

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, JAN. 7, 1954

Good News

Reports of British industrial expansion in Canada and of increasing investment in Canadian industry may be considered good news for both countries. They mean that British industrialists have faith in this country's future and that Britain's own economic status, troubled and hindered for several years by acute dollar shortage, is well on the road to recovery.

In recent years the flow of new outside capital into the Canadian economy has been mainly from American sources. This was a normal post-war development and it has not been without advantage to Canadian economic strength, as is evidenced by the present unusually satisfactory position of the Canadian dollar. It must be remembered, however, that it was British capital and vision which made this country industry-conscious in the first place. The foundation of its economic structure, especially in an industrial sense, was laid well and soundly by the traditional British genius for exploration and adventure. All political considerations aside, it is only fair that the present generation of British industrialists should share in Canada's development which their adventuring predecessors of a century ago helped to make possible.

U. N. Farm Aid

In a year-end report of the activities of United Nations specialized organizations, it is revealed that \$24,000,000 was added to the value of Europe's corn crop in 1952 as the result of an initial expenditure of \$40,000 by a United Nations agency. The Food and Agriculture Organization was the agency involved in improving the corn crop. Hybrid maize seed developed by it brought about a 60-fold increase in the value of the European crop.

The report said the program, which began in 1947, had its origin in a meeting called in Europe to enable corn farmers to catch up rapidly with technical progress made outside the battle zone during the Second World War. United Nations experts worked with a regional association formed to introduce and test hybrid maize, and to select the most adaptable types.

Another report concerned India, where a fleet of 270 tractors had cleared about 750,000 acres of former wasteland for cultivation by the end of the plowing season. The work, begun in 1950 through a loan of \$7,500,000 from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, is expected to reclaim 1,500,000 acres in seven years.

Estimates are that on completion of the project, Indian farmers will be able to produce about 500,000 additional tons of wheat annually. After calculations for seed requirements and farm waste, the statisticians have reckoned that this volume of wheat, at current world prices, would cost India \$36,000,000 a year to import.

The tractors are at work destroying a crop-strangling weed known as kans grass, which has infested Indian fields for centuries. Deep plows towed by the tractors cut the roots of the grass and expose it to the sun to die. Over the years allotted for the reclamation work, it is believed that 1,500,000 tons of wheat will be made available to Indian consumers from the new acreage.

Conditions In Skye

News from Skye will always be of interest to Prince Edward Islanders; and the latest news is that a detailed economic survey of the island's resources is under way by the Skye Council of Social Services, in the hope of rehabilitating a population which has been on the decline for over a century. In 1831 the population was about 24,000. 100 years later, it was under 10,000. Two years ago it was only 8265.

Of the seven parishes into which the island has been divided since 1726, Duirinish and Kilmuir on the north-west and Sleat in the south show greatest proportional decline between 1931 and 1951. According to the preliminary report of the census for the latter year, the respective percentage of losses for these parishes are 26, 25.7 and 21. But cause for concern does not end there. Not only has there been a serious drop in numbers; there has been an equally serious change in the age-structure of the population, and the Council have repeatedly underlined the grave implications of the decrease in people of working age. The population of the island of Lewis

in 1831 was 14,000, but 100 years later it was 25,000. These figures are significant, and represent a complete reversal of the trends operating in Skye during the same period. While the remarkable increase is not solely attributable to a flourishing fishing industry, there is little doubt that this economic fact has an important bearing on the position.

According to an article in the Weekly Scotsman, the Skye fishing is doomed, and the Council of Social Services consider that extensive afforestation offers the main substitute, for it was a subsidiary source of employment. In addition, they are desirous of developing the tourist trade to the limits of its capacity. At the same time, it is being increasingly realized that much could be done to improve crofting agriculture itself, and restore to the soil some of the fertility which purely extractive farming has destroyed, and for which the island was famous in far-off days when "Aireach liath nam bo" drove his herds to the cattle trysts at Crieff and Falkirk.

The new diatomite industry at Loch Cuiuir and Uig also offer distinct possibilities. Of the three known deposits of this substance in the British Islands—one in Northern Ireland, one in Westmorland, and this one in Skye—the latter is by far the finest and purest.

All these schemes for improvement, whether they have to do with farming or forestry or the tourist trade, will bear little fruit unless roads and communications are radically and rapidly improved. If this primary disability is met, and basic services improved, it may be possible to arrest, and perhaps even reverse, the current trend of migration.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Disability pensions will be the subject of a conference to be held in Ottawa this month. An attempt will be made to institute a uniform disability pension system in all the Provinces.

Fishermen as well as fish will be in schools in Newfoundland for a while. Two schools have been opened at Grand Bank and Fortune to teach navigation and engine care and maintenance under a similar scheme to that established by the Government of Nova Scotia. Later the schools will move to other fishing ports.

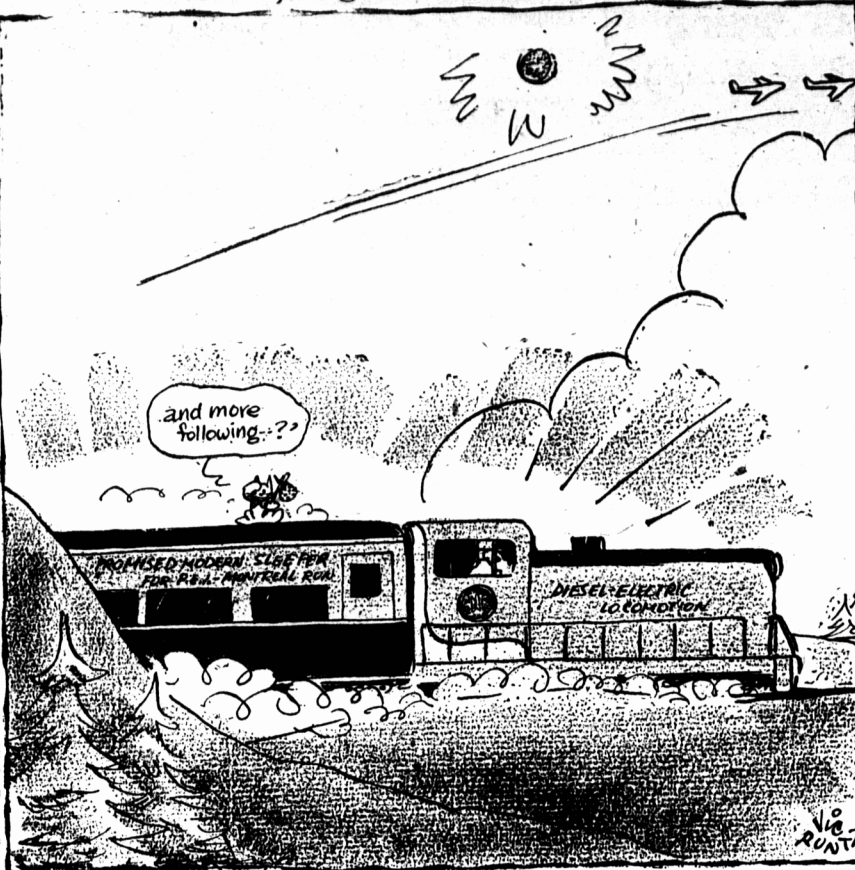
The Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference at Sydney, Australia, is scheduled to start Friday. A preliminary meeting of officials has already got under way. The objective of the meeting, as of several previous conferences, is to attain convertibility of the currencies of the sterling area. Success will greatly facilitate purchases in this country by other members of the Commonwealth.

The citizens of Kensington are to be congratulated upon their fine new Federal Building, the official opening of which takes place today. This is a community asset of great value and importance, providing modern Post Office and other facilities, and reflecting credit upon all concerned in its erection. The Federal Government, of course, is primarily responsible, but it is indicative of community progress and initiative as well.

Sir Andrew Brown Cunningham, Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope, British admiral, was born this date 1883. He entered the Royal Navy as a midshipman at the age of fifteen, serving in the cruiser "Doris" which operated off South Africa during the Boer War. He won rapid promotion and distinguished himself in the Gallipoli campaign. In the Second World War he became famous for brilliant aggressive strategy in the Mediterranean and the North Sea. As Fourth Sea Lord he was responsible for the transport of the invasion forces against Morocco and planned the Anzio landing.

A U. K. company is producing a new concrete power tool which features a technique of employing the near-dry mix so long advocated by technologists for the production of high quality concrete. Its application to the laying of concrete types of floors marks a great advance in the industry. The low water/cement ratio featured by this technique in the construction of concrete floors produces workability normally too harsh for traditional methods of hand floating, but the new tool overcomes many of the drawbacks of the "thin mix" method. The mix is made up with only a low water content, and when applied its consistency is sufficiently resistant to accept immediately the weight of the operator. After normal tamping and screening, and without the usual waiting period for the concrete to "go off", the power float is employed for float finishing, an operation which, with the concentrated weight of the machine coupled with the action of the special disc, produces a firm compaction and a dense concrete of exceedingly wear-resistant finish.

Railwaying Into A New Day



The Poet's Corner

WINTER

Armoured the lake Lies; in the deep A hungry pike hangs, Feigning sleep.

Ice flowers Describe a frieze On the bare branches Of the trees.

Pendent the stars Pinpoint the sky, And cold, O cold The moon goes by.

—S. Thomas Ansell, in the Countryman.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

EDUCATIONAL REFORM

"We understand that Paymaster Roderick C. Macdonald, of the 30th Regiment, during his recent visit to this Island, of which he is a native, has been indefatigably engaged in forming the Scottish settlers into Associations for the purpose of promoting the education of their children, and of introducing, as far as practicable, a uniform system of tuition throughout the Island. Much inconvenience has been felt hitherto from the variety of modes in use among the District schools, as it greatly increases the difficulty of procuring books adapted to the taste of each individual teacher, or body of trustees; whereas, were a system of uniformity in this respect adopted, and only the most approved school books allowed to be used, a great improvement would be effected in the present system. To promote this will be the primary object of the proposed associations, and, with this view, their funds will be mainly devoted to the importation of the most approved school books, in order that the schools may be supplied at the cheapest rates, instead of using whatever trash comes under the present system, are necessarily impelled to do. The objects of these associations are certainly highly commendable, and we trust that every success will attend the praiseworthy exertions of Paymaster Macdonald and the other gentlemen who have associated with him in this laudable undertaking." —Royal Gazette, Sept. 8, 1835.

Vesuvius

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Scientists have detected symptoms that suggest another volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius, near Naples, in Italy, may be not far distant. This great volcano in 79 A. D. destroyed the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum and during the centuries there have been periodic violent eruptions. Fire and smoke last belched from the volcano in 1944, at a time when Allied troops in that area of Italy witnessed the grim spectacle. From 1944 Vesuvius has been comparatively quiet but scientists are closely studying the mountain and have noted a number of yellow blotches near the crater. After a recent visit to the area, Christopher Serpell commented on developments in the British radio newsreel, with reference to the change in temperature on the affected slopes of the mountain. One scientist went to take the temperature of the mountain and discovered, Mr. Serpell said, that six inches below the surface of the principal yellow spot the temperature registered was 1,220 degrees Fahrenheit. The last time Vesuvius's temperature was taken at this point was in January, 1952, when it was only 750 F., so it seems that the patient's fever is rapidly mounting. The professor later went down inside the shallow crater and started

Notes By The Way

With the situation in the textile industry being prominent in the news, it is interesting to note that North Carolina's textile mills produce 780,000,000 pairs of hose in a single year. —St. Thomas Times-Journal

A South Dakota woman won a national cooking contest with a cake in which the icing was on the bottom instead of the top. This we presume, is not so much an upside-down cake as a right-side-up cake baked upside down. —Edmonton Journal

It is not things we want. It is strange the way we spend the first half of our lives struggling to get things and the second half of our lives wondering what to do with them. Nobody seems to want to treasure we could not wait to buy 20 or 30 years ago. Life is like that and it takes something more vital than things and more important than honors to keep it going on beyond "the destruction that wasteth at noonday." —Vancouver News-Herald

Unless the world turns to uranium as a source of power, a Norwegian scientist, the standard of living will gradually tend to drop in all countries. He pointed out that attempts to raise the standard of living are contingent on adequate supplies of power and that a notable shortage of new power sources would be felt within the next 50 years. —Moncton Transcript

One had habit in the writing profession—and it extends in some degree to newspaper writing—of finding expression in the use of strange terms and outlandish names in place of their plain equivalents. Perhaps habit isn't the precise description; perhaps it could be better described as a form of literary snobbery. But the form of literary snobbery, as the writer reveals that the standard of living is gradually tending to drop in all countries. He pointed out that attempts to raise the standard of living are contingent on adequate supplies of power and that a notable shortage of new power sources would be felt within the next 50 years. —Moncton Transcript

At first glance it was surprising to learn that the Canada Foundation, formed to promote culture in this country, should report a surplus. More careful reading reveals that the surplus is not a surplus in the usual sense of the word, but a surplus of money rather than culture. It is unusual enough for an organization of this sort to spend less money than it receives. No doubt the oversight will be remedied next year. Certainly there is plenty of scope for such work. In spite of all the efforts currently made we

digging with the idea of testing the temperature in the hole he had dug. He had excavated to a depth of only four inches when he was uncovering what seemed to be an extensive stretch of red-hot clinders. He went on to another hole where the temperature was already 1,300 degrees. An escape of acid gases was noticeable on the surface over the blotch, and particularly the pressure of hydrochloric acid observations which convinced him that another eruption is near. After 1944 the vertical tube in Vesuvius which gives vent to the molten lava must have been blocked by rocks and, also by the lava itself as it cooled. The pressure of molten matter beneath has steadily increased since then and it is thought that a new column of lava is now forcing its way to the surface. Symptoms of this, say the scientists, are the acid gases on the yellow blotches which reach the surface only when pushed upwards by lava. Red-hot clinders only a few inches below the floor of the crater appear to indicate that the resistance of the congealed material of the last eruption has now been almost overcome by the heat and pressure from below, and it may be only a short while before the rich, fertile slopes of this great mountain are again scoured by crawling streams of lava.

are a long way from having a surplus of culture comparable to our current surplus of wheat. —London Free Press

Seems reasonable to have a woman, 101 years old, as the cover girl on a booklet on care of the aged. She is Mrs. Emma Weeks, the oldest resident of a home for aged persons. She gives some sound advice. Giving and receiving of affection, light work, small and frequent meals and light exercise. —Niagara Falls Review

Canada's growing enlightenment is shown by our government's decision to set up a parliamentary committee to study abolition of the death penalty as well as other criminal matters, and to submit the question of redefining legal insanity to a Royal Commission. The Sun has long urged that the death penalty in particular should be abolished. But we would rather see this weighty subject also submitted to a Royal Commission rather than discussed by a Senate-Commons committee. —Vancouver Sun

Correctly made, tea is a refreshing, invigorating beverage. In Japan this art is surrounded with ceremonial ritual. As with the cultivation of dwarf trees, it is a tradition preserved with loving care and dutiful scrupulousity. It is the attention that tea deserves. That the practice should be adopted here with all the Oriental refinements is scarcely to be expected where time is often confused with money. But at least, surely at least, time can be spared to wait for water to rise to a furious boil and then, and only then, pour it on the tea. —Toronto Telegram

Some enthusiastic writer engaged in producing a publicity piece for the Michigan College of Mining and Technology at Houghton, Michigan, says blandly that the shores of Lake Superior in the Copper country. Of course the game originated in Montreal, many years before the old rink in Houghton was built in 1902. Somebody must be taking a leaf from Moscow's book of techniques. —Fort William Times-Journal

The Whooping Crane, huge white birds with black king-tips that nest in the Arctic and spend winter in the wildlife refuge on Blackjack Peninsula in Texas, are winning their fight for survival. There are so few whooping cranes—the new count is twenty-four—that naturalists all over America watch the swamps of their ancestral home each fall to see whether the population is going up or down. Three new birds of the species have been counted among the whooping cranes that have just settled down on the gulf coast for the winter. —St. John Telegraph-Journal

The Age Old Story

God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy; for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer MEETING AT PARNASSUS

From ancient times representations of the world have been meetings on New Year's Eve at the hill called Parnassus. For that one night in the year they are given the gift of articulate speech. So it is written in the Book of the Muses.

From the four corners of the earth they come and from the islands of the seas—the organ, the violin, the piano, the flute, the trumpet, the saxophone, the psaltery, and all kinds of music. Each has a story to tell of its experiences in the world of melody and, chiefly, of the part it plays in the soaring of human spirits to the high places of song and gladness. So it is written in the Book of the Muses.

As always happens when competitors come together, there is a touch of rivalry in the proceedings; harmony is never quite complete. Especially between the organ and the violin there is a trace of envy. Each considers itself entitled to first place in the hierarchy of music; each is sure that its lineage is the more honourable and the more glorious.

Says the organ: "I am necessary to praise and worship. My history goes back to the dawn of revealed religion. Wherever men lift up their voices in adoration of the Infinite, there am I to assist them. In majestic cathedrals and in humble village churches alike I help to prepare the mind and hearts of men for flight into high and tranquil places. No other vehicle of music can take my place in the environment of devotion. I soothe the weary, lift up the fallen, and cheer the faint-hearted. It was of me that the poet was thinking when he wrote, 'soft is the music that would charm for ever'."

Up speaks the violin: "For 5000 years before the Christian era began I was at work calling men to humble themselves before their gods. Since history was first recorded I have been in the midst of it. I have assisted in the building of Empires and, unwittingly, I have witnessed the sowing of the seeds of their destruction. I have been called the most human of inanimate things; when touched by the master of sound I can sing and laugh and weep. I take second place to none in the art of praise, but I am equally at home in the dance and among the gay and frivolous.

On the rivers of peace and war, of love and hatred, of mysticism and the common ways, I have been called into the service of the human heart; none has called in vain. It was my music, not the organ's nor any other's, which the poet had in mind when he said, 'when she had passed it was like the ceasing of exquisite music.'"

The Trumpet speaks for a large family, including, besides itself, the bugle, the cornet, the trombone. "I am the traditional voice of man's courage. On a thousand fields I have called men into battle to defend their freedom. I have put new energy into lagging feet and new hope in fearful hearts. When I shout, armies advance; when I call softly, they halt. It is my office to sound the last post over fallen heroes.

And yet I am useful to peace as well as serviceable in war. My highest service lies in the future, for it is written that in the great day when all things are made new and every man is judged in equity, the trumpet shall sound."

It is written further in the Book of the Muses that on a certain New Year's Eve in the long ago there walked to the dais a small instrument commonly called a whistle. The organ, the violin, and the piano were displeased that such a humble member of the craft should want to speak, but the Trumpet took the little one's part and advocated its right to be heard.

This may have been because the trumpet and the whistle are distant relations; it may have meant only that the trumpet was more kindly than the others. At any rate, after some discussion and much hesitation, the whistle was given its chance.

"No great sums have been paid for me," it said in a thin boyish voice, "and the great ones of the earth have no interest in me. I am not even mentioned in the world's poetry and I do not assist in the singing of the world's songs. Just the same, I am not entirely useless; many a boy has bartered the last dime in his pocket for me and once, when I was lost for a week, one little fellow cried all that time."

RECORD MINISTRY STUDENTS

TORONTO, (CP) — The United Church of Canada announced Wednesday that it has 157 new students studying for the ministry in 1953. They are among a total of 528 students at the church's theological colleges.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for H. J. Mabon, R.O., A. Watten Gaudet, LL.B., Gaudet & Haszard, Matheson, Peake & Nicholson, J. A. McGuigan, MacPhee & Trainor, Dr. W. R. Carson, M. Alban Farmer, Q.C., J. Elmer Blanchard, J. S. Taylor, R.O., Dr. K. A. MacEachern, McDonald, Currie & Co., H. R. Doane & Company.