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Not A Railway Ferry

The announcement by Mr. Frank Hall, chairman of the 14-union negotiating committee, that non-operating railway employees have voted to strike, revives concern in this Province for the continuous operation of the Borden-Tormentine ferry.

The Maritime Provinces Board of Trade has already asked that a guarantee be given by the Government of Canada that in the event of strikes the ferry service be maintained.

That request, of course, is a request that the Government repeat in other language its constitutional obligation to maintain continuous communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland.

When the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen were considering strike action in January of last year the Government, the Brotherhood and the Canadian National Railways recognized the special character of the ferry operations and Mr. Donald Gordon was able to give the assurance that there was no reason to fear interruption of the ferry service.

Death To The Cockroach

At long last science has gotten around to the cockroach, that ubiquitous—though uninvited—guest of ships' galleys from time immemorial; if reports coming out of England are at all reliable, and of course they are, its days are numbered.

The secret is in a substance known as urea formaldehyde, belonging to the resin family, and which is now being nicknamed "the paint of death". Hitherto, fumigation was the standard treatment; but this was always a nuisance and it did not work satisfactorily under all conditions; where it did work fairly well it was good for only a few weeks.

An Eskimo Dictionary

A member of the Oblate Order, Father Arthur Thibert, who has a record of more than a quarter of a century's service in the Canadian Arctic has now completed arrangements for the publication of the first completely Canadian Eskimo dictionary.

These problems formed the subject of a conference in May, 1952, at which were represented such interested organizations as the Government Departments of Health, Transport and Defence, together with the RCMP and representatives of Church of England and Roman Catholic missions. One

of the results of this conference was the establishment of a permanent committee on Eskimo problems, with a special sub-committee to give attention to educational matters.

To the work of this committee, as well as to the general cause of familiarizing Canadians with Eskimo life and vice versa, the publication of the new dictionary will be an undoubted asset. The difficulty of the Eskimo language has already resulted in the adoption of a jargon, somewhat similar to pidgin English as familiar in the East, by means of which rudimentary communications may be maintained; equally on the other side many Eskimos, thanks to educational efforts, are now learning English.

Farm Profits

The sale of farm products nets Canadian farmers several billion dollars annually. Last year the figure was \$2,741,000,000. But, notes an Ontario exchange, if their expenses are anything like American farmers, the individual farmer realizes a relatively small sum of each dollar of sales.

"The farmer," the committee adds, "receives 44 cents. Of this 44 cents approximately 30 cents goes to purchase tractors, trucks, plows, gasoline, fertilizers and other supplies required by modern farming. Thus the farmer and his family have about 14 cents out of each consumer dollar for domestically produced food for their work and their investment."

"On the basis of these figures," says our Ontario contemporary, "the farmer's profit cannot be considered exorbitant. Indeed, when all things are considered, the farmer probably receives less for his time and effort and investment than most other sections of the community."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Official statistics indicate that tourist revenue more or less balances out, in fact Canadians spend more abroad than visitors spend in this country. That is not to say there is nothing gained by encouraging such travel. Rather the paying and receiving of visits on a large scale is all gain.

Being friendly with Russia has its own perils. British Labour Party delegates entertained at Moscow on their way to China were faced with the necessity of drinking 17 or 18 toasts in vodka, some of them tripart.

The United States Marine Corps has adopted a new style of bayonet fighting in which the rifle is held diagonally across the body instead of outthrust. A description of it reads remarkably like that of quarter-staff play of Sherwood Forest associations.

Allies that deserve to be encouraged in the unending fight with insect pests are the birds. The land devoted to woods suitable for sheltering the feathered tribes can be counted as an investment in insect control.

A week-long international congress on mental health opens in Toronto on Saturday. It is being gradually realized that mental health is one of our principal social problems. The heavy bill for hospitalization of mental cases is only a small part of the price we pay for poor mental health.

The Federal Government is pleased at the strong advocacy of increased immigration by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Ministers and officials, it seems are well aware of the many advantages to be derived from a high rate of immigration and are anxious that the facts should be as widely known as possible.

Sir Alfred Gilbert, British sculptor and goldsmith, sculptor of "Eros" in Piccadilly, was born this date, 1854. He studied in Paris, London, Rome and Florence, some of his work being directly inspired by Renaissance sculpture. His best known work was the Shaftesbury memorial fountain. Well meaning admirers selected Eros to commemorate Shaftesbury thinking it appropriate to signify his benevolent love of mankind.



Strengthened Position

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.

SERIOUS SITUATION

Sir.—They say "Everyone grows about the weather but no one does anything about it." But there is something we can do about it and that is pray. It doesn't matter what one's religion may be; just pray. Don't think the situation isn't serious. It is. Definitely. Not half the hay crop is saved. Oats and other grains are in a sorry mess and men every where have the same plaint, "My potatoes are rotting in the ground."

A city woman said to me the other day, "I'm so glad we're not farmers. John has a good job you know. I couldn't help but wonder at her blind smugness. Of what benefit will a good job be if it takes twice John's salary to buy food?"

When the farmer suffers, so does his city neighbor. And so I say, pray—not next week but now. If each community would unite in doing so I am sure that Divine Providence would hear those sincere prayers of every faith and send us good weather to save our crops in good condition.

I am, Sir, etc., AN ISLAND FARMER Hunter River.

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I. ISLAND PLACE-NAMES

The Indian names surviving on Prince Edward Island today are Bedeque bay, Cascoqueque bay, Malpeque bay, Miminegash pond, Miscouche point, Pisquid river, Shemody river and point, Tignish river, and Tracadie bay. Their survival is due to the French, whose connection with the Island began with the voyage of Jacques Cartier in 1534, and whose occupancy ended with the fall of Louisbourg and Quebec.

Such terminations as Bedeque instead of Bedek and Malpeque instead of Malpek are in themselves evidence of French influence and there is the further evidence that while French maps show the above Indian names the first English map of the Island shows not a single Indian name, save in a secondary place, Bedeque bay being named Halifax from the voyage of Halifax, Cartier's bay being named Holland after Lord Holland, and Malpeque bay being named Richmond after the Duke of Richmond.

Thanks to the labours of Rev. Dr. Silas T. Rand, Baptist missionary to the Micmacs of the Maritime Provinces from 1849 till his death in 1890, we know the Indian names of many other places. Wagwak for example is that of Egmont bay and Eiselook that of Hillsborough bay, but these names appear never to have been used by the English. The Indian name of Prince Edward Island is Epagwit, meaning "resting on the waves," and many think it is a pity that this name was not retained for the Island which was known to the French as St. Jean and to the English as St. John's Island before the name Prince Edward was adopted.

The names surviving from the French regime, untranslated, include Courtin island, Crapaud settlement, Deroche point, Fortune bay, Fortune cove, Gasperaux bay, Fortune river, Naufrage pond, Finette river, Flat river, Prim point, Rustico, Sable river and Souris river. A number survive in translation such as St. Peter's bay and island (in French St. Pierre), Wood Island, Three Rivers, and Bear cape.

NOTES BY THE WAY

They say that a man's signature reveals his character, and perhaps it does. But it can also fail to reveal or even give a slight hint of his name! —Ottawa Citizen.

Marriage brings music into a man's life. He learns to play second fiddle. —Evening Reporter (Galt).

Republican and Democratic leaders at Washington agree that neither party will win an overwhelming victory in the fall elections. At any rate, it's a good sign when they can agree on something. —Windsor Star.

Seasonal unemployment is a national problem. In the diverse ways of a modern economy, all Canadians share the hardship. If the problem is solved—no, rather, when it is solved—they will share the resultant wealth. —From "Industry", Toronto.

Even Parliament is bowing to the mechanical age. In the external affairs committee at Ottawa, they were making a tape record of the discussion. But a couple of stenographers sat in, too. The parliamentarians didn't quite trust the new-fangled contraption. —Vancouver Province.

New Cunard liner Saxonia has a 91-foot welded steel mast equipped with an interior ladder, lighted electrically, which leads to a crow's nest fitted with seven windows, a clear view screen, electric heat and

a loudspeaker telephone. Shades if Joseph Conrad! —Windsor Daily Star.

There are enough castor beans in this year's crop in the United States to make 15,000,000 pounds of castor oil. That won't make the children cheer, because they don't like the medicine. But, castor oil is used for all sorts of other results than fixing tummy aches. It even finds its way into lipstick. So scarce did castor oil become in wartime, there was even fear of a shortage. That would have been one rationed article that would have caused no tears among the boys and girls. —The Review.

The safety level of driving in Ontario could be improved by safety classes, and by weeding out unsuitable drivers through rigid mental and physical tests, and by banning from the highways and roads of the province all "souped up" cars, all defective cars. Psychopaths can be discovered and prohibited from driving, but the tests and weeding should be applied to every age group. It is doubtful whether more psychopaths would be found among the teenagers than among any other driving group. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Saturday closing of banks, as predicted by merchants when it went into effect, is encouraging safe-cracking over long week-end. Theft of more than \$5,000 from two Toronto stores, Monday, May 24, was attributed by Police Inspector George Elliott to merchant inability to bank their large Friday and Saturday receipts. Banks' five-day week, he says, is "a distinct inducement to crime." —Hanover Post.

The Age Old Story

And they say, How doth God know? and they are, how knowledge in the most High? Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. . . . When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. . . .

SLAVES FREED

President Abraham Lincoln of the United States proclaimed the freedom of slaves Jan. 1, 1863.

ASTHMA COUGHS

Millions of sufferers have discovered coughs, wheezing, difficult breathing, and poor sleep, caused by attacks of Asthma and Bronchitis, can be alleviated very satisfactorily with a new medicine called MENTACOL. Over a million packages used, offer positive proof, satisfaction or money back. Get Mentacol today! It's the only natural, restful sleep tonic.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

FIGURE-JUGGLING, UNITY PLEAS

Prior to 1949 most of the labour and trade unions of the world were joined in one organization known as the World Federation of Trade Unions. At that time the estimated strength of the Federation was approximately 76 million members; of that number about 40 million were listed as belonging to unions in the Soviet bloc. In 1949, when the Cold War was at its height, and following irrefutable evidence that the Federation was fast becoming a tool of Soviet imperialism, interested not at all in workers' economic rights but only in the propagation of Soviet social and political doctrines, the unions of Great Britain, the United States, and other democratic countries, withdrew from the World Federation and organized themselves into the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

That leaves the old organization with groups from the Soviet Union and its satellite countries together with a few dissident groups elsewhere. Now, despite the defection of the free unions with a combined enrollment of more than 20 millions, the Communist controlled organization claims to have added nearly 6 million members to its 1949 total. Not only that, but it reports that 10 million workers from non-Communist countries are still in active membership.

This would appear to be figure-juggling on a large scale. In commenting on the claims, an official of the International Confederation stated that in democratic countries—or, more accurately, in countries outside Soviet domination—there are less than 7 million members belonging to unions which are more or less sympathetic to Communism, and not all of these are formally allied with the Communist controlled federation.

Speaking of the reported 25 million domestic increase, the free union official had this to say: "There is not much sense in discussing these figures, because the so-called trade unions in the Soviet bloc countries may increase or decrease their membership at will. It is, of course, probable that as many as 65 million workers in these countries are obliged to pay union dues, which are not used for the defence of their rights, but to keep them under control and, to a considerable extent, for the financing of subversive activities in democratic countries, where the W.F.T.U. has comparatively few members, if any."

The purpose of this sort of juggling is, of course, obvious. Soviet leaders are trying to convince workers in neutralist countries—India, for example—that their labour organizations are getting stronger and stronger all the time; that, in fact, the withdrawal of the Western unions has not made a bit of difference to the numerical strength and world influence of the Communist directed federation.

More gulfed than figure-juggling, however, are the pleas for "unity" which are now coming to the free unions from the Communist bloc. These have been coming out of Moscow for some time and, as might be expected, are running parallel with the peace gestures which Soviet diplomats have been throwing around with unusual, and almost unseemly, vigour. In recent weeks the campaign has been stepped up very noticeably. Free unions are being exhorted mightily to let bygones be bygones for the sake of peace and unity among the workers of the world. Or, if not actual peace, then a live-and-let-live attitude on the part of everybody concerned; in other words, the recognition of that new and much talked about political phaeo-existence.

On paper it seems to have a lot of virtue; but when it is brought out for critical examination and weighed against the Communist record in other fields, its virtue is overwhelmed by its obvious falsity. As one democratic union leader put it, "The only unity the Communists are interested in is that which would further the aims of Soviet foreign policy."

There still are people who seem

The Poet's Corner

FROM DAYS Daughters of Time, the hypocritical Days, Muffled and dumb like barefoot dervishes, And marching single in an endless file, Bring diadems and fagots in their hands To each they offer gifts after his will. Bread, kingdoms, stars, and sky that holds them all, I, in my pleaded garden, watched the pomp, Forgot my morning wishes, hastily Took a few herbs and apples, and the Day Turned and departed silent, I, too late, Under her solemn fillet saw the scorn. —Ralph Waldo Emerson.

FATALLY INJURED

HULL, Que., (CP)—Joseph Rosario Aubin, 48, was fatally injured Wednesday when he fell from the steeple of a church at nearby Chenerville while climbing to paint a cross at the top. Aubin, a pensioned airman, fell 40 feet to a work platform 60 feet above the ground. He died later in hospital.

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