th and early 19th centuries. Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, English, Danish and Swedish traders built forts on the coast and dealt with tribesmen in gold, slaves and ivory. For nearly 400 years, gold was the colony's economic lifeblood. Today it has been supplanted by cocoa and diamonds. The Gold Coast was the first in the world in the production of cocoa beans, from which cocoa and chocolate are made. In diamond output it stands third. It also exports tropical mahogany and other timber. The country's population is es-

Notes By The Way

The weather forecast for Paris, says a recent news dispatch from the French capital, is perfumed rain. An American scentsmaker, the story continues, is to send up a plane with dry ice containing the essence of his perfume and seed the clouds following one of the several techniques of the rain-makers. Why all this bother? After listening to some of the ecstatic tourists just back from the boulevards one might think that all the rain that falls on Gay Paree is perfumed. —Christian Science Monitor.

Lunenburg fishermen have caught a fish in their nets which is a stranger to them. The fish is described as 17 feet in length, and four feet six inches from top of back to under belly, and is estimated to weigh in the neighborhood of 3,000 pounds. The fish had some of the characteristics of a shark with teeth and a mouth large enough to envelop a fair size man. Some one should be able to trace the fellow right back to Jonah. —Fort William Times-Journal.

Hunters have been refused permission to shoot deer in Middlesex County — but for an odd reason. County council's opposition was not based on any humane feelings for the deer. The councillors are afraid that trigger-happy nimrods will draw a bead on horses and cows. There's no shortage of deer in Middlesex, and even the provincial wildlife authorities call the animals a serious factor in traffic accidents. Nevertheless, the deer are not to be shot — legally, anyway — and Nature's balance has been restored, right on the edge of a metropolitan area of 125,000 souls. —London Free Press.

When someone asks a Thunder Bay resident, "Why are your flowers so much more brilliant in color than the flowers that grow in most other parts of Canada?" the local resident has to grope for an answer. None should feel embarrassed because he cannot answer the question. Scientists themselves have not been able to come up with a simple explanation of the causes for the colors of flowers. Only recently, authorities could not give any good reason why blue flowers are practically non-existent in tropical regions. There red and yellow predominate. On the other hand many blue flowers, especially campanulas, are found in Alpine regions where the atmosphere is particularly rich in ultra-violet rays. —(Fort William Times-Journal)

In youth, time seems unfair: It drags its feet in heavy boots to the holidays, then changes to running shoes and swiftly sprints away. Yet every moment, swift or slow is precious and unique and should not be wasted. Kipling realized this when he wrote that the unforgetting minute should be filled with sixty seconds' worth of distance run. This does not mean that one should be working all the time to build for the future. Rather, that each minute should be savored and enjoyed, not allowed to skip by heedlessly. —Hamilton Spectator.

Newspapers readers paid more than \$3,000,000 a day in 1952 for their daily reading matter and almost \$6,000,000 each Sunday in the U. S. and Canada. This totals more than a billion and a quarter dollars spent for newspapers during the year. No other figures could speak so eloquently as to the day-by-day usefulness of newspapers in the lives of the people. —Editor and Publisher.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) WALKING CONTEST. "Dominion Day was a gala day in Rustico. At an early hour flags were to be seen floating in the breeze. By 10 o'clock a large number of ladies and gentlemen had arrived at Oyster Bed Bridge, determined upon enjoying themselves. A straight course of 176 yards was measured off from the Bridge, and a barrel filled with sand set at each end of the course which the walkers had to round—five rounds or laps making a mile. Six competitors having been entered, made a start at 10:20 to walk for four hours. At 2:30 the score was in favor of Andrew McRae, who had covered 21 miles 2 1/2 laps. Other competitors were John Bucannan, J. K. McInnis, Charles Carter, Angus Campbell and Edward Horn, the latter leaving the course at the end of the 3rd hour after walking 14 miles 2 laps. —The Examiner, July 4, 1979.

The Age Old Story Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that are drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer ABANDONED HOUSE

Abandoned farms are getting to be quite common in this Province. On a recent trip which covered no more than fifty miles I counted six. Most of these, perhaps all of them, will remain as they are for it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to reclaim them. What was once rich land is now so poor that not even the hardest weeds will call it home. Why an island like this should have any desolate places is something for which I have never heard a satisfactory explanation. Apparently, the situation is getting worse instead of better. How much worse it can get without inviting economic catastrophe is a question which, one may presume, is occupying the attention of provincial authorities. If it isn't, it certainly ought to be.

An abandoned farm would not look quite so bad if there were no dilapidated buildings on it. A house that is going to "crack and ruin", with no one to care what happens to it, is a symbol of tragic desolation. On my little trip referred to above I stopped at one of the deserted places and looked around. Little bits of broken wire, half decayed posts, a filled in well and rusted relics of a pump, a moss covered mound where once there had been a cellar, old boards scattered here, there, and everywhere, these were the preliminaries to a hattered, shapeless hulk that once was called "home". There were no doors or windows. These had long since come under the destroying hand of wind and weather. A threshold remained, however, and over it I stepped softly, knowing that I was in the presence of the spirits of those who had gone away. Apparently, the house had once been a spacious dwelling. The kitchen had been the largest room in it and here, no doubt, members of the family had spent most of their spare time. I saw the place where the old-fashioned stove had been and I recalled some lines from Robert Tristram Coffin's "Winter Morning":

"The former coxens till a small flame stands Down in the stove between his cupping hands. He puts the kettle on its place. The first low sun slants in and strikes his face. He tries the stove top with a moistened finger. It's hot enough, he feels the smarting linger. The frying pan goes on. The fragrance spreads To other rooms, folks stir in their warm beds: A child pipes up, another and another. And, like a smiling sunrise, comes out mother."

From this kitchen a father went forth to his work and to labour until the evening." Here a mother proclaimed to her little world in a quiet, unheeded way that a woman's work is never done. Here healthy youngsters

"frisked away to joy and play," without a thought of what the future might bring. Here young men and women dreamed their dreams. Stairways are interesting things. They seem to symbolize man's attempt to ascend above himself. And when a stairway is broken, and made unsafe for the feet of the climber, as the one in this house was, one feels that a sacrilegious act has been committed. It was Time that did it, aided by ravages of wind and rain. I thought as I stood there of the many and varied things that Time can do.

It can heal old wounds and it can inflict new ones. It can spread the pall of forgetfulness on incidents of the past and it can revive the dreams of night into the new light of day. It can, like distance, "lend enchantment to the view," and, like envy, it can "rob us of our joys." It breaks windows and doors and staircases; it also brings together the materials necessary for the building of a sound structure of living.

Half hidden by inconsequential debris were the remnants of an ancient oil lamp which in its day had rendered much service. In imagination I could see the mother as she went about her morning tasks, one of which was to see that the lamps were bright and clean and well filled with oil. If one should "go out" the routine of the family would be upset. At dusk the lamp for the kitchen was brought down from the shelf, carefully lighted, and placed on the table not under a bushel that it might give light to all who are in the house. Those of us who are accustomed to modern illumination would not care to go back to the old ways. And yet I wonder if we get as much cheer from our lamps as our forefathers got from theirs. An electric switch is powerful and efficient. It is, within an exact, lent servant, but, unlike the lamp with their "paly flames", no poetry has been written about it and no songs sung.

Wandering around the back yard I came across the one symbol of life in an over-all picture of desolation. A bright red rose, looking as cheerful as if it had received the best care possible. No hand had touched it. No food had been given it. The earth beneath appeared arid and starved. But somehow, and for some reason, the rose had defied Time and all its withering powers. How? Why? There is no answer except that "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in our philosophy." Perhaps desolation is never quite complete, nor can be. It may be that when all seems drab and cheerless a little searching will discover something—a flower, a sunbeam, a half-hidden gesture, or a bright new thought—that will produce a little colour and a measure of cheer. Even though the express tree the sun sometimes shines.

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