

THE GUARDIAN

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Still no official word about the starting of the new Federal Building. Unless something is done before March 31 the vote will likely be wiped off the slate.

In Saint John, N. B., the mayor complains that he has nothing to do but to out motions drafted by the majority of the council. Here the mayor is the majority of the council, and acts accordingly.

The Kensington farmers and shippers seem determined to have a railway scale to weigh livestock, a convenience which would seem to be at least equally valuable to the railway.

The aircraft "Canadian Pilgrim" and the C. N. R. troop train which was wrecked in Alberta were both running behind time, a factor which is apt to increase the danger of any operation.

A trip to Ottawa has restored the Premier to his accustomed good health. Farmers will be anxious to know whether they are to share in his good fortune in so far as improved potato prices are concerned.

Prime Minister Joseph Stalin appears to be a pretty lively politician notwithstanding reports that he is a semi-invalid. The forthcoming gathering of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London should give him a shaking up.

Sept 11es, Que., on the north shore of the St. Lawrence will not be shipping iron ore for some time yet, but as the prospective terminus of the 360-mile Quebec, North Shore and Labrador Railway it should already be an important market for products of all kinds.

A London, England, firm has Canadian contracts valued at a quarter of a million dollars for the supply of laboratory furniture. The equipment will go to the Department of National Health and Welfare and the National Research Council, Ottawa, and the Admiralty Research Laboratories, Halifax.

Psychology is being tried in St. Louis to persuade a baseball team that they were going to win. The method should really be carried much further and used to persuade the team and also its fans that it did win, despite what the far from infallible score board might read.

A contributor to the Ottawa Journal throws out a suggestion for a small scale industry or at any rate hobby. He tells of collecting hawthorns which at this season are brittle and hard and making use of them as phonograph needles. The advantages claimed are better tone and less wear on recordings than that from the conventional steel needles.

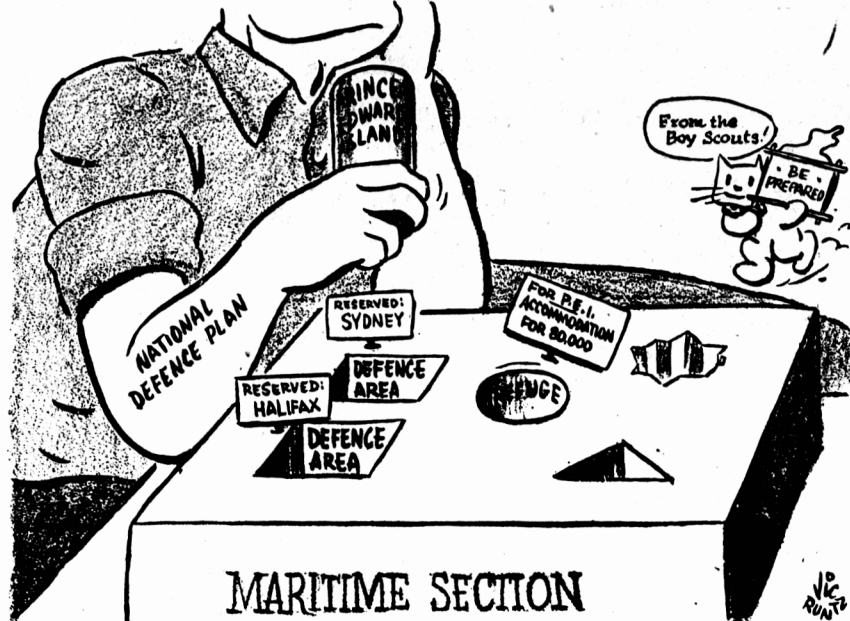
John Knox, Scottish reformer, died this date 1572, in his fifty-ninth year. He started out life as a lawyer in Haddington, but coming under the influence of evangelist Wishart, he entered the ministry and was called to the congregation in St. Andrews. When the city was taken by the French, Knox became a prisoner of war and was sentenced to the French galleys. After being released he returned to Scotland and became minister at Berwick, and afterwards at Newcastle. He subsequently became Chaplain to Edward VI, and was offered the bishopric of Rochester. On the ascension of Queen Mary he, along with most other Reformed ministers, took refuge on the continent where he came much in contact with Calvin, whose influence, through him was to be felt in Scotland. His return to Scotland in 1559 gave an impetus to Protestantism, Protestantism being formally established as the established religion of Scotland. Knox was unequalled as a social reformer, his theological position being that of Calvin.

Mr. Graham Towers, Governor of the Bank of Canada, is a man who chooses his words carefully. That circumstance, coupled with the fact that he has more real "inside knowledge" than most of the true state of this country's economy, lend more than ordinary authenticity to his observations. What Mr. Towers has to say on that topic is bleak indeed. Rearmament and defence, he rightly observes, are going to "form part of the life of the free countries for a long time to come." If, therefore, we would escape inflation, there must be "pay as you go" financing and a decrease in spending, "private as well as governmental", and specific controls of credit. Spendable income must be reduced by increased taxes.

Nobody will quarrel with Mr. Towers warning that spending, "private as well as governmental", must be reduced if inflation is to be avoided. Nor can it be denied that taxation reduces the spendable income of individuals throughout the country. The paradox is, however, that taxation also increases the spendable income of the Government. Unfortunately, Mr. Towers does not say how it is proposed to curb government spending at the same time that government income is increased. Perhaps Finance Minister Abbott has the answer.

Overseas.

Where We Fit In



MARITIME SECTION

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.

REPLY TO MR. GILLIES

Sir, - I infer from Mr. Gillies' reply to my previous letter that he felt that I was in the act of enquiring him by inviting him to come forward with something more profound in his discourses to the people of the general areas, as it is to those he generally speaks. The purpose of this letter is to make it clear that it was not my intention to take any unfair advantage of him. I felt that he possessed the talent and intelligence to deal with the topics. I had drawn to his attention the astute manner in which he has replied clearly indicating that he is desirous of steering clear of any discussion along the lines I suggested.

In advising him not to be afraid to cross the threshold of more profound topics and offering him assistance if he became too deeply engulfed, I did not feel that there was any body of philosophers upon which I could call. The residents of this community are not endowed with such a measure of human knowledge that they would be classed as philosophers, nominal or otherwise, yet they are gifted with a fair amount of sound common sense, and if forced into the limelight they would prove their adaptability in discussing questions of a public nature and possibly astound many men of letters and writers to the press.

Apparently the only brawn Mr. Gillies knows or requires is what he utilizes in the sharpening of his own pencils; that no doubt, if properly done, is an indication of a good student. I will admit that it is difficult to have brawn neatly knit into the picture in a literary sense; yet it is one of the most essential fabrics in weaving the robe of economic security, and one which Mr. Gillies must have used at some time for the above purpose, rather than the sharpening of his pencils.

I also wish to inform Mr. Gillies that the temperature of my ambitions is not running so high or becoming so intense that I should seek or accept the responsibility of being the official spokesman of the people of this community; however if I was forced into that capacity I would be as well acquainted with and much more interested in their problems than the gentleman to whom I refer.

I am, Sir, etc., PORT AUGUSTUS PIONEER

The Poet's Corner

MANY MIDNIGHTS

Silver, black and silver, go the ghosts Of many midnights down the stair of time, Imprinted each and glowing each with touch Of more-than-mortal beauty. While the stars outward from the stroke of twelve, Dark lonely circle, widening to shores Of no return, we feel the space, the shock Of earthly change, Tomorrow as it roars Along the astral rails to Now. The night Becomes a thing of magic, shadows mold Their secret shapes, while we, enchanted, watch The moon, like Midas, touch the clouds with gold. -Harold Applebaum in the New York Times.

The Age-Old Story

The Lord taketh pleasure in His people, He will beautify the meek with salvation.

Fishery Law Enforcement

(St. John Telegraph-Journal)

Law-abiding citizens - including the great majority of commercial fishermen - will welcome the announcement by Deputy Minister of Fisheries Stuart Bates that the government does not intend to be pushed around by poachers. Mr. Bates told the New Brunswick Fish Packers' Association meeting in Moncton that offenders against the regulations next year will face cancellation of fishing and cannery licenses, confiscation of boats, gear and trucks. They will be confronted with expanded protective services, including new patrol boats. And, if the deputy minister has his way, there will be fewer fines in the under \$25 and under \$50 class, and more use will be made of the maximum penalty of a \$1,000 fine or a year in jail, or both.

It is long past time for the fisheries warden trying conscientiously to do his job, to receive the support he deserves from the government, the courts and the people. Unlike the policeman who arrests a thief, the fisheries warden has to regard him as someone who harasses them spitefully for no other reason than the satisfaction he gets out of living. The fish, they think, rightly belong to whoever catches them, and it's none of the government's business. So the warden carries on his thankless task as best he can amidst jeers and threats, sometimes suffering physical violence and on rare occasions even being wounded by gunfire, as happened on the Gloucester County coast a few weeks ago.

Responsible people realize that fisheries conservation is urgently necessary if the future of the industry is to be safeguarded. Poachers are sabotaging that future. They are not only robbing other fishermen but, as the deputy minister expressed it, "they are stealing from their own children." They should be taught that the law stands firmly behind the enforcement authorities, and that they will receive no more consideration than any other type of criminal.

Dutch Push Back the Sea

(William A. Rutherford of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)

In Holland, the most densely populated country in the world, a new frontier territory is opening up, as the Dutch people work slowly and methodically to push back the boundaries of their crowded territory. This expansion is peaceful and calm, and no one opposes it for the land is expanding only in the direction of the sea.

The Dutch are carrying out one of the largest reclamation projects of modern times and have started a new land rush in the ocean. This project consists of walling off 915,000 acres in the sea and pumping them dry. This will increase the area of arable land in Holland by 10 per cent and will eventually provide land for 350,000 of Holland's population. Their long famous dikes have always served to keep the ocean out and to permit them to cultivate their little country which lies below the level of the sea. The dikes are now serving as a ram with which to push the sea back. The resulting land is perhaps the richest on earth. Crops grown on it have matured faster and been larger than those produced any place else in the world.

This is the culmination of a battle between the inhabitants of The Netherlands and the ocean which has lasted for almost 3,000 years.

Today 30 per cent of Holland's population lives on land wrested from the sea. Many of their farms were once covered by more than 20 feet of sea water.

The present undertaking, known as the Zuider Zee project, will completely remove that arm of the North Sea which used to reach more than 200 miles along Holland's coast line.

A dike, 20 miles long, has been built across the mouth of the Zuider Zee and it is being pumped dry. Several thousand acres will be left for a fresh water lake, but the rest of the land will be farms. The entire project is being financed by the Dutch Government which will have spent \$2,500,000 before the work is finished. This is approximately \$4,000 an acre and makes this flat expanse of rich plain land perhaps the most expensive in the world. The high initial cost has proven

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

STANFIELD WOOLEN MILL

As an enterprise the Stanfield Woollen Mill may be considered far in advance of anything of its kind on the Island. Situated on the Tryon River four or five miles from the mouth, it is a building 160 feet long by 30 wide, and three stories high. It contains two sets of machinery - six cards, three jacks (540 spindles), and twelve looms, six of which are designed for the production of fancy fabrics, both for ladies' and gentlemen's wear; and two double width, for blanket weaving and other wide goods. This is aside from the finishing department, which is fully appointed to finish all that can be turned off the looms.

"Only one-half the machinery is at present in operation. When running full capacity it will employ upwards of thirty hands, consume ninety to one hundred thousand pounds of wool, and turn out over one hundred thousand yards of cloth per year. The machinery is driven by water power, but there is a 30 horsepower engine on the premises, which will be put in operation early in the Spring, when the finishing department, which is carried on in a small mill farther up the stream, is operated in the building above described, along with the machinery, now idle. "The entire establishment is heated by steam, conducted through the different departments by nearly 3,000 feet of piping. Steam is also employed for colouring and drying, as well as for purposes of smaller note. The colouring department is carried on in a building by itself, adjoining the main building. The production of a variety of fancy fabrics is contemplated during the coming summer, and the machinery recently added is adapted for that purpose.

"The concern is under the superintendence of Mr. Alex. Dunbar, the financial affairs being conducted by Mr. Edwin Dawson, Mr. Stanfield himself having taken up his residence in town.

"The small mill alluded to is now being converted into a hat manufactory by Messrs. Mahoney and Craig, both recently from the United States, but the latter an 'Islander'. It is the intention of these gentlemen to manufacture a first class article of felt hat goods, in the latest styles, both for ladies and gentlemen. This is an enterprise new to the Island, and will no doubt add greatly to its interests." -The Islander, Jan. 17, 1868.

to be more than justified. The newly exposed soil is treated to remove its salt and then promptly produces some of the most fruitful crops ever known. The wheat crop, for example, yields 77 bushels an acre, five times more than the average in the United States. Potatoes average 481 bushels an acre, against 204 in America; peas average a ton and a half an acre, 150 per cent more than usual. This super-production is true of other crops that have been planted in this "new" earth which has not been tilled since the beginning of time.

These gargantuan returns plus the pressure of Holland's crowded population have resulted in a full-sized land rush, but the costly, hard-won earth is much too precious to be given up indiscriminately and at random to all comers.

After a section is pumped dry it is allowed to stand for a while until it is solid enough to be turned over, aerated and treated chemically to remove the salt. This period of the operation is one that is carried out exclusively by the government on its state run farms. It is these farms which employ most of the project's workers and at the moment comprise 8,000 of the project's 120,000 acres.

For three years the state farms work at bringing the soil to its highest productivity. When the land is ready to be farmed, it is broken up into smaller plots and actual plant cultivation by individual farmers begins. Today there are only about 150 individual farms in operation on the project; this figure will be increased to 2,000 in the next few years.

For some time to come, none of this new land will belong to an individual; the government rents the land for a maximum of \$28 a year per acre on leases which can be renewed every twelve years. A government official on

Notes By The Way

His leg in a cast following a mine cave-in, William Bowman, of Maritime, Quebec, faced a bleak winter - his wood supply was not ready. Eager Boy Scouts of the 1st Maritime Troop solved his problem - all 20 of them set to, working after school and on Saturdays, and split and piled eight cords of firewood in a week and a half. Mr. Bowman will be warm this winter. - Boy Scout News.

Starlings, which stopped off on their way South in front of buildings in the York-Front street area, will be hastened in their flight by the new system. Con. Innes is recommending to rid the city of the birds. That is if the system works. It consists of placing kerosene-soaked bags near the lighting places. The birds, it is claimed, abhor the smell of coal oil. When board of control discussed the matter Con Innes said the starlings have all departed from the residential areas. The board told him to go ahead. - Toronto Globe and Mail.

If more of us would realize that with high wages there is an obligation to produce more, so that the price can decline, then we will break the back of the present inflation spiral. We will then have cheaper homes and cars and, consequently, more homes and cars. If the spiral isn't soon halted we will be playing right into the hands of the Reds and great financial problems will eventuate. Let the lesson sink in that higher costs should mean better products, that higher wages should involve increased production. - Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Somerset House is now exhibiting documents showing the easy going manner in which marriages could be made in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In the entrance halls are copies of records kept by disreputable clergymen either languishing in the Fleet Prison or eking out a precarious existence close by. Most of the "ceremonies" took place in brandy shops and taverns (which often had their own resident parson and kept a private register.) What a picture these records provide! Here were clerics and men who advertised their services and took as fee a dram of gin. One Mr. Symton ("educated at the University of Cambridge"), made it known that he could be found "At the Old Red Hand and Mitre, three doors from Fleet Lane and next door to the White Swan". The hour was immaterial notice was not expected, and if the happy couple were shy about themselves, well, no matter. After marrying a couple in August, 1743, a Mr. Patrick, Margt. married, would not tell their names". This same Ashwell, a notorious character, also wrote in his register of a bridal pair, "I was called out of bed, vile in their behavior. Belong'd to ye Real Galley." -Manchester Guardian.

A Michiganander has pleaded guilty to automobile theft, in order to escape a charge of arson. This reversed the usual procedure, by obliging the thief to jump from the fire into the frying-pan. - Windsor Star.

Speaking of demitasses, when we were in the Press Gallery at Ottawa there was a story going the rounds of one of the members who was invited to Government House. He succeeded in getting through the dinner without making any serious etiquette blunders, but the dinner over he was asked if he would have a demitasse. "I do not drink," he replied. "Will you kindly give me a cup of coffee?" - Arthur R. Ford in London Free Press.

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