

THE GUARDIAN

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Drama Festival Finals

The centre of dramatic interest will be Parkdale Hall this week, where this year's finals in the Provincial Drama Festival will provide a varied and most interesting four-day programme, including three-act plays for the first time, with final adjudication and presentation of awards being made on Thursday night.

Launched seven years ago in this Province, the Drama Festival movement has gained steadily in popularity and there has been a noticeable improvement in the efforts of local groups, due to the short courses held each year under the Department of Adult Education, with Mr. M. Meiklejohn, Ottawa, and Mr. D. Wetmore, Halifax, as instructors. The movement itself owes a great deal to the President, Mrs. Fred Gates, and Past President, Mrs. Harold Laird, whose enthusiasm has been contagious and who have been ably supported by the executive members of their association. This year a beginners' class has been included in the Festival for the first time, which considerably enhances the value of the movement.

One feature of the Festival, namely the holding of preliminary contests throughout the Province to select entries for the finals, is of such obvious convenience that it might well be given consideration next year by the Musical Festival Association. At any rate, it will ensure the presentation here this week of a cross-section of our best dramatic talent and should prove of great educational as well as recreational interest.

Cheese Marketing Problem

The agreement between the Dominion Government and the Ontario Cheese Marketing Board to help producers through their present difficulties is an interesting departure from the outright floor policy with which producers of cheese and some other commodities have become familiar. There is no floor. Instead the Government is proceeding under the Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Act, which permits it to advance to any commodity group up to 80 per cent of the average price of that commodity over the previous three years.

This legislation, notes the Ottawa Citizen, has been taken advantage of in the past by an alfalfa seed growers' co-operative in Northern Saskatchewan and by fur farmers in Manitoba. This is the first time, however, that the Government has agreed to advance the full allowable percentage.

The Government, in effect, guarantees the group's initial payment, in this case 24 cents a pound plus handling charges. The selling agency can then try to earn an additional amount for distribution among the cheese producers. When the books are closed and the Board finds it can make such a distribution, there is no loss to the Government; if, however, the year's results come out below 24 cents, the treasury makes up the difference.

Under a floor price policy, a government agency directly supports the product by buying up supplies if prices fall to the minimum levels. The situation here is quite different. Cheese prices are left to find their own level on a free market. If cheese production is fairly substantial this season, prices may prove sufficiently attractive to Canadian consumers that domestic sales will expand—and there is certainly room for expansion in a country which has a low consumption of cheese per capita. On the other hand, farmers may be influenced by the fact that butter prices are being directly supported at 58 cents a pound, and divert much of their milk from cheese to butter. If that were to happen, cheese supplies might actually become so restricted as to cause a stiffening of prices.

"A striking example of what sometimes happens when a price assistance policy is deemed to be inadequate," notes the Citizen, "is to be found in the potato situation of 1950-51. There was a general scaling down of acreage, the reduction in Prince Edward Island alone amounting to 32 per cent. An acute shortage of potatoes has followed, with the humble spud now being a relatively dear food. Canadians can prevent a repetition of this unsatisfactory business if consumers are prepared to buy considerably more cheese without attempting to drive prices down to bargain basement levels, and if producers make a real effort to stimulate sales of a valuable protein product."

EDITORIAL NOTES

This is Provincial Drama Festival Week. Parkdale is for the week our dramatic capital.

Victoria Day was the last Saturday statutory holiday. From now on Monday will be the recognized day.

Now that the salmon fishing season is open the pressure may come off the trout, but probably not to any noticeable extent.

Alberton's Clean-Up Week begins today but a good many of the townspeople jumped the gun by making things ship-shape over the holiday.

Most people really revelled in the first vacation of the year out of doors. The city and towns in the afternoon were practically emptied, and the streets had all the appearance of a Sunday morning before church.

The Cadets, Scouts, Hospital Aids, etc., have all given a good account of their past year's activities, and have reorganized for another year. It was a busy stimulating week-end for them.

The election of Commissioners at Parkdale set an all time precedent, the eligibility of a lady with a \$325 fur coat to vote on "personal property". The law evidently does not prescribe "real estate, land or buildings."

More than 3,000 Canadian lobsters seized in Massachusetts for being under size have been released in the Commonwealth's coastal waters. They are being tagged to see if they decide to return home or remain in "the States."

It is reported from Dublin that Sean T. O'Kelly has been automatically proclaimed President of the Republic of Ireland for a second seven-year term when no other candidate was named to oppose him in an election.

Hard on U. S. sportsmen. Sportsmen hunting in Canada this fall will be barred from taking their kill into the United States. The ban applies to all cloven-hoofed game animals, including moose, deer, elk, caribou, mountain goat, mountain sheep and antelopes.

The cost of contagion. Deputy M. Chatelain demanded in Bern (Germany) Parliament that the Swiss Government compensate 31 school children who, he said, contracted tuberculosis from their teacher. Chatelain contended a teacher in the village of Movellier transmitted the disease to all but three of his pupils within two months.

Queen Mary, widow of King George V, grandmother of Queen Elizabeth, was born this date 1867. She was the daughter of the Duke of Teck and was known popularly as Princess May. She organized the Queen Mary's Needlework Guild for the provision of garments for those suffering through the First World War.

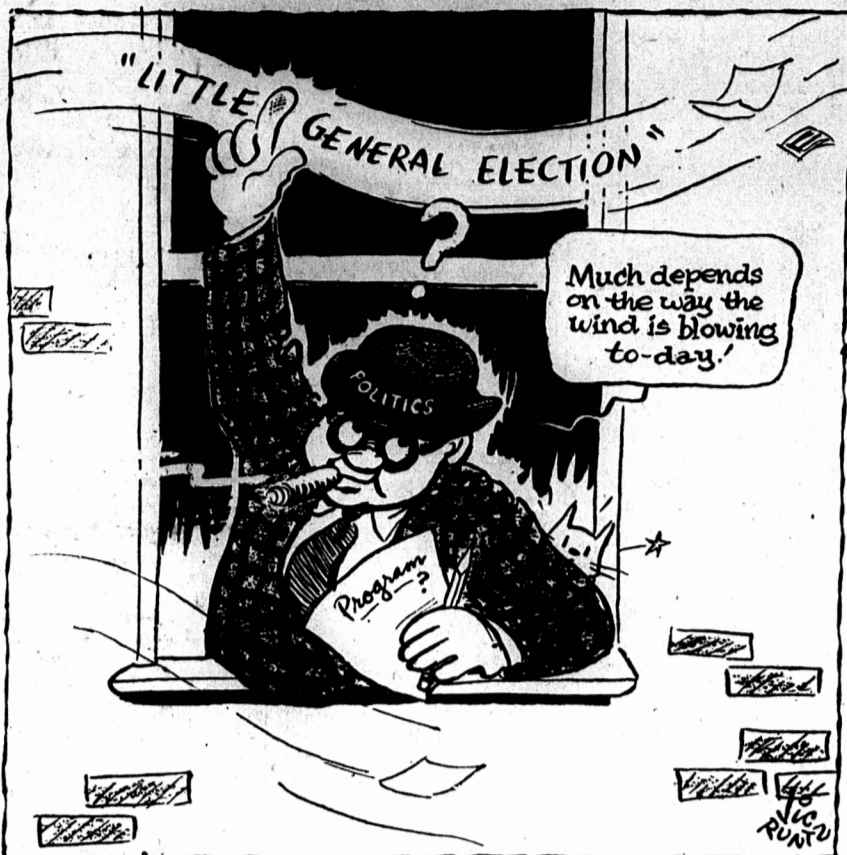
The Eastern Township farmers of Quebec now want Agricultural Minister Gardiner to allow them equal privileges and concessions extended to the wheat growers in the West. The report does not specify what special "concern" the westerners have been given by Mr. Gardiner, but it may be presumed it is connected with the trouble over the foot-and-mouth disease.

An explanation why Mr. Garfield Weston has inaugurated a travelling tour for girls is that he has six girls of his own, and says that girls go into things deeper and return to their own countries with a clearer idea how people live in other countries. They even note what the housewives pay for their groceries.

It is something of a record to have 212 nominations for 48 seats as has happened in British Columbia. This is the outcome of the two old-time political parties being split up into factions such as C.C.F., Social Credit, Labour, Christian Democrat, in addition to Liberal and Conservative. Only the Liberals and the C. C. F.'s have candidates in each of the 48 constituencies, though the Conservatives and Social Credits trail them closely with 47 each.

Britain has paid out more than \$975,000 to her farmers and stock-breeders in compensation for livestock slaughtered in the current foot-and-mouth disease epidemic which has been raging since Nov. 14. Two more outbreaks have been confirmed, boosting the number of cases to 281. About 16,505 cattle, 10,920 sheep, 9,863 pigs and 20 goats have been killed. Professor G. Ramon, director of the International Office of Animal Epidemics, said the epidemic started in West Germany last summer and spread westwards across Europe to Britain.

Putting Out A Feeler



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.

THOSE MUNIFICENT BREWERS!

Sir—These last years the brewers have become more generous, giving help to lift college debts and making glad the hearts of struggling students with liberal bursaries. Their last burst of generosity is to Canadian drama. This was a fine stroke of business. In America the brewers spend over 150 millions on advertising, but these gifts of generosity are the cheapest and best form yet discovered. If they were invited they would help to lift the burden of the church in her home and foreign mission enterprises and gladly do it. Why over in Britain many scholarly and fine preachers are supported partly by the liquor traffic. Over there the brewing business has a very fine reputation for helping holy causes. Except for church pressure the liquor business would have been nationalized. The aim here in Canada is to enhance the reputation of the traffic that it will be accepted partly by the liquor traffic. Over there the brewing business has a very fine reputation for helping holy causes. Except for church pressure the liquor business would have been nationalized. The aim here in Canada is to enhance the reputation of the traffic that it will be accepted partly by the liquor traffic.

Church people have not yet noticed the penetrations of the traffic, going as it is, into every area of society, especially where the interests of young men and women are centered, the dance-halls, wedding feasts, colleges and training camps; and now they are beginning to invade passenger airplanes and dining cars. No, church people have hardly begun to sense what the traffic is up to, viz. Every man and woman in Canada, young and old, drinking moderately, moderately of course. But now, here in Canada we have over 50,000 alcoholics. They come, one in ten they drink. How many will we have when the whole population is drinking?

How can we expect our church members to be vitally interested in this problem if our ministers are not? Some are, the majority are not. They seldom or never speak on this subject. Young men and women, all over the country, are behaving foolishly, through drink and no one warns them. I believe, sincerely, God holds the Church mainly responsible for this traffic, with all its consequences, because if we were united and spoke and acted as one body on this subject, would be settled. It may be that conditions will yet become so tragic and so bad that the Church will wake up and destroy the traffic. God grant it!

I am Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

Sir—The most memorable experience of my "school days" here is a visit by the students of the Mental Hygiene Course to a large mental hospital. One of the staff psychiatrists gave a lecture on the various kinds of mental illness treated there and then interviewed before us a carefully selected number of patients of each type. His questions were simple: How do you feel? What is your name? How old are you? Where are you now? And his manner most friendly and interested. Even we, with our limited knowledge of mental illness, could gauge to some extent the degree of confusion of these patients by their answers and way of answering.

Among the patients was a young man suffering from a mental illness that attacks young people (Schizophrenia). He seemed as nearly withdrawn from life as a living person can be. He walked

The Poet's Corner

GROWTH OF THE SOIL Here lies a broad terrain—a level page As yet unsigned—sand or volcanic crust: Magnet for particles that soon engage A thousand aids. Dewdrops, granules of dust Wind-borne from rotting trees or weathering rock. A mound of bleaching bones, flower or leaf-wilt. Even a feather from a circling hawk, Fuse with torrential rains and river-silt. Cycles of insects leaven the debris; Then frost and air, the sun's remedial round Transform—in league with nature's subtlety— The arid waste to friable fertile ground. The years have won, inscribed the page, and now The soil is ripe for man's insatiable plow.

ed like an automaton. His arms were held rigidly bent at the elbows. His eyes were tightly closed and he made no response to the repeated questions of the doctor. We were told that a certain drug would be administered and this patient, Jack, would be seen again in a half hour. "In the meantime, the doctor spoke with a stooped, shaking little man (general paresis), by the name of "Pat". Pat's answers were very vague, and his speech slow and hithered. He was asked to remain on the platform and in a few minutes Jack was led in. He did not walk quite so stiffly and his arms were down straight at his sides, but his eyes were still tightly closed and he did not seem to hear or understand anything. Patsy who had some time ago, had been asked to remain on the platform and in a few minutes Jack was led in. He did not walk quite so stiffly and his arms were down straight at his sides, but his eyes were still tightly closed and he did not seem to hear or understand anything. 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