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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10, 1934

Advice From The Past

We are fortunate in having a large and representative number of our citizens prepared to contest the civic elections today. In view of the increase in the number of eligible voters this year, there should be a record turnout at the polls.

On the eve of our first civic election in 1855, Hazard's Gazette, the leading newspaper of the day, offered some timely comments to the voters. "The Corporation of Charlottetown," it said, "is now in action, and much will depend upon the spirit in which the first set of municipal officers commence proceedings."

We can apply this advice to every problem of civic administration, and as a criterion of the merits of those applying for civic offices. Our civic fathers of a century ago were wise in their day and generation, and we can still profit from their example in discharging our own duties as custodians of the privilege of self government.

Ancient Remedies

Dr. R. A. Hakim is a psychiatrist working at the Mental Hospital of Ahmedabad in India. He decided to test the value of a group of traditional native herb remedies, reference to which are found in the Ayurveda, the centuries-old Hindu holy book of long life.

The results were surprising. Whereas the recovery rate of the group on electric-shock treatment was just a little over 30 per cent, patients receiving Ayurvedic drugs had a 50 per cent recovery rate. But the third group, treated with a combination of electric shock and native drugs, had a recovery rate of more than 80 per cent.

More experimentation and study is necessary before general conclusions can be drawn about the value of these ancient drugs in the treatment of mental disease, but the work of Dr. Hakim has aroused much optimism, especially since he achieved highly encouraging results in schizophrenia ("split personality"), a widespread mental illness that frequently resists all standard therapy.

Should the Ayurvedic drugs fulfil their promise, it will not be the first time that modern medicine has drawn on the wisdom of the past. For example, certain plants of the datura family, to which the potato belongs, were used by the Indians of Central America as narcotics and hypnotics long before scientists learned that they contain such potent drugs as atropine and belladonna. And it was only in the 10th century that the world at large discovered the

quinine-containing cinchona bark, used for centuries by the Indians of South America to combat malaria.

There are many other examples. The traditional practice among Balkan peasants of applying stale, mouldy bread to wounds is, in a sense, a forerunner of modern antibiotic therapy. For the stale bread derives its infection-fighting power from germ-killing substances produced by the mould that covers it; and it was in a species of bread mould that scientists discovered the first antibiotic—penicillin—a forerunner of even more potent "miracles from moulds" such as terramycin.

All this, notes a bulletin issued by Science Information Service, London, has served to alert today's researchers to the fact that ancient remedies, no matter how strange they may seem to 20th century science, may lead to important new discoveries.

Maritime Spirit Commended

When the bill to set up a St. Lawrence Seaway Authority was before Parliament two years ago, Maritime members expressed doubts and fears as to what effect the deep waterway might have upon the economy of the Atlantic provinces. Yet, notes the Ottawa Citizen appreciatively, they did not obstruct the bill. Instead, they asked that the rest of Canada would keep in mind their own problems, which might conceivably become more difficult as a result of the building of the seaway.

"The same contrast," says The Citizen, "is to be found in remarks delivered by Premier Angus Macdonald of Nova Scotia during a visit to Edmonton the other day. He said he thought the seaway would do his province no good, but added: 'We aren't opposing it, because it is for the good of Canada as a whole.'"

"Premier Macdonald is also uneasy about what the proposed natural gas pipeline from Alberta to the central provinces may do to Nova Scotia's coal markets. Here again, he takes a philosophical attitude: 'It is bound to come and there's no use grumbling.' Recognizing this fact, the Nova Scotia government is concentrating on research to find new uses for coal."

"Mr. Macdonald may also feel that any development that helps one part of the country will ultimately benefit the whole. Whatever the results may be, the spirit of forbearance displayed by the Nova Scotia premier and other Maritimers should bring hearty support by all other Canadians for national projects in the Atlantic region as the need for these becomes apparent. The cause of national unity is greatly strengthened when public men refuse to think solely in terms of their own sections."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Vote as you like, but vote.

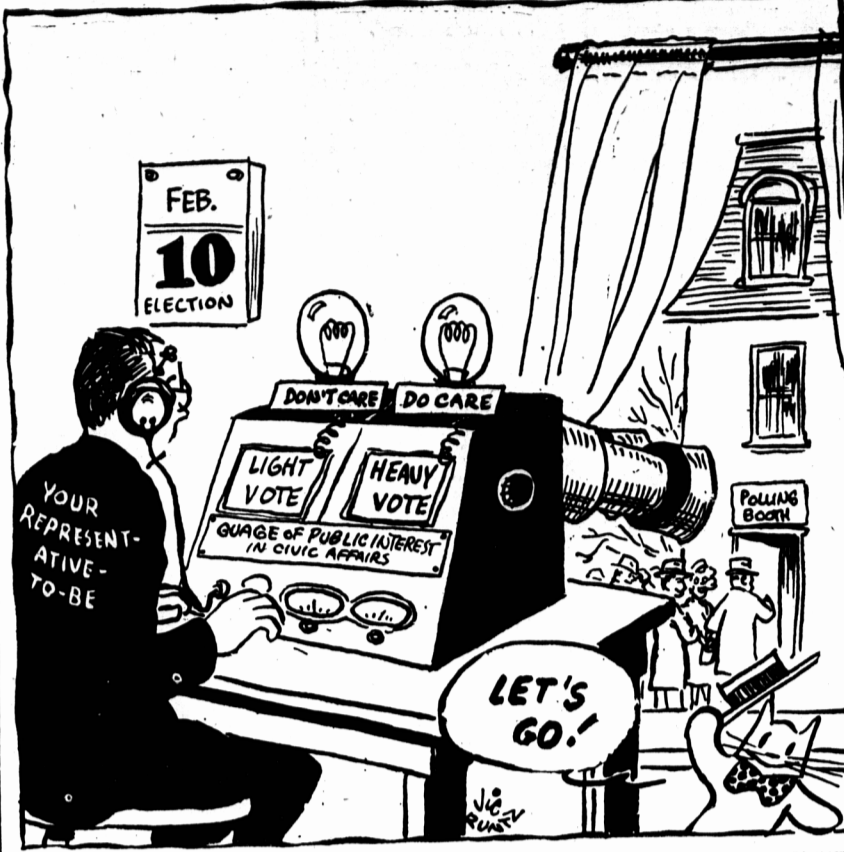
Followers of the "roarin' game" will have their eyes and ears tuned to the Provincial Championship now being played at Summerside. The winning rink will represent the Province in the Dominion Tankard play at Edmonton in March.

Samuel Plimsoll, "The Sailor's Friend," was born this date 1824. He entered Parliament in 1868 and became known for his interest in the sailors of the mercantile marine. One of his objects was to protect seamen's lives by enforcing a compulsory load-line, now universally known as the Plimsoll Line.

The U. S. Court of Appeals recently ruled that the government could not be held responsible for faulty weather forecasts. Several Kansas City firms were seeking damages resulting from the 1951 flood. They had charged the weather bureau with giving out misinformation. It may be a bit confusing, but it's comforting to know that there's still something the government can't control.

The art of weighing and measuring, once a matter of fumbling guesswork, has become a science of almost unbelievable accuracy. Technicians of the atomic age now weigh invisible substances by "scales" that are themselves hard to see, says the National Geographic Society. In one operation, a rare radioactive material is measured by a quartz fiber so finely drawn that it has to be magnified to show the results. The amount the fiber twists under pressure indicates the weight. Scientists have weighed the earth, and calculated the thickness of a soap bubble's wall. They have recorded the footfall of the common housefly, and determined the degree to which a bar of steel is affected by a fly's landing on it.

He'll Be Watching



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.

F. W. C. STANDARDS

Sir,—In my letter published in your issue of yesterday I maintained that if there is an excessive failure rate at Prince of Wales College, the blame was not to be placed upon P. W. C.; that the solution of the problem lay not in lowering the standards in the College but in raising the standards hard for a certain number of years in our City schools. I wish to enlarge upon this theme today. Our schools do not meet hard academic standards because the schools do not teach our young people to study and work in the middle and higher grades. Why don't they? Because the parents object. Whether we teachers like to admit it or not, the parents are the final judges of what is taught in our schools, and how it is taught. It is they who think a certain subject is too hard for their children to master, they bring pressure to bear and the subject is made easier, or eliminated. A similar reaction occurs in any town a certain teacher is working the pupils too hard, or is giving too low marks.

It is a natural wish of all parents to see their offspring making high marks in school. Unfortunately, all students can't be leaders, and it is pure folly to give every student a mark of ninety percent whether he deserves it or not, or even to pass all students. Any intelligent parent will accept this in theory, but no one likes to accept the fact that his child is not potentially brilliant.

Hence, the teacher must make one of two decisions—give easy tests and high marks to everyone, or give hard tests and separate the leaders from the rank and file. If he adopts the former course everyone is happy, and parents and children drift along in a pleasant pipe-dream until the child reaches Prince of Wales College when the dream suddenly bursts like a bubble. If he adopts the latter course he will have five to ten satisfied sets of parents and twenty-five to thirty sets of dissatisfied parents out to get his professional scalp.

A professor I once had in Education told the class of which I was a member that we should not "prostitute our professional integrity to the capricious whims of public opinion." Unfortunately, some teachers are forced to do just that; prostitute their professional opinion to the will of the parents, or find themselves another job. When one is faced with an alternative like this he or she is forced to knuckle under and obey the popular demand.

This condition is more prevalent in the country because in a small community the teacher has more direct contact with the parents and is more vulnerable to parental pressure. The situation does exist in Charlottetown, but not nearly as extensively as in the country. The solution lies in making children learn to study and work hard from the beginning. If they reach College. I maintain that the teacher in backing up on his every action, and treating the teacher like a menial employee hired to entertain the children for five or six hours a day.

It has been suggested that since the pupils passed entrance, therefore they were ready for Prince of Wales College. I maintain that this is not the case. If they had been ready and capable they would not have failed. Why aren't they ready?—ah, there's the rub. Teachers in Prince Edward Island, and especially, the country teachers are on the horns of a dilemma. On one hand they are opposed and quite often are asked to leave the school if they try to set hard tests and mark severely in an attempt to separate the potential Prince of Wales College candidates from those who should never be considered as candidates for

The Maritime Outlook

By Douglas Howe

This has been a winter to remind the Maritime region, too uncomfortably, of its past. Unemployment, shutdowns, falling farm, lumber and other basic incomes have all been back to dog prospectors' lagging heels. And to emphasize that the old problem of environment, a lack of power and big industry and natural resources still are distressingly alive. But it is quite possible to state now that these problems have never been under study and official siege on a wider scale than they are right now or are about to be. This statement can be documented by a considerable evidence. It is particularly true of Nova Scotia for she finds herself with Newfoundland on one side engaged in a dramatic courtship of industrialization and with New Brunswick on the other with her relatively lavish mining prospects centered on Bathurst. Faced with the possibility that they, too, might soon be leaving her behind, she is plunging into various explorations.

So far there is no sign that the area is even thinking of one major step would that would strengthen its endless battle against environment—political and economic union. Marks of interest in the once-actively question of Maritime Union are infrequent and dwarfed by the local sentiment. Short of that, however, and possibly the remote forerunner of it, is the decision, fathered by the Regional Board of Trade and backed by the four Provincial Governments, to form a joint Council, a body of business and government leaders, to make a searching study of the area's economic structure and ways of strengthening it. The formation process has been slow but the impending meetings of the Provincial Legislatures should mean big steps ahead.

Nova Scotia, not content with that, has since announced that she is hiring an eminent American firm of economic consultants to spend at least a year in an exhaustive survey of the province's industrial potential. From that she hopes to be able to switch her campaign for new industries from the general to the specific. She has proclaimed, too, that even the wide-ranging minerals search of 1953 will be well outdistanced in 1954. Virtually the entire Province is being blanketed by firms, some of them big-name firms, working with science's latest instruments.

At the same time, the crumbling coal industry is being fortified with mechanization and a widening search for new uses, rewarded recently with development in Moncton of a new type of coal-burning engine capable of substituting the diesel. But on this front the most news in months is Ottawa's decision to get the continent's No. 1 expert on the use of coal for power, Dr. A. G. Christie, to come down here and see what can be done about a greater use of coal to generate energy now that ways have been found to do it as cheaply this way as through water-er.

His study bears on two vital factors—coal's slumping markets and the shortage of cheap electricity. This is notably true in N.S. because her meagre resources of waterpower have been virtually exhausted, and because she has coal in abundance. But it is true, too, of New Brunswick in a considerably more acute form. She has fodes natural resources at last in fabulous array and their effect on the Province is going to be large. But it could be a lot larger if they could be parlayed into filling another void, the lack of secondary industry. This they could do if the power were available. As of now, despite steady increases, her developed power—about two per cent of Quebec's—is barely enough to feed existing industry.

Thus there is a sense of urgency about the whole New Brunswick power question which was never there before. There are vast stakes to be won. For that reason, there is large interest in Washington in renewal of the move to harness the Passamaquoddy tides on the Maine-N.B. border. But far more immediate is the study being given to tapping the waters of the St. John River. One project there alone, of three proposed, could double the provincial power output. But it involves big-scale financing and arrangements with both Maine and Quebec which share the river's course. Behind this study of both problems are the scenes now in all three old Maritime Provinces Departments of Industry have emerged and their soil is being examined for mineral riches as never before. P. E. I., for instance, is engaged in a three-year study of its economic and geological resources.

On a quieter, longer-range scale, the ever-widening scientific research which is one of the phenomena of this age is at war with the region's day-to-day problems. Government scientists are working to help the fisherman, the farmer, the lumberman, the miner, and their advances are by no means negligible. The search is on as never before. Labor complains of its lack of dynamism. It is without two-

Notes By The Way

"An ability to laugh at the ridiculous is regarded as the great character asset—except for the golf caddy."—Hamilton Spectator. The most soothing color is green, except when it is seen tinting the cheeks of our companions on a boating trip.—Salt Ste. Marie Star.

Dr. Kinsey's Sexual Behaviour in the Human Female, which was expected by book-sellers to see 1,000,000 copies, is a comparative flop. Though 210,000 copies have been bought (v. 280,000 printed), the demand has dropped sharply, and many book stores are now overloaded.—Time.

In New Brunswick we are just beginning to experience how bothersome the starlings can be. They have not been here so long as in other parts of Canada, having been first seen in this province in 1924. But their numbers

The Age Old Story

O Lord, thou art my God; I will exult thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. . . . And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of wines on the lees well refined. And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that will spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory.

Old Charlottetown

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) GOVERNOR HARVEY'S ARRIVAL

This morning the ship 'Emeline,' Capt. Pettigell, was reported from the Block-house, having on board our new Lieutenant Governor, Colonel Sir John Harvey. At ten o'clock the Emeline dropped anchor off the King's Wharf and was saluted with fifteen guns from the Garrison. At eleven His Excellency landed under another salute, and was received on the wharf by a guard of honour consisting of a company of the 34th Regiment under the command of Capt. Broderick by whom he was escorted to the Court House, where the Council had assembled.

"His Excellency having presented his Commission as Lieutenant Governor of the Colony, which was read aloud by Mr. Collins, he was immediately afterwards sworn into office. At the conclusion of this ceremony, a salute of seventeen guns was fired from two pieces of cannon placed in front of the Court House, under the charge of Major Robinson, of the Militia Artillery. The oath of an Executive Councillor was afterwards administered to each of the members of His Majesty's Council present, viz., the Chief Justice, the Honourables George Wright, Ambrose Lane, Thomas H. Hayland, Robert Hodgson, John Brecken and John Spencer Smith. His Excellency, previous to retiring, directed a Proclamation to be issued announcing his assumption to the government. On leaving the Court House, the guards presented arms, which finished the ceremony.

"Lady Harvey and daughter landed at the same time with His Excellency, and immediately drove off to Government House. Capt. Harvey, 70th Regiment, and two other of His Excellency's sons, together with three men and three women servants, came also in the vessel."—Royal Gazette, Aug. 30, 1884.

THE RIDER VICTORY

The rider victory reins his horse Midway across the empty bridge. As if head-tail he had met a wall. Yet there was nothing there at all. No bodily barrier, no sturdy ridge. To check the charger in his course. So suddenly, you'd think he'd fall. Suspended, steed and rider stare, Leaping on air and legendary. In front the waiting kingdom lies. The bridge and all the roads are free.

But halted in implacable air. Rider and horse with stony eyes. Uprear their motionless statures. —Edwin Muir

ering leadership. One wonders at things such as the tendency to look on atomic power as a remote thing, the failure to get engineering representatives in on the ground floor of Canadian industrial development, or the atom as other provinces are doing. But with all this searching the region can certainly hope that some day someone is going to start finding more keys and doors which they will fit.

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